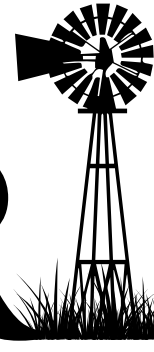


THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

NO. 7

Senator Brewer visits with local constituents



MARCIA HORA - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

John Phillips, left, visits with Senator Tom Brewer about concerns at the town hall meeting held in Stapleton, Thursday, February 11.

Logan County Republican chairperson, Skip Hecox, coordinated a Stapleton stop by Senator Tom Brewer at the Community Center, Thursday, February 11. This is the first of several voter education sessions to be conducted in the county to inform voters of what's going at the state level.

Senator Brewer said there is a different mood in the body of the legislature due to the departure of longtime senator, Ernie Chambers.

He said the nation was on a path to destruction as the amount of money being spent and the gross national product will soon be unbalanced.

Brewer said there is a movement to organize a Convention of States and supporters want to take action to bring power back to the states and to the American people, where the constitution states it belongs, rather than in Washington, D.C.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution gives states the power to call a Convention of States to propose amendments. It requires 34 states to call the convention and 38 states to ratify any proposed amendment.

Brewer went on to say he has received 6,000 emails and 1,000 refer to the convention of states.

"It is a good barometer how people feel in Nebraska and the nation right now," Brewer said.

Brewer serves on the ag, general affairs and government and redistricting committees. The 43rd district lost 1,400 people and the eastern part of the state will gain two state senators while the western portion will lose two.

Brewer touched on the Game & Parks Commis-

sion bills, two of which would move the headquarters out of Lincoln to the western part of the state and one that would up the fees on Colorado people using Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogalala. This money would be used to make improvements at the lake. He also spoke on the brand inspection bills, and the bill he introduced to help small livestock producers and small-town butcher shops.

Brewer said he was very disappointed that Steve Wellman, director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, testified against the proposals. Brewer said he felt Wellman opposed the proposals because it would mean more work for his agency. LB 235 would revive a state meat inspection program like 27 other states, including every state neighboring Nebraska except Colorado. Brewer introduced the bill.

LB 324 would permit consumers to "share" a portion of a live cow or hog from a small producer and could get the animal processed at a custom butcher shop and support small-town businesses.

Brenda Masek, president-elect of the Nebraska Cattlemen supported Brewer's bill.

During the question and answer sessions, the constitutional carry bill introduced by Brewer was brought up, as was LB 51 that would raise the annual training requirements from 20 hours to 40 hours for law enforcement. This would be burdensome and expensive for smaller agencies and bar rural sheriff's offices from hiring new deputies on a conditional basis be-

fore they attend the state training academy. Military retirement pay being free from income tax, Gold star plaques, and burial rites and markers on graves, was also touched on and Brewer said he did not necessarily write off the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Senator Erdman has introduced a bill proposing a consumption tax and eliminating property, sales, income and inheritance taxes.

The tax would be around 10% and would apply only to new items. Brewer said he believes the bill will get to the floor and he believes it is a fair way to tax.

"Right now we have taxation without representation out here," Brewer said.

Senator Brewer's LB 409 bill was heard February 3. It seeks to halt construction on certain rural electric transmission lines and establish a legislative committee to examine the issue.

It would prohibit electric suppliers from starting or continuing construction on any transmission line project that extends 200 or more miles or expending any funds relating to such a project until January 1, 2005.

The bill establishes an Electric Transmission Line Study Committee and would include senators from the Executive Board and the Natural Resources and Government, Military and Veterans Affairs committees.

The committee would study the process of routing transmission lines,

See Brewer Page 12

Village begins foreclosure on properties

Foreclosure proceedings on two village properties is underway and new village board member, Anita Harwager took her oath of office and was sworn in at the regular Village of Stapleton Board of Trustees meeting held February 10 at the Community Center. Harwager joins Dan Beckius, Wayne Hora, Larry Vasquez, and Amber Tatman on the board.

Bob Burns will receive a letter telling him the village will proceed with clean-up of his property on main street and the cost will be assessed to the property.

Scott Salisbury was present and stated he continues to work on cleaning up his property on main street. He is also obtaining titles to vehicles so they can be moved. The board will continue to work with Salisbury and he was given an extension. Scott Gaites will be contacted about the demolition of the old cafe building.

Sheriff Sean Carson was present to address the sheriff's contract between

his department and the Village of Stapleton. The county and village are working together to approve the contract that will begin in the county's fiscal year of July 2021.

Sheriff Carson reported on bills in the legislature that pertain to law enforcement.

Coco's livestock application to have chickens within the village limits was denied until signature are obtained from neighbors.

KoRoy Construction was awarded the bid to enlarge the village clerk's office.

Improvements to Slaughterhouse Road have been completed and payment for the project approved.

The village has started paperwork on the foreclosure on Lots 11 & 12, Block 14 and Lots 5 & 6, Block 17 in the Village of Stapleton.

