



Schaeffer honored for 24 years

Steve Schaeffer was thanked for his 24 years of dedicated service as a member of the Stapleton School District R-1 Board of Education. He will receive a windmill with an engraved plaque. His last board meeting was Monday, December 19.

Chance Connell will replace Schaeffer on the board and re-elected at the general election were Frank Kramer and Rich Burnside.

In other action at the regular meeting, the board voted to proceed with legal action regarding recourse concerning the school's HVAC system.

The board conducted an evaluation of the superintendent at a special meeting held December 19 at 8:00 a.m. and members voted to extend the contract for Superintendent Redinger for the 2023-24 school year.

Other topics of discussion and action:

- The community liaison's report by Bryan Regier included the November Chamber of Commerce meeting, the annual Christmas concerts drew a large crowd, upcoming honor band and choir performances and the upcoming spelling bee.

- Mr. Halstead was congratulated on a good book fair which generated approximately \$680.00 for books in the library.

- Possible lease of classroom space for daycare purposes.

- Approved purchase of a used golf cart with box not to exceed \$10,000.00 and to purchase a new floor scrubber.

Superintendent Redinger reported on hallway gates, future of



STAPLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in honor of better access to the Bronco Room at Stapleton Public Schools. Members of the staff as well as the third grade class were on hand for this special moment. Pictured above is Lilly Kleist cutting the ribbon to the new ramp. Also pictured behind her is front row, l-r: Liam Barnhill, Izzy Cosler, Raymond Webster, Joe Salisbury, Principal Gleisberg. Middle row, l-r: Leo Walz (Duke Joedeman behind Leo), Luke Frey, Brandon Frey, and Joei Stewart. Back row, l-r: Maintenance Director, Bo McVay, Superintendent Redinger and third grade teacher, Mrs. Kinderknecht.

the sports cooperative, cottonwood tree removal, installation of a hand washing station in the

kitchen and small drain and water source in freezer room, school policies, Title I Federal pro-

gram reviews and second annual girls wrestling tournament was a success.

Chamber plans annual membership drive meeting

The Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce is planning their annual membership drive meeting and this year it will be held Monday, January 30 at the Hen House Cafe. A pork chop, baked potato, salad, corn and dessert meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Officers will be elected at this meeting.

Junior Chamber members will be coordinating the talent show and Mary Munson has agreed to help with the program.

Please contact the cafe at 308-636-2614 by January 21 with your dinner reservations.

Plan to attend and help out with the various activities and events Chamber sponsors throughout the year. The organization is dedicated to helping promote the Stapleton area and your help is needed and appreciated.

Assistance available to livestock producers

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Nebraska Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director John Berge is reminding the state's producers who suffered livestock losses due to the recent adverse weather, they may be eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

"The Livestock Indemnity Program provides producers with a safety net to help them with the financial impact of livestock losses due to extreme or abnormal weather," said Berge. "December has been marked by blizzards and extreme cold and high winds, which has really had a significant impact on some livestock producers. We encourage them to reach out to their local FSA office."

LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to

an adverse weather event, which can include blizzards and extreme cold, among other weather events, or reduced sale prices for owned livestock due to injury from an eligible loss condition. The payment rate is based on 75 percent of the average fair market value of the livestock.

A livestock producer must file a Notice of Loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is first apparent. For 2022 losses, producers also must file an application for payment by March 1, 2023.

Livestock producers must provide evidence that the death of livestock was due to an eligible adverse weather event or loss condition. In addition, livestock producers should bring supporting evidence, including docu-

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Minimum wage increase goes into effect Jan. 1

Nebraska's minimum wage will increase from \$9.00 to \$10.50 on January 1, 2023 as the first step under Initiative 433 passed by voters in November goes into effect.

Fifty nine percent of Nebraska voters approved Initiative 433 that will gradually raise the state minimum wage to \$15.00 by 2026.

Initiative Measure 433 comes with the following increases to the minimum wage going forward:

- \$10.50 per hour effective January 1, 2023.
- \$12.00 per hour effective January 1, 2024.
- \$13.50 per hour effective January 1, 2025.
- \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2026.

