

Quiz Bowl Team Headed To Washington D.C.

Thedford High School's quiz bowl team is headed to Washington, DC in April, and will represent the Western Nebraska Regional Science Quiz Bowl.

The five-member team from Thedford competed at Mid-Plains Community College in Ogallala on February 17 for the title and all-expense paid trip that will take place April 26-30, 2018.

Thedford team members bringing home first place medals and a West-

ern Nebraska Regional Science Quiz Bowl banner were Kalee Jepsen, junior; Andrew Gordon, sophomore; and David Gordon, Ariel Bryant and Rhiannon Painter, freshmen.

Two teams from Ogallala and one from Bridgeport were also in the competition.

"We were the youngest team there," Coach Hoopman said. "I am extremely proud of these

students. I am their coach, but they used their brains to win."

Four students from each team faced off in a fast-paced, question-and-answer format that tested their knowledge in everything from physics and math to chemistry and biology.

At the finals in Washington, DC, winning teams can score adventure trips to Alaska and national parks across the country to learn first-hand about science. They can also earn trophies, medals and supplies for their schools' science departments.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Thedford High School's Science Quiz Bowl team competing at regionals in Ogallala were, l-r: Andrew Gordon, David Gordon, Ariel Bryant and Rhiannon Painter. The team is headed to Washington D.C. in April



COURTESY PHOTO

All of the members of the Thedford High School Quiz Bowl team following their win at Regionals, l-r: David Gordon, Ariel Bryant, Kalee Jepsen, Rhiannon Painter and Andrew Gordon. The team is coached by Thedford High School science teacher, Andrea Hoopman.

You Caring Account Started For Mollie Jo Finney

A You Caring account has been started for Mollie Jo Finney by her friends. To date, \$2,305 of the \$10,000 goal has been raised.

Mollie and her husband, Aaron Finney, live at Seneca, with their 2-year-old daughter, Marki.

Mollie was involved in a head-on collision on February 9, near the Dismal River on Highway 83. She was flown to Omaha University Medical Center where she underwent surgeries. She sustained a broken femur in her leg, pelvic bone, and she has a

collapsed lung.

Mollie will be moved to Madonna Rehabilitation Center where she will remain for at least a month.

Funds in this account will be used to help with expenses occurred while traveling back and forth from the ranch to Omaha.

All donations are greatly appreciated. You may donate at <https://www.youcaring.com/dawnstoetzel-1098327>.

A fund-raiser is also being planned in the future. Be watching for details.

Election filing deadline is today, March 1

March 1 is the deadline for non-incumbents to file for an office for the upcoming May 15 Primary Election.

Thomas County Clerk, Lorissa Hartman reports the following incumbents are seeking re-election to positions in the county.

Commissioner: John Seeley and Lewis L. Herbaugh.

Treasurer: Andrea Thomas.

Sheriff: Gary J. Eng. Clerk: Lorissa Hartman. Attorney: Kurt Dam Arngabright.

Airport Authority: 4-year term, Steven Reed; 6-year term, Ron Masten.

Filing applications may be completed in the Thomas County Clerk's office.

Home repair loans topic of March Service Club meeting

Thedford Service Club will be meeting Monday, March 5, at the Sandhills Corral, east of Thedford.

Michael Vukas, the Single Family Housing Specialist from USDA in Kearney, and Samantha Ketteler, the Multi-Family Housing Specialist from North Platte, will be speaking on home loans, home repair loans and grants that are available.

The dutch treat supper is at 6:00 p.m., with the presentation following at 7:00 p.m.

LADY KNIGHTS STATEBOUND



JAMIE TAYLOR PHOTO

Members of the Lady Knights with their District D2-5 Championship plaque are, back row, l-r: Coach Deines, Cylee Jameson, Brea Branic, Caity Hesseltine, JoHannah Christie, Marlee Taylor, Jacy Hafer, Cailyn Jameson, Courtney Swisher, Tenley Rasmussen, Emily Martindale and Coach Ray. Middle row, l-r: Madison Marten, Carlie Collier, Brooklyn Leach, Brayden Rhoades. Front row, l-r: Elizabeth Peterson, Paige Martindale, Hannah Higgins, Jaylee Simonson and Taylor Downing.

Area Farm Bureaus host tax forum



Bruce Rieker, vice president of governmental relations for the Nebraska Farm Bureau, speaks to those in attendance at the Monday, February 19, tax forum at the Stapleton Community Center.

Story & Photo By Marcia Hora

Property taxes are on the minds of just about everyone in the state, and if the legislature doesn't make changes - people will take the matter into their own hands.

McPherson, Logan and Thomas County Farm Bureaus teamed up to sponsor a "Road to Property Tax Reform" forum Monday, February 19, at the Stapleton Community Center.

Steve Nelson, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau, and Bruce Rieker, vice president of governmental relations, were on hand to discuss the property tax issue and outline bills pending in the Nebraska Legislature.

Rieker also leads the advocacy work of Nebraska Farm Bureau and manages the GRD department, including holding the role of lead lobbyist at the State Capitol.

Farm Bureau supports LB 829 that provides a refundable income tax credit equal to 50% of property taxes paid to K-12 schools.

The measure designed to reduce Nebraska property tax bills appears to be stuck in a legislative committee as its supporters focus on a ballot petition drive. Senator Steve Erdman of Bayard, who introduced the bill, said he did not expect the bill to pass, but he wanted to try. He is also part of a petition drive to place the issue on the November ballot.

Long threatened, a petition drive has now been launched to reduce property taxes in the state by more than a billion dollars. The signature process has been started, and according to Trent Fellers, spokesman for Yes to Property Tax Relief, the petition is the answer to make sure people have a voice in November.

A few property tax proposals have been filed this session, but with only around 30 days left, it doesn't appear there is time to move anything substantial.

Gov. Pete Ricketts supports LB 947, sponsored by Sen. Jim Smith of Papillion. Farm Bureau testified in support of the proposed revisions to the bill, not the introduced copy.

Under the governor's proposal, the legislature would convert the Property Tax Credit Relief Fund to provide refundable income tax credits for agricultural property owners as well as homeowners. The plan calls for \$200 million in property tax relief for agricultural and residential property as well as \$40 million in cuts to individual and corporate income taxes.

Other issues discussed at the forum included rural broadband bills, ag/regulatory, and natural resources bills.

A good number of people were in attendance at the Stapleton forum, including people from Thomas, Custer, Logan and McPherson counties. Tammy Fiechtner, regional Farm Bureau manager, was also on hand to welcome attendees.

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