

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

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Sandhills Students Winners In 811 Contest



COURTESY PHOTOS

Governor Pete Ricketts recognized the importance of safe digging at the Governor's Proclamation of Safe Digging month on April 2, 2018. He is pictured above with some of the winning artists from the Nebraska811 Safe Digging poster contest. Teachers and family members attended the Governor's Proclamation at the Nebraska State Capitol building.

The Nebraska811 recently announced the winners of the 2018 Nebraska811 Pirate Adventure Poster Contest.

All Nebraska schools were invited to participate in the poster contest by watching the CGA Pirate Adventure video and submitting posters with the 811 theme.

Winning schools will each receive an educational presentation at their school along with a park bench and a tree for their school.

Sandhills Elementary students, Kallan Cox, third grade, and Sara Christie, fourth grader, both at Halsey, were chosen as two of the winners.

The Sandhills Elementary will have a school wide pirate themed ceremony and cookie party on Monday, May 14 at 2:00 p.m. at Sandhills Elementary School in Halsey.

Other winning students, and the schools they represent are:

Heartland Community School, Henderson-Creighton
Homer Elementary, Homer-Lyndsee

KCLC-Buffalo Hills Elementary, Kearney- Julie Anne, Riley, Madi, Landyn

Lost Creek Elementary, Columbus-Kyrstyn
McCook Elementary, McCook-Jenna



Sandhills Elementary students, l-r: Sara Christie and Kallan Cox pictured with their winning posters at the Nebraska State Capitol.

McCook Elementary, McCook-Jackie, Arianna
McCook Elementary, McCook-Audrey
Southern Valley, Oxford-Adi, Paden, Gage
Verdigre Public, Verdigre-Isaac-5th, Evelyn-5th,

Emmarie-3rd, Gage-3rd
Wauneta-Palisade Schools, Palisade-Addalyn, Kenzie
Wauneta-Palisade Schools, Palisade-Nathan, Collin, Grayden, Ashton

Commencement Exercises To Be Held This Weekend

The time has come again for high school graduation ceremonies to be held around the area. The Sandhills High School and Thedford High School seniors will make one final walk across their respective gyms as a class.

Sandhills has 11 2018 graduates this year. The Class Roll is: Ridge Taylor Anderson, Taylor Marie Downing, Paige Marie Martindale, Elizabeth, Delphia Peterson, Heidi

Jean Saner, Tyler Joe Swisher, Riggin Scott Anderson, Nolan Ryan Marten, Amanda Marie Payne, Devon Lee Porter and Jaylee June Simonson.

Commencement Exercises will be held Saturday, May 12 at 4:00 p.m. at Sandhills High School in Dunning.

Thedford High School has two seniors graduating this year.

Hannah Suzanne Higgins and Joseph Benjamin

Masten will be graduating on Sunday, May 13 at the Thedford High School Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.

The Thedford seniors will also be honored at a Baccalaureate service on Friday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethel Assembly of God Church in Thedford. Sunny Ridings will be the keynote speaker.

The Senior Congratulations pages can be found inside this issue of the *Thomas County Herald*.

Capturing the Sun's Energy to Power your Home or Ranch

More and more are using solar energy for homes, ranches, and small businesses. With declining solar panel costs and available incentives, the number of homes, ranches, and businesses utilizing solar energy is growing. Join John Hay, UNL biosystems engineer, to discuss the application of solar photovoltaic (PV) for ranches, residences, and rural businesses on Thursday, May 31 at 9 a.m. MT at the Hooker County Library basement in Mullen.

There are many questions about solar energy: How many solar panels are needed to run a house?

What size solar panel system do I need?

How much does it cost to install solar panels? Is it cost effective to install solar panels?

John Hay will focus on the grid tied to solar photovoltaic, economics, basic design considerations, and feasibility. Participants will learn how to use basic on-line tools to model their own locations

and learn about economic considerations such as payback, grants, tax credits, and depreciation. Incentives are available, including federal tax credits, USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants, and low interest loans from the Nebraska Energy Office. This program will cover local, state, and federal incentives for solar and other renewable systems. Call to register at the Nebraska Extension Office at 308-645-2267 or email bjohnston3@unl.edu.

Celebrating Life's Stories

Former Publisher & Editor Featured During National Skilled Nursing Care Week

MARCIA R. HORA

When you look back on your life story - how would you want it written? Would it feature success in business? Maybe it would be about the friends you've made along the way. Perhaps it is a family that cares for you.

