

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

(USPS 596-550)

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018

NO. 37

Notices

- Notice Of Primary Election
- Thedford School Board Proceedings

Annual Easter Egg Hunt is March 31

The Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the Thedford Service Club, will be held Saturday, March 31 at 2:00 p.m. CT on the Thomas County Courthouse lawn. Participants need to be there and ready to go by 1:45 p.m. Everyone should meet on the street side of the Thomas County Library. Age groups will be divided there and sent to their area to gather Easter eggs. Arrangements have been made, as in previous years, to move the Easter egg hunt indoors in case of inclement weather.

All donations to the Easter egg hunt are greatly appreciated. Monetary and candy donations may be dropped off with Michelle McIntosh at the Country Salon. Monetary donations may also be placed on the Service Club account at Ewoldt's Grocery. Contact Michelle McIntosh at 645-2585 or Kevin Hood at 645-2504 for more information.

Area Students Take Advantage Of STEM Lab

Becton Dickinson/BD, CAPABLE, and Custer Public Power District, with the assistance of NPPD and ESU 10, has made the mobile STEM Lab become a reality.

The STEM Lab will be following NPPD's "Pathway to a Technical Future" program which allows students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in a "Markerspace" education approach. The program is funded through the Nebraska Developing Youth Talent Initiative (DYTI) grant, a program that connects young Nebraskans to careers in manufacturing and technology sectors.

The STEM Lab will be available throughout the school year in two week intervals to schools in the Custer Public Power District service territory. The STEM Lab consists of 10 stations that allow students to explore the four components of STEM in an open learning environment. The categories of the labs fall into the themes of "Make It New", "Make It Do", "Make An Impact" and "Make It You".

The four themes encourage exploration of sci-

ence, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The 10 labs create a "markerspace" for students to explore design, engineering, fabrication, and education. A few things the labs will contain are a 3-D printer, Carney CNC Mill, robotics, electronics, sensor station and more. The markerspace education model allows students to explore, fail and succeed. As the STEM Lab travels throughout the schools, so does a log book for each of the labs. The log books allow students at the next school to pick up where the last students left off. It is an example of "progressive engineering design." This philosophy allows an uncompleted project to grow into something bigger.

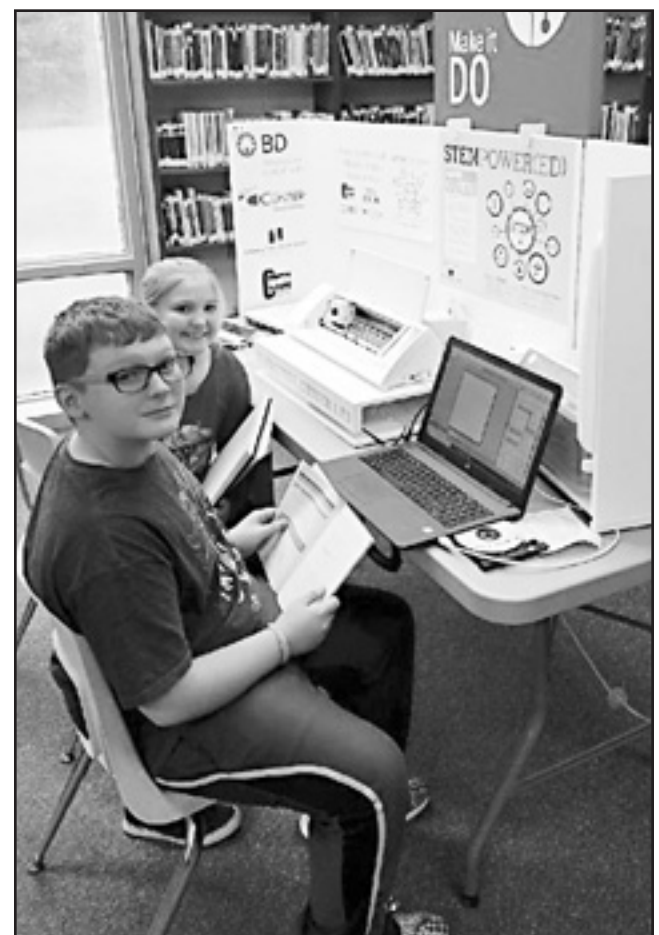
To sum it up, the mobile STEM Lab is a resource for schools to utilize a Markerspace Education model that encourages science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with the emphasis in open source learning and sharing. The ten labs give the students the opportunity for hands on exploration utilizing "figure it out" thinking, while reinforcing life skills needed



Sandhills students, Tyson Hickman and Cora Winklebauer, work in the Electronics Lab I of the STEM Lab during its stop at Sandhills Public Schools. The Lab is made possible by BD, CAPABLE, Custer Public Power District and ESU #10.

in today's workforce.

Sandhill students in grades fifth through twelfth are now getting the opportunity to utilize the Stem Lab. Teachers, Lea Essman, Rod Ready and Celeste Roers, took the training in order to allow the lab to come to the school.



Sandhill students, Kyle Cox and Shelby Schukei, getting hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics with the help of the STEM Lab.

