



# McPherson County News

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## Strategic plan outlined at McPherson County Farm Bureau meeting

McPherson County Farm Bureau met January 9 at Aunt Bea's in Tryon for a regular meeting. President Matthew Fiechtner called the meeting to order with board members Kevin Fiechtner, Arlan Paxton and Dean Seifer, present. Other members attending were Cindy McNutt, Christene Schultis, and RDM Tammy Fiechtner.

The minutes and treasurer's report were approved by consent agenda and one bill was allowed.

Megan Fiechtner will continue as secretary-treasurer and Dean Seifer was elected vice-president.

District 6 RDM Tammy Fiechtner helped put together a strategic plan for the upcoming year. This included:

Community Plans: Ag Week; Beef Month; County Fair and Eclipse.

Membership: Ag Week, County Fair.

Meeting dates and times for the coming year were set.

Linda Kemp was present

to speak to the group about the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse. The group agreed that Farm Bureau needed to be present and in an educational role. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Tammy Fiechtner gave an update on upcoming events:

- Young Farmers and Ranchers in Kearney on January 20 and 21. Matthew Fiechtner will be attending and more younger members will be asked if they would like to attend.

- Ag Night on January 20 at the Viaero Event Center. Free hockey tickets for the game that night for Farm Bureau members.

- Buffalo Bill Farm Show will be February 1 and 2 in North Platte.

- Ag Matter 5K-10K is February 4 in North Platte.

- O'Neill Ranch Show is February 8-9 at O'Neill.

- Ag Edge Conference is February 9-10 in Lincoln.

- Valentine Bull Bash

will be February 11 in Valentine.

- National Ag Day is March 21.

- Sandhills Cattle Convention is June 1 in Ord this year.

- Bassett Ranch Expo is June 15-16.

- August 21 is the Total Solar Eclipse in McPherson and Logan counties.

State reports included Katie Olson of Holt County is the new District 6 president. Governor Ricketts will be doing his state fly-around and will be in North Platte on Friday, January 13 at the airport.

Legislative updates included discussion of committee chairpersons, and bills that could be presented in the Ag Committee.

The state board voted for Reform for Nebraska's Future.

The next McPherson County Farm Bureau meeting was set for February 13 at Aunt Bea's in Tryon at 4:30 p.m.

## New School Board Members Sworn In



KENDRA CUTLER PHOTO

Pictured above are the newly sworn-in McPherson County School Board members, l-r: Will Coffman, Lana Watson, Toni Powers and Christena Schultis.

McPherson County School Board of Education met January 12 for a regular meeting and reorganized for the new year.

Newly elected board members, Lana Watson, Will Coffman, and Christena Schultis, repeated the oath of office.

Trent Neal was elected president. Rusty Kemp will serve as vice president, Lana Watson as secretary, and Will Coffman will be treasurer.

Applications were reviewed for the board member position due to the resignation of Bob Ryland. Toni Powers and Todd Ascherl interviewed for the position.

Written applications were discussed. It was noted each applicant would be an excellent addition to the school board and each applicant had strengths that would benefit the board.

Powers was selected by unanimous vote to the board of education. Toni Powers completed the oath of office.

Committee assignments were:

- Housing-Facilities-Transportation - Neal and Coffman.

- Negotiations-Finance - Kemp, Schultis.

- Americanism-Multiculturalism-Curriculum-Policy - Coffman, Powers, Watson.

Action items included the designation of *The Stapleton Enterprise* as the legal newspaper; First National Bank, First State Bank, Community First Bank, Great Western Bank, and McPherson Community Federal Credit Union as depositories for funds; and Rosenberg Insurance as the school's insurance company. Lana Watson will be the recording secretary and Deb Brownfield, the non-discrimination compliance officer.

The board approved the purchase of computers and discussed music at sports events with no action taken. The board voted 5-1 to continue

livestreaming of board meetings. Base pay for classified staff was increased to \$11.00 per hour.

A deadline of January 20 was set for community member names to be submitted to the board president to participate in the superintendent search committee. Each board member will choose and submit the names of two community members/stakeholders to participate in the community search. Deb Brownfield will be in charge of identifying faculty members for the faculty committee.

Superintendent Miller and the board discussed findings regarding a four-day school week for students. The school term is similar and not excessively longer than now.

Board members will meet with Cody-Kilgore board members or faculty as that school is currently holding classes four days a week.

The next regular McPherson County School Board of Education meeting will be Thursday, February 9.

### Year In Review

(Continued From Last Week)

#### July

Kandace Ward brought home second place honors from the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Tornados ripped through the area and a tornado touched down at the Rod and Gail Daly place west and south of Tryon on July 6.

#### August

Homeward Bound would perform at the McPherson County Fair.

Jared Schultis was among students attending Custer Public Power District's summer camp.

Tryon hosted the National Night out event. The Nebraska State Patrol helicopter crew was on hand and numerous agencies participated in sponsoring presentations. McPherson County Sheriff Tim McConnell gave a live taser demonstration.

Members of the Neal family met at the Tryon Lodge Hall. Richard Kemp was the oldest in attendance.

The MCHS Class of 1966 met in Riverton, Wyoming. Pictured were Bob Gregg, Larry Paxton, Nancy Munson and Larry Stoddard.

#### September

The Longhorns added cross country. Members of the newly formed team were Theresa Ascherl, Megan Coffman and Caleb Goosey.

