

Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

April 2023

Denver Dog Handler Turns Country Groomer

Laura Thornburg of rural Dawes County wasn't even a teenager when she started showing and grooming dogs. Her parents raised Morgan horses and dogs and they showed them as a family. Her passion hasn't changed much over the last 45 years, but the location of her business drastically changed in 2017. The former city girl turned country. "We bought our ranch in 2017 and moved here, wow what a change for this city girl," said Thornburg. She and her husband Kent live on Bethel Road about nine miles south of the Whitney spur. She now owns and operates "Bethel Ranch Grooming Spa".

She graduated from Lutheran High School in Denver and then on to grooming school. "I only had to complete the medical side of animal care because I tested out in clippers and scissors," said Thornburg.

In 1979 it began. "My first grooming shop was a Pinehurst Animal Center in Denver and handled show dogs for clients and my own," said Thornburg.

Following that, she relocated to Ponca City, Okla. to apprentice under Pricilla Wells, one of the top professional handlers in the show dog world. "We traveled every weekend to shows all over the country with some 20 plus dogs in our rig. I traveled with Pricilla a year and half and then started handling dogs myself," said Thornburg. "I had my own kennel and also worked at Pinehurst once gain grooming and showing dogs."

"I traveled to Madison Square Dog Show in New York with Pricilla Wells."

Her kennel's name and the name she gave all her dogs was Wireden Kennel. This name is exclusive to

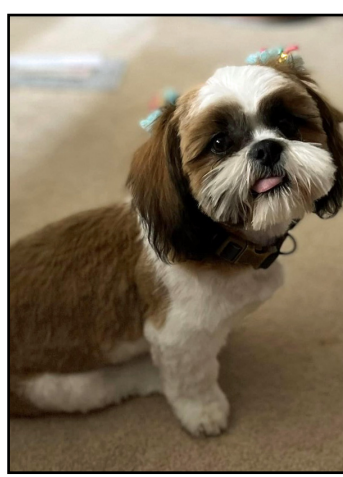


Laura Thornburg, owner of Bethel Ranch Grooming Spa, shows one of her own dogs.

her own breeding and registered with the American Kennel Club. She has raised Welsh terriers, Westies, Wire fox and Cairns. "I raised and finished generations of my own champions."

In 2004 she and Kent were married and together they showed dogs together on weekends.

(Continued on Page 2)



Bethel Ranch Grooming--

(Continued from Page 1)

"In 2005 I opened up a grooming shop in the Pet Depot in Littleton, Colo. In that grooming shop I earned top pet groomer (People's Choice 5280 Magazine, Denver, Colo.," said Thornburg. In 2008, she opened another shop in Lakewood, Colo. and there she did some teaching. Three years later, she opened "Laura's Grooming" and groomed there until moving here in 2017.

Then "Bethel Ranch Grooming Spa" was born! The pets she has been grooming are coming mostly from word of mouth recommendations. She has left her cards with local veterinarians and has acquired some business from that. "The time required depends upon the type of dog, it's condition and of course it's

One of
Bethel
Ranch
Grooming
Spa's
clients still
on the table
following a
shampoo
and trim
looking all
pretty.



Laura Thornburg showing "Ch Wiredens Braveheart". They called him William Wallace and he went on to win the Bred by Exhibitor Class. He was sold to another breeder after taking him to the Terrier Specialties in Scottsdale, Ariz. He finished his first year in the top ten in the nation. in February 2009 at the Rocky Mountain Classic

temperament... from start to finish can range from 1-4 hours," explained Thornburg. As far as grooming tools, she is familiar with most everything out there.

She will pickup and deliver dogs to Chadron for an additional charge. They are located nine miles south at the Whitney spur on Hwy. 20. To schedule an appointment call (308) 430-1189 or email Lauraluu34@yahoo.com.

In addition to grooming dogs, the Thornburgs raise Morgans and Morgan Friesian cross to ride and drive. They also have cattle, sheep, goats, chickens and ducks. "You name it!" Thornburg is enjoying the simpleness of the country and slower pace.

