

# THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

(USPS 596-550)

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

NO. 38

## Changing Rapidly

Information on COVID-19 is coming in at a rapid pace, and changes in events and activities will be difficult to keep up with in our weekly newspapers.

The staff of *The Enterprise/McPherson County News* and *Thomas County Herald* is committed to bringing you factual information on what is going on in our local communities.

We will be using our Facebook page for those in the Stapleton, Tryon, Thedford, Halsey & Dunning communities who have changes and cancellations that cannot be published due to deadlines.

Please call us at 308-636-2444 or email us @ creativeprinters@gpcom.net if you have something you would like to post.

We have also added a cancellation and postponement and public notice button on our website at creativeprintersonline.com as another means of communication.

You are encouraged to contact us and these will be published free of charge.

Front pages, obituaries, a community calendar, classified ads may be viewed at no charge on our website and with a print subscription you can receive our on-line version at no cost. Our e-edition is delivered to your inbox every Thursday morning at 6:00 a.m. Subscribe to your local newspaper to stay abreast of news and activities in your communities.

We appreciate our loyal subscribers and advertisers more than ever, and continue to work diligently to keep you up-to-date on local, state, and national events that may concern you.

As a weekly newspaper, sometimes things change faster than we can keep up with, and we will do our best to use every resource available to keep you informed in a timely manner.

Marcia Hora, Publisher & Kendra Cutler, Editor

## Thedford, Sandhills Schools suspend classes

Thedford and Sandhills Public Schools have suspended classes, and information has been sent out to parents as to what will happen in the days and possible weeks to come due to COVID-19.

Thedford Public Schools suspended classes and closed the building through April 5.

Parents of elementary students will be receiving resources and enrichment activities that will be shared online. These resources may be shared on almost any device, phone, tablet, chromebook, computer, and are also available through Xbox Live and Playstation. Those with internet will be able to access online programs and resources.

The school will be offering one device per family that requests one. After

the initial request is granted, additional device requests for families with more than one student in the elementary will be taken. The school is committed to provide a way for students to access resources.

Parents may contact Superintendent Dahlberg via email at blake.dahlberg@thedford-schools.org or via phone at 308-645-2614, extension 101.

Thedford Schools is providing breakfast and lunches for Pre-K through 12th grade students during the closure for those who choose to order. Weekly menus will be posted to Facebook and on the school website. Orders for meals should be placed by 7:30 p.m. each Friday so that enough food is ordered to cover the demand.

If email is used, names of students needing meals, which meals they want for the week, and a phone number in case you need to be contacted. Pick up at the school will be at the main high school entrance door. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 until 8:30 a.m. each day and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each day. Drop off points will be made in Brownlee and Seneca if needed.

Sandhills Public Schools Principal J.D. Furrow stated the time has come to put into action a plan to continue the education of students with online line and remote resources.

Sandhills Public Schools dismissed classes Tuesday, March 17, and remote classes began March 23.

"We are in constant communication with the Nebraska Department of Education, health departments, Custer County Emergency Management, CDC, area schools and ESU 10 and the school and board will be devel-

oping plans and protocols as the situation develops. This will include staffing issues, contracts, instruction, and other issues. Patrons of the district are reminded this is a fluid situation that has changed hourly at times."

Sandhills will provide education through google classroom, packets that have been sent home, and Zoom sessions. This is considered enrichment and means that the work will not be graded and its completion is voluntary. This is due to Rule 51 - SPED services.

Sack lunches will be available to students that also has a grab-and-go breakfast. These lunches need to be ordered by phone, Thursday or Friday, the week before delivery. Lunch pickup is available at German Valley Church, Brewster Community Center, the high school in Dunning, the elementary school in Halsey, and in front of the bank in Purdum.

As of Tuesday, March 17, students' grades are frozen. If school does not reconvene for the end of the semester, the grades students had that day will be what they receive for their semester grade.

