

New Digital Alumni Picture Boards Up & Running

JAMIE TAYLOR

Prior to her retirement, Rosalea Gift, along with Jane Haake and Melanie Daly were trying to update the physical alumni pictures for Thedford Public Schools. There was a rack that held alumni class posters from the 1930s through 1990's. The posters had not been updated since the 1990s, and there were no physical pictures on file from several of the classes of 2000 - 2020; almost twenty years lost. Rose Gift collected pictures from these past alumni classes so that posters could be recreated. However, upon further inspection, the rack was broken and the cost to replace it and bring the alumni posters current would have been expen-

sive.

Since many other schools had gone to a digital platform to house their pictures, the group working on recreating the alumni posters decided that was the direction Thedford should also take for past and future pictures. During the summers of 2023 and 2024, Jamie Taylor (class of 1992) scanned pictures so the physical pictures were turned into a digital file. From these digital files, Shaylee Scranton (class of 2017) began creating a website where the pictures could be stored so that past alumni and friends and family members could look at the pictures.

Jamie Taylor also secured a grant from the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation to cover

the cost of a digital board and stand so there is a physical spot for the pictures in the entryway of the gym. The digital board sits near the concession stand and can be accessed at games or events, using the touch screen, which allows someone to press on a decade and then a year and see the alumni of that year. This website is also linked to the Thedford Public Schools website, and can be accessed at <https://ssscranton13.wixsite.com/thedford-alumni-hub>.

When Shaylee Scranton created the site, she also allowed for an interactive component. If someone has a class picture or other information to be added they can share it.

Taylor and Scranton attended the Alumni banquet in the summer of 2024 to present the board to past alumni members. While there are a few improvements they hope to make to the site, and future classes they plan to add, the bulk of this large undertaking is complete. Rose Gift, Jamie Taylor and Shaylee Scranton were on hand at Friday night's game to share the new site and interactive board with the public, showing community members how it works, and returning pictures that were borrowed to be scanned into the system.



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The new digital board and stand near the concession stand at Thedford High School



COURTESY

Pictured above are those who worked to make the digital Alumni board a success, l-r: Jamie Taylor, Shaylee Scranton, Rosalea Gift and Jane Haake.

D Boot & Tack Open & Ready For Business



COURTESY

The former church in Seneca is now the home of D Boot & Tack Repair.

Former Stapleton resident Joe Downing is back in the boot and tack shop business in Seneca. Downing recently purchased the entire inventory of Jay's Western Wear from Jay and Carla Wardrobe in Gandy. With an enclosed 40' trailer he will be traveling to various sites this summer.

Downing also purchased a small house and an old church building in Seneca. After some work on the church he has installed his boot shop equipment after some work on the church and will be offering boot and saddle repair, tack and soon be making boots

again. He hopes to add to the inventory he purchased from the Wardrobes in the future. "I couldn't find good leather so I phased out of the boot making business," Downing said. "Now I have found a good place in San Francisco where I can purchase quality product and I am ready to get back into the business."

Downing got into the boot business in Mullen in 1984. He and his late wife, Gayle and their two daughters, moved to Stapleton in the late 1980's.

The move to Seneca has been a good one. Downing said he needed to get

back into the Sandhills and doing what he enjoys and does best.

His daughter, Jillana lives at Red Wood City, California and this is 30 minutes from south San Francisco where he can purchase his leather. His other daughter, Nancee Welling lives at Crawford.

Joe said he will also have time to enjoy his five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Joe invites everyone to stop in and visit him at D Boot & Tack located at 100 Adrian Street in Seneca. "Coffee is hot, or it can be. Stop in." You can call him at 308-636-8489.

THS National Honor Society Induction



Thedford Public Schools

The Thedford High School National Honor Society held their induction ceremony on Monday, January 6. Five new members were welcomed into the National Honor Society. Pictured above, l-r: Lindsey McIntosh, sophomore; Katen Licking, sophomore; Abigail Peden, sophomore; Kloe DeNaeyer, sophomore and Aidan Bryant, senior.



Thedford Public Schools

The new inductees joined the existing members to make the organization 13 members strong. Pictured above are all of the members following the induction ceremony.

Pictured, back row, l-r: Brady Haake, Aidan Bryant, Tyson Hickman and Dominic Rowse. Front row, l-r: Abigail Peden, Kloe DeNaeyer, Brooklynn DeNaeyer, Laney Dahlberg, Haylee Dimmitt, Karley Haake, Lindsey McIntosh, Whitley Rasmussen and Katen Licking,

Sandhills Blood Drive January 27

The Sandhills FBLA will be hosting their January Blood Drive on Monday, January 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sandhills High School.

Please note the time change due to it being the first night of MNAC basketball.

Blood & platelet donations create a flurry of hope for patients in need. More donors are needed this winter! When you come to give Jan. 27-Feb. 28, the Red Cross will



send you a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant you choose. Make your ap-

pointment to give hope: <https://rcblood.org/4gLIE>