



The weather outside is frightful



MICHAEL J. HOWARD

Beauty in the blizzard. The National Weather Service extended blizzard warnings until noon Friday, December 16, for Sheridan, Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Keya Paha and Brown counties. Shawn Jacobs, warning coordination meteorologist at the North Platte National Weather Service office said it has been an impressive storm and the worst he has seen in at least 14 years.

Many highways were closed and motorists were told to stay off roadways if possible. Valentine reported 11.8 inches of new snow, Oshkosh, 10 inches, five inches near Tryon, and four inches at Ogallala. U.S. Highway 83 from Thedford north to Valentine reopened to traffic Thursday afternoon, Dec. 15.

Motorists are reminded to call Nebraska 511 or consult the website at 511.nebraska.gov before making travel plans.

Extremely cold weather was forecast for the week leading up to Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25. The Logan County Sheriff's office reminds travelers to wear their seat belts, take necessary precautions if you need to be out on the roadways, and to slow down so you can arrive safely at your holiday destination.

The normal topic of weather in daily conversation escalated in December as drivers faced icy road conditions, high winds and blowing snow.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation closed Interstate 80 and U.S. Highway 30 from North Platte west at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 13 as high winds and snow were the cause of deteriorating travel conditions. Every highway in the 11-county Panhandle area shut down.

The rolling closure steers motorists off highways into motels and shelters which helps keep them from driving into the storm.

High winds blew into the area before noon and it is estimated two to three inches of snow fell in and around

Logan County. Snow was preceded by a half-inch of rain Monday.

As travel opened back up seven vehicles were involved in an accident on I-80 at approximately 4:45 p.m. Thursday afternoon, December 15. The accident was in the westbound lane about a mile west of Maxwell.

Two semi-trucks, two vans and three cars were involved and Lincoln County Sheriff deputies, Nebraska State Patrol, and a helicopter responded.

Logan County Deputy Dalen Wood said there were not many accidents reported in the area.

He was called out Tuesday, December 13, at approximately 11:20 p.m. to a one-vehicle accident south of Stapleton at mile marker 107

on Highway 83.

Shane Foley of Merna, was southbound on 83 in a 1995 Regal car, when the vehicle struck two cows standing in the lane of travel in a snowstorm. The animals were humanely euthanized and Foley was able to drive the car into North Platte. The vehicle sustained extensive damage, but there were no injuries to the driver.

Deputy Wood said the icy conditions on Thursday, December 8, caused Highway 92 west of Arnold to be closed to the Highway 83-92 junction east of Country Partners.

Numerous slide-offs were reported as driving conditions rapidly deteriorated by noon.

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SPS Foundation seeks two board members

The Stapleton Public Schools Foundation is seeking two new community members. The resignation of two members has opened their spots on the board. The responsibilities include, but are not limited to, raising funds for the foundation and determining the best use of those funds raised.

The Foundation Gala held annually in early March has become the largest producer of funds and recently the foundation has received donations through the flyer campaign inserted in *The Stapleton Enterprise*.

The Foundation Board approved teacher grants this fall totaling \$2,477. These grants were used to purchase books, classroom seating, teaching aids, and supplies for

teacher appreciation baskets. This dollar amount brings the approved total of grants to over \$37,000 since 2018 when the grant process was initiated. The Foundation also awards scholarships annually and funds donated are a supporter of these scholarships.

Management of all funds is by Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation and the current amount in the Stapleton Schools Foundation account is \$75,522. The 2022 scholarships will be paid to their recipients in January.

The board is making a request for nominations of community minded individuals to be considered for the two open positions. The selection is done by a vote of the cur-

rent board. If you, or someone you know, would like to be a part of this rewarding board, please contact the school or a current member of the board, to discuss the process.

In additional Foundation news, the board has set the date for the annual Gala for March 4, 2023. This event has become a well-attended and very entertaining evening. This year's speaker will be Dr. Justin Welsh, DVM, a 1987 SHS graduate and currently is the Executive Director of U.S. Livestock Technical Services.

Mark your calendar for March 4, 2023, for the Gala and watch for ticket sales to begin in early Feb-

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Licensed Snowplow Drivers in High Demand

The Nebraska Department of Transportation is short about 250 workers who are licensed to drive snowplows. NDOT has moved snowblower trucks and drivers to the Panhandle of the state to deal with blizzard conditions.

State agencies are struggling to fill vacancies. NDOT said they had 259 vacancies in jobs that included plowing snow. The agency began offering \$4,000 bonuses for diesel mechanics who were hired on. Office staff who have commercial drivers licenses will be sent to the Panhandle blizzard along with transferred workers.

Early deadlines

This issue contains our annual greetings of the season. The deadline for the December 29 issue will be noon, Thursday, December 22, and for the January 5 issue it will be noon Thursday, December 29. Creative Printers & Herbie's Speakeasy will be closed Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, December 24-25-26. Merry Christmas to our readers.

Weather

DATE	HI	LOW	MT.
11	47	21	0
12	51	20	T
13	45	32	.06
14	36	19	.41
15	23	27	0
16	23	14	0
17	24	11	T

Snow: 2.6" of snow was recorded on December 14. Other observations: Dense fog all day December 12; 37 mph wind on December 13; 40 mph wind on December 14; 44 mph wind on December 15; and 39 mph wind on December 16. Wind chill: 2 degrees on December 14; -2 at 8:47 a.m. on December 15; 1 degree at 7:00 a.m. December 16; and -1 degree at 4:00 a.m. on December 17.

*Have A Blessed
Christmas*

McPherson Co. News



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- *Between the Lines*
by Dean Thompson

Notices

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- Village of Gandy Board Proceedings
- McPherson County Commissioners Proceedings

Event Calendar

- December 23: Poker, Vet's Club, 7:00 p.m.
- December 24: Christmas Eve
- December 25: Merry Christmas
- December 26: Poker, Vet's Club 7:00 p.m.
- December 27: Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce, noon
- December 30: Poker, Vet's Club, 7:00 p.m.
- December 31: New Year's Eve

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