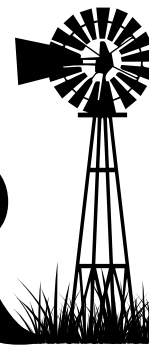


THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

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LOGAN & McPHERSON COUNTIES
FOR OVER 100 YEARS



LOGAN COUNTY, STAPLETON, NEBRASKA 69163

(USPS 518780)

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

NO.9



'Paddington 2'
See Page 5
For Show Dates & Times

Notices

- Notice Of Trustee's Sale
- Village Of Gandy Public Notice
- McPherson County School Board Proceedings
- Logan County Commissioners' Board Proceedings

McPherson Co. News



Graphic Files
Over The Hills
Leo Dailey Birthday
Page 6

Senior Lunch Menu

C.J.'s Menu3

Weather



DATE	HI	LOW	MT
20	11	-1	.19
21	15	-8	0
22	23	-7	.01
23	24	6	.29
24	27	6	.22
25	32	10	.02
26	38	12	0

Snow fall, 1.9" on February 20; .1" on February 22; 2.7" on February 23; 4.0" on February 24; .3" on February 25. Wind chill was -6 degrees on February 20 and -18 degrees on February 21.

Obituary

- Lloyd Alden Connell

Inside This Issue

- What Might Have Been
- MCS Students Publish Book
- Stapleton Students Study
- 'Notable Nebraskans'
- Area Students On UNL Dean's List
- See Dates For Fish Fry Fridays

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Area Farm Bureaus host tax forum



Bruce Rieker, vice president of governmental relations for the Nebraska Farm Bureau, speaks to those in attendance at the Monday, February 19, tax forum at the Stapleton Community Center.

Story & Photo By Marcia Hora

Property taxes are on the minds of just about everyone in the state, and if the legislature doesn't make changes - people will take the matter into their own hands.

McPherson, Logan and Thomas County Farm Bureaus teamed up to sponsor a "Road to Property Tax Reform" forum Monday, February 19, at the Stapleton Community Center.

Steve Nelson, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau, and Bruce Rieker, vice president of governmental relations, were on hand to discuss the property tax issue and outline bills pending in the Nebraska Legislature.

Rieker also leads the advocacy work of Nebraska Farm Bureau and manages the GRD department, including holding the role of lead lobbyist at the State Capitol.

Farm Bureau supports LB 829 that provides a refundable income tax credit equal to 50% of property taxes paid to K-12 schools.

The measure designed to reduce Nebraska property tax bills appears to be stuck in a legislative committee as its supporters focus on a ballot petition drive. Senator Steve Erdman of Bayard, who introduced the bill, said he did not expect the bill to pass, but he wanted to try. He is also part of a petition drive to place the issue on the November ballot.

Long threatened, a petition drive

has now been launched to reduce property taxes in the state by more than a billion dollars. The signature process has been started, and according to Trent Fellers, spokesman for Yes to Property Tax Relief, the petition is the answer to make sure people have a voice in November.

A few property tax proposals have been filed this session, but with only around 30 days left, it doesn't appear there is time to move anything substantial.

Gov. Pete Ricketts supports LB 947, sponsored by Sen. Jim Smith of Papillion. Farm Bureau testified in support of the proposed revisions to the bill, not the introduced copy.

Under the governor's proposal, the legislature would convert the Property Tax Credit Relief Fund to provide refundable income tax credits for agricultural property owners as well as homeowners. The plan calls for \$200 million in property tax relief for agricultural and residential property as well as \$40 million in cuts to individual and corporate income taxes.

Other issues discussed at the forum included rural broadband bills, ag/regulatory, and natural resources bills.

A good number of people were in attendance at the Stapleton forum, including people from Thomas, Custer, Logan and McPherson counties. Tammy Fiechtner, regional Farm Bureau manager, was also on hand to welcome attendees.

Farmers voice concern over Irrigation Tax Act

Farmers have been lighting up Twitter since the introduction of LB 1022 by Senator Paul Schumacher of Columbus.