The couple have two adult children, Rebeca and Tyson. "My daughter Angie, now 16, has helped me in my shop since she was five years old. She is my other hand "



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Operations Manager Leads Team to Girls Basketball Districts

In the winter months, particularly from mid-November thru February, NRPPD Operations Manager Ron Olson spends his off duty time on the basketball court coaching the Hay Springs Lady Hawks. He just wrapped up an impressive fifth year at District playoffs. He and his team were hoping for a state berth but it wasn't meant to be this year. But he is extremely proud of how far his team has come this past year.

This was his fifth season as the girls coach. "Our record this year was 20-4, the year before it was 6-17. I have to give a lot of credit to Blake Olson, our weight lifting coach. We are so much stronger on the court and it has helped our girls program out," said Olson. Blake happens to be Olson's nephew. Both Ron and his brother Mark were strong players for the Hawks while they were in high school, despite their father, French Olson, was the wrestling coach. "My dad was the high school wrestling coach and when I was younger I learned a lot from just watching him coach, but didn't like the sport," noted Olson. "Really as a kid, Shelly Dorshorst lived down the street from me. I played a lot of basketball in front of her house with her. That's what got me interested in the game."

He played back in 1986-1989 at Hay Springs High School. Although his team never qualified for state, Olson did have some personal records ... scoring over 1000 points in his career and did score 50 points in one game.

On the other hand, Olson coached the boys team for five years as well, beginning in 2002. His team went to state



Ron Olson coaching the Lady Hawks during their District playoff game this past February.

that year and won their first game and got beat in the semi-finals, finishing 20-2 that year.

Olson has never coached any other sport but did coach his kids traveling team. Reflecting on this last season and in the upcoming year. "I am going to miss our seniors (Samantha Toof, Mia Skinner and Molly Spicer), not just their leadership but their work ethic on and off the floor. They have put so much time in the summer shooting and lifting weights. I am excited about next year we have Gabby Twarling, Alexa Tonjes and Adrianna Haffner coming back as seniors. Plus Mya Turman, Julia Russell, and Andi Twarling got a lot of experience should really give us more production next year," stated Olson.

"We will have great freshman class coming in that will surprise people how talented they are," said Olson. Olson together with his Assistant Coach Linda Kudrna and their team put in many hours during the season and off-season improving their sport. "It would shock people how much time our girls are in the gym. We start middle of November and

(Continued on Page 4)



Ron Olson

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Coach Olson--

(Continued from Page 3)

end in February, spending two hours at practice Monday through Thursday and play 24 games," said Olson. "Also during the offseason they play a few hours two nights per week in addition to lifting weights another two nights."

"I have to thank the parents letting their kids spend that much time in the gym. I love the game and watching the kids get better" ended Olson. Olson started at Northwest Rural as lineman and has served as the Operations Manager the past six years.

Olson's 21-22 team was recently name the one most improved team in the state by MaxPreps.



NRPPD's Ron Olson with the 22-23 Lady Hawk Basketball Team as the District Runner-Up. Seated from left, Mia Skinner, Samantha Toof, Molly Spicer; middle, Andi Twarling, Adrianna Haffner, Julia Russell, Gabby Twarling, Alexa Tonjes, Mya Turman; back, Asst. Coach Linda Kudrna and Head Coach Olson.



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**Countryroad Shot:
Dawes County
Bethel Road,
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**~ by Jim
Manternach**

***If you are interested
in a print, you can
contact Jim at
jmm@millcomps.com
or his website
www.jimmphoto.com***

Jim Manternach grew up in Iowa and graduated from high school there in 1972. His family moved to Chadron while he was overseas in the Army so that is where he ended up when he got out. That was in 1975 when he was 21. "I have never had any photography classes or lessons. I have just always been interested in it since I was a kid. I got an all manual Canon 35mm SLR while I was in Germany and shot off and on with it for about 20 years, but film and processing was expensive so it was mostly just family stuff, although I did do a little landscape, etc.," said Manternach.

