



# McPherson County News

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Serving McPherson County & Tryon, Nebraska

ZNEZ

## Celebrating Life's Stories

Former Publisher & Editor Featured During National Skilled Nursing Care Week

MARCIA R. HORA

When you look back on your life story - how would you want it written? Would it feature success in business? Maybe it would be about the friends you've made along the way. Perhaps it is a family that cares for you.

Former publisher and long-time resident of Stapleton, Audrey French, can say yes to all three.

Audrey built a very successful printing business with her husband, Art, and helped publish four weekly newspapers along the way. She raised four children and was active in organizations in the Stapleton and Tryon communities.

Audrey was destined to work in a newspaper. Her parents, Hugh and Louelva Priest, owned and published *The Tryon Graphic*. Some of her earliest recollections of working in a newspaper were going around town with a paper and pencil in hand writing down local news items.

Art and Audrey purchased *The Tryon Graphic* from Audrey's parents in 1957. They used lead type to publish the weekly paper in the basement of her parent's house.

When the opportunity came to purchase *The Stapleton Enterprise* in 1960, they moved to Stapleton and sold *The Graphic* to Gordon and Alice Bassett. During the 1960's they also published the *Thomas County Herald* at Thedford for Miss Eleanor T. Miller.

The Frenches purchased Burnham Printing in North Platte in 1968 and the offset equipment in that location was moved to *The Stapleton Enterprise* office.

Art and Audrey purchased *The Tryon Graphic* back in 1978, and again published it along with *The Enterprise*.

Art and Audrey worked countless hours to build up the job printing business and make improvements. Creative Printers was one of the first offset job printing shops in the state of Nebraska. They had hundreds of customers, not only in the area, but throughout the United States.

With the help of their daughter, Karla Janecek, they re-instated the *Thomas County Herald* in 1981, after being approached to start up a newspaper in Thedford to serve the residents of that county. Legals were published in *The Enterprise* for a year until the official newspaper status was obtained.

*The Arnold Sentinel* was purchased from Bill and Helen Crosland in July of 1987 and Creative Printers was incorporated, bringing together the job printing shop, and the four newspapers - *The Stapleton Enterprise*, *The Tryon Graphic*, *Thomas County Herald*, and *The Arnold Sentinel*, into one ownership.

Audrey continued as publisher of all four newspaper publications after the death of her husband, Art, in November of 2008. She continued to oversee daily operations and was the number one proof reader.

The Nebraska Press Association honored the Frenches with Golden Pica Pole Club awards in 2007, in recognition of 50 years of faithful service to the newspaper profession in Nebraska.

*The Enterprise* and *Graphic* merged into one paper on April 16, 2009. *The Enterprise* now includes the *McPherson County News*, the first official newspaper in McPherson County. *The McPherson County News* began publication before the post office in Tryon was established. The name *The Tryon Graphic* was given it soon after it was moved to the county seat after the town of Tryon was founded.



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

Audrey French was honored by the Nebraska Press Association in 2007 by bestowing her with the Golden Pica Pole Club award in recognition of 50 years of service to the newspaper profession in Nebraska.

Audrey is a graduate of McPherson County High School and she has "deep roots," in and around Tryon, as many of her relatives still live and work there.

Audrey has always been very proud, not only of her work in the printing and publishing business, but of her children and grandchildren, and all of their accomplishments. Her children are Judy Kramer of North Platte, Brian French of Brady, Karla Janecek of North Platte, and Darwin French of Alliance.

Audrey contributed to her communities in many ways. She served as an officer in the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #524, Tryon Rebekah Lodge #413, and the Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce. She taught Sunday School classes at the Ringgold Free Methodist Church.

She moved to Highland Park Care Center in Alliance in January of 2015 and she has made many new friends there.

In celebration of National Skills Facility Home Week, May 15-18, Audrey is one of the residents being saluted for their accomplishments through "Celebrating Life's Stories."

Highland Park Care Center is pleased to celebrate the narratives of each individual's most significant life events, relationships and experiences to cultivate a shared sense of purpose at the center and in the community.

This year unique stories are being told about residents through storytelling, art, food, entertainment, and music, to honor the contribution each person has made.

