

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

NO. 22

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Fundraiser to help Bailey Porter family

Bailey Porter, 23, was recently airlifted to UNMC in Omaha for a perforated intestine that is wrapped around a desmoid tumor. He is being treated for infection and is waiting to see if he will need a complete organ transplant (small intestine, half of his stomach, both kidneys and liver). Colon cancer runs in his family for the men, and breast cancer for the women.

Bailey is currently raising his 17-year-old brother, Devon. Their parents have both passed away, along with their sister, who died of breast cancer.

Bailey is engaged to Desarae Cartlett of Broken Bow, and they are planning a September 2018 wedding. She is currently with him in Omaha.

Devon, a senior this year at Sandhills High School, continues to live at home and is attending school. Bailey is employed by Herb and Lori Hall.

Area residents will be having a fundraiser on December 30, at the Sandhills Corral in Thedford.

Please come and support this family! A portion of every meal ticket will go towards helping Bailey and his family. Donation tubs for free will donations will be available. Donations for a silent auction to be held that evening are being taken at this time.

You may contact Gretchen Mak at 308-224-0979 or email her at gmak53@hotmail.com if you have a silent auction item. You may also help out by spreading the word to your family and

friends.

Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy a delicious meal, some great company, and come together as a community to support and lift up Bailey and his family as they

walk this long road ahead of them.

Friends are also conducting a "Meal Train" to help provide Devon with meals while Bailey and Desarae are in Omaha. If

you can help provide a freezeable dinner that Devon could reheat, please contact Gretchen Mak at the above number. All help and donations are greatly appreciated.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Porter family, l-r: Bailey, Devon and Desarae, pose together following a Knights football game this season. The family is in need of help after Bailey recently became ill.

Valentine Woman Killed In Rollover Crash

A 28-year-old Valentine woman has died after a rollover crash in north-central Nebraska.

The Nebraska State Patrol said Taj Damschen, who was a passenger in a Dodge Caravan driven by Kimberly Homan of Valentine, died last Thursday after the 5:30 p.m. crash.

The patrol said the mini van was northbound on U.S. Highway 83 about 10 miles north of Thedford when the crash occurred.

The Caravan left the road to the right, re-entered the roadway and then rolled several times, the patrol said. The vehicle ended up in the west ditch, the patrol said.

Damschen and Homan, who were not wearing seat belts, were ejected from the mini van, the patrol said.

Homan, 54, was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Nurse Aide/Medication Aide Classes In High Demand



COURTESY PHOTO

Carla Barnum checks the blood pressure on Dalton Billups with help from instructor Gloria Robinson. The procedure was part of a nursing assistant class at Mid-Plains Community College.

Demand for nursing assistant and medication aide training is on the rise at Mid-Plains Community College.

New reports show that 189 students were enrolled in MPCC's Nursing Assistant program in 2015. This year, that figure jumped to 262. The medication aide program also saw an increase - from 70 students in 2015 to 80 this year.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that more nursing and health occupation programs are now requiring their students to take a nursing assistant course," said Brett Niemeth, nursing support coordinator for MPCC. "Last year, we had several students from Bryan College of Health Sciences in Lincoln taking nurse aide classes through us. They were pursuing speech therapy and interventional radiology."

Nursing assistants, or nurse aides, provide basic care for patients in a variety of settings including hospitals, residential/long-term care facilities and in-home care. Often, they are also responsible for lifting, moving and transporting patients.

With additional training, nursing assistants can become medication aides, allowing them to dispense medications to patients while under the direction and oversight of a licensed health care professional.

MPCC offered a total of 38 nurse aide and medication aide classes this year. Another 30 people used the college to regain certification in

those areas after their credentials lapsed.

"We have eight more scheduled to retest this month," said Niemeth. "The jobs are definitely there. All the nursing homes in our service area are short-staffed. We've also seen an increased demand for in-home care. I've had several calls from people looking for referrals because they either don't want to put their loved ones in a nursing home, or insurance won't pay for it."

