

Foundation Board Awards Grants

Duane McClain,
Stapleton Public Schools
Foundation Board President

The Stapleton Public Schools Foundation Board met on Wednesday, October 4, for their regular fall meeting. The October meeting is generally consumed with discussing staff grant requests for items that are generally considered “wants” for the classroom and in the athletic department. The board approved grant funding to seven staff members for a total of \$16,896.48.

The requests included classroom teaching aids, library books and an ice machine which would mainly be used for the athletic department, but could serve many areas of the school.

A major request was approved for the purchase and installation of four universal half racks for the weight lifting division of the athletic de-

partment. The new Physical Education instructor, Mr. Deines, has seen an increase in the use of the current equipment, which over time has seen wear and tear and in some cases not used for safety reasons. His expertise in the use of the equipment has been very appreciated by the students and new Activities Director, Mr. Johnson.

This grant is the largest single request made to the Foundation since the purchase of the single axle trailer used by the one-act play. The Board works mindfully in managing the funds donated by the public in support of the SPS Foundation. While this request is substantial they felt it would also have the support of the public as a good purchase for the school.

The Board also discussed other major grant opportunities that they could focus on with a campaign drive. Some-

thing that has been brought up for many years, is the establishment of a scholarship program for a SPS graduate going into teaching and then coming back to SPS to join the staff. Former foundation board member, Steve Schaeffer was a major supporter of this effort. How this program looks is yet to be determined and will hopefully come to light.

In other business, the board accepted the resignation of member and treasurer Dick Gewecke. The Board would like to thank Dick for his many years of service on the board. That leaves a vacancy on the board. If you, or if you know of a community member that would like to serve on the board, please let one of the members know.

The obligations are not extreme. We meet four or five times during the school year and work together to hold the Gala

Fundraiser in March. It is rewarding to be part of something so important to the community.

The SPS Foundation is very separate from the actual operations of Stapleton Public Schools. It is a separate non-profit entity that is an avenue for the public to make tax deductible donations for items that the staff may consider as “wants” as opposed to needs the school would be obligated to provide. Items that help make Stapleton Public Schools a great place to learn, grow and compete. Many of our supportive donors are successful SPS Alumni that want to give back to the school. All donations to the foundation are voluntary and much appreciated.

The current board consists of Duane McClain, president; Kadee McVay, vice-president; Lacy Kinderknecht, secretary; Jennifer Frey, treasurer; Brenda Monson, Kristy



STAPLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The new record boards purchased by the SPS Foundation Board were recently installed. Pictured with the new boards are Stapleton students, l-r: Keith Morash, Shelby Layher, Ani Trimble and Tessa Hansen.

Opela and Brian the open board position Redinger. If you would please contact one of like to be considered for these members.

Community publishers reaffirm First Amendment support

Marcia Hora

Community newspaper publishers, editors, and executives across the United States resoundingly reaffirmed their commitment to a free press undisturbed by unannounced police raids.

Meeting in Washington, National Newspaper Association members representing community daily and weekly newspapers in 31 states took their concerns to Capitol Hill in their annual Community Newspaper Summit. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Summits were virtual. The 2023 event was the first in-person gathering since 2019.

NNA Chair John Galer, publisher of The Journal News, Hillsboro, Illinois, discussed his visit to the Marion County Record in Kansas, shortly after local police raided the Record's newsroom and seized computers, phones, and records.

The National Newspaper Association criticized the police action hours

after the raid, but Galer recommended that NNA restate its long-standing commitment to journalists' rights to confidentiality.

By acclamation, publishers adopted a new resolution that updated positions taken in the 1970s when newsroom raids were last visible on the national scene. Many publishers during the conference discussed heightened levels of threat to the free press.

“Although most in our communities highly value our local news and information, there is no question that the national atmosphere has encouraged extremists to come out of the woodwork to threaten our existence,” Galer said. “We were very sad to watch the Marion County Record get crippled by the acts of one local police department, but the saddest part is that we were not surprised. We watch local newspapers close every year because of economic and security threats. It is time for us to speak up with our loud-



COURTESY

NNA Chair John Galer discussed his visit to the Marion County Record in Kansas, shortly after local police raided the Record's newsroom and seized computers, phones, and records. He holds a copy of the newspaper that was published with great difficulty. SEIZED...but not silenced was the headline.

est voices: community newspaper journalism is the glue that holds local democracies together. We must ask our readers, policymakers, and local leaders to support our work.”

The text of the First Amendment resolution states:

Whereas, an invasion of the Marion County Record's newsroom by

local police in August, 2023, directed international attention to the imperiled rights of journalists to gather and disseminate news to the public; and

Whereas, recent reports of similar investigations, raids, censorship orders and seizures of journalists' work product have focused national atten-

tion upon the need for constant vigilance in support of First Amendment rights;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the publishers, editors, reporters, photographers and supporters of thousands of community newspapers across America stand firmly behind

the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of freedom of the press and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that lawmakers, enforcement agencies and stakeholders in American freedoms hold a civic obligation to inform themselves of journalists' First Amendment rights.

100 Things To Do In The Nebraska Sandhills

Alan J. Bartels will be in Stapleton, Saturday, October 21, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. for a book signing at Herbie's Speakeasy located in Creative Printers.

Copies of “100 Things To Do in the Nebraska Sandhills Before You Die” will be available for purchase at the signing. The Logan County Fair was one of Bartels favorite destinations. The stick horse barrel races are included in the book and he also enjoyed a tour of Herbie's Speakeasy, the only newspaper with an off sale liquor store in the nation.

Bartels said his hope is that when people of the Sandhills towns read his book they are proud of their communities, their way of life, their history and themselves.

Please join us in welcoming and meeting this author when he visits our community.

Weather

DATE	HI	LO	MT
6	68	41	0
7