He started traveling a lot in about 1995 for a new job and he always had an attraction for old buildings and noticed that many were disappearing. "That's when I decided to renew my interest in photography and take pics of them and I bought an up-to-date camera with autofocus and exposure, a Canon A2E. I shot as many abandoned houses and buildings as I could, but mostly just from the road as I traveled for work," explained Manternach. In 2004 I bought my first digital DSLR, a Canon

10D, just to try it out and within a week I retired my film cameras and I was off to the races with digital! No more film and processing expense! He started leaving early on his service calls so he could take the "scenic route" there and take some backroads to take more photos.

"I loved (and still do) to just turn off on some random county road and zig zag in the general direction of my destination, shooting along the way," said Manternach. He doesn't travel for work anymore, but he and his wife Molly love just traveling randomly around the countryside shooting photos. "She doesn't shoot, but she loves riding along and pointing out things he might have missed. I have about 90,000 images in my collection, about 75 percent of them abandoned or vintage buildings and houses. We left Chadron in September of 2000 to move down here (Red Cloud) to "retire", but I am still working full time to support my photography habit?"

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Northwest Rural Territory Activities

Gordon-Rushville Mustangs

Sat., Apr. 1 Track (V) at Bayard
 Tues., Apr. 4 Juniors ACT Test
 Thurs., Apr. 6 Track (V) at Mitchell
April 7-10 Easter Break - NO SCHOOL
 Wed., Apr. 8 Track (MS) at Chadron Invite, 9 a.m.
 Tues., Apr. 11 Track (MS) at Bayard Invite, 9 a.m.
 Sat., Apr. 15 Track (MS-HS) Track at WTC-Bayard
 Wed., Apr. 19 District Music Contest at Alliance
 Thurs., Apr. 20 Track (MS) at Bennett Co. Invite
 Track (V) at Chadron
Mon. Apr. 24 FFA Banquet
 Tues., Apr. 25 Track (MS-HS) at Best of the West in Scottsbluff
April 27-28-29 HS Spring Play, 7 p.m.,
Plains Theatre in Rushville
Sun., April 30 HS Spring Play, 2 p.m. Matinee at Plains
Fri., Apr. 28 GES Kindergarten Round-up, 8:15-11 a.m.
Sat., Apr. 29 Golf WTC at G-R, Course tba
Mon., May 1 GRHS Sports Awards, 5:30-8 p.m., HS
 Tues., May 2 Track (MS) at Morrill Invite, 9 a.m.
 Fri., May 5 Track (MS-HS) at Valentine Invite, 9 a.m.
Tues., May 9 GES K-1st Ag Safety Day
GR HS Spring Concert, 7 p.m., Gordon HS

Crawford Rams

Sat., April 1 Track (V) at Bayard, 9 a.m.
Tues., April 4 FFA Meeting, 6:30 p.m. HS Commons
 Wed., April 5 Golf at Sidney, 9 a.m.

Thurs., April 5 Track (V) at Mitchell, 9 a.m.
 Fri., April 6 Track (JH) at Chadron, 10 a.m.
April 7-10 Easter Break - NO SCHOOL
 Tues., April 11 Golf at Mitchell, 9 a.m.
 Track (JH) at Bayard, 9 a.m.
Wed., April 12 Community Clean Up Day (JH, 9th, 12th Gr.)
Sophomore Pre-ACT & Junior ACT
 Sat., April 15 Track (V) at Alliance, 9 a.m.
 Thurs., April 20 Golf at Alliance
 Fri., April 21 Track at Chadron, 2 p.m.
 Tues., April 25 Track (JH-V) Best of the West at Scottsbluff
 Thurs., April 27 Golf at Chadron, 9 a.m.
 Fri., April 28 Track (JH-V) at Morrill PanCo, 10 a.m.
 Mon., May 1 Golf PanCo at Crawford, 9 a.m.
 Tues., May 2 Track (JH) at Morrill, 9 a.m.
 Wed., May 3 Golf at Gering
 Fri., May 5 Track at Bayard (B-C-D)
 Tues., May 9 Golf at Bayard, 9 a.m.
 Wed., May 10 District Track, tba