Dubbed the Irrigation Tax Act, farmers would pay a one cent tax for every 10 gallons of water pumped from wells with a capacity of at least 5,000 gallons per day. A pivot pumping 750 gallons per minute over 24 hours could be taxed \$1,080. These taxes would be due to the Tax Commissioner by November 1 each year and would then be turned over to the State Treasurer for credit to Nebraska's School Aid Fund.

Schumacher said there's a great deal of turmoil arising out of people wanting income taxes cut, people wanting property taxes cut, people not wanting to pay more in sales taxes, and a very unstable situation tax-wise in the state.

Schumacher added while many complain about how the state's school funding formula tends to favor urban school districts over rural districts, by the state not charging for water use, it makes it appear as though irrigated land is worth more than dry land. He argued that the property tax revenue from irrigated land is spent by local governments rather than being made available to the

state to pay its bills.

"The intention is to put this idea in the hopper with about 50 other ideas of how to grapple with the tax problem," Schumacher said. "It appears that if we do some massive property tax cut, we're going to have to come up with money to cover hundreds of millions or maybe over a billion dollars, and if we do that we're going to have to look at different sources, one of which might be this."

Most farmers voiced their concerns after the proposal was made, and urged neighbors to contact their senators.

Schumacher emphasized there is no money to replace any of the proposals for property tax relief currently on the table. He said the state has not been able to pay its bills, maintain cash reserves for true crisis situations, and the tax system has to be fair and not place sales tax burdens on individuals making less than \$120,000 a year.

LB 1022 has been referred to the legislature's Revenue Committee and has not been scheduled for a hearing.

Nebraska Farm Bureau opposes LB 1022. On a 1,000 gal/min. well, running continuously, this tax would equal \$1,440 per day.

Storm date in effect for Stapleton Gala

The storm date of Friday, March 2, has gone into effect for the Stapleton Public School Foundation gala. The event was postponed from February 24 due to weather conditions.

The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Stapleton Community Center. The steak dinner will follow. There will be door prizes, raffles, and silent and live auction items.

R.P. Smith and Jim Rice will provide entertainment. The first event of its kind by the Stapleton Public Schools Foundation was a sell out. Tickets are available if you would like to join in for the auction and entertainment.

Larger items being offered are a Holland grill, half a beef, art work, Husker Spring game tickets, and a membership to the Augusta Wind Golf Course.

Two running for McPherson County Sheriff

McPherson County Clerk, Judy Dailey, reports more local filings have been received for the May 15 Primary Election. Those re-filing for their positions on the McPherson County School District #90 Board of Education are incumbents Trent Neal and Toni L. Power. Rusty Kemp, incumbent, did not seek re-election to his position on the school board.

There have been three filings received for the two positions on the McPherson County Board of Commissioners. Incumbents John E. Bryant and Harold E. Arensdorf, have re-filed for their positions on the County Board on the Democratic ballot. Brett Nason has also filed for a position on the McPherson County Board of Commissioners on the Republican ballot.

Katherine E. Hoberg, Republican, has filed for the McPherson County

Clerk's position. Incumbent Judy M. Dailey will not be seeking re-election to her position as County Clerk.

Jodi Dudley, Republican, has filed for the position of McPherson County Treasurer. Incumbent, Shareen Munson will not be seeking re-election to her position.

Tim McConnell, incumbent, has re-filed for his position as McPherson County Sheriff is Lawrence D. Stump, who will also be on the Republican ballot.

March 1 is the filing deadline for anyone who is not incumbent.

Applications and more information on filing for any of the positions in the upcoming election may be obtained by contacting the McPherson County Clerk's office.

Chili cook-off winners



KADEN ALLEN PHOTO

Stapleton's annual chili cook-off was met with a great turn-out and a good number of entries, Saturday, February 17, at the Vet's Club. Winners received Chamber bucks and drink certificates. Those placing were, l-r: Marcia Hora, first place mild category; Gil Johnsen, second place mild category; Janet Barnum, first place hot category; and Marrietta Bierma, third place mild category. The Vet's Club also held a Valentine's dinner Wednesday, February 14, and the event was sold out. William Cassell and Charles Stoeger are the new managers of the club and are planning special events each month. Be watching the paper for March activities.