



Sports 1B

Prep softball

Gering holds high expectations for another successful season



Nebraska 6A

Seeking help

Landowners seek Tri-Basin's help for North Dry, Lost Creek flooding

EDUCATION



Mitchell High School Principal Heath Peters was recognized as Region V Principal of the Year for 2018-19 by the Nebraska State Association of Secondary School Principals.

WATER EXPO

Learning about conservation

North Platte NRD launching Junior Conservationist program for kids during Water Expo.

By Kamie Stephen
Star-Herald

SCOTTSBLUFF — Children will have a unique opportunity to learn about natural resources as the North Platte Natural Resources District introduces a new Junior Conservationist program.

The program will launch on Aug. 24 during the NRD's Water Expo.

The idea for the program was born after last year's expo, which featured a scavenger hunt.

"The kids really enjoyed that," said John Berge, general manager. "We thought maybe we should be taking that to an additional level so that we could really focus on educating them about finding things and what those things actually mean."

Berge's children are part of the National Park Services' Junior Ranger program. He decided he could take that program and turn it into something resource based.

Each participant in the Junior Conservationist program will receive a book that contains activities for different age groups including word searches, mazes and vocabulary exercises. They will also receive a badge and license, which comes with three endorsements: Water resources, greenhouse and forestry.

"The license is renewable every year," Berge said.

Participants will be able to come to next year's expo to get a new activity book and updated license.

He said he hopes the program will get kids interested in conservation. Berge noted that his staff has had as much fun planning out the program as he anticipates the kids will have participating.

"It's been a real blast," said Scott Schaneman, water resources coordinator.

Besides getting involved in the Junior Conservationist program, kids will have a chance to compete in an irrigation setting contest, build an edible aquifer and jump in three different bouncy houses with special water features.

"There will be lots of opportunities to learn and get a little wet while doing so," Berge said.

Smokey the Bear will also make an appearance as he celebrates his 75th birthday.

The expo is free and will take place at the NRD Campus, 100547 Airport Rd., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

"We're also going to have a Snowie Bus, so there will be free snow cones," Berge said.

Last year's expo drew in nearly 400 people and Berge expects an even larger crowd this year. He said there will be plenty of parking to accommodate visitors.

The expo will also include around 20 sponsors and vendors. A portion of the sponsorships will be donated to the Gering-Fort Laramie Canal Relief Fund.

For more information about the expo, visit npnrd.org or call 308-632-2749.

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Mitchell principals receive honors



Kirk Kuxhausen

By Jerry Purvis
Star-Herald

MITCHELL — Both of Mitchell's school principals have been recognized as Principal of the Year for 2018-19 by their professional associations.

Mitchell High School principal Heath Peters was recognized by the Nebraska State Association of Secondary School Principals in Region V, which includes all schools west of a line from Valentine to North Platte and McCook.

Mitchell Elementary School principal Kirk Kuxhausen received his designation as Principal of the Year from Region V of the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals.

Both groups are affiliated with the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, which is dedicated to providing high professional standards by focusing on the state and educational challenges of the schools and the youth they serve.

See PRINCIPALS, 3A

AGRICULTURE

Canal closure crop insurance determination on hold

By Mark McCarthy
Star-Herald

GERING — Crop producers impacted by the stoppage of water in the Goshen/Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District will have to wait to see if their losses are covered by crop insurance.

"The absolute best case scenario would be that we'd get adequate rain for the next several weeks.

Farmers don't want to collect insurance. They all want to have a crop."

JOHN SCHMALL |
Federal Crop Agency Agent

tunnel to take pressure off the concrete walls. That work will provide crews working inside the tunnel more stability around them as

See CROP INSURANCE, 3A



Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District General Manager Rick Preston diagrams how the shoring boxes will go together to provide protection for the collapsed tunnel.

SANDRA HANSEN/Star-Herald

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