



## Banking through a pandemic

*Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of stories on efforts made by businesses, individuals, teaching staff and government officials in our community, who helped get us through the past year as a pandemic rocked our nation.*

Community First Bank in Stapleton re-opened its lobby after nearly a year of being closed to walk-in customers.

Branch manager, loan officer, and vice-president, Lisa Kinderknecht said there were actual cheers and shouts when people were able to physically come into the bank and not have to conduct business through the drive-up window last week.

"Closing the lobby to people in March of 2020 was the hardest thing we have had to do at the bank," Kinderknecht said. "The drive-up was difficult because our walk-up customers had to deal with all kinds of weather conditions. It was also a safety concern because sometimes there was ice and snow that made footing uncertain. And of course our customers had to stand in the wind, snow and rain.

The bank scheduled appointments for customers who needed to get into their safety deposit boxes and to sign paperwork. Extreme precaution was enforced prior to allowing people into the building.

"We were very fortunate our community has common sense and people here care about one another. I can honestly say we have gotten through this together," Kinderknecht said. "One of the

bank ladies even made cloth masks for us to give out to those who needed one. Our customers did not come to the bank if they had any kind of health issues or if they felt ill."

Bank employees were not exempt from COVID-19 and had to work through staffing issues. Part-time people stayed home for three months while three people worked at the bank.

"This way we knew there would always be someone available to work. We also had to cover different branch locations if there were those who were quarantined there. We are pleased to say that we kept all of our branches open through it all and served our customers," Kinderknecht added.

Community First helped business owners and farmers and ranchers obtain thousands of dollars when the first PPP loans rolled out. One hundred percent of the loans from the Stapleton branch have been forgiven.

There has been an uptick in filings from farmers and ranchers as the second round of PPP loan applications has begun and those with a Schedule F can apply.

"There aren't as many local businesses qualifying this time around because our community has been very supportive of one another and receipts have been up," Kinderknecht said. "You must prove a 25% loss in at least one quarter from 2019 to 2020 and many of our businesses don't qualify. We're very thankful for that."



MARCIA HORA - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

Community First Bank employees worked diligently to provide customer service and keep the bank up and running during the pandemic, pictured l-r: Veronica Neal, Lisa Kinderknecht, Carry Schacher, Mickie Florea, Robin Garlett, and John Opela.

The PPP loans have helped many people get through a very difficult time when they needed the help and the bank is pleased to report over 100 applications from customers in all locations have been submitted this time around.

Kinderknecht said the bank has been very busy conducting normal banking business and they have gained new customers.

"Our interest rates are still near the top of the board in relation to area banks and we are competitive with all banks on our loan rates."

Community First in Stapleton is committed to meeting the needs of cus-

tomers in this area and providing the best customer service possible.

"Our community is growing and this will continue because people are moving to more rural areas. They are seeing the benefits of living in a

place where people care about one another," Kinderknecht said. "It's very apparent residents here are striving to work together to make Stapleton a viable place to live. We are pleased that Community First Bank has

played a part in helping our residents get through one of the most trying times in our history. It has also shown us that we are resilient and can get through anything - if we do it together."

## Senator Brewer to make Stapleton stop

State Senator Tom Brewer will be in Stapleton, Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. for a town hall meeting with area constituents. You are invited to the Stapleton

Community Center to hear Senator Brewer's bill proposals, as well as other bills pertinent to our area. Property tax relief will be addressed. A question and answer

session will follow. The meeting is being coordinated by Skip Hecox, Logan County Republican chairman. For more information you may contact Hecox at 308-529-1861.

## Photos of Gandy Catholic Church needed

Several German Catholic families settled in Logan County in 1884-1885. The first Mass in Logan County was offered in the sod home of John Brosius by Fr. Conway of St. Patrick's, North Platte. The Brosius family had settled on the wind swept plains in 1884, a year before the county was organized. Other pioneer families opened their homes and included the Schraders, Beckers, Polzkills, Karns, Walz, Beckius, Kramers and Santos.