"We believe it is going to be a long time before we return to business as usual and with this in mind, we want parents to know that the school will be available with services to address issues with anxiety and mental health that may arise," Principal Furrow said. "We truly wish we could have students in class. It's upsetting to the teachers on how much direct instruction students will miss. We are encouraging our staff to be flexible and we hope that the work we do for our students can be the light at the end of the tunnel, and that our way of life can soon return to normal."

## Nineteen area fire departments battle grass fire



ROBERT MANN -- GOTHENBURG LEADER

Nineteen area fire departments battled a grass fire that consumed 3,890 acres of pasture south of Arnold, Thursday, March 12. The call came in at approximately 2:00 p.m. along Highway 40 in Custer County.

Strong winds drove flames in a southerly direction and the Arnold Fire Department requested mutual aid from area firemen.

Departments assisting Arnold included Stapleton, Tryon, Thedford, Halsey, Dunning, Callaway, Gothenburg, North Platte, Lexington, Eustis, Farnam, Curtis, Brady, Broken Bow, Merna, Maxwell, Cozad, and Oconto.

No structures were lost and no injuries were reported.

## Registration Opens for 2020 Nebraska Ranch Practicum

Ranchers interested in learning about the latest cutting-edge research in range livestock production from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are encouraged to register for the 2020 Nebraska Ranch Practicum offered by Nebraska Extension.

The practicum will be held during eight sessions over the course of three seasons in order to cover the production cycle of livestock and forage resources. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about 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.

The practicum will be held June 8 and 9, July 9, September 2 and 3, and November 12, 2020, and January 13 and 14, 2021. Classroom activities will open and close the



KENDRA CUTLER - THOMAS COUNTY HERALD

practicum in North Platte with the remainder of the classes conducted at the university's Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory, a working ranch with education and research facilities, near Whitman.

The practicum can count for college or continuing education credit. The registration fee is \$675. The fee for a spouse is an additional \$350. Reg-

istration covers educational materials, noon meals and breaks. Participants are responsible for travel and lodging expenses. The practicum can count for college or continuing education credit.

To register, submit a completed application and registration fee by May 1. Applications will not be accepted after that

date. Enrollment is limited to 35 participants. Applicants will be notified of their status no later than May 21. Refunds will be issued if space is not available.

To learn more or register, visit <https://nebraskaranchpracticum.unl.edu/> or contact Troy Walz at 308-872-6831 or [troy.walz@unl.edu](mailto:troy.walz@unl.edu).

## Courthouse closed to all public visitors

For the safety of our community, the Thomas County Courthouse will be closed to all public visitors. The Thomas County staff will continue to work through this. However, we will change our process for the foreseeable future. Effective immediately, we will be unable to provide any services in person. We hope this temporary inconvenience is short lived and that we can resume normal business practices soon.

We will have a secured lock box available in our entryway and will be available in office by phone and will process services by mail. NO POSTAGE NECESSARY We will reassess the situation at the next County Commissioners meeting on April 7th. Right now, the Driver's License Examiner is still scheduled for April 1st. They will NOT be providing driving tests. Please watch our Facebook page for any immediate updates. The Thomas County team want all constituents to rest assured that our offices are doing everything within our power to provide a safe, efficient and sanitary experience to our taxpayers and their families. Until further notice,

please call our offices if you have any questions. We will be happy to accommodate you.

Thomas County <https://thomascountynebraska.us/>

Assessor's Office Homestead Exemption forms and Personal Property forms can be dropped in drop box or mailed. If forms need picked up, please call the Assessor's office and those forms will be mailed.

Driver's License New/Renew/Replace <https://www.nebraska.gov/dmv/dlr/index.cgi> Motor Vehicle and Boat registration Renewal <https://www.nebraska.gov/dmv/vtr/start.cgi> Pay a Traffic Ticket <https://www.nebraska.gov/apps-courts-epayments/public/index>

Individuals utilizing the online payment website will need to know which Court their case was filed in (County or District), the appropriate county the matter was filed in, what type of subject matter their case pertains to (Criminal, Civil, etc.), the two-digit year (i.e. "20" for 2020) and the case num-

See Courthouse Closed Page 7