



Expedition League Baseball

Pioneers, Big Sticks to play third game to decide title **Sports 1E**

OLD WEST BALLOON FEST

A FIRST PEEK AT NATIONALS



LAUREN BRANT/Star-Herald

Carson and his sister Allie Windhorst of Scottsbluff peek out of the kid's window as they explore Allen Anderson's hot air balloon basket Saturday during the reverse parade. Carson said his favorite part of the parade was looking out the kid's window.

Balloonists show baskets during reverse parade

Lauren Brant
Star-Herald

GERING — The community walked down 10th Street in Gering Saturday evening as national balloon pilots showed off their baskets at the reverse parade.

The parade was the kickoff event ahead of the week's nationals. Scotts Bluff County Board Chairman Ken Meyer read the

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in Scotts Bluff County, who reminisce of the day when hot air balloons took flight over the western Nebraska skies. Where-

official proclamation.

"Whereas an Old West Balloon Fest event has a long-standing place in history in the memories of residents coordinates and altitude could define it as well. Besides his flying skills, the pilot has to show his abilities to plan the flight well according to the wind direction and speed data.

See **BALLOON FEST, 2A**

Tasks to watch for during the balloon competition

By Lauren Brant
Star-Herald

GERING — Bright colored envelopes will float over the valley as hot air balloon pilots visit Scotts Bluff County for the U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship Aug. 12-17.

Hot air ballooning is a popular event as it provides breathtaking views of balloons soaring over vast landscapes, but the difference in the competitive hot air ballooning is the competition aspect and the demand on the pilots. While the national competition is no more strenuous physically, pilots must have a knowledge, training and skills to complete specific tasks successfully.

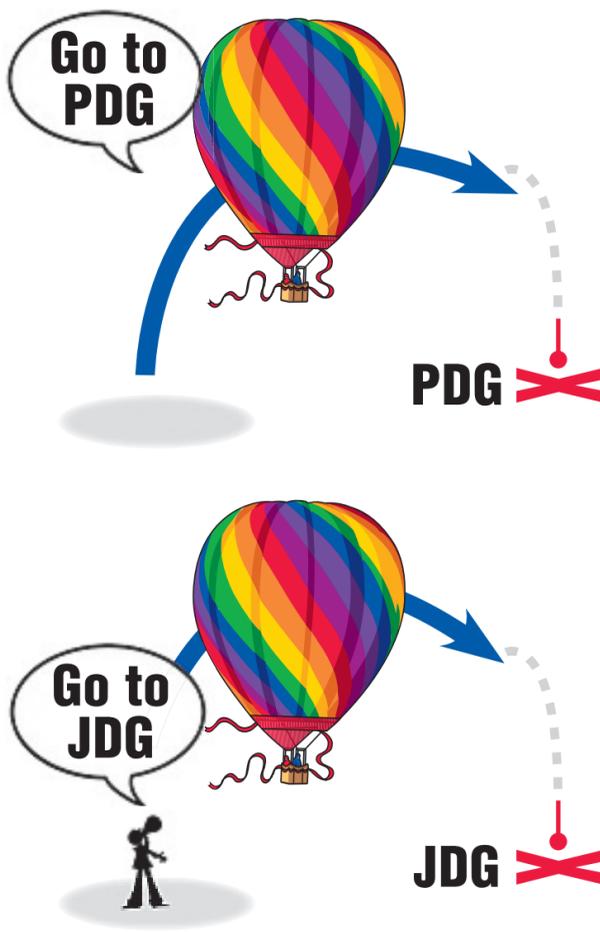
Balloon competitions occur at the national, regional, international and world levels and follow the standard Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) rules that outline tasks pilots can complete and how judges determine the champion pilot.

As spectators make their way outside to see pilots navigate in their colorful balloons, they may see the national pilots complete several tasks while in the air.

"Balloons will be flying at different altitudes and diving down to score on the X or other target that is laid out on the ground," said Colleen Johnson, event director.

When the pilots approach the targets, Johnson said spectators

SAMPLE TASKS



PILOT DECLARED GOAL (PDG)

Every pilot selects his goal before the take-off by himself. Possible goal could be a point in nature, usually a crossroad; coordinates and altitude could define it as well. Besides his flying skills, the pilot has to show his abilities to plan the flight well according to the wind direction and speed data.

The result of the task is the distance between the marker and the goal. The winner is the one that drops the marker or marks it closest to the goal.

JUDGE DECLARED GOAL (JDG)

The Competition Director selects the goal as a point in nature or sets a target. The balloons take-off from the common launch area and choose the tactics that will take them as close as possible to the target giving the weather conditions.

The result of the task is the distance between the marker and the target. The winner is the one that drops the marker or marks it closest to the target.

Source: www.hotairballoons2020.com

See **TASKS, 2A**

SCREENING

Engaging with water discussion

Midwest Theater premieres 'Rising Water' Aug. 17-18.

Lauren Brant
Star-Herald

SCOTTSBLUFF — The Historic Midwest Theater will be the venue for the world premiere and benefit screening of "Rising Water" by director Becky Hughes McMillen Aug. 17 and 18.

McMillen, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, said the film is a collection of stories about water in western Nebraska. It chronicles the development

of historic dams on the North Platte River and an irrigation system that changed the landscape. It's a story about ancient history, aquifers, rainbow trout and ranchers who fought to protect their water. It's all about life in a rural landscape and the challenges that face us all in a changing world. "Rising Water" is a story that has just begun.

McMillen hopes the public will engage in legislation related to water after viewing the film.

"I hope they will become more aware and engaged in the legislative process," she said. "Most of the time someone else makes the decisions for us and we weren't engaged in that process."

She spoke with Midwest Theater Director Billy Estes about screening the film at the theater a couple weeks prior to the Fort Laramie canal breach. As they tried to select a date, the irrigation tunnel collapsed and McMillen decided to incorporate a panel discussion with the film. Panel members include: John Berge, North Platte NRD; Dennis Strauch, Pathfinder Irrigation District; Kevin Adams, Farmers Irrigation District; Mike Grubb, Nine-Mile rainbow trout restoration; Mike Sarchet, Governor's Riparian Task Force; and McMillen.

Prior to the canal's construction, McMillen said there was political outcry.

Agriculture is a vital economic driver for our communities and the value of water to aid that industry in growing crops and feeding livestock can impact the rest of the community.

"I'm a water user as a farmer, too, so I've always been interested in how the water works, but more about how it came to be,"

See **'RISING WATER', 2A**

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