

Sandhills Seniors Achieve One Of Their Dreams



LINDA TEAHON PHOTOS

The Sandhills High School Class of 2022 graduated on Saturday, May 7 at Sandhills High School in Dunning. Members of the graduating class are l-r: Brea Dawn Branich, Lindsay ReNae Cody, Miriam Ruth Ganoung, Torrance Lain Hodge, Rebecca Lynn Smith, Courtney Jo Swisher and Reece Mathew Zutavern.

The 2022 Sandhills High School Commencement Exercises were held Saturday, May 7 at Sandhills High School in Dunning.

Mr. Reece Zutavern gave the welcome to the class, faculty and guests. The Commencement Address was given by Mr. JD Furrow, Sandhills Public Schools Superintendent/Principal.

Class Valedictorian, Miss Miriam Ganoung, gave her address and was followed by Miss Courtney Swisher with the Salutatory

Address.

The Class of 2022 slide show was presented with "How Far We've Come" by Matchbox Twenty playing and the flower presentation was conducted as the song "Chapters" by Brett Young was played.

Presentation of scholarships was by Mrs. Trish Rodocker, school counselor and Mr. Tedd Teahon, School Board President, presented the diplomas.

Mr. JD Furrow presented the Class of 2022 to end

the ceremony.

The Class Motto was "To achieve all that is possible, we must attempt the impossible. To be as much as we can be, we must dream of being more." by John C. Maxwell.

Their class colors were navy and pink and their song was "How Far We've Come" by Matchbox Twenty.

Taylor Weber and Andrew Furrow were the Heralds for the class.

Make plans for the upcoming Alumni Banquet

The 2022 Thedford Alumni Banquet will be held on June 18, 2022. The Theme this year is "Class of '57 Had Its Dreams, 65 Years Later."

The class of '57 started the banquet when they were juniors. They made the first reunion a money-making project. They hired a big band, "Blue Barron" out of Omaha to play for the dance. This year the Alumni is honoring the Class of '57, after 65 years of banquets. All graduates from the classes ending in year 2 and all Veteran graduates are invited to attend.

The doors will be open at 4:00 p.m. CT (notice the time change) for registra-

tion and social time. The prime rib dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m.

There is a website "thedfordalumni.org" that provides information about the Alumni and also provides a way to register for the banquet and pay dues.

There is a raffle for a set of two Nebraska Husker tickets that can be obtained at the banquet from Connie Elliott 308-645-9059 or watch for her at Ewoldt's grocery store.

There are door prizes and fun and getting re-acquainted!

Plan to attend the banquet. Don't let friends and classmates drift out of your life!

Thomas County Republican Party Convention

The Thomas County Republican party held their convention on March 15, 2022 at the Sandhills Corral in Thedford. Elected for a 2-year term were Chairman Jay Jones and Secretary Pat Neben. Also elected for this term as representative to the state convention were Twyla Witt, delegate, and Tom Witt as alternate. Turnout

for the event was light, but a lively conversation was held on a number of issues including the rules for supporting candidates with our endorsement, and agreement on the wording of our county by-laws. Elizabeth Tegtmeier, candidate for State Board of Education, was in attendance and addressed the attendees.



Miss Miriam Ganoung gave the Valedictorian address.



Miss Courtney Swisher was the 2022 Salutatory.

Grant Period Open For TACFF

The Thedford Area Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Nebraska Community Foundation, is now accepting grant applications from all qualifying entities for the grant period closing June 1.

Applications are available on the TACFF Facebook page or at Security First Bank in Thedford. The TACFF has granted

over \$200,000 to various projects during its 17-year existence while building two endowed accounts, project and scholarship, with over \$600,000 in the fund.

Projects have been as large as the fair building renovation and Haumann girls statute, to uniforms for youth sports. This year's scholarships in the

amount of \$5,000 will be awarded at Thedford High graduation. If you would be interested in aiding with the growth of these funds to further aid the community contact the TACFF at P.O. Box 14, Thedford, or visit with your financial planner about planned giving to the Thedford Area Community Foundation.

Seniors Hold Final Blood Drive

The final senior blood drive of the school year was held on Monday, April 11. The quota was hit with 48 units donated for the day, which will save 144 lives.

Thanks to everyone who has come in to donate, save lives and support the seniors in their Red Cross Scholarship program. They will receive \$1,000 scholarship money for the senior class this year.

The next blood drive will be Monday, July 11, 2022, from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Thomas County Fair Building.



THEDFORD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Pictured above is Drew McIntosh and Dane Pokorny as they work at the drive.



Teachers and students both gave at the drive to help support the seniors. Pictured above at left is Andrew Christen and in the center is Bridger Chytka. Dane Pokorny, right, worked at the drive and was also a first time donor.

Sandhills Pottery Continues To Thrive In Dunning

Linda Teahon
Story & Picture

Dunning, located in central Nebraska is the hometown of Marlene VanDiest. Marlene is better known as the Sandhills Pottery lady.

Marlene's story begins in Iowa, where she was born. Her family moved in 1947 to a ranch located north of Dunning in Blaine County. Marlene attended high school in Dunning. Following graduation she went to college at UNL, Chadron State College and Kearney. Soon after she began teaching in one room schools around the area. In 1956 she met Norval VanDiest at a dance. They later married. Norval owned and operated Van's Ranch Service for many years. The location was and still is ideal as it's at the junction of Highway 2 and 91 just north of Dunning and the Middle Loup River.

Marlene opened a greenhouse at her home in the 1970's and began taking pottery classes in Colorado. She soon learned that pottery was more in demand than plants and flowers in the area as plants are a seasonal product where as pottery could be made and sold year round.

So in 1979 Sandhills Pot-



tery became a business and the rest is history.

At one time the business was employing up to three people and producing 12,000 pieces a year. Marlene received orders at the Kearney Market and sold nationwide.

Twenty-one years ago, Marlene along with others, founded the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway. Last year the Byway received its national status.

These days Marlene has slowed down to just creating the highly sought-after pottery. She markets it exclusively at Norm's Sinclair, which is now owned by son Norm and wife Chris. It is the station that his father opened years ago. Sandhills Pottery is beautiful in design and color and reflects the true nature of "God's Own Cattle Country."

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