

Rural Fire District receives \$10,000 Grant



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

Members of Thedford Fire & Rescue, the Thedford Rural Fire Protection District board, and Farm Credit Services of America met Friday, March 10, at the building site of the new fire hall, for a presentation of the \$10,000 grant. Pictured, l-r: Ross Bryant, fireman; Dawn Bryant, fireman; Chad McIntosh, EMS; Spencer Burke, fireman; Dave Legott, Farm Credit Services; Austin Horn, fireman; Bonnie Downing, Farm Credit Services; Dave Hamilton, Thedford Rural Fire Protection District secretary-treasurer; Logan Thomeczek, Farm Credit Services; Gordon Needs, fireman; Mike Finney, Thedford Rural Fire Protection District chairman and Seneca fireman; Robert Mills, Thedford fire chief; Kim Mills, EMS; Heather Carnes, EMS; and Jim Mills, fireman. Not pictured: Roy Licking, fireman.

Thedford Rural Fire Protection District has received a \$10,000 grant for its new fire hall building. The grant was provided through Farm Credit Services of America's (FCSAmerica) Working Here Fund.

To meet the current and future needs of the District as cost effectively and efficiently as possible, the grant funds would be used to help pay for the construction of the 133' x 60' building. In 2015, the Thedford Rural Fire Protection District Board reviewed and approved the preliminary floor plan for the building. Tony and Sandy Booth of Thedford donated the land for the building project.

"The new building will house the necessary space to provide fire protection

and emergency medical services to the Thedford area," said David Hamilton, secretary-treasurer of the Thedford Rural Fire Protection District. "It is also important that the space is built to efficiently serve the National Forest at Halsey, Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, and emergency medical services to the Halsey and Purdum fire districts."

The style of building construction was chosen to maximize the insulation value for heating and air conditioning the building, and to minimize long-term maintenance. It will have insulated concrete foam block, covered by a skin of steel sheeting, and will include a wood truss roof covered with metal. The walls will be R38 and the ceiling with two feet of blown-in insu-

lation will have a R50 value.

"This system will make the heating and air conditioning of the building extremely efficient," Hamilton said.

The building will have five bays for the fire department. Four of the bays will have fire trucks parked end-to-end with the fifth bay designated for a service bay and for possible future expansion. The rescue side will have two bays for the existing ambulances. The center of the building will have an office and communications room, two restrooms, and a 22' x 38' meeting and training room.

Construction is expected to begin in mid-April 2017 and be completed by September 1, 2017. Thedford Fire and Rescue

hopes to be able to occupy the building by mid-September 2017.

"We understand the importance of keeping our communities safe and appreciate the efforts of the Thedford Rural Fire Protection District," said Logan Thomeczek, a vice president of retail operations in FCSAmerica's North Platte office.

The Thedford Rural Fire Protection District is one

of 12 organizations to receive a Working Here Fund grant. FCSAmerica awarded each organization up to \$10,000 for a total of \$71,000 to support projects focused on agricultural education, hunger and nutrition, young and beginning producers or essential services and rural disaster relief.

Farm Credit Services of America is proud to fi-

nance the growth of rural America, including the special needs of young and beginning producers.

With \$25.8 billion in assets and \$4.7 billion in members' equity, FCSAmerica is one of the region's leading providers of credit and insurance services to farmers, ranchers, agribusiness and rural residents in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Weather Radar in Thedford Gets Upgrade

The weather radar used by the National Weather Service Forecast Office in North Platte will be down for approximately three days beginning March 26th for technicians to install an important technological upgrade. The work on the WSR-88D has been scheduled to minimize any potential impacts to office operations and will be delayed if hazardous weather is forecast.

During the outage, radar coverage is available from adjacent radar sites including Denver, CO; Cheyenne, WY; Rapid City, SD; Sioux Fall, SD; Omaha/Valley, NE; Hastings, NE and Goodland, KS.

A crew will install a new signal processor, which replaces obsolete technology, improves processing speed and data quality, provides added functionality, and supports IT security.

This is the first of four major upgrades, known as service life extension projects, planned in the next five years to replace and refurbish major components of the 20 year old WSR-88Ds and to keep the radars operational into the 2030s. The \$150M investment is being made by the three organizations that use these radars, the NOAA National Weather Service, United States Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration. The other service life extension projects include refurbishing the transmitter, pedestal, and equipment shelters.

The tri-agency Radar Operations Center, which supports the radars, estimates it will take about 10 months to upgrade the signal processor on all 159 operational WSR-88Ds.

A tentative deployment schedule is available online at: <http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/PublicDocs/SLEP/ECP0437SigProcSLEPDeploySched.pdf>

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and our other social media channels

Nebraska Featured In National DAR Fundraiser

LAWRENCE JOHNSON, BURWELL TRIBUNE

The 2017 National Junior Doll is a project of the Nebraska Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The doll honors the 150th anniversary of Nebraska's statehood and culminates five years of preparation for this year's event. According to DAR National Vice Chair Candace Cain of Burwell, NE, when the Nebraska DAR agreed to sponsor the doll, for the first time ever in 65 years of the doll project, they didn't realize it would coincide with the Sesquicentennial. The doll comes with 95 outfits to honor the 95 counties of the state and each outfit represents a historical, cultural, or a fun fact of the state's history. The doll named, "Miss Nebraska" comes with a library of Nebraska themed books, as well as her wardrobe and a Murphy Bed. All of the outfits are tailored to the doll and are handmade by Nebraska DAR contributors or through funding provided by donations. Cain stated, "It has been fun seeing this project come together. Each outfit the doll has tells a special story about our state. The project has been a great opportunity to educate people about our state's history as well as supporting education across the United States." The doll project is also approved by the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Committee.



LAWRENCE JOHNSON PHOTO

Candace Cain pictured with "Miss Nebraska" dressed in her Willa Cather outfit and the photo book that also can be purchased.

Each year the National Doll is sponsored by one state organization and is usually modeled after someone influential from that state or from the DAR in general. Tickets may be purchased for the doll for \$5 for one or five tickets for \$20 through DAR members. The drawing for "Miss Nebraska" will be held on July 1, 2017 during the Continental Congress in Washington DC, and you need not be present to win. The 2016 doll sponsored by Texas raised over \$32,000 and these annual fund raisers support the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund. These funds support two DAR schools and four DAR approved schools. Beginning this year, \$500 grants will be awarded to one classroom teacher in each state plus the District of Columbia. Last year over \$225,082 was disbursed from the Helen Pouch memorial Fund to benefit education. Over the years the fund has provided scholarships, medical aid, and general assistance with millions of dollars in financial assistance for schools. Local DAR chapters may be contacted for more information about the school grant program. Miss Cain has been instrumental in another part of the Miss Nebraska doll project. As an off shoot of the project she has taken pictures of the doll in various Nebraska locations and outfits and has compiled the information into a book. The photo book for the Miss Nebraska Doll Project can be purchased to also help support the Helen Pouch Fund. Should you be interested in tickets on the doll or on information feel free to check out the project's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/MissNebraska2017NSDARJuniorDoll>

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