Established by the American Health Care Association (AHCA) in 1967 and always beginning on Mother's Day, National Skilled Nursing Care Week, provides an opportunity to recognize the role of skilled nursing care centers in caring for America's seniors and individuals with disabilities.

How does one measure success in life? For Audrey French it has been dedicating herself to family, the printing and publishing industry, and her community. And her many friends here in the Stapleton and Tryon area... they still stop in at the office in Stapleton to see how she is doing. A tribute to a woman who, although is no longer living here among us, has not been forgotten.

## Sonnenfelt Receives 50 Year Pin



COURTESY PHOTO

Marla Sonnenfelt has been honored as a member of American Legion Auxiliary for 50 years. Pictured is Kathy Fisher (left) presenting Marla with a pin for her years of service. Marla has been faithful to the Auxiliary mission of service to veterans, military, and their families.

## Goosey Selected For Girls State

Abigail Goosey of Tryon, has been selected to attend American Legion Auxiliary Cornhusker Girls State by the Tryon American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Abigail will study local, county, and state government processes in this nonpartisan political learning experience.

Every spring, the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program provides approximately 25,000 young women with a hands-on educational opportunity designed to instruct tomorrow's leaders in the privileges and duties of responsible citizenship.

Delegates receive special instruction in parliamentary procedure and organize themselves into two mythical political parties. They then campaign, hold rallies, debate, and ultimately vote to elect city, county, and state officials. Once elected to office, delegates are sworn in and perform their prescribed duties.

Abigail is a junior at McPherson County High School. Tryon's American Legion Auxiliary is honored to have Abigail represent McPherson County.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Over The Hills

J.R. Trumbull



Quote: "The bad thing that happens today could be paving the way for the good things coming tomorrow. Trust the process." Wendy Hale

Not all storms come to disrupt your life. Some actually come to help clear the path so you can accomplish what you were intended to do in the first place. Have you ever noticed how a change in plans will often result in something much better than what you had in mind? I know that I have had that happen many times. It's a "Thank You God" moment when I realize that my path was diverted for a reason.

There have been many life-long learners in my life. Some only had a first or maybe third grade education, but they didn't let that stop them from continuing to add to their store of knowledge. Some had an eighth grade education and from the exams I have seen that they had to pass, I would be hard put to get a passing grade in some areas. Many of my college pro-

fessors would have had a struggle to pass these exams too. Then there is the area of just plain common sense which seems to be almost extinct today. It seems like many young people have no idea how to think things through or how to make decisions on their own. I don't think this applies to most young people in our area, but it seems to be rampant in more populated areas. We are indeed blessed to live out here where being to your own person isn't necessarily a bad thing. There is bullying. It was there when I was in school too, but for the most part we learn to deal

with it and to go on with life. Keep in mind there is always someone who needs a kind word, a friendly smile, or a good deed to make their day and life brighter. Just doing so will make your day and life brighter too. "Educating yourself does not mean you were stupid in the first place; it means that you are intelligent enough to know there is plenty left to learn." Melanie Joy

"Be wise enough to know when you need to walk away from all the nonsense that others are creating all around you." Dave Hodges

### STORMY WEATHER

One day while it was storming,  
I watched the clouds a'roiling  
And thought how they resembled life.  
Some things are so appealing  
Even though they send us reeling  
They're not worth the pain and strife.

Then the rainbow appears  
And all life seems clear  
For a precious moment there is quiet.  
In the west, lightning flashed,  
Our tranquil thoughts are dashed  
As life once more become a riot.

Stormy times or not, turn to God.  
Seek His discerning nod  
As you travel through the weather of this life.  
He will guide you on your way,  
Be with you day by day  
As you journey mid fair weather or in strife.

J.R. Trumbull 5 August 2009

## Primary Election Update

The 2018 Primary Election will be held Tuesday, May 15, 2018. Voters will cast their ballots at the McPherson County Courthouse. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. There will only be one local race on the Primary ballot. That is the race for McPherson County Sheriff. All other local races will automatically advance to the November 6 General Election Ballot. May 4 is the deadline for anyone needing to register to vote in the Primary Election. The County Clerk's office will be open until 6:00 p.m. that day. Primary election sample ballots may be found on page 13 of this issue.