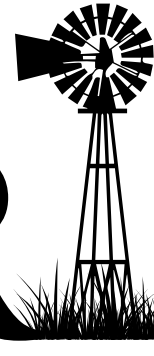


THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

SERVING
LOGAN & McPHERSON COUNTIES
FOR OVER 100 YEARS



LOGAN COUNTY, STAPLETON, NEBRASKA 69163 (USPS 518780) THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018 NO. 6



'The Greatest Showman'
See Page 5
For Show Dates & Times

Notices

- Notice Of Trustee's Sale
- Resolution No. 2018-02 Legal Notice
- Stapleton School Board Public Notice
- Village Of Stapleton Public Notice
- Stapleton Rural Fire Protection District Public Notice
- Logan County One & Six Year Road Plan Public Notice
- 2018 Personal Property Tax Schedule Mailed Out
- Logan County Homestead Exemption Public Notice
- Logan County Notice Of Tax Sale
- McPherson County Notice Of Tax Sale

McPherson Co. News



Graphic Files
Over The Hills
Page 6

Senior Lunch Menu

C.J.'s Menu3

Weather



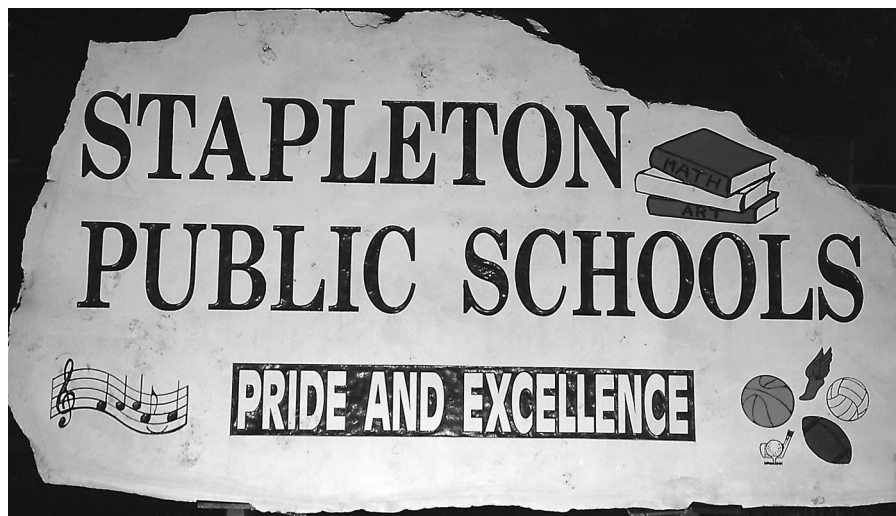
DATE	HI	LOW	MT
30	31	17	0
31	47	20	0
Feb. 1	42	17	0
2	26	15	0
3	38	21	0
4	52	0	.23
5	22	0	.01

Observations: 3.3" of snow was measured on February 4. Lunar eclipse/blue-blood moon was observed on January 31. The wind chill was -6 at 12:00 a.m. on February 5. January moisture was 1.15" and January snow was 13.4".

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Stapleton School Foundation plans gala



The Stapleton Public Schools Foundation board is finalizing plans for their gala event set for Saturday evening, February 24, at the Stapleton Community Center.

The Vet's Club will be providing the social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. The prime rib banquet will be served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and will be limited to the first 110 who call in. Reservations need to be into the school by February 15. You may call Chris Harvey at 308-636-2252 with your reservations and to donate items.

There will be a silent and live auction. Larger items that have already been donated include:

- Hand painted picture
- Large ornate shelf
- Oak game table
- Rangeland lick tub
- Nebraska cattle sign
- Pivot parts gift certificate
- 2018 Single Membership to the Stapleton Golf Course
- Seed from Rich Burnside
- Half a beef
- Holland grill

There are numerous smaller items that will be available to bid on at silent auction. Each person purchasing a meal ticket will be entered for door prize drawings. Additional raffle tickets will be available that evening. The Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce has donated \$200 in Chamber bucks that will be placed in mystery purses.

Entertainment will include R.P. Smith and Jim Rice.

In case of inclement weather, the gala will be held Friday, March 2.

The Stapleton Public Schools Foundation is hoping to build funds and use this money for student scholarships and improvements to the building and grounds that will not necessitate tax dollar funding.

Foundation board members are Gary Johnsen, Richard Gewecke, Chris Harvey, Bob Harvey, Steve Schaeffer, Superintendent Howard Gaffney, Lacy Kinderknecht, and Kennetha Amos.

Board members expressed appreciation to the community for their support in helping them with this first year endeavor.

Superintendent concerned over school funding

Superintendent Howard Gaffney of Stapleton Public Schools, says he is sure he can truthfully speak for Stapleton Public Schools in that they are extremely concerned about their over-reliance on local property taxes to fund annual operations.

"I can bet we have been vocal about our concern for several years, along with many other school districts across our state, and as a result the "Nebraska United For Property Tax Reform and Education," was created. This was with the intent to further the dialogue and pursue legislative action to help remedy the issue. Thus the organization has been working with elected officials for a few years on this important topic and we appreciate their effort and input they have made," Superintendent Gaffney said. "I am hopeful that a new bill drafted by Senator Tom Briese's office, with support from "Nebraskans United for Property Tax Reform and Education," will gain much needed traction and help move us closer to a legislative solution for this very complicated issue."

Data that school secretary Jeana Hanna and Superintendent Gaffney have gathered clearly illustrates there is a school funding problem despite some saying that high property taxes are due to excessive school spending:

• Nebraska K-12 schools receive 49 percent of their funding from local property taxes while the na-

tional average is 29 percent. Over 67 percent of our 2015-2016 funding came from local property taxes and in 2016-2017, 77.4 percent came from property taxes.