Hemingford Bobcats

Sat., Apr. 1 Track (V) at Bayard 9 a.m.
 April 2-3 FCCLA Leadership Conf. at Lincoln
 Tues., Apr. 4 Track (V) at Creek Valley, 8:30 a.m.
 Thurs., Apr. 6 Track (V) at Mitchell Invite
 Track (JH) at Chadron, 9 a.m.

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NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

April 7-10 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
 Fri., April 7 Golf at Gordon-Rushville, 1 p.m.
 Tues., April 11 Track (JH) at Bayard, 8 a.m.
 Wed., April 12 ACT 11th Grade
 Thurs., April 13 Golf at Bridgeport, 9 a.m.
Fri., April 14 FFA Rocky Mountain Oyster Feed & Labor Auction, 6 p.m.
 Sat., April 15 Track (JH) at Bayard, 9 a.m.
 Track (V) at Bayard WTC, 10 a.m.
Mon., April 17 FFA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 Tues., April 18 Golf at Morrill
 Wed., April 19 District Music Contest at Alliance
 Thurs., April 20 Track (JH) at Kimball, 9 a.m.
NHS Induction, 5:30 p.m.
 Fri., April 20 Track (V) at Chadron, 2 p.m.
Sat., April 22 Prom
 Golf at Alliance
 Tues., April 25 Golf at Crawford Tri
 Track (JH-V) at Scottsbluff, JH 10 a.m., V 4:30
 Thurs., April 27 Golf at Chadron
Famous Nebraskan Night, 5:30 p.m.
 Fri., April 28 Track (V-JH) PanCo at Morrill
 Sat., April 29 Golf at Gordon-Rushville
 Jr. Volleyball games, 9 a.m.
Mon., May 1 Golf at home
HHS Athletic Banquet, 6 p.m.
 Tues., May 2 Track (JH) at Morrill
Seniors Last Day
 Thurs., May 3 **Honors Day, 10 a.m.**

Fri., May 5 Track (V) at Bayard
Sat., May 6 Graduation, 2 p.m.
 Tues., May 9 Golf at Bayard, 9 a.m.
Chadron Cardinals
 Sat., Apr. 1 Track (V) at Ogallala, 10 a.m.
 April 2-5 FBLA State Leadership Conf. in Lincoln
 Tues., Apr. 4 Track (MS) at Scottsbluff Quad, 2:30 p.m. -
 Boys at Gering, Girls at Scottsbluff
1st-2nd Grade Concerts, 6-8 p.m. HS Aud.
Wed., April 5 Track (MS) Chadron Invite, 10 a.m.
 Thurs., April 6 Track (V) at Mitchell Invite, 9 a.m.
 Tues., April 11 Golf at Mitchell Scenic Knolls, 9 a.m.
Thurs., April 13 Cardinal Singers, 7 p.m., HS Aud.
 Fri., April 14 Track (MS) at Sidney Invite, 10 a.m.
 Sat., April 15 Track (V) at Alliance, tba
 Tues., April 18 Golf at Morrill Rolling Greens, 9 a.m.
 Track (MS) at Alliance Quad, 3:30 p.m.
 Wed., April 19 District Music Contest at Alliance, 9 a.m.
 Thurs., April 20 Golf vs. Alliance at Skyview, 9 a.m.
Fri., April 21 Track (V) Chadron Twilight Meet, 2 p.m.
 Sat., April 22 Track (MS at Alliance, 9 a.m.)
Prom, 8 p.m., MS Gym
 Mon., April 24 Golf at Scottsbluff Country Club, 9 a.m.
 Tues., April 25 Track (MS-V) Best of the West at Scottsbluff
 - MS, 10 a.m.; V 4 p.m.
Thurs., April 27 Golf at Chadron Ridgeview Country Club
 Fri., April 28 Track (V) at Mitchell Conf., 10 a.m.
 Sat., April 29 Track (MS) at Scottsbluff Invite, 9 a.m.
 (Continued on Page 8)