2018 Ranch Practicum Set For June, July, September and November

The 2018 Nebraska Ranch Practicum gives ranchers cutting edge research in range livestock production from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Natural resources, livestock management, and economic reality are integrated throughout the Practicum.

During the three-season UNL Extension class, participants have the opportunity to expand their knowledge with an overview of ranching practices from new angles. Throughout the program, participants will cover a variety of topics including the effective use of decision support tools to evaluate management and marketing alternatives, plant identification, range condition and grazing strategies, wildlife management, evaluation of cow body condition scores, and beef cattle production systems.

Classroom activities will open and close the Practicum in North Platte with the remainder of the classes conducted at



KENDRA CUTLER PHOTO

UNL's Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory, a working ranch with education and research facilities, near Whitman. The 12,800 acre ranch provides hands-on experience to ranchers. Practicum dates are June 6 and 7, July 12, September 5 and 6, and November 1, 2018, and January 9 and 10, 2019 for the eight-session class. Scheduling of the sessions from June to January is designed to cover the production cycle of both livestock and forage resources.

The 2018 Nebraska

Ranch Practicum can count for college or continuing education credit. Participants looking to earn credits should make arrangements during the initial session.

The registration fee for this eight-session Practicum is \$675. To participate in the 2018 Nebraska Ranch Practicum, please submit a completed application and registration fee by May 1, 2018. No applications will be accepted after May 1. Fees for a spouse are an additional \$350. All educational ma-

terials, noon meals and breaks are included. Participants are responsible for travel and lodging expenses.

Enrollment is limited to 35, and applicants will be notified of their status no later than May 21. Deposits will be refunded if space is not available.

For applications or additional information, contact Brent Plugge at 308-236-1235, e-mail brent.plugge@unl.edu or visit the Practicum website at <http://nebraskaranchpracticum.unl.edu/>

Local Working Group Meeting Planned

Local meetings open to individuals interested in setting natural resources goals for Nebraska.

A Local Working Group that provides advice on the priorities for many U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs will meet April 15, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the NRCS Field Office-Thedford, 39311 Hwy 2, Thedford, NE.

The public is encouraged to attend a meeting and express their natural resource concerns. Ideas generated from the public will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture tailor their natural resource programs to meet the needs identified locally.

There is a Local Working Group in each Natural Resources District (NRD). Membership on the Local Working Group includes Federal, State, county,

Tribal or local government representatives according to Kevin Hood, District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) whose agency guides the Local Working Group.

"The Local Working Group recommends to the NRCS State Conservationist how conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), or Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) would be used most effectively in their area. This recommendation can include special target areas, cost share rates on conservation pro-

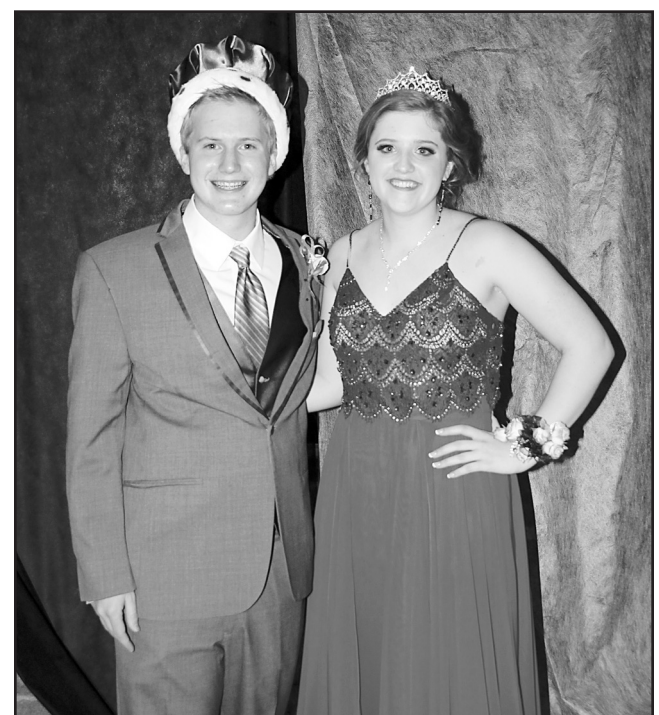


grams, which conservation practices should have cost assistance, or how many dollars could be needed," said Hood. This work group allows local input into how Federal dollars are spent, he said. Typically Nebraska NRCS obligates anywhere between \$45 million to over \$75 million dollars to farmers and ranchers statewide through NRCS conservation programs. These programs helped

landowners and operators make natural resource improvements to their land, water, or wildlife. This funding was allocated according to the priorities set by the Local Working Group.

For more information about the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the programs and services they provide, visit your local USDA Service Center or www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

Good Times Rolled at 2018 Prom



THEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PHOTO

Thedford High School 2017 Prom Royalty was Ben Masten and Hannah Higgins.

By: Rosalea Gift

The 2018 Sandhills-Thedford High School Prom theme was "Let the Good Times Roll" and all those in attendance did just that.

The two schools get together in January to determine all the details of prom and they order whatever they are going

to need at that time. Then the Friday before prom, they meet at the forest to decorate. This year that went a little awry as Mother Nature sent a storm. The Thedford students were given an hour to wrap things up and get back to Thedford. They really scurried to get everything finished.

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