



School remodeling and addition project underway

Photo & Story By
Marcia Hora

Stapleton Public School board members broke ground on the new remodeling and addition project prior to the regular meeting, Monday, May 17. Demolition work has since started on the former lobby, office area, and music room. Building supplies and material for remodeling is in place and it is expected the remodeled entrance and new office area, commons area, concession stand and restrooms will be completed by August 15.

The music room and locker room addition to the east of the current gymnasium may be delayed and is expected to be completed in the fall due to a steel shortage.

School District R-1 voters passed a \$2,900,000 bond at the November 3, 2020 general election.

The project includes a new, secure entrance into the building, restrooms brought up to ADA code, updated locker rooms, additional space to meet student privacy standards, a dedicated music room with enhanced acoustics, and functional commons area.

Superintendent Howard Gaffney said the 2020-21 school year was a success due to the hard work and dedication of the principal, teachers, and staff.

"We were prepared to go virtual at the beginning of this school year, but we did not have to," Superintendent Gaffney said. "We remained in school and had a full class schedule that culminated with prom and graduation. We did have to quarantine at times, but it worked out and lessons were sent

home when necessary."

Activities went on throughout the school year with a limited number of people allowed in the building and when attending other schools.

"Overall, I would have to say we had a very good year and the last couple of months it was pretty much back to normal. The weather even cooperated for the most part and we did not have to go extra days."

Principal Kris Walker agreed. Teachers, staff and students adapted to COVID-19 guidelines and she said student test scores remain high.

There will be many changes next school year. A new superintendent will take over the helm and there will be new teachers, custodian, and a maintenance person in place.

Superintendent Gaffney will be retiring and he and his wife, Linda, will return to their ranch in the Anselmo area.

"We have definitely enjoyed our time here. It is very hard for us to leave this community and end my career in education," Superintendent Gaffney said. "We will be back from time to time to visit our friends."

Brian Redinger has been hired as the new superintendent and he and his wife will be moving to Stapleton in June. They have four daughters who will be enrolled in the school system.

Louie and Polly Siegel have retired from the maintenance and custodian position. Keifer Burke has been hired to take over maintenance and Paula Goffena is the new custodian.

New teachers and staff hired include:



Stapleton Public School board members and administration broke ground Monday, May 17, for the new remodeling and addition project at the school. Pictured, l-r: Rex Walz, Frank Kramer, Kim Kramer, Steve Schaeffer, Kristy Opela, Rich Burnside, Principal Kris Walker and Superintendent Howard Gaffney.

Dasie Nichols who has been working as a para/substitute and with the ag program will be the new ag teacher. She replaces Bryce Funk who will be moving to Wisconsin with his fiancée. He has accepted a position there.

Joni Morash will be a new elementary teacher. Morash has been a substitute teacher in the school system and lives west of Stapleton.

Emilee Wells of Thedford, has been hired as the new guidance counselor and replaces Margaret Ann Neal who retired.

Carly Kulp, current of-

ice manager, has been hired as the new math teacher to take the place of Bob Harvey who has retired.

Lynnsey Williams will be the new office manager.

Jason Wehnes has accepted a position at Arnold where he lives. Patrick Hynes of Murdock will be moving to Stapleton to fill the history position. Hynes is a member of the Air National Guard and has done a tour of duty in Iraq.

Delite Weinman, who was the fifth grade teacher, and Dakota Meyers, third grade teacher, will not be returning to

SPS.

Lacy Kinderknecht will be moving from fourth grade teacher to third grade.

Jeff Paben, Title I, has moved to North Platte. Janet Victory has been hired as secondary SPED teacher, driver's education and volleyball coach. She and her husband have purchased a home in Stapleton.

In other action at the regular May board meeting action was taken to go on record opposing the serving of plant-based burger and impossible/

beyond beef in the school lunch program and show support to the "Beef in the School" program.

A letter was approved to be sent to the State Board of Education on the stand taken by the school board on the proposed new health standards. The letter will be published in next week's issue.

The board also approved paying Richard's Electric directly as electrical contractor for the building project for time and material as per estimate and change order.

34th annual Stapleton Junior Rodeo set for Saturday, July 10

The 34th annual Stapleton Junior Rodeo has been set for Saturday, July 10, beginning at 9:00 a.m. CDT at the Logan County Fairgrounds.

All entries and fees must be received no later than Saturday, July 3, and may be mailed to Stapleton Junior Rodeo, P.O. Box 274, Stapleton, NE 69163. Entries will close on Saturday, July 3, or when the 175th entry is received.

