

THOMAS COUNTY

Herald

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News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

(USPS 596-550)

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

NO. 38

“Feed The Bull” Items Headed To Lynch

Story & Picture
Linda Teahon

Items donated by current and former Blaine County residents to the Blaine County Cares “Feed the Bull” went on their way to flood victims in the Lynch, NE area on

Monday, March 25. Linda Lacy from Ashby donated the use of her trailer. It was mostly filled by residents of Grant County. She and friends met Linda Teahon in Thedford where the Hereford Crossroads trailer with Blaine County donations finished filling the Lacy trailer.

Nebraska Ranch Practicum Seeking Applications

The 2019 Nebraska Ranch Practicum gives ranchers cutting edge research in range livestock production from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Natural resources, livestock management, and economic reality are integrated throughout the Practicum.

During the three-season UNL Extension class, participants have the opportunity to expand their knowledge with an overview of ranching practices from new angles. Throughout the program, participants will cover 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.

Classroom activities will open and close the Practicum in North Platte with the remainder of the classes conducted at UNL’s Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory, a working ranch with education and research facilities, near Whitman. The

12,800 acre ranch provides hands-on experience to ranchers. Practicum dates are June 6 and 7, July 11, September 4 and 5, and November 7, 2019, and January 8 and 9, 2020 for the eight-session class. Scheduling of the sessions from June to January is designed to cover the production cycle of both livestock and forage resources.

The 2019 Nebraska Ranch Practicum can count for college or continuing education credit. Participants looking to earn credits should make arrangements during the initial session.

The registration fee for this eight-session Practicum is \$675. To participate in the 2019 Nebraska Ranch Practicum, please submit a completed application and registration fee by May 1, 2019. No applications will be accepted after May 1. Fees for a spouse are an additional \$350. All educational materials, noon meals and breaks are included. Participants are responsible for travel and lodging expenses.

Enrollment is limited to 35, and applicants will be notified of their status no later than May 21. Deposits will be refunded if space is not available.

For applications or additional information, contact Troy Walz at 308-872-6831, e-mail troy.walz@unl.edu or visit the Practicum website at <http://nebraskaranchpracticum.unl.edu/>

Legion

Auxiliary News

American Legion Auxiliary Steidley Kayton Unit #230 met Monday, March 11.

President Brenda called the meeting to order and Chaplain Audrey Jones read the opening prayer, Pledge and preamble.

Roll call was answered by six members.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer Report was given: \$1,540.30 in checking; \$400 set aside for tables and \$250 was given for the tables by Jerry Linn from Janet Linn memorial for a total of \$650 to be used for tables. Payment to Village of Thedford for utilities was \$270. CD balance of \$3,038.

The 72-inch round tables are about \$150. A motion was made to purchase the round tables.

Discussion about lack of income for our unit due

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Those meeting to fill trailers for flood victims in Lynch were, l-r: Patricia Odom, Linda Lacy, Kristi Vockack and Linda Teahon.

Free use grouse viewing blinds



COURTESY PHOTO

Across our entire region, a spectacular avian display will soon be underway!

Every spring, male sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie-chickens perform a mating “dance” to attract their respective females. The areas where the birds perform this ritual is called a lek, and the same lek site can be used for decades. Some leks are used exclusively by the sharp-tails, others exclusively by the greater prairie-chickens, and still others can be mixed-lek areas, where both species can be observed and even occasionally hybridize.

The dances typically begin while it is mostly dark and continue for an hour or more after sunrise. Our blinds offer visitors near-by photo and observation opportunities as the grouse perform their lively spring courtship displays. The blinds will be open to the public beginning April 1st, and will stay open until the mating season ends in mid-to-late May.

According to Buffalo Gap National Grassland wildlife biologist, Tony Willman, “Each male has a small territory within the lek which it defends vigorously against other trespassing males. Border skirmishes are frequent but virtually harmless. When a female arrives on a lek, the males begin frantically displaying to gain her attention and approval. The “dance” consists of rapid foot stomping and running in curving directions. The head will be down, wings spread and tail stiffly pointed up and shaking

from side to side to produce a rattle.”

Multiple Districts on the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands will be hosting grouse blinds during the 2018 mating season: Bessey Ranger District, Wall Ranger District, Fort Pierre Ranger District, and Pine Ridge Ranger District.

The use of the blind is free and available by reservations or on a first come, first serve basis, depending on the site. The avian displays are conducted just after sunrise and just before sunset. The birds are most active in the morning so it is recommended visitors arrive at the blind at least 45 minutes before sunrise to reduce lek disturbances. Viewing typically can last up for two to three hours. Please be aware that the

grouse may not display if folks are late to the blind, late-comers will scare the birds away and they may disperse for extended periods of time.

Visitors are recommended to bring warm clothing, a comfortable seat, binoculars, camera, snacks, a flashlight, an area map, and a viewing blind map. Also, please pack out what you pack in, don’t leave anything for the next visitors.

The Bessey Ranger District, near Halsey, NE has two blinds at a sharp-tail lek. These are accessible with a four-wheel drive vehicles or a 0.7 mile walk. Reservations are not needed for this site. For additional information and maps call the Bessey District Ranger Office at 308-533-2257 or click here.

Couple aspires to help rural students achieve their dreams



COURTESY

Kearney residents, Carol (Weaver) ‘70 and Larry Hardesty ‘69, MSE ‘71, recently created an endowed scholarship fund as a way for the couple to offer one or more scholarships to students who have graduated from several rural Nebraska schools.

scholarships may be renewed as long as recipients remain in good academic standing and continue to meet the criteria.

Larry and Carol Hardesty both grew up in rural Nebraska. Larry, on a ranch in McPherson

County, and Carol on a farm in Adams County.

Education has always been very important to the Hardestys.

Larry is a 1965 graduate and valedictorian of Stapleton High School. He graduated magna cum laude from Kearney State College in May 1969, with a Bachelor of Arts in Education Degree, and from Kearney State College in December 1971 with a Master of Science in Education Degree. Larry had a comprehensive major in history-political science. He went on to earn a Master of Arts in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1974), a Master of Science in Education in Instructional Systems Technology (1978) from Indiana University-Bloomington, and Doctor of Philosophy in Library and Information Science from Indiana University-Bloomington (1982).

Carol grew up on a farm in Adams County, and she is a 1966 graduate of Hastings High School. She

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Notices

- Thomas Co. Planning Commission Notice Of Public Hearing
- Thomas Co. Board Of Commissioners Notice Of Public Hearing
- Thomas Co. Commissioners Public Notice
- Thedford Fire District Public Notice
- Village Of Thedford Regular Meeting Proceedings
- Village Of Thedford Ordinance 2019-1
- ULNRD Public Notice

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Obituary

- Agatha S. Forsyth