



## Civil War up close and personal



STAPLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stapleton Public Schools elementary students were able to relive the Civil War by dressing in replicated costumes when Don Balyeat shared personal experiences and artifacts. Pictured, front row, l-r: Quinten Jones, Ashtin Johns, Blake Gustason, and Coltan Clouse. Back row, l-r: Briley Kramer, Nova Wieszorek, Kamryn Kramer, Dually Schell, and Braylon Kuhn. Students in grades fourth, fifth and sixth, and juniors and seniors participated in the presentations.

What better way to make history come alive than allow young people to get up close and personal to war artifacts.

Students at Stapleton Public Schools were able to do just that when Don Balyeat recently arrived in Logan County armed with Civil War items and stories.

Balyeat travels throughout the midwest sharing his passion with students in several states.

Using a hands-on teaching approach, Balyeat relays personal experiences and connects with students showing them the value of historical education. Along with teaching, Balyeat is a Civil War Trust Color Bearer member and a member of the Honor Guard Legacy Giving Society.

Born in New York, Balyeat's father was a professional soldier and while

his father was away, he and his mother stayed in the Bronx with his Irish grandmother. He was introduced to history during this period of time.

Balyeat learned his great-grandfather served in the 156th Infantry Regiment from New York.

"I was learning from a person who actually lived with a Civil War Veteran," Balyeat said.

He visited Gettysburg in 1948 and learned he had Confederate ancestors on his father's side, a great-grandfather and four more great-great-uncles from Ohio in Union blue and a great-great-grandfather and three of his brothers wearing the grey.

He joined the Civil War Trust as a regular member in 2005, became a Color Bearer and has remained a very proud member.

As Balyeat's fascination of the Civil War grew, he learned teachers wanted people to share stories and adventures in their classrooms.

Balyeat encourages students to research their ancestors and let's them know there is a very good chance they have Civil War family ties. It was these veterans who expanded this part of the country.

The town of Custer, SD is named after General Custer, but its first name was Stonewall after General Jackson. At that time there were more southern veterans looking for gold so they picked the name. That changed when more Union veterans moved in.

What is sometimes forgotten is the role women and children played in the war, especially in the

south. It was common for a mother and her children to find themselves in the middle of a battle that turned their homes into field hospitals. Families would treat and care for the wounded on both sides.

Balyeat brought along period costumes and allowed students to dress in them. Artifacts included a genuine Confederate cavalry saber and a musket. Demonstrations were given on loading powder and ball, firing one shot, and then repeating the process.

Balyeat's programs are presented at no cost or fees. He has met with almost 1,400 students in the past year and hopes to open the door for new "Civil War buffs."

Presentations were also given at Arnold, Callaway, and Brady.

## New zoning regs receives feedback

MARCIA HORA

Feedback on reclassifying land in the northern part of Logan County and other zoning changes were heard by Logan County Planning Commission members at a public hearing held Monday, April 29, in the courthouse meeting room.

Orval Stahr of Stahr & Associates, Inc., York, has been working on updating the future land use plan in Logan County. The purpose of a future land use plan is to provide a general guide for changes in land use so the resulting land uses can coexist with a minimum number of conflicts and maximize economic development opportunities.

Planning commission members were shown the proposed future land use plan at a meeting prior to the public hearing.

The future land use plan envisions two primary land use categories for the expansion of future development of various land uses in Logan County.

It would change the current environmentally sensitive land designation in the northern part of the county to general agriculture.

Delineation of land near the municipalities in the county would be transitional agricultural areas which would encourage continued agricultural activities, but would serve to protect municipalities from development of agricultural uses such as confined livestock feeding to minimize land use conflicts.

To maximize the potential for siting of new commercial and industrial land uses, the county is considering allowing commercial and industrial uses to locate within a distance of 1/8 mile (660 feet) on either side of Highway 83 between the intersections with Highway 92. Although most of this land is now in agricultural production, future delineation of this land for commercial and/or industrial uses would offer the best possible siting opportunities for such uses, Stahr said.

Stahr is also working on Logan County's energy sustainability plan and updating wind and solar regulations.

Concerns were raised by residents in changing the zoning district in the northern part of the county from environmentally sensitive to general agriculture.

Steve Martin, executive director for the Alliance for the Future of Agricul-

ture in Nebraska (AFAN) and Jacy Spencer, ag promotion coordinator with the Department of Agriculture were present at the meeting, along with Tammy Fiechtner, Farm Bureau representative, and Marcia Hora, *The Stapleton Enterprise*.