Former publisher and longtime resident of Stapleton, Audrey French, can say yes to all three.

Audrey built a very successful printing business with her husband, Art, and helped publish four weekly newspapers along the way. She raised four children and was active in organizations in the Stapleton and Tryon communities.

Audrey was destined to work in a newspaper. Her parents, Hugh and Louelva Priest, owned and published *The Tryon Graphic*. Some of her earliest recollections of working in a newspaper were going around town with a paper and pencil in hand writing down local news items.

Art and Audrey purchased *The Tryon Graphic* from Audrey's parents in 1957. They used lead type to publish the weekly paper in the basement of her parent's house.

When the opportunity came to purchase *The Stapleton Enterprise* in 1960, they moved to Stapleton and sold *The Graphic* to Gordon and Alice Bassett. During the 1960's they also published the *Thomas County Herald* at Thedford for Miss Eleanor T. Miller. The Frenches purchased Burnham Printing in North Platte in 1968 and the offset equipment in that location was moved to *The Stapleton Enterprise* office.

Art and Audrey purchased *The Tryon Graphic* back in 1978, and again published it along with *The Enterprise*.

Art and Audrey worked countless hours to build up the job printing business and make improvements. Creative Printers was one of the first offset job printing shops in the state of Nebraska. They had hundreds of customers, not only in the area, but throughout the United States.

With the help of their daughter, Karla Janecek, they re-instated the *Thomas County Herald* in 1981, after being approached to start up a newspaper in Thedford to serve the residents of that county. Legals were published in *The Enterprise* for a year until the official newspaper status was obtained.

The Arnold Sentinel was purchased from Bill and Helen Crosland in July of 1987 and Creative Printers was incorporated, bringing together the job printing shop, and the four newspapers - *The Stapleton Enterprise*, *The Tryon Graphic*, *Thomas County Herald*, and *The Arnold Sentinel*, into one ownership.



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

Audrey French was honored by the Nebraska Press Association in 2007 by bestowing her with the Golden Pica Pole Club award in recognition of 50 years of service to the newspaper profession in Nebraska.

Audrey continued as publisher of all four newspaper publications after the death of her husband, Art, in November of 2008. She continued to oversee daily operations and was the number one proof reader.

The Nebraska Press Association honored the Frenches with Golden Pica Pole Club awards in 2007, in recognition of 50 years of faithful service to the newspaper profession in Nebraska.

The Enterprise and *Graphic* merged into one paper on April 16, 2009. *The Enterprise* now includes the *McPherson County News*, the first official newspaper in McPherson County. *The McPherson County News* began publication before the post office in Tryon was established. The name *The Tryon Graphic* was given it soon after it was moved to the county seat after the town of Tryon was founded.

Audrey is a graduate of McPherson County High School and she has "deep roots," in and around Tryon, as many of her relatives still live and work there.

Audrey has always been very proud, not only of her work in the printing and publishing business, but of her children and grandchildren, and all of their accomplishments. Her children are Judy Kramer of North Platte, Brian French of Brady, Karla Janecek of North Platte, and Darwin French of Alliance.

Audrey contributed to her communities in many ways. She served as an officer in the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #324, Tryon Rebekah Lodge #413, and the Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce. She taught Sunday School classes at the Ringgold Free Methodist Church.

She moved to Highland Park Care Center in Alliance in January of 2015 and she has made many new friends there.

In celebration of National Skills Facility Home Week, May 13-18, Audrey is one of the residents being saluted for their accomplishments through "Celebrating Life's Stories."

Highland Park Care Center is pleased to celebrate the narratives of each individual's most significant life events, relationships and experiences to cultivate a shared sense of purpose at the center and in the community.

This year unique stories are being told about residents through storytelling, art, food, entertainment, and music, to honor the contribution each person has made.

Established by the American Health Care Association (AHCA) in 1967 and always beginning on Mother's Day, National Skilled Nursing Care Week, provides an opportunity to recognize the role of skilled nursing care centers in caring for America's seniors and individuals with disabilities.

How does one measure success in life? For Audrey French it has been dedicating herself to family, the printing and publishing industry, and her community. And her many friends here in the Stapleton and Tryon area...they still stop in at the office in Stapleton to see how she is doing. A tribute to a woman who, although is no longer living here among us, has not been forgotten.