The consumer price index will determine fu-

ture raises.

While some small business owners and workers are applauding the minimum wage hike others are saying there will be dire consequences.

Art Diamond, a professor of economics at the University of Nebraska at Omaha said raising the minimum wage has good intentions, but unforeseen consequences.

"There's going to be some unemployment," Diamond said. "And the people who tend to be laid off are people that might be described as 'marginal.'"

In 2021, the Congressional Budget Office projected that as many as 1.4 million Americans could face unemployment in the first year if the minimum wage were in-

creased to \$15.00 an hour all at one time. A gradual increase, like the one passed in Nebraska, saw that number shrink to 700,000. Diamond said 700,000 only accounts for the first year and it's likely unemployment trends would continue for years after that.

In 2016, when Nebraska's minimum wage was raised to \$9.00, the state's unemployment rate never rose above 3 percent. The gradual increase from \$9.00 an hour to \$15.00 an hour will help relieve stress put on business but won't alleviate it entirely, Diamond said.

State Sen. Terrell McKinney, one of the co-sponsors of the initiative, said the minimum wage increase is something that

can benefit Nebraskans in his North Omaha district and across the state. Other co-sponsors of Initiative 433 were Zeke Rouse and Nancy Williams. Williams is the CEO of No More Empty Pots, a Nebraska-based non-profit that focuses on helping families that are food insecure.

"One in five workers who will benefit is a parent supporting children and trying to make ends meet," Williams said. "The reality is that the cost of groceries, housing, and basics have gone up for years, and the minimum wage hasn't kept up."

"Parents just can't afford to pay rent, travel to work, put food on the table at today's minimum wage," Kate Wolfe, coordinator

for Raise the Wage Nebraska, said.

Wolfe believes more money in the hands of the community means more

money spent in local stores and businesses, which helps strengthen the local economy.



Lone Valley Club Meeting

Lone Valley Club plans to meet January 8, 2023 in the Senior Friendship room of the Stapleton Community Center. Noon soup and lunch followed by a meeting. Members who did not volunteer to bring soup, please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

National Blood Donor Month

National Blood Donor Month has been observed in January since 1970 and recognizes the importance of giving blood and platelets while honoring those who roll up a sleeve to help patients in need. The community is invited to help save lives by donating blood on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Stapleton Village Hall

All who come to give Jan. 1-31 will automatically be entered for a chance to win an exciting trip for two to Super Bowl LVII in Phoenix! Includes travel, hotel, \$500 gift card, pre-game activities and more! Terms apply; visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

To make an appointment or to learn more, call Bea Gaites at 636-2241, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Weather

DATE	HI	LOW	MT.
23	-6	-20	0
24	5	-9	0
25	16	5	0
26	41	2	T
27	29	1	0
28	46	29	0
29	46	34	.07

Observations: Wind chill was -31 degrees on Dec. 23 @ 1:58 a.m. and -9 degrees at 3:05 a.m. on Dec. 26 and -14 degrees at 5:30 a.m. on Dec. 26.

Event Calendar

Mon., Jan. 9: Poker, 7:00 p.m., Vet's Club; American Legion & VFW meeting, 7:00 p.m., Vet's Club

Wed., Dec. 11 - Banner Mother's Club, 7:30 p.m.; Stapleton Rural Fire Dist. Mtg, 8:00 p.m.; Village Of Stapleton Mtg., 7:30 p.m.

McPherson Co. News



- Over The Hills
- Graphic Files
- Pondering Poem
- Bloodmobile, Fri., Jan. 13, McPherson Co. Fair Bldg.

Notices

- Notice Of Organization Dailey Well Company, LLC
- Upper Loup NRD Regular Board Meeting Notice
- Logan County Planning Commission Regular Meeting Notice
- McPherson County School District #90 Meeting Notice
- Stapleton Rural Fire Protection District Meeting Notice
- Village Of Stapleton Meeting Notice
- Logan Co. Commissioners Board Proceedings
- McPherson Co. Commissioners Public Notice

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