

Arson suspected in two fires

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Numerous fires kept the Stapleton & McPherson County Volunteer Fire Departments out on calls the latter part of April. Firemen were called April 10 to the Watts Road Fire for mutual aid to assist North Platte. Firefighters were called at about 1:20 p.m. just east of U.S. Highway 83 about 10 miles south of North Platte. The fire quickly spread with temperatures in the low 80's, low humidity and winds blowing out of the south at about 20 miles per hour. The Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency reported approximately 2,200 acres burned.

Stapleton was called out before noon April 12 to a fire on Niedan Road in Lincoln County and in the Stapleton Rural Fire Protection District. The fire burned 400 acres. Maxwell, Tryon and North Platte assisted.

A fire on Ehlers Road burned about 50 acres and was handled by the Stapleton Fire Department.

Stapleton Fire Chief Frank Kramer said arson is suspected in these two fires and is connected to some suspicious fires around North Platte. Anyone having any information or noticed activity that is out of the ordinary should contact Fire Chief



Photo taken April 13 west of Anselmo on Highway 2 in Custer County. Stapleton Volunteer Firemen were among departments called to numerous fires in the Sandhills area over the past two weeks. Custer County Emergency Management Facebook Page Photo

Kramer. Information is being gathered at this time.

Fires that started Thursday afternoon, April 13, in Custer County burned approximately 40,000 acres and destroyed two homes. Mark Rempe, Custer County Emergency Management director said there were no reports of injuries or fatalities. Livestock fatalities have not been reported and there is no available estimate of the amount of hay that was lost.

A fire began six miles northwest of Anselmo, in the area of Cooksley

Ranch and quickly spread as far north as the Middle Loup River in Blaine County. Dry lightning that evening sparked seven additional fires the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency said. Rempe said the initial fire started on the railroad right of way approximately six miles north of Anselmo and was reported at 3:04 p.m. on Thursday.

High winds whipped the fast moving fire over rough terrain. A storm system also moved across Custer and Blaine counties and caused multiple lightning fires of which

two were in Custer County and one in Blaine County. These became large fires and overloaded fire resources over a large geographical area. Stapleton and McPherson County firemen were among numerous fire departments from across the state assisting.

Mop up operations and watching for flare-ups continued and the Anselmo Fire Department monitored the situation.

The counties have submitted a disaster declaration for the Cooksley Complex Fire.

Region 26 Emergency Management Director

Alma Beland said 23 departments worked the fires in Blaine County. Local contractor Arrow Aviation of Broken Bow provided aerial suppression on the fires.

The Cooksley Fire burned from Custer to Blaine County. The Melbourne Avenue fire burned south of Brewster and the Pleasant Valley Fire burned north of Brewster. Both fires were in Blaine County. Several outbuildings were lost and five homes threatened.

Stapleton and McPherson County also sent

trucks to assist Arnold on the Arnold-Dunning road. The fire in the Arnold Fire District is estimated to have burned approximately 1,800 to 2,000 acres of grass. Strong wind whipped the blaze that kept changing directions.

Stapleton responded Tuesday, April 18 at approximately 11:00 p.m. to the John Warren Ranch north of Stapleton in the Stapleton Fire Protection District. NPPD transmission lines started the fire that burned 150 acres. Assisting were Thedford, Halsey, Tryon, and Arnold.

McPherson County was called to a structure fire at the Pioneer Ranch north of Tryon, Sunday afternoon, April 16.

A tractor was on fire inside a building and was a total loss. McPherson County Fire Chief Ed Black said the building sustained heavy damage.

Governor Jim Pillen announced an extension of the statewide burn ban through midnight, April 20. The extended suspension of the authority of local fire chiefs to waive the open burning ban was in response to dry and windy conditions that pose a greater fire risk. The governor's office said Pillen would consult with fire and emergency officials to continually reassess the ban.