• Nebraska K-12 schools received 33 percent of their funding from state sources while the national average is 47 percent. Just under 28 percent of our 2015-2016 funding came from state sources while in 2016-2017, 18.5 percent came from state sources.

• Our reserve from state equalization aid has dropped from \$920,864 in 2015-2016 to a mere \$612,746 for 2016-2017, causing an even larger over-reliance on local property taxes. The total revenue we have for our budget has decreased despite a significant increase in local property taxes. Again, with no spending increase within that time frame.

"We can hope that our elected officials will pass Legislation in this 2018 session to finally address how public schools are funded. If no legislation comes through this year, the next step, though one we don't want to have to look at, could be the pursuit of a potential lawsuit against the State of Nebraska," Superintendent Gaffney states. "Several agriculture related organizations, which would include Farm Bureau for one, as well as multiple school districts are beginning to explore that possibility just in case. If SPS were ever to consider a lawsuit, we would do so with several other part-

ners to ensure that it would come at no financial cost to us."

Some of the main tenets of a potential lawsuit could center around the following legal points:

• The Nebraska State Constitution requires that the State provide a free and public education to all persons between the ages of 5-21 years.

• While the State can delegate the duty for providing the education to school districts, by doing so, it cannot avoid the obligation to finance the "free and public education" guaranteed by the State with a local tax that does not provide substantially equal revenues for each district.

• Students are denied equal protection to their right to a free and public education across the State and school districts are treated differently and are denied equal protection by current legal funding mechanisms.

• Property owners are also compromised by the property tax methods used to finance public education because this financing scheme which produces widely varied mill levels from district to district, prevents statewide uniformity and proportionality in the imposition of property taxes.

"Stapleton Public Schools needs to be committed to our students and patrons to pursue all possible actions to find meaningful change for school funding here in Logan County and all of Nebraska," Superintendent Gaffney said.

Stolen pickup recovered

A pickup taken from the garage of a Stapleton residence has been recovered in North Platte.

The Logan County Sheriff's office received a call at approximately 7:30 a.m. Tuesday morning, January 30, reporting the theft of a 2006 Dodge Ram pickup owned by John Croghan of Stapleton.

Croghan said the pickup was taken from his garage located west of his house. The person drove the pickup out onto 6th Street and in the process ran over the Great Plains Communications telecommunication box.

On his way out of town the suspect made a stop at Kimber's. A video tape in the convenience store shows the person of interest entering the store at 6:45 a.m. and asking to use the telephone there. A good picture was taken of the suspect, and at approximately 9:00 p.m. Tuesday evening, Deputy Wood was contacted by a party who was able to identify the person of interest as Alexander Four-

ner, 21, of North Platte.

The North Platte Police Department also called to advise Logan County they had located the pickup in an apartment complex parking lot one block away from Fourtner's residence.

The pickup was returned to Croghan. Damage was reported to the battery and front end of the push guard. The pickup had been driven approximately 62 miles.

A warrant has been issued for Fourtner's arrest. Anyone having any information about this crime is asked to contact the Logan County Sheriff's office.

"If you see any suspicious vehicles or activity in town, please give us a call," Sheriff Carson said. "Make sure your garages are locked and keys taken from your vehicles."

The only other activity reported during the week was that of a deer-vehicle accident on Highway 83 south of Stapleton. The accident was not investigated and the vehicle was towed.

Annual Chamber meeting report

A donation to the Stapleton Public Schools Foundation, year-end report, and membership update, were on the agenda for the Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting held Monday, January 29, at the Stapleton Community Center.

There are 38 signed up as Chamber members to date.

Members approved a \$200.00 donation of the Chamber bucks to be used at the upcoming Sta-

pleton Public Schools Foundation gala.

Chamber sponsored several events throughout the year and purchased and installed two new billboard signs along Highway 83 this year.

The Stapleton website is being updated. Melody Hansen of Sublime Artistry will be contacted to see how the new site is progressing.

Superintendent Howard Gaffney spoke to the group and thanked them (Continued on page 10)

Additional filings reported

Logan and McPherson County residents are reminded that deadlines for the upcoming May 15, 2018 Primary Election are rapidly approaching.

The filing deadline for an Incumbent (anyone now holding any elected office) is February 15, 2018, and the filing deadline for all other candidates is March 1, 2018.

Those filing for positions in the two counties include:

Logan County

County Clerk: Debbie Myers, Republican, incumbent.

County Treasurer: Richard Gewecke, Republican, incumbent.

County Sheriff: Sean T. Carson, Republican, incumbent.

Commissioner, District 1: Lee Wonch, Republican, incumbent.

School District R-1 Board of Education: Franklin J. Kramer, incumbent. The other two incumbents up for election are Josh Allen and Steve Schaeffer.

McPherson County

Board of Commissioners: John E. Bryant, Democrat, incumbent. Filing fee is \$71.15.

County Clerk, Ex-Officio: The term of incumbent Judy M. Dailey is up, but she will not be seeking reelection. Anyone filing for this position must have a valid Assessor's Certificate before they can file for the office. Katherine E. Hoberg has filed for the County Clerk's position on the Republican ballot. Filing fee is \$445.71.

County Treasurer: No filings. The term of incumbent Shareen Munson is up. Filing fee is \$424.48.

County Sheriff: No filings. The term of incumbent Timothy McConnell is up. Filing fee is \$424.48.

McPherson County School District #90 Board of Education: The terms of incumbents Rusty Kemp, Trent Neal and Toni Powers are up. One filing has been received for these positions. Toni L. Powers has refiled for her position on the board of education. No filing fee.

Anyone having an election question is encouraged to contact Logan County Clerk, Debbie Myers at 308-636-2311 or McPherson County Clerk, Judy M. Dailey at 308-587-2363.