

# THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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## Tractor Safety Courses Available

Members of the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health in the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health will provide a tractor safety course in May and June in 12 towns across Nebraska in partnership with Nebraska Extension. The course provides extensive training on tractor and all-terrain vehicles safety with a variety of hands-on activities. Instilling an attitude of 'safety first' and respect for agricultural equipment are primary goals of the course.

Teens 14 or 15 years of age who work on farms and ranches are encouraged to register for the Nebraska Extension Tractor Safety & Hazardous Occupations Course. Anyone under age 14 is not eligible to take the class.

Federal law prohibits youth under 16 years of age from using certain equipment on a farm unless their parents or legal guardians own the farm. However, certification received through the course grants an exemption to the law allowing 14- and 15-year-olds to drive a tractor and to do field work with certain mechanized equipment.

The most common cause of agricultural-related deaths in Nebraska is overturned tractors and ATVs, said Susan Harris-Broomfield, University of Nebraska Extension educator in Kearney and Franklin counties. "Employing uncertified youth, under age 16, who will be operating tractors and ATVs is a liability risk for farmers," she said.

Cost of the course is \$60 and includes educational materials and instruction, supplies and lunch.

The first day of class will cover the required elements of the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program, hands-on participation, concluding with a written test, which students must pass to attend the second day of training.

The second day of training will include a driving test and equipment operation and ATV safety lessons. Students must demonstrate competence in hitching and unhitching equipment and driving a tractor and trailer through a standardized course. Instructors will offer an ATV simulator experience about safe behavior and laws for ATVs and utility-task vehicles (UTVs).

Instructors for the course are members of the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health: Aaron Yoder, Ph.D., Ellen Duysen, Daniel Kent, and UNMC graduate student Lucy Finocchiaro.

Classes begin at 8 a.m. End times vary depending on the number of participants.

Dates, training site locations and site coordinator phone numbers are below:

May 22 & 23 - Geneva, Fairgrounds (402) 759-3712.

May 24 & 25 - Hastings, Fairgrounds (402) 461-7209.

May 29 & 30 - Kearney, Fairgrounds (308) 256-

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## Martindale Poem Chosen For Nebraska Writing Project

Emily Martindale, a freshman at Sandhills Public Schools, had her poem entitled, "Branding The Sandhills," chosen by the Nebraska Writing Project's Poetry of Place contest as a winning poem.

The Nebraska Writing Projects sponsors the annual event. The goal of this project is to encourage teachers of students in grades 1-12 across Nebraska to include units of poetry of place in their classrooms, and to submit outstanding examples of student work that reflects an engagement with their places. For the event, students submit their poetry and then local authors



SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS PHOTO  
Emily Martindale, Sandhills Public Schools freshman.

work to choose student representatives. These students then read their poetry at the Capitol event, and their poetry is published on the website

of the Nebraska Writing Project.

Only 9-12 poems are chosen across the state each year so this is quite a literary honor. The poetry contest is designed to reflect life in Nebraska and each student's piece is reflective of their "place" in the state.

Emily will have the opportunity to read her poem at the capitol on May 4, along with the other winners.

Nebraska poets Twyla Hansen and Matt Mason were the judges for the poetry contest.

Emily is the daughter of Jeff and Jennifer Martindale of Brewster.

## Local newspapers bring home six awards

### Publisher to serve on 2018 NPAS board of directors

Newspaper people from across the state of Nebraska gathered April 20-21 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln for the 144th annual Nebraska Press Association Convention. The Nebraska Press Association is the state's oldest trade association comprised of all 166 daily and weekly newspapers in Nebraska.

Members of the Texas Press Association judged more than 3,800 separate entries representing nine dailies and 62 weeklies in the 2018 Nebraska Better Newspaper Contest.

First, second, and third place winners were announced Saturday night at an awards banquet where more than 160 journalists attended.

The Stapleton Enterprise brought home five awards, including one first place in Division A.

First place went to the Creative Printers Online ad submitted in the single retail advertising idea - black and white division. The judge commented, "Good half page ad with good art selection. Newspapers should advertise what they have to offer, and this is a great example of doing it well."

Second place was awarded to "Blast from the Past," entered in the reader interaction-contest division. The judge commented, "One of your newspapers does something similar to Blast from the Past. It gets readers to participate with entries, and I think readers enjoy reading." The judge suggested, when possible, to date the photos, even if you have to approximate with something like 1930's.

Third place awards went to: Look Who's New To You in the feature series category. The judge commented, "The Look Who's

New To You" series is a wonderful way to highlight and promote community, and the stories are well done. They are enjoyable to read and really give the reader a sense of being introduced firsthand to each person."

Salute to Veterans in the small ad (1/4 page or less) division. The judge commented, "Definitely the most prominent ad on the page. Again, the simple silhouette draws the eye because the ad is not cluttered with too many elements."