Clarence Arensdorf was the oldest man and Anna Melvin was the oldest woman attending the annual Arensdorf picnic.

Alma Bullington was the oldest lady and Wilbur Allen of Stapleton was the oldest man attending the Miller-Harvey reunion.

Stephanie Kincaid-Viter received a purple ribbon at the Nebraska State Fair with her Wildlife Diorama.

McPherson County Schools was the recipient of an Applegate Grant, which allowed Principal Deb Brownfield and ELA educator, Robyn Dalton, to attend the International Society of Technology in Education Convention.

Caleb Goosey and Jared Schultis represented McPherson County FFA at the Nebraska State Fair and received grand champion honors.

Brianna Powers and Kyon Neal were MCHS Homecoming royalty.

Dorothy Kramer was the 2016 McPherson County Homecoming celebra-

tion's grand marshal.

#### October

McPherson County elementary students learned about fire safety as the Nebraska State Fire Marshal was just one of the organizations visiting the school. Fire Chief, Ed Black shared fire safety in the home and learned about smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

Representatives of the Nebraska Eclipse Coalition said Nebraska was a top travel destination for the August 21, 2017 total solar eclipse.

Tryon was in the path of totality and plans were being made for events in McPherson County.

#### November

Tryon firemen were kept busy on October 20. They were called to a tow truck fire at the junction of Highway 92 and Highway 97, and to a grass fire that burned approximately 400 acres north and west of Hall Church.

Aubrey Schultis was accepted to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leader-

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## Over The Hills

By J.R. Trumbull

"Life is so much easier with a sense of humor." - Garfield

A good sense of humor can help a person survive life. There are times when people will look at you strangely when you

joke about something that doesn't seem funny at all to them but the joking is a part of your survival mechanism. Farmers and ranchers have their own brand of

humor that is sometimes difficult for those no involved in agriculture to understand. It's a humor based on generations of pioneers who have survived the worst and celebrated the best. You can find humor in some of the strangest situations if you just take some time to observe and ponder. Dad had a dry sense of humor that sometimes left people wondering if he was joking or not. The first calf I delivered by myself had a white stripe over one shoulder. Dad took one look at the calf and said "Now look what you've done!" Another time he had parked the loader tractor in the big shed only to figure out that he had parked it with the loader headed in instead of out. His comment on that was "Now why did WE do that?" I don't remember any "WE" being involved in the parking but the comment didn't mean that I was to blame either. Most farmers and ranchers are rather blunt in what they say so don't ask their opinion unless you want the truth as they see it. A sense of humor is the reason that most of us who are involved in agriculture are still in the industry today. Humor is a part of the lifestyle.

"When people hurt you over and over, think of them as sand paper. They may scratch and hurt you a bit but in the end, you end up polished and they end up useless." - Unknown

## THE SENTINEL

If that old tree could talk,  
It would a story tell  
Of blizzards cold, droughts dry  
And prairie fires from hell!

A hundred years or more  
It has stood there in the hills  
Battling the harsh wind,  
Birds its branches fill.

Seven fires it has faced  
Yet it stands strong.  
A sentinel whispering in the wind,  
Rooted deep where it belongs.

It has watched homesteaders leave  
And others work the land.  
Birth and death it has observed  
As it has watched the life of man.

Look to the example of this old tree  
And plant your roots down deep  
In the soil watered with Christ's blood  
For only He your soul will keep.

J.R. Trumbull  
5 July 2012

### From The Tryon Graphic Files

#### TEN YEARS AGO JANUARY 18, 2007

Clerk Magistrate Cindi Brown swore in McPherson County Officials, Shaheen Munson, John Bryant, Harold Arensdorf, John Haller and Judy Dailey.

McPherson County Teachers, Virginia Lester, Alan Miller and Sabrina Clinebell have been inducted into the National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers organization.

#### TWENTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 16, 1997

Dennis and Karen Licking of Stapleton are the parents of a daughter, Ruth Emily, born January 4.

Fred Heldenbrand, age 81, who was a former resident of McPherson County, died December 12, at Corpus Christi, Texas. Services were held December 18.

#### THIRTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 15, 1987

Two Tryon area residents were injured in separate ranch accidents, both on the same day. Both Deena Rodewald's and Allen Shimmin's horses bucked them off and both required hospital treatment.

Keith Eric Hunn was born January 5 to Mr. and Mrs. Von Hunn of Garden City, Kansas.

Kris Lynn Kemp was born January 13 to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kemp of Maywood.

Morgan Lee Miller was

born January 8 to Doye and Vicky Miller of Gothenburg.

#### FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 19, 1967

Mrs. Elnora Neal flew to Anchorage, Alaska, December 20 to spend Christmas with her husband, Terry Neal, who is stationed at Ft. Richardson.

Roy Hild of North Platte installed a heater for the Gordon Bassetts Friday.

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 17, 1957

Frank Cotton is the owner of a 1948 Chevrolet Purchased in North Platte.

Funeral services were held for Helen Josephine Klump Fattig, 57, or Ringgold.

Lila Brooks and baby (Continued On Page 11)

### Aunt Bea's Senior Meals Lunch Menu

Monday, January 23 - Grilled chicken breast, scalloped potatoes and carrots.

Tuesday, January 24 - Steakfingers, mashed potatoes and corn.

Wednesday, January 25 - Meatloaf, baked potatoes and peas.

Thursday, January 26 - Pork roast, pork dressing and green beans.

Friday, January 27 - Chili soup with hamburger sandwich.