Martin expressed concern of leaving the northern land in Logan County as environmentally sensitive as it could restrict and limit possible agriculture expansion in the future. He would like the plan to contact AFAN with concerns and questions and make sure the plan is fairly written and consistently enforced. Opening up this area could bring outside money into the county.

Spencer said she was available to answer questions and concerns as the board looks at developing new regulations.

Fiechtner addressed the board on concerns of the zoning being too restrictive for new diversification on family farms and ranches. Farm Bureau is also interested in the county looking into being designated "livestock friendly."

After discussion by the board, it was decided to look into putting the northern portion of Logan County back into environmentally sensitive, but opening up some of the restrictions to such use.

It was also discussed to do some analysis on the southern part of the county zoning and the effect of confined livestock operations on residents in that area.

Stahr also reviewed the Economic Development Strategic Plan for Logan County that would include a seven person board of directors to oversee economic development, a for-profit board to help possible business ideas become reality, the implementation of a cent and a half county-wide sales tax, and a \$10.00 per month per household non-mandatory contribution that would go to improve Logan County for future generations.

Planning Commission members present were Rich Burnside, Max Lovitt, James Main, and Debbie Myers, zoning administrator. Eldon Christensen and Adam Wonch are the other two commission members.

The next meeting was set for Monday, June 10, at 2:00 p.m. at the Logan County Courthouse meeting room at which time revised recommendations will be heard from Stahr & Associates.

## Arrest made after Hwy. 92 stop

A traffic stop at approximately 10:30 p.m., Friday, April 19, led to the arrest of one out-of-state woman by Logan County Sheriff, Sean Carson.

A group of three vehicles, two pulling campers, were stopped near mile marker 243 on Highway 92. The caravan was eastbound headed towards Arnold. The vehicle pulling a camper was pulled over as the camper did not have operational tail lights.

The driver of the vehicle, Payge Lincoln, 35, of Merrill, Wisconsin, was asked if there were any illegal drugs in her vehicle. After responding that there were, Sheriff Carson asked Lincoln and her passenger, Christopher M. Vercauteren, 37, of Merrill, Wisconsin, and their dogs, to exit the vehicle. Personal use drugs

of marijuana and paraphernalia were found.

Sheriff Carson requested assistance from Logan County Deputy Sheriff Wood with the traffic stop. Deputy Wood made contact with the other two vehicles. Three individuals, Keenan Miles, 24, Waupaca, Wisconsin, Kenneth Aprahamian, 19, East Strausburg, Pennsylvania, and Joseph Pecore, 39, of Waupaca, Wisconsin, were the occupants of the two vehicles. Marijuana, less than one ounce, was found in both vehicles.

In searching Ms. Lincoln's purse, psilocybin mushrooms were found. She was charged and held for a Class IV felony, possession of a controlled substance. She was booked into the Lincoln County jail.

### -- News Briefs --

#### North Platte Library To Host Songwriter

Speaker, songwriter, and storyteller Michael McDonald will present a program, "The Corps of Discovery" on May 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the North Platte Public Library. This presentation is made possible by Humanities Nebraska, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the North Platte Area Home Educators, as part of the HN Speakers Bureau. McDonald leads a lively celebration of the challenges and adventures faced by members of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery. This program is one of approximately 300 offered through the Humanities NE Speakers Bureau.

#### SHS Graduation Saturday

Thirteen Stapleton High School seniors will graduate Saturday, May 11, at commencement exercises Saturday, May 11, at 2:00 p.m. Class colors are yellow and seafoam green and the class flower is a yellow rose. Their motto is "Get it....." The Class of 2019 will present their video and flowers to the special song, "Never Grow Up," by Taylor Swift. See special graduation pages inside this issue honoring SHS seniors.

### McPherson Co. News



- Graphic Files
- Over The Hills
- Winners Announced For Americanism Essays & Poppy Posters

### Notices



- Dist. #90 School Board Special Meeting Proceedings
- Loup Valley Cemetery Notice To Reclaim Spaces
- Dist. R-1 Special Board Proceedings
- Logan Co. Planning Commission Proceedings
- ULNRD Public Notice
- Logan Co Commissioners Notice

### Weather



DATE	HI	LOW	MT
23	64	30	0
24	68	30	0
25	78	38	.10
26	69	35	0
27	76	35	T
28	54	34	0
29	57	31	.15

Wind speed was recorded at 32 MPH on April 26. Wind chill was 27 degrees on April 28, and 29 degrees on April 29. Thunder was observed on April 28

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