

Upper Loup NRD Invites You To Enjoy Thedford Fire Hall Arboretum

If you find yourself driving down Highway 2 through the Village of Thedford and need to stretch your legs, the Upper Loup Natural Resource District invites you to check out the Fire Hall Arboretum. It is located north of the highway behind the Thedford Fire Hall. Public Parking is reserved at the western edge of the parking lot in front of the railroad ties. Please do not park in the spots reserved for the emergency service vehicles.

Over two years ago, the NRD decided to take a barren section of ground and create an aesthetically pleasing, conservation minded green space. This space provides an educational landscape with trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers.

There are over 30 species of conifer trees, deciduous trees and shrubs as well as wide variety of native grasses and pollinators planted. Test your tree and shrub identification skills by reviewing the wooden markers or enjoy a break at one of the picnic tables.

In other news from the Upper Loup NRD the ULNRD is undertaking an effort to develop a Drought Management Plan for the district and would like your input. The plan will refine a collective understanding of drought vulnerabilities, identify and prioritize mitigation efforts, and define drought response measures that will be utilized during future drought events. The goal is to develop a sound operational framework for the district during periods of drought.

The NRD is encouraging all residents and stakeholders to provide their input by filling out a survey they can find here: <https://www.surveymoney.com/r?FCYC3KQ>. The survey will be open until July 30.

For more information about this planning effort, please contact Anna Baum at 308-645-2250 or abaum@upperloupnrd or Phil Luebbert at (402)-474-8768 or plebbert@jeo.com

Sub-District 2 Domestic Wells In Line For Testing

In Nebraska, about 95 percent of rural residents get their household water supply from private or domestic wells. If they are not properly protected, these wells are at risk of being contaminated from several sources. Potential sources of ground water contamination which may be present near your home include septic tanks, animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, fuel storage tanks, household chemicals, used motor oil, etc. The potential for contamination in our area is also increased because of the sandy soil.

The only way to determine if nitrates are present in your drinking water is by testing a sample because this contaminant is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. A water test for nitrate is highly recommended for households with infants, pregnant women, nursing mothers, or elderly people, as these groups are most susceptible to nitrates.

The potential for water contamination, especially in our sandy soils, is always present therefore water quality requires long term monitoring.

The ULNRD recommends that all domestic wells, either registered or un-

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COURTESY PHOTO

GROW Nebraska Welcomes New Board Member

GROW Nebraska has announced Gary Peterson as a new board member. Peterson has been a part of the GROW Nebraska foundation since the beginning. He was an early adviser when the foundation started in 1998.

"I am most looking forward to the opportunity to be part of a team that has and continues to do an outstanding job of assisting entrepreneurs in creating and operating successful businesses in rural Nebraska," Peterson said.

He added he enjoys the relations developed and the true team atmosphere in GROW Nebraska.

Founder and CEO of GROW Nebraska, Janell Anderson Ehrke said, "I am excited to have Gary on our board. I think he will do great things."

Peterson has been practicing law in Nebraska for 21 years. He has also been a part of the Thedford Area Community Foundation and he has been an advisory board member to Congressman Dr. Tom Osborne's Rural Economic Advisory Council. He has also served on the



COURTESY PHOTO

Board of Directors and volunteered for the Nebraska One Box Pheasant Hunt for over 20 years. When he's not on the board or advising, he's also been trained to instruct NX Level EDGE business plan writing courses and taught several of these courses in rural Nebraska.

The GROW Nebraska Foundation helps entrepreneurs get the resources they need to live in Anywhere, Nebraska, and make a sustainable living. Since the inception of GROW Nebraska in 1998 the vision and mission has never wavered: to create viable economic development through business training, technical assistance, promotion, and access to markets.

12th annual Adventure Camp in the books



COURTESY PHOTO

Those receiving scholarships through the Upper Loup NRD were Gavin Mann, Cooper Walker and Daniel Wright.

Another year of camp is in the books! The 12th annual Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) was held on Sunday, June 26th through Wednesday, June 29 at the State 4H Camp located by Halsey. From Harrison to Dunbar and many places in between, a great turnout was reported with 36 campers in total coming from various parts of the state.

Overall, 83% of those in-

dividuals received a scholarship from their local NRD to sponsor a portion, if not all, of their camp registration fee. The Upper Loup NRD awarded three individuals scholarships to sponsor their full registration to camp. The award recipients were: Gavin Mann of Alliance, Cooper Walker, Seneca and Daniel Wright, Mullen.

Sessions covered a variety of topics such as range, forestry, soils, water quality, wildlife and weather. Extracurricular sessions were added such as archery, edible plants, and more. During these sessions youth were able to be a part of a hands-on learning experience relating to our natural resources.

Thomas County Fair going on now

See last week's Herald for complete fair event schedule

Haake Wins Gold At Husker State Games



ROBIN DIMMITT PHOTO

Dayle Haake, a junior at Thedford High School, competed in the 2022 Cornhusker State Games Track and Field competition on Saturday, July 16 at Lincoln High School in Lincoln. She competed in the 15-16 Youth 100 Meter Hurdles and brought home the gold medal with a time of 16.90.

Central Sandhills Extension Fair Dates Released

Area 4-H County Fair dates have been released by the Central Sandhills Extension office.

All entries for county fairs were due July 1st. If you did not submit your entry form to the office, you cannot show in 4-H classes at fair.

4-H County Fair Dates 2022

Thomas County Fair
All Times Are Central
July 28th- Small Animal Show @ 8:00 AM

July 28th- Static Entries @ 9:00 AM

Blaine County Fair
All Times Are Central

August 2nd- Static Entries @ 9:00 AM

August 4th- Livestock Show @ 9:00 AM

August 4th- Small Animal Show @ 11:00 AM

Hooker County Fair
All Times Are Mountain

August 1st- Small Animal @ 8:00 AM

August 2nd- Horse Show @ 8:00 AM

August 4th- Static Entries @ 8:00 AM

August 5th- Livestock Show @ 8:00 AM

Grant County Fair
All Times Are Mountain

August 3rd- Style Revue @ 2:00 PM

August 10th- Small Animal @ 4:00 PM

August 11th- Horse Show @ 8:00 AM

August 12th- Static Entries @ 9:00 AM

August 13th- Livestock Show @ 10:00 AM

Other important dates and deadlines from the Extension office are:

Deadline for State Fair Entries- State Fair Entries are due August 10th at 8:00 pm. These include any livestock and in-person events. Please visit statefair.org/competitions-participate/competitions/4-h-ffa-exhibitors to submit online entries. If you have any questions, please contact Shaniya at the extension office.

Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory (GSL) Open House Wednesday, August 24. The 23rd Annual GSL Open House will feature a

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