

Pop-Up Thrift Shop

The Stapleton Splash Pad committee is sponsoring a Pop-Up Thrift Shop to make money for the proposed splash pad in the Stapleton Park.

Village Clerk Stacey Anderson said donations will be taken Monday, September 18 through Thursday, September 21 at the Stapleton Community Center.

Shoppers will be able to purchase items Friday, September 22 and Saturday, September 23 from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, September 24 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

The Village of Stapleton office hours are now Mondays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed on Fridays.

Thank you in advance for your donations of items to the thrift shop.

Roberts named MPCC Distinguished Alum

Willie Roberts, of North Platte, has been selected to receive the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award from Mid-Plains Community College.

Roberts was nominated by MPCC cabinet members based on his ongoing support of the college and its student-athletes. He will be recognized November 5 during the Nebraska Community College Association's annual meeting in North Platte.

"I'm surprised and honored," Roberts said upon hearing the news. "I wasn't expecting anything like this. I don't do what I do for the attention - it's just me giving back."

The college holds a special place in Robert's heart. It's what brought him to North Platte in the first place.

Originally from Quitman, Mississippi, Roberts transferred to North Platte for the 1996-97 season to play basketball for the MPCC Knights under Coach Kevin O'Connor. Unfortunately, he sustained an injury and had to redshirt.

"I was an older kid coming to Nebraska," Roberts said. "I was 21, and North Platte was a completely different landscape from what I was used to. I grew up around a lot of gangs and violence, so I had a protective barrier up when I got here. I was lucky to have a great host family in Rick and Laurie Johnson [now Jones], and their kids Erick and Hayley. Laurie broke down my barrier just by being a mom."

Roberts spent a lot of time with the Johnsons. He helped Rick coach Erick's youth league basketball team and also assisted Erick with his homework.

"I shot my first and last duck with Erick," Roberts said. "Whatever the Johnsons did, I did. They were my home away from home."

When his girlfriend Amanda, now his wife, became pregnant with their son Dijon, Willie quit playing basketball and got a job to support his new family.

"Even though I was no longer a student-athlete, my host parents were still there for me," Willie said. "Laurie was the first person to buy Dijon diapers."

When his children were little, life kept Willie busy enough that he didn't have much time for Knights basketball. He didn't go to many games until Dijon was in high school.

That all changed during the 2015-16 season, at which point Dijon became a student manager for the team, and Willie and Amanda were thrust back into the Knight life full-time.

"Suddenly, all these basketball kids were at our house," Willie said. "For a while there, Amanda and I were feeding them twice a day. Eventually, I started asking, 'Where is the host parent program?' I found out it kind of fell by the wayside."

Gary and Connie Jo Essells had coordinated the host family program for the Knights men's and women's basketball teams for nearly two decades - including the time when Willie was in college. After the Essells

See Distinguished Alumni Page 12

Cochran Honored



GERRI PETERSON - HOOKER COUNTY TRIBUNE PHOTO

Clerk Magistrate Brenda Cochran was recognized for 20 years of service by Judge Joel Jay following court at the Hooker County Courthouse in Mullen on Tuesday, September 5.

Cochran is the Clerk Magistrate for the courts in Hooker, McPherson, Logan and Thomas counties. She received a framed certificate signed by Chief Justice Michael Heavican and State Court Administrator Corey Steel that reads, "The Nebraska Supreme Court wishes to recognize Brenda Cochran for skills, knowledge, and contributions to the administration of justice in the State of Nebraska through 20 years of dedicated service. Congratulations and thank you."

\$35,000 Betterment Grant to benefit Splash Pad

Story By
Marcia Hora
The Stapleton Enterprise

Village of Stapleton Clerk Stacey Anderson has received notification that the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation has agreed to provide funding for the proposed Splash Pad in the Stapleton Park. The \$35,000.00 grant is being made possible through the 2023 Betterment Grant with funds coming from the Bob & Susan Childers Fund - Logan County.

The funds to date as of September 7, 2023 do not include the grant funding and stands at \$5,091.65.

Thank you goes out to the Stapleton Education Association, Sandhills Equine - Skip & Morgan Hecox, Larry and Carol Hardesty, Carole Marshall, Country Partners, Toby and Lisa Kinderknecht, Cole and Lacy Kinderknecht, and money placed in donation jars.

To donate to the Splash Pad Project you may make your check out to the Village of Stapleton and write splash pad on the memo line. Drop your check off at the Village Hall in the Stapleton Community Center or mail it to Village of Stapleton, P.O. Box 133, Stapleton, NE 69163.

The Splash Pad Committee is sponsoring a pop up thrift shop in September as a money-making project. Be watching for other fund-raisers in the coming months.

Let's make a

SPLASH

for our kids!

\$158,000

GOAL

\$140,000
\$120,000
\$100,000
\$80,000
\$60,000
\$40,000
\$20,000

Total Raised
as of September 7, 2023

\$5,091.65

Thank you!

Donors to date:

- Stapleton Education Association
- Sandhills Equine - Skip & Morgan Hecox
- Larry & Carol Hardesty
- Carole Marshall
- Country Partners
- Toby & Lisa Kinderknecht
- Cole & Lacy Kinderknecht
- Donation Jars: \$91.65

To donate to the **SPLASH PAD PROJECT**, please make your check out to the Village of Stapleton and write splash pad on the memo line.

Drop your check off at the Village Hall in the Stapleton Community Center or mail it to:

Village of Stapleton, P.O. Box 133
Stapleton, NE 69163

NPPD draining Sutherland Canal

Nebraska Public Power District will be draining the Sutherland Canal in between Lake Ogallala, Sutherland Reservoir, and Lake Maloney to conduct maintenance and inspection activities, in conjunction with the fall renovation work the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission will be conducting at Lake Ogallala.

In order for the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission to conduct their work, water levels in Lake Ogallala will be lowered, and once water levels are low enough, releases of water to the Sutherland Canal will be halted.

While canal waters are lowered, crews will be conducting general maintenance activities along the canal, inspecting the gates at Keystone, inspecting the Sutherland Reservoir Outlet, and draining the forebay above the North Platte Hydro to inspect the penstock that delivers water into the hydro.

Weather

DATE	HI	LO	MT
2	97	62	0
3	101	62	0
4	99	56	0
5	95	54	.06
6	69	43	0
7	78	43	0
8	89	48	0

Thunder was recorded on September 4. Heavy smoke was observed on September 5 and 6.

A wind gust of 27 MPH was recorded on September 4 at 5:30 p.m. and a 28 MPH wind gust was recorded at 8:18 p.m. on September 7

McPherson Co. News



- Over The Hills
- Between The Lines
- Estate Planning For Seniors

Public Notices

- Logan County Commissioners Notice
- School District R-1 Public Notice
- McPherson County Public Hearing Notice
- McPherson County Commissioners Notice
- Stapleton Public School Budget Hearing & Tax Request
- Logan & McPherson Counties Budget Hearing & Tax Request

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