Age divisions are 0-6, 7-10 and 11-14. Team roping for all ages will count towards all-around.

Each contestant may purchase a Stapleton Jun-

ior Rodeo T-shirt designed by Sublime Boutique and they may be picked up at the office the day of the rodeo. The T-shirts will sell for \$10.00 each.

All-around buckles will be awarded, and reserve through fourth place all-around prizes.

Concessions available. For more information you may contact Jennifer Johnston at 308-645-9432.

Gate fee is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for those 18 and under or \$5.00 per car. Five and under are admitted free.

Logan County Fair & Rodeo events announced

The Logan County Ag Society is making plans for the 2021 edition of the Logan County Fair & Rodeo and has announced the ranch rodeo will be held Friday, August 20. Check-in will be at 5:00 p.m. and a rules meeting at 5:30 p.m. The calcutta will be held at 6:00 p.m. with the rodeo to follow. Events include doctoring/mugging, sorting, trailer loading, and trailer race.

The cost is \$400.00 per team and there will be buckles for the winning team and a breast collar for the top horse. The Stapleton Rodeo will be one-day only with slack at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 21 and the evening performance at 7:00 p.m.

The pork breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning at the Logan County Fair Building. The parade is set for Saturday afternoon. Mut-ton bustin' for kids will begin at 5:00 p.m., a chicken chase at 5:30 p.m., and a wild horse race calcutta at 6:00 p.m. The Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce will again host their annual free barbecue.

The Sunday line-up to date includes cowboy church and feed team races. Be watching for more information as activities are scheduled.

Logan County Roping Club Reorganizes

The Logan County Roping Club has reorganized and new officers have been elected as the 2021 schedule has been announced. June 1 will be a practice night at the Logan County Fairgrounds near Stapleton.

President Mark Lovitt said the roping club will be working together with the Logan County Ag Society to improve the arena and fair events.

Longterm goals include improving the boxes and constructing a return alley.

Other officers are Art Leetch, vice president; Natalie Jones, secretary-treasurer; and Shaylee Jones, assistant.

Practices and club will alternate every other Tuesday night and the

first club event will be June 8.

Breakaway will start at 7:00 p.m. (3-\$10.00) and team roping follows (3-\$20.00). A \$100.00 membership is required to rope.

You must attend six of nine ropings to be eligible for buckles. Buckles will be given in open breakaway, heading and heeling. Year-end all-around wins a pistol. Cowboy etiquette will be required and special prize nights are scheduled throughout the season.

For more information on the roping club you may contact Lovitt at 308-636-8234 or 308-636-2348, and by liking the Logan County Roping Club on Facebook.

-- News Briefs --

MCHS Alumni, May 29

McPherson County High School alumni will gather Saturday evening, May 29, at McPherson County High School in Tryon. The meal is at 6:00 p.m., business meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m., grand march at 8:00 p.m. and dance from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Doug Powers and Top Shelf Country will provide music and the dance is open to the public. Public admission is \$10 per person.

Monty Kemp serves as alumni president; Jim Kemp, vice president; and Nancy Munson, secretary-treasurer. Elnora Neal is co-secretary and Gayle Neal is the newsletter and address chairman.

Get Your Listings In For Chamber Garage Sale Day

Stapleton's annual garage sale day has been set for Saturday, June 12.

Seven garage sales have already been listed and businesses will have specials that day.

If you would like to advertise your sale, please contact Creative Printers at 308-636-2444 or email us at creativeprinters@gpcom.net so we may advertise your sale on the flyer and in newspaper ads. The cost of a listing is \$8.50.

Weather

DATE	HI	LOW	MT
15	70	44	0
16	74	46	.26
17	66	53	.75
18	60	54	.09
19	70	51	.02
20	72	53	0

Fog was recorded on May 15, May 17, May 18 and May 20. Thunder was also observed on May 15.

Hit The Beach Party At Herbie's

Herbie's Speakeasy will be kicking off the summer with a "Hit the Beach" party Thursday, May 27, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Stop in for the free margarita and Kinkaid beer tasting.

McPherson Co. News



- Over The Hills
- Graphic Files
- Between The Lines
- Senior Lunch Menu

Notices

- McPherson Co. School Dist #90 Proceedings
- School Dist. R-1 Regular Board Proceedings
- Village of Stapleton Proceedings
- Logan County Board Of Commissioners Board Proceedings

Memorial Day May 31

Honor • Remember Miller Cemetery Program @ 2:00 P.M.

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