A & B Hay Company of Arnold in the agricultural advertisement division. The judge commented, "They look happy. Love the understated message. Hits quick, doesn't say too much, but likely sticks in the reader's mind. We all need to show this to other advertisers to convince them that by saying less, they can say more."

The Thomas County Herald was awarded first place for their Sandhills Family Dental advertising campaign. The dental clinic runs a new ad every month and three ads were submitted. The judge commented, "Nice use of photos to draw me in."

Marcia Hora, publisher of The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News and Thomas County Herald was elected to serve as a director on the Nebraska Press Advertising Service board. The announcement came at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Press Association and Nebraska Press Advertising Service held Friday afternoon, April 20, at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel.

Local Graduates To Be Honored Next Week!

## Branding The Sandhills

Swish of the grass in the summer's gust of wind  
Lowing of the pairs of cows and this year's calves  
Nickering of the 1200-pound animal underneath me  
Sandhills sand carried by the wind into my eyes  
Slight smell of a patch of spiderworts flows through the wind  
Creeks of the windmill pumping up the water from the aquifer  
The soft sound of the water rustling through the river

People gathering up the cattle as we prod them to the pen of panels  
The ho's and hey's of the wranglers pushing them into the homestretch  
Chatter of the older ladies and gents as they prepare for the bunch  
Children running around not caring about what the adults said  
With the irons all ready to brand the gates open

Wails of the first calf caught  
2 shots, brand, cut, 2 shots, brand, cut  
The pattern continues with the next calf  
Smoke of yellow and white  
The stench of blood, sweat and burnt hair  
All taken away by a pleasant breeze  
Last calf worked and let up  
Shouts of the elders tell the younger to pick up the panels  
Clash of the panels' together echoes across the pasture  
Panels on the trailer, horses loaded, we're ready to leave

We gather at the host's house or shop  
As you walk in you see  
Rows upon rows of muddy boots at the door  
Wash up and get in line  
Plates, napkins and plastic silverware  
Varieties of food sit in a row  
Salads to roast, rolls to desserts  
A cooler of sodas and other beverages at the end

Sit in rows of tables  
Chatter of the crowd soon fills the room  
Happy memories are made  
Either one is drenched by a cooler of ice water  
Or one does something so stupid they can't live it down  
We leave with a check in my hand  
And with a new memory

## Hingtgen New At ULNRD



COURTESY PHOTO

The Upper Ioup Natural Resource District welcomes, Lexi Hingtgen, as the new Information and Education Coordinator.

Lexi began her duties on February 20, 2018.

She is a 2013 graduate of Papillion-LaVista South High School. Continuing her education, she attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she graduated in 2017, with a Bachelors of Science in Animal Science.

Lexi currently lives in Mullen and her hobbies include golfing and hiking.

## Announcing winners at the 52nd Annual Thedford Art Guild's Member show

TERRI LICKING

Pat Schemmer, Valentine artist and art instructor, judged the 52nd Annual Thedford Art Guild's (TAG) member's show, April 18, at the Thedford Art Gallery.

Twenty-nine pieces of art in various mediums, including paintings in watercolor and acrylics, mixed media, fabric and photography, were entered by the six members. Five pieces were selected to advance to the Association of Nebraska Art Clubs (ANAC) competition in June.

Nebraska is the only state that all forty plus art clubs, come together and form a statewide organization with a state show where approximately 350 pieces are entered. This year the ANAC show will be in Scottsbluff.

Best of Show and Awards of Excellence will be eligible for the state ANAC show. No more than two pieces by the same artist are eligible for the state show.

The show will be on display until May at the local art gallery. Everyone is encouraged to come, vote for your favorite, and also see the myriad of other art by consignors and members throughout the gallery. If you do not see an open flag, do not hesitate to call TAG president, Dawn Bryant at 308-645-7119, especially if you will be coming to or traveling through Thedford. Also, like our facebook page, Thedford Art Gallery.

Members and their placings at the 52nd annual show of the Thedford Art Guild were:

Dawn Bryant - Best of Show - Mixed media, bead



Dawn Bryant is pictured with her 'Best of Show,' mixed media, bead painting, entitled "Starry, Starry Sandhills Evening."

painting - Starry, Starry Sandhills Evening  
Award of Excellence - Watercolor, Along Brownlee Road

Honorable Mentions - Watercolors, Storm over a Sandhills Meadow and Club Creek

Mary Eatinger - Award of Excellence - Acrylic, The Old Cottonwood

Honorable Mention - Acrylic, Sunflowers in Fall; Collage - Morning Light and Prisma color - An Apple a Day

Bridget Licking - Award of Excellence (2) Photography - Milk Mustache and The Red Halter.

Terri Licking - Honorable Mention - Photography on metal, How linemen Post the Colors

Other members entering art were Paula Rhian and Linda Teahon