A small church was erected in Gandy in 1886. In those early years, owing to the scarcity of priests in Nebraska and the difficulties in traveling, those parishioners

felt deeply grateful when a priest would come to them a few times in the year to offer Holy Mass.

When it was not possible for a priest to come on Sundays and offer the Holy Mass, all of the loyal Catholic families, true to their faith assembled at the little church in Gandy, and there recited the Rosary and other prayers, under the leadership of John Brosius, and, in his absence, under the guidance of John Schrader and John Polzkill.

With the extension of the railroad in 1912 to the new town of Stapleton, the Catholic people decided a new church was needed to accommodate the needs of a growing

parish.

Catholics worshipped in their new building in Stapleton for the first time on the second Sunday of January, 1914, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Ron Sack of The Nebraska Church Guys is writing a book and would like to include photos of the Catholic church in Gandy in the publication.

He is also looking for photos of Saint Peter Catholic Church that once existed in Tryon.

Anyone having photos and information that would be helpful in his endeavor may contact him at 402-440-0823 or stronn@gmail.com

## SPS Foundation Gala set for March 6

The Stapleton Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors met again on January 20, 2021 to discuss several items on the agenda.

A large part of the meeting was dedicated to the preparation of the 2021 Foundation Gala. Please note a change in the date from the last release. The Board received requests to move the event from Friday to Saturday and decided to have the Gala on Saturday, March 6, 2021.

Mark your calendar for a meal of steak and shrimp, live and silent auction items, door prizes, entertainment and just good fun that is in the works

for the evening. Happy hour will begin at 5:00 that evening.

The attendance will be limited to 128 this year. Tickets will be \$55 each. The opportunity to purchase a table of 8 for \$300 will also be available should a business or group choose to do so.

Because of the limited seating, attendees will be asked to pay in advance for tickets. The Board did vote that a ticket will not be reserved without payment. The deadline to purchase tickets will be 2:30 p.m. on Friday February 26th. To purchase tickets, you may contact the Stapleton School office at 308-636-2252.

Live and silent auction items are currently being accepted by the Board or can be delivered to the school office. You are encouraged to call the school before bringing auction donations. After the auction, this year's entertainment will be Joel Warren. So plan to wear your dancing shoes.

This annual Gala has been a great opportunity to get together to raise funds for the Foundation. Should you feel compelled to make a donation and are not able to attend, please contact the school office to do so. We look forward to seeing you on March 6, 2021.

### -- News Briefs --

#### Steak Dinner Proceeds to Aid Golf Course

The Stapleton Golf Association is hosting a steak dinner and raffle, Saturday, February 13, at the Community Center in Stapleton.

A raffle for a .22 mag Henry rifle will be held. Second and third place winners will receive choice of a golf bag or family membership. Call Skip Hecox @ 308-529-1861 or Scott Gaites @ 308-636-8308 for more information and tickets.

#### Logan County Roping Club Meeting

The Logan County Roping Club will hold a meeting Tuesday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Vet's Club in Stapleton. All interested past, present and future members are asked to attend.

For more information about the meeting you may contact Mark Lovitt at 308-636-2348.

### Weather

DATE	HI	LOW	MT
30	34	14	0
31	28	18	0
1	46	17	0
2	47	17	0
3	55	22	0
4	66	21	.04
5	41	21	0

Fog was observed January 30 and February 2. A total of 0.5" of snow was recorded on February 4.  
Wind chill: 10 degrees at 3:00 a.m. on February 4 and 2 degrees at 4:00 p.m. February 5.  
January moisture total measured 0.57"  
January snow total measured 5.4". Total 2020 moisture is 21.4" compared to average yearly total of 22.97"

### McPherson Co. News



- Over The Hills
- Graphic Files
- "Winter"
- Between The Lines

### Notices

- Logan Co. Commissioners Public Notice
- Village of Gandy Board Proceedings
- Request For Proposals
- School District R-1 Notice Of Meeting
- Logan County Notice Of Tax Sale
- McPherson County Notice Of Tax Sale
- Logan Co. Roping Club Meeting Notice
- Stapleton School Fulltime Maintenance Position

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