

Veterans Honored At Thedford



JAMIE TAYLOR

Guest speaker, Dale Stengel

The 2022 Thedford Public Schools Veterans Day Program was held Friday, November 11 at Thedford High School. This year's guest speaker was Dale Stengel.

The Veterans from all branches of service were honored and the students of Thedford Public

Schools performed for them and the crowd on hand.

Dixie Hoffman with the American Legion Auxiliary passed out American flags to the Thedford Kindergarten class.

Haxton Hoffman entertained the crowd with a bagpipe solo.



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Veterans present at the Veterans Day program were back row, l-r: Joseph Smith, Miles Maseberg, Dan DeNaeyer, Royce Brown, Darrell Andersen, Jerry Linn, Alan Haumann and Dale Stengel. Front row, l-r: Bobbi Scott, John Bryant, Ray Blackford, Marvin Blauvelt, Ben Eickhoff and Tom Witt.



JAMIE TAYLOR PHOTOS

Dixie Hoffman from the American Legion Auxiliary hands out flags to the kindergarten. She is handing a flag to RyDell Scott the daughter of Veteran Bobbi Scott.

Thedford's Old Fashioned Christmas

Thedford's "Old Fashioned" Christmas has been set for Tuesday, December 1. Thedford is participating in the "Central Nebraska Village Shop Hop Tour."

Start your tour at the Thedford Art Gallery.

Numerous vendors have signed up, there will be popcorn and a movie, Santa will arrive at 5:00 p.m., and there are a number of food choices.

Anthem Coffee will have a grand opening appreciation event.

A complete list of events and times can be found inside this issue on page 7. There will be something for everyone in Thedford next Thursday.



JAMIE TAYLOR PHOTOS

Haxton Hoffman performs on the bagpipes.

Brewster woman reinvents herself through MPCC

By: Heather Johnson
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Mid-Plains Community College

It's never too late to start over.

That's the lesson Cindy Guggenmos has learned over the years and one she hopes others will take to heart.

Guggenmos has spent over 30 years on a ranch at Brewster with her husband Roger and currently works as an advanced practice registered nurse at Great Plains Health in North Platte.

She started out as a cosmetologist – going straight into the field after graduating from Nordhoff High School, in Ojai, California in 1984.

"I chose cosmetology initially because of a strong desire to help others feel good about themselves," Cindy said. "That, in return, made me feel better too."

She ended up in Nebraska permanently following a road trip.

"I was invited to Nebraska with my best friend Tracy and her mother for their family reunion," Cindy said. "I met her cousin Roger there, eventually married him and joined his family's ranch where we raised four children together."

In the beginning, Cindy's mother-in-law helped watch the kids so Cindy could work a few hours twice a week in a beauty shop in Taylor. Cindy launched her own cosmetology business in 1996, allowing her more freedom to work and stay at home with her children.

Years of complying with others' demands, however, ultimately led to burn out. Cindy decided to pursue a new career in nursing when her youngest son was old enough to start preschool.

"I still wanted to do something that allowed me to help people," Cindy said. "So, I thought about being a nutritionist or a registered dietician. I talked to my husband, and he suggested I would be an amazing nurse because I took care of every-



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one. I had come from a family of 14 and took care of nieces, nephews, my grandmother and my own children. I never really considered nursing because I thought nurses were so intelligent, and I didn't know if I had what it took."

Cindy was also in her early 40s, which seemed like a daunting time to go back to school. It was the encouragement of her family and friends that convinced her to begin the journey.

Cindy started the prerequisites for nursing classes online through Mid-Plains Community College in 2009. The following year, she entered the Licensed Practical Nursing program through MPCC's extended campus in Broken Bow. Classroom instruction was provided via distance learning, and clinicals were conducted at both the Broken Bow nursing home and the hospital in North Platte.

"If I wouldn't have had the opportunity to take those classes in Broken Bow, I probably wouldn't have gone into nursing," Cindy said. "I would have said, 'I'm not going to be able to attend college because I have nowhere to go.' As it was, it only took an hour to drive to campus. It is a true blessing that the Broken Bow campus exists. So many rural people would never have the opportunities they do without the community campuses provided by MPCC."

Cindy soon found that returning to school as a

non-traditional student was a benefit instead of a drawback.

"I had so much experience with people already," Cindy said. "I knew how to interact with different types of people, and when I applied myself, it was at an experienced adult level."

After completing the LPN program, Cindy took a job at the Valley County Health System in Ord.

"As I worked alongside colleagues, both expert nurses and doctors, I realized I wasn't satisfied with the baseline knowledge I possessed as an LPN," Cindy said. "I had a strong desire to learn more. So, in 2013, I bridged into the RN program that Mid-Plains offers."

She traveled to North Platte for that – usually staying in a motel two nights a week. Although challenging at the time, Cindy would draw on the foundation she gained from MPCC throughout the rest of her educational and professional careers.

"I've worked in facilities with many novice nurses who were just learning how to place an intravenous line or nasogastric tube," Cindy said. "It surprised me because I thought students from larger schools would have more opportunities than me. That wasn't the case. I was given multiple opportunities through MPCC to access intravenous lines, ports, naso-

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