

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018

NO. 40

Primary election update

Thomas County voters will be going to the polls Tuesday, May 15, for the Primary Election.

Most local races will automatically advance, including county clerk, sheriff, surveyor, attorney, and treasurer.

The Republican ticket will advance two to the general election for Thomas County Commissioner. Three are running for the 4-year term. Incumbents, John Seeley and Lewis L. Herbaugh are seeking re-election and James Purdum.

Voters will be instructed to vote for two and the top vote getters will advance.

Norma J. Butler has filed for commissioner on the Libertarian ballot. She will automatically advance to the general elec-

tion.

Voters will also be nominating their candidates for U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, 3rd District, governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, and auditor of public accounts.

An absent voter's ballot was published in last week's issue of the Herald. A certified list of candidates appeared in the March 29 issue.

Thomas County Clerk, Lorissa Hartman said the polls will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 pm at the polling place which is the Thomas County Courthouse in Thefdord.

If you have recently moved to the county, gotten married, or had a

name change since the last election, you will need to register to vote by May 4.

April 30 is the postmark deadline for a mailed in voter registration, and also for completing online voter registration.

May 4 is also the deadline for the following:

- In person voter registration at the clerk's office.
- Last day for write-in candidate to file notarized affidavit declaring their intent to run.
- Deadline to receive an application for early voting ballots to be mailed to a specific address.

Voters with questions should contact the Thomas County Clerk's office.

Replacement marker on the way



COURTESY PHOTO

The Nebraska State Historical Society has ordered a replacement sign for the DeWitty marker located on Highway 85 near Brownlee. Stew Magnuson, who was instrumental in garnering money for the sign honoring the state's longest and most successful African-American rural settlement, reported on his Facebook page the person who accidentally hit the marker came forward right away and has taken responsibility. The new marker should arrive at the Valentine Department of Roads in eight to 12 weeks. Magnuson said he will be working to get some kind of barriers installed so this does not happen again. The accident apparently occurred after someone slid into the marker during a snowstorm.

The marker was dedicated in April of 2016 and drew a large number of people, including descendants of the original DeWitty settlers from all over the nation. Magnuson, the Cherry County Historical Society and DeWitty descendants coordinated efforts to raise the \$5,100 needed to pay for the marker.

American Legion Auxiliary makes Memorial Day plans

The American Legion Auxiliary Steidley-Kayton Unit #230 met Monday, April 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. with four members present.

The Charter was draped in memory of Helen Leaf. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was given. The organization is going into the 2018-19 year with a maximum number of 29 senior members if all pay their dues. Four junior members are also in the Auxiliary. That makes the income of \$2.75 kept for the local unit for each paid senior member.

The utilities are \$41.50 per month which is \$498.00 for the year.

Nadene Andersen sent a

letter about her health and update on her activities. She is really missed.

District 5 President, Dianne Donnelly sent a letter about her stepping down and the new District president Vicky Colson and Vice president Ellen Warath assuming their positions.

State Convention is June 21-14 in Kearney.

Americanism Essays are not quite done but the Auxiliary will do a local reading of them next week, as they are too late to submit to state.

It was decided to do the February 2019 tray favors for the Scottsbluff Veteran's Home.

The Memorial Day Celebration was discussed and Dixie will ask Miles Maseberg to speak. Velma

will be contacted to sing and Marlee Taylor and a helper will be asked to play taps. Crosses for the graves will be worked on after the May meeting. Old flags need to be disposed of. Someone will contact Valentine to see when they will do this.

A discussion was held about having 4-H meetings in the building.

The Constitution needs to be updated. Discussion was held on the number of members needed to make a quorum. A motion was made to change the number from six to four.

Work is being completed on the annual report that will be sent in by May 1.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Region 26 tower goes down in weekend blizzard



NEBRASKA STATE PATROL PHOTO

Troopers with the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP), working with the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office, Sidney Police Department, Sidney Public Schools, Cheyenne County Emergency Management, the Nebraska Department of Transportation, and others, worked to clear all of the stranded vehicles. In total, more than 100 motorists were rescued.

Governor Pete Ricketts issued an emergency declaration Saturday morning, April 14, to allow state funds to be used for the response to the blizzard which affected Nebraskans statewide last weekend.

"Hundreds of motorists have been stranded and power outages are reported in many communities," Governor Ricketts said. "This declaration allows state funds from the Governor's Emergency Fund to help our communities in their response."

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is working to get

a temporary communications tower to Region 26 after its dispatch tower was toppled due to 60 mph winds. Blaine, Garfield, Greeley, Loup, Sherman, Thomas, Valley, and Wheeler counties make up Region 26 and are affected by the loss.

Road closures, including Interstate 80 and U.S. Highways 50 and 20, sent travelers to shelters. Big Springs and Sidney reported opening shelters.

Road conditions were poor to impassible in many parts of central to western Nebraska.

There were two major areas where vehicles had

become trapped on I-80 near Sidney. One section was more than a mile and a half long and the other section was estimated to have at least 50 vehicles. Sidney Public Schools offered buses to assist in the rescue, which were escorted to the scene by patrol vehicles and snow plows. Assembled law enforcement officers went door to door, knocking on all vehicles and rescuing all of the occupants in freezing temperatures. The rescued motorists were taken to Light Memorial Presbyterian

(Continued on page 8)

Nebraska Farm Bureau Petitions USDA to Limit the Definition of Beef



Nebraska Farm Bureau is urging the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to not use the term "meat" when referring to all lab-grown and plant-based meat alternatives. The request to limit the definition of "beef" and "meat" to only products from live animals born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner, comes from a strong movement to develop and commercialize alternative protein products, particularly "clean meat," also called lab-grown or cultured meat, and plant-based proteins.

"The production and processing of livestock is of vital importance to our members and our states economy. Nebraska currently ranks first in commercial red meat production (over 8.1 billion lbs/year), commercial cattle slaughter (over 7.4 million head), and all cattle on feed (over 2.7 million head). All of this translates into tens of billions of dollars of economic activity as well as thousands of jobs," Steve Nelson, Nebraska Farm Bureau president said in a letter to USDA's Food Safety and Inspection

Service (FSIS). "Consumers depend upon the USDA FSIS to ensure that the products they purchase at the grocery store match their label descriptions," Nelson said. In a letter he specifically requested FSIS to support the following:

- Prohibit products derived from alternative sources, e.g. synthetic products from plants, insects, non-animal components, and lab-grown animal cells, from being labeled as "beef" or "meat";
- limit the definition of "meat" to the tissue or flesh of animals that have been harvested in the traditional manner;
- limit the definition of "beef" to products from cattle born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner; and
- adding the definitions, as identified above, to FSIS's Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book.

Back in January of 2018, delegates from the American Farm Bureau Federation adopted a policy proposed by delegates from Nebraska which supported the prohibition of the use of "commonly known and industry rec-

ognized 'meat' terms in the labeling and advertising of all lab-grown and plant-based alternatives."

"This Nebraska-led effort was originally approved by our voting members, Nebraska farmers and ranchers, at our state annual meeting last December as the production and processing of livestock is of vital importance to our members and our states economy. Nebraska's farmer and rancher bottom lines and the overall agriculture economy is at risk and we urge FSIS to support this petition," Nelson said.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau is a grassroots, statewide organization dedicated to supporting farm and ranch families and working for the benefit of all Nebraskans through a wide variety of educational, service and advocacy efforts. More than 61,000 families across Nebraska are Farm Bureau members, working together to achieve rural and urban prosperity as agriculture is a key fuel to Nebraska's economy. For more information about Nebraska Farm Bureau and agriculture, visit www.neffb.org.