The special designated license submitted by Lazy RW was approved for a tasting at Creative Printers on March 11, and the board permitted the sale of alcohol at the Stapleton

Public Schools Foundation Gala on March 6 at the Stapleton Community Center.

Stacey Anderson, village clerk, reported the village is in the top six finalists in grant applications for the construction of the recycling building. The village should know in April if they have received a grant.

Twelve dumpsters have been ordered and 10 picnic tables.

The board voted to accept the bid of \$12,689.25 and purchase a Hustler Super Z Hyperdrive mower from Mike's Motorcycle & ATV, North Platte.

Village clerk's school will now be a virtual conference and Clerk Anderson will be taking the training locally.

A new solar lighted flag pole with an eagle has been installed at the Stapleton Community Center and in the Stapleton Park. New American flags are flying and a state flag is also being flown.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m.

WCDHD risk dial goes down

The West Central District Health Department's COVID-19 Community Risk Dial moved from a 3.42 down to a 2.77, which according to a press release from the health department, remains in the elevated risk level. There were changes in the following variables that contributed to movement in the dial:

Decrease in the following:

- Measure ID R4: Average Daily Hospitalization
- Measure ID R5: ICU Availability
- Measure ID R6: Ventilator Availability
- Measure ID R7: Community Spread
- Measure ID R11: Individuals Affected

The parameters for Average Daily Hospitalizations have been updated. Great Plains Health (GPHealth) has made several process changes that allow them to care for a greater number of COVID-19 patients. GPHealth has also utilized medications and treatments that are proving effective at reducing ventilator days and average length of stay for COVID-19 patients. These parameter changes can be noted in the helpful document titled "Understanding the Data in the Risk Dial" on the COVID-19 Risk Dial page.

The Department of Health and Human Serv-

ices (DHHS) has been made aware that the COVID-19 vaccine was listed as one of several causes of death for an individual in the State. The individual, a male in his late 40s with a number of comorbidities and a long-term care facility resident, died between 1 and 2 weeks after receiving his first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The death has been entered into VAERS, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, a national vaccine safety surveillance program run by CDC and the FDA. Anytime a death or any adverse event occurs post vaccination, the case must be reported into VAERS. This process allows the CDC and FDA to closely monitor and assess any adverse events, for ongoing safety evaluations. As is standard protocol for

any death reported in VAERS it will be fully reviewed. The death occurred on Jan. 17 and the man received the vaccine the first week of January.

Across the state, 300,400 doses of both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have been designated by the federal government for Nebraska. As of Sunday morning, February 7, 232,896 shots had been administered. That includes 164,962 first doses, and 67,934 second and final doses. So far, 4.58 percent of the 1.4 million Nebraskans over age 16 have received at least one shot.

The Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services confirmed just 301 new COVID-19 cases on February 7, the fewest one-day total in several months.

Reserve your spot for SPS Foundation gala

Reservations are being taken for the SPS Foundation gala and must be in with payment in full by Friday, February 26 at 2:30 p.m. To purchase tickets, you may contact the Stapleton School office at 308-636-2252.

This year's gala will be held Saturday, March 6, at the Stapleton Community Center and feature a steak and shrimp dinner, live and silent auction items, door prizes, entertainment and just good fun. Happy hour will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance will be limited to 128 people and tickets are \$35.00 each or you may purchase a table of eight for \$300.

-- News Briefs --

Save & Spend Your Green

Local businesses are sponsoring a "Save & Spend Your Green in Stapleton" night, Thursday, March 11. See the ad on page 12 of this issue for complete details on everything that will be going on that afternoon and evening. Some businesses will be open extended hours and Herbie's Speakeasy will host a Wine & Whiskey tasting from 4 - 9.

Chamber To Elect Officers February 25

The Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a regular meeting Thursday, February 25, at noon at the Stapleton Community Center.

Election of officers for 2021 will take place at this meeting.

Please send your \$40.00 dues to Cindy Frey, treasurer. Thank you for your support of Chamber.

Weather

| DATE | HI | LOW | MT |
|------|----|-----|-----|
| 6 | 40 | 11 | .30 |
| 7 | 15 | 1 | .11 |
| 8 | 4 | -19 | .04 |
| 9 | 5 | -19 | 0 |
| 10 | 10 | -8 | 0 |
| 11 | 13 | 1 | T |
| 12 | 6 | -6 | .02 |

Wind chill: -15 degrees at 7:00 a.m. on February 7; -20 degrees at 6:00 a.m. on February 8; -13 degrees at 12:00 a.m. on February 9; -6 degrees at 7:00 p.m. on February 12.
Snow: 4.2" on February 6; 3.2" on February 7; 0.8" on February 8; trace on February 11; and 0.3" on February 12.
Remember to use extreme caution when outside during these weather conditions.

McPherson Co. News



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- Graphic Files
- "Innovations"
- Between The Lines

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- McPherson Co. Commissioners Proceedings
- Logan County Notice Of Tax Sale
- McPherson County Notice Of Tax Sale
- Stapleton School Fulltime Maintenance Position
- Notice Of Organization CJC Ag L.L.C.
- Logan County Seeking Janitorial Bids

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