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services recently surveyed MPCC's nursing assistant program, something it does every two years to make sure programs remain in compliance with state and federal requirements.

MPCC's program received a clean review with no recommendations.

"It's an awesome feeling to get those results, and it's something to really be proud of," said Niemeth. "It also confirms what we already knew - that our nursing assistant program is growing, thriving and exceeding expectations. A lot of credit has to go to the 13 adjunct instructors who helped make that success possible. It takes a team effort."

MPCC offers nurse aide and medication aide classes in seven locations within its 18-county service area: McCook, North Platte, Imperial, Ogallala, Broken Bow, Valentine and Mullen. More information about the programs is available online at mpcc.edu.

"Ranching for Profitability" Meetings Held Across Nebraska

What are pillars to beef productivity? Grazing, reproduction, and cattle health are key to beef profitability and will be covered in half-day workshops across Nebraska by beef specialists and educators.

"Ranching for Profitability" workshops will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (local time) and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. (local time). Locations include Burwell and Thedford on Jan. 9; O'Neill and Ainsworth on Jan. 10; Gordon and Valentine on Jan. 11, Kearney and Broken Bow on Jan. 16; and Brady and Kimball on Jan. 17. Contact your local Extension Office one week prior for a meal count. Please note: speakers and topics may vary by location- contact local extension offices for a list of topics and speakers.

Head of the Animal Science Department, Clint Krehbiel, will discuss "Nutrition and Management Practices for Weaned Calves for Improved Health and Well-

Being." Krehbiel will also give an update on the UNL Animal Science program. Nebraska Extension beef nutrition specialist, Travis Mulliniks, will cover managing cows' diets before and after calving to prepare them for the breeding season. The challenge continues as land managers battle newly introduced and established problem weeds. Nebraska Extension range and forage specialist, Mitch Stephenson, will discuss control methods for pasture weeds. Jerry Volesky and Daren Redfearn are experts in the field of irrigated forages and will share their insight in growing forage crops.

Pre-registration required for a meal count (one week prior). All times are local.

*January 9 - Burwell (Sandstone Grill 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) 308-346-4200;

*January 9 - Thedford (Sandhills Corral 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.) 308-645-2267;

*January 10 - O'Neill (Holt County Courthouse Annex 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.), 402-336-2760;

*January 10 - Ainsworth (Lutheran Church 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.), 402-387-2213;

*January 11 - Gordon (Gordon Community Building 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) 308-527-2312;

*January 11 - Valentine (Peppermill Restaurant 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.) 402-376-1850;

*January 16 - Kearney (Buffalo Co Extension Office 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) 308-256-1255;

*January 16 - Broken Bow (Country Club 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) 308-872-6831;

*January 17 - Brady (Brady Community Center 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) 308-532-2683;

*January 17 - Kimball (4-H Building 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) 308-235-3122;

Please call the office one week prior if you plan to attend. Cost is \$15/person. Brought to you by Nebraska Extension, and local sponsors.

Custer Public Power Completes Stapleton Service Center



MARCIA HORA PHOTOS

The new Stapleton Service Center at the junction of Highways 83 and 92 five miles south of Stapleton, has been completed and ready to serve you.

Custer Public Power District has completed the new Stapleton Service Center at the junction of Highway 83 and Highway 2, south of Stapleton.

The new service center will allow Custer Public Power District to better serve their customers. With the completion of the new building, the Stapleton Service Center is in a more accessible location. The new building allows the service center to be close to outside inventory, better storage for inside inventory, and additional work space inside for the Stapleton

crew. With the completion of the Stapleton Service Center, each of Custer's service territories has a building that meets the needs of their crews and

provides a central location to meet the needs of the customers in each area. In addition to Stapleton, service centers are located at Thedford, Sargent, and Callaway.



All the equipment is moved in and the new Custer Public Power District Stapleton Service Center is in use. Pictured, l-r: John Croghan, Mike Needs and Bob Denny.