

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of
News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

(USPS 596-550)

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023

NO. 50

Thomas Co. Library Bookmobile service for Halsey

The Thomas County Library invites you to check out books for SUMMER reading. Children who continue reading during the summer months keep their minds active and enter school in the fall ready to learn and ready to succeed. Adult books are also available to be checked out. The Bookmobile service will be available in Halsey on July 5th and August 2nd. Library staff will be parked next to the Sandhills Elementary School from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. While our Bookmobile vehicle is currently



being repaired, the Thomas County Library wants to make sure library books are still available for library patrons in

Halsey. Please contact the Thomas County Library at (308) 645-2237 if you have any questions.

Mark Your Calendars For Summer Reading Program



COURTESY PHOTO

The Thomas County Library will be hosting the Summer Reading Program 2023 in July.

"Throw Kindness Around Like Confetti" will be this year's theme during the week-long fun filled program.

Three sessions will be held for different ages July 10-14.

The two-year-olds through Pre-Kindergartners will be from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. each day. The

Kindergarten through third grade session will be held from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. and the final session will be the fourth through sixth grade from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each of the five days.

Helpers are also needed for the program and anyone with questions or wanting to help can contact the Thomas County Library during business hours.

Please call the library at

(308) 645-2237 to register your child for the Summer Reading program. We want to make sure we have adequate supplies for everyone. Let us know if your child has any food allergies. Friday, July 14th, a special activity is planned. Your child needs to have been present for at least two previous days of the summer reading program in order to be eligible for the Friday activity.

Thank you for reading your hometown community newspaper



LINDA TEAHON

Sharon from Phoenix, AZ had the opportunity to meet Marlene VanDiest and enjoyed reading about her in the Thomas County Herald.

USDA reminds Nebraska producers to file 'Crop Acreage Reports'

Agricultural producers in Nebraska who have not yet completed their crop acreage reports after planting should make an appointment with their U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center as soon as possible ahead of the upcoming July 17 deadline.

"Many USDA programs require producers to file an accurate crop acreage report by the applicable deadline," said Tim Divis, FSA acting state executive director in Nebraska. "Most of our planting is complete across the state, so we are asking producers to call their local FSA office to make an acreage reporting appointment, if they don't already have one scheduled."

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits, Divis said.

The deadline for acreage certification is July 17, 2023. This includes common spring-planted

crops, such as corn, soybeans, dry edible beans and sugar beets, but also includes Conservation Reserve Program acres and perennial grass, such as pastures.

"We are asking producers to pay close attention to communications from their county FSA office as it may have processes in place to facilitate the completion of acreage reports, including specific timelines to return maps," Divis said.

Producers also should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the date listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

FSA offers continuous certification for perennial forage. This means after

perennial forage is reported once and the producer elects continuous certification, the certification remains in effect until a change is made. Check with FSA at the local USDA Service Center for more information on continuous certification.

Option to View, Print and Label Maps on Farmers.gov

Producers can access their FSA farm records, maps and common land units through the farmers.gov portal. Through a new mapping feature, producers can import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture planting boundaries. This allows producers to view, save, print and label their own maps for acreage reporting purposes. To access mapping features and other helpful on-line tools, producers need level 2 eAuth access linked to their Business Partner customer record. Visit farmers.gov/account to learn how to create a farmers.gov account.

Video tutorials, including how to use mapping tools, are available on the farmers.gov YouTube channel. Learn more about a farmers.gov account.

Smith among those introducing bill to expand access to veterinarians in rural areas

Reps. Adrian Smith (R-NE), John Larson (D-CT), Michelle Fischbach (R-MN), and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) introduced the Rural Veterinary Workforce Act, legislation to help address the shortages in essential veterinary services facing rural communities.

The members released the following statements: "Veterinarians play a critical role in ensuring the health, safety, and security of our nation's first-class food safety system," Rep. Smith said. "The services they provide help American farmers and ranchers maintain our nation's domestic livestock supply chain. This bill updates a tax code discrepancy to ensure like treatment for physicians and veterinarians who choose to serve

where they are needed most."

"Veterinarians work hard to keep our nation's livestock healthy from right here in Connecticut all across the country," said Rep. Larson. "Making student loan repayment programs accessible to veterinarians who choose to serve in rural communities will help alleviate disparities in coverage and guarantee the continued welfare of our livestock."

"This bill is common-sense legislation that maximizes the impact of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program by getting more of these dollars to rural America and keeping less of these dollars in Washington D.C.," said Rep. Fischbach. "My Ways & Means colleagues and I introduced The Rural Veterinary Workforce Act to eliminate this unnecessary tax to ensure quality treatment for veterinarians in rural communities like ours so they can continue their important work caring for America's livestock and maintaining our supply chains."

"The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) is vital to placing veterinarians in rural communities, but the outdated system of withholding taxes limits its impact," said Rep. Panetta. "Our bipartisan legislation would make VMLRP loan repayments exempt from withholding taxes, similar to other federal programs that put doctors in rural communities. By addressing this discrepancy in the federal tax code, we can expand the program's reach and better address veterinary shortages in rural areas found on the Central

Coast of California to the center of America."

The legislation is supported by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). AVMA released the following statement on the legislation:

"Increasing veterinary services in high-priority rural areas through the Rural Veterinary Workforce Act, would help keep the nation's livestock healthy and our food supply safe and secure, and protect public health," said Dr. Lori Teller, American Veterinary Medical Association President. "The AVMA has been a long-time champion of the proposed legislation. After the legislation received a historic level of support in the previous Congress, we look forward to working with the congressional champions to enact this bill and help rural communities across the country access the many essential services veterinarians provide."

The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) provides student loan reimbursement to veterinarians who chose to practice for three years in federally designated shortage areas. A similar program, the National Health Service Corps, provides loan repayments to medical doctors and other human health practitioners.

Despite the similarity of these programs, National Health Service Corps loan repayments are exempt from federal withholding tax, while VMLRP payments are not. To address this inconsistency, The Rural Veterinary Workforce Act would codify a similar exemption for VMLRP.



A special section may be found inside this issue on Community Newspaper Week in Nebraska. It contains history on each of our publications - The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News and Thomas County Herald. Special thanks to Helen White for researching information on the Herald and to Byron and Mary Eater for donating a copy of the first issue of the Thomas County Herald. The Thomas County Historical Society has issues of the Herald in the museum at Thedford.