Nebraska Press celebrates 150 years

Nebraska Press Association, one of Nebraska's oldest trade organizations, celebrated its 150th anniversary year with three days of events including a legislative breakfast with state senators, a gala banquet with Governor Jim Pillen, meetings and professional sessions, and the annual Better Newspaper Contest awards program.

The vital role newspapers play in local communities was showcased at the convention held at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel from April 13 through 15.

Governor Jim Pillen issued a proclamation designating June 26-30 as an official week to salute community newspapers throughout Nebraska and spoke Friday evening.

NPA executive director Dennis DeRossett said the special week will highlight and promote newspapers who are working to benefit the communities they serve. He expressed appreciation to those who have come before and looked forward to the next milestone, the 175th convention in 25 years.

It was announced the 2024 National Newspaper Association convention will be held in Omaha in 2024.

Over 2,544 separate entries were entered in Nebraska's Best Published in 2022 contest judged by the West Virginia Press Association.

The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News and Thomas County Herald re-

ceived six awards.

The Thomas County Herald received second place in Division A for the agricultural advertisement "A & B Hay Company Makes Cows Happy," by Marcia Hora and Kendra Cutler.

The Enterprise received first place and second place in Division B in the agricultural advertisement category.

Odds & Ends by Marcia Hora received first place personal column in Division B with "Drives Me Crazy," a column on what happened after cable was replaced with GPC iTV in Stapleton.

The Enterprise also received second place in Division B in community promotion advertisement with "There's No Place Like Local," and third place in Division B with their single retail advertising idea (black & white) with Herbie's Speakeasy Spooktacular Tasting.

NPAS/One Press president, Vickie Hrabanek of the Norfolk Daily News transferred the gavel to Marcia Hora of The Stapleton Enterprise during the Saturday evening banquet. Dee Klein of the North Platte Telegraph will move up to vice president.

Kevin Peterson of the Wayne Herald will remain NPA president for six months due to the resignation of Willis Mahannah.

Founded in 1873, the mission of the NPA is to protect freedom of the press and to promote the overall business interests and professional development of its members.



Sandhills newspaper publishers were among those celebrating NPA's 150th anniversary, l-r: Gerri Peterson, Hooker County Tribune, Mullen; Marcia Hora, The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News, Thomas County Herald; and Amy Johnson, Springview Herald.

Farmer's Market

The Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce is looking into the possibility of having a Farmer's Market in Stapleton this summer.

Rose Bierman of Arnold is offering guidance. There will not be any booth rent and could run from June until late August and tentatively be held every Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Main Street.

The Farmer's Market would offer produce, baked goods, jellies and jams, crafts and more.

A community survey will be put out to determine support and interest and a local contact person is needed to answer questions and help with organization. They would assist Rose Bierman. If you would like to be a part of the Farmer's Market, you may contact Cindy Frey at Frey's General Store in Stapleton.

A Farmer's Market would be an opportunity to bring people to the village to shop other businesses and also help area producers market their products. Be watching for a community survey.

Weather

DATE	HI	LO	MT
16	51	26	T
17	60	26	o
18	78	29	o
19	76	38	o
20	68	39	o
21	55	29	o

Observations: A trace of snow was recorded on April 16. Wind chill of 20° was recorded at 7:00 a.m. on April 16 & 18° at 6:31 a.m. on April 21.

Winds blew 31 mph on April 18 at 4:12 p.m., 35 mph on April 19 at 9:52 p.m. and 41 mph on April 20 at 5:36 p.m.

McPherson Co. News



- Over The Hills
- Graphic Files
- Save The Date For The Annual Firemen's BBQ
- Pressure Canner Testing

Notices

- Notice Of Organization HWY 97, LLC
- Notice Of Organization 2RK, LLC
- McPherson Co School Board Proceedings
- Village of Stapleton Board Proceedings
- Village Of Gandy Board Proceedings
- Village Of Gandy Meeting Notice
- Logan County First Half PP & RE Taxes Due
- School District R-1 Board Proceedings
- Logan Co. Commissioners Board Proceedings
- Village Of Stapleton Resolution & Ordinance

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