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NRPPD SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

(Chadron Continued from Page 7)

Mon., May 1 Track (V-JV) at Alliance, 3 p.m.
 Wed., May 3 Golf at Gering Monument Shadows, 9 a.m.
 Fri., May 5 Track (V) at Bayard, 8:30 a.m.
 Sat., May 6 Track (MS) at Gering, 10:30 a.m.
Sun., May 7 Baccalaureate, CHS, 7 p.m.
Mon., May 8 Honors Night, HS Aud., 7 p.m.
 Tues., May 9 District Track at Ogallala, 9 a.m.
Wed., May 10 Seniors Last Day

Hay Springs Hawks

Sat., Apr. 1 Track (V) at Bayard, 9 a.m.
 April 2-4 FBLA at Kearney
Tues., April 4 Spring Concert (6th-7th-8th)
Wed., April 5 Leadership Summit 5th Grade
Hawk Talk at the Senior Center, 8 a.m.
 Thurs., Apr. 6 Track (JH) at Bennett County, 10 a.m.
Spring Dental Day
Mon., April 10 NO SCHOOL - Easter Monday
 Tues., April 11 Golf at Mitchell
 Thurs., April 13 Golf at Bridgeport
 Fri., April 14 FBLA - Regional Finance Challenge
 at Kearney
Teacher Inservice
 Sat., April 15 Track (JH) at Gering, 9 a.m.
 Track (V) at Alliance, 9 a.m.
Tues., April 18 5th Grade Trout in Classroom Field Day

Golf at Morrill
Pre-Contest Concert, 7 p.m.
 District Music Contest
 Thurs., April 20 Golf at Alliance
 Track (JH) at Bennett Co. Meet in Martin
 Fri., April 21 Golf at Bridgeport
 Track (V) at Chadron High, 2:30 p.m.
 Sat., April 22 Track (JH) at Chadron, 9 a.m.
 Track (V) at Morrill, 9 a.m.
 Track (JH-V) at Scottsbluff, 9 a.m.
Wed., April 26 HS Community Cleanup Day
 Thurs., April 27 Golf at Chadron
 Fri., April 28 Track (JH-V) at Morrill Meet, 10 a.m.
Sat., April 29 Prom
 Mon., May 1 \$5 Sport Physicals
 Golf at Morrill
 Tues., May 2 \$5 Sports Physicals at Chadron
 Track (JH) at Morrill, 9 a.m.
Spring Concert, 4th-5th, 7 p.m., HS Aud.
Wed., May 3 2nd Grade Field Trip
 Golf at Gering
Fri., May 5 WCHR Immunization Clinic, Lister Lobby
 Track (JH-V) at Valentine Meet, 9 a.m.
Tues., May 9 KG-1st Grade Field Trip
 Golf at Bayard
Wed., May 10 Kindergarten Round-up
 District Track, tba

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Classic Ham Glaze

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup orange juice
- ½ cup honey

Mix brown sugar, orange juice, and honey together in a bowl until the brown sugar has dissolved. * * * *

Asparagus Roll Ups

- 6 slices bacon
- 24 spears fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped chives
- 12 slices white bread, crusts removed
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese, divided

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

Grease a baking sheet.

Place bacon in a large, deep skillet and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain the bacon slices on a paper towel-lined plate.

When bacon is cool, crumble and set aside in a bowl.

Place asparagus spears into a large skillet and pour in about 1 inch of water. Place over medium heat, cover the skillet, and simmer asparagus until bright green and slightly tender, about 5 minutes. Remove asparagus and set aside.

Place cream cheese and chives into the bowl with bacon and stir to evenly combine.

Roll each bread slice with a rolling pin on a work surface until the slices are thin and flat.

Spread cream cheese mixture evenly over each slice of bread.

Center two asparagus spears on a bread slice, and roll the slice around the asparagus into a tidy and compact cylinder. Place seam side down onto the prepared baking sheet. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

Brush each roll with melted butter and sprinkle each with about 1 1/2 teaspoon Parmesan cheese.

Bake in the preheated oven until lightly golden brown and hot, 10 to 12 minutes.

* * * * *

Fresh Rhubarb Pie

- 1 1/3 cups white sugar
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 (14.1 ounce) package double-crust pie pastry, thawed
- 4 cups chopped rhubarb
- 1 tablespoon butter

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Place an oven rack in the lowest position.

Line the bottom and sides of a 9-inch pie plate with one pie crust. Combine sugar and flour in a bowl; sprinkle 1/4 of the sugar mixture over the prepared bottom crust.

Heap rhubarb on top and sprinkle with remaining sugar mixture. Dot with butter and cover with top crust.

Bake pie in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350 degrees F and continue baking until filling is bubbly and crust is golden brown, 40 to 45 minutes. Serve warm or cold.



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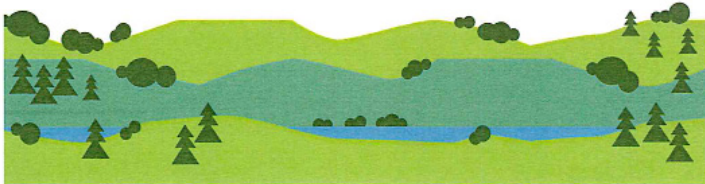
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Name of parents _____

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- A strong academic record
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Bits 'n Pieces...

Advice for Anyone Moving to Nebraska

1. Save all bacon grease. You will be instructed later how to use it.
2. If you do run your car into a ditch, don't panic. Four men in the cab of a four-wheel drive with a 12-pack of beer and a tow chain will be along shortly. Don't try to help them. Just stay out of their way. This is what they live for.
3. Remember: "Y'all" is singular. "All y'all" is plural. "All y'all's" is plural possessive.
4. Get used to the phrase "It's not the heat, it's the humidity". And the collateral phrase "You call this hot? Wait'll August."
5. Don't tell us how you did it anywhere else. Nobody cares.
6. If you think it's too hot, don't worry. It'll cool down in December.
7. A Mercedes-Benz is not a status symbol; a Chevy, Dodge, or Ford is.
8. If someone says they're "fixin" to do something, that doesn't mean anything's broken.
9. The value of a parking space is not determined by the distance to the door, but the availability of shade.
10. If you are a slower moving vehicle on a two lane road pull onto the shoulder - that is called "courtesy."
11. BBQ is a food group. It does NOT mean grilling burgers and hot dogs outdoors.
12. Yes, weddings, funerals, and divorces must take into account for Husker football games.
13. Everything is better with hot sauce.
14. DO NOT honk your horn at us to be obnoxious, we will sit there until we die.
15. We pull over and stop for emergency vehicles to pass.
16. We pull over for funeral processions, turn our music off and men remove hats or caps. Some people put their hand over their heart.
17. "Bless your Heart" is a nice way of saying you're an idiot.
18. No mater what kind - sprite, coke, pepsi, mtn dew, it isn't called soda: Its all called pop.
19. If you don't like the weather in Nebraska, wait 15 minutes - it will change.
20. Fried, with gravy, is the usual way of serving... well, most everything.
21. Husker Football is a tradition.
22. tea, with ice or not, is looked upon as normal. Sweet tea, you must be from somewhere else.
23. Maps? Maps? We don't need no stinkin' maps. Just follow the landmarks.
24. Chili is served with Cinnamon Rolls.
25. Runza n Dorthy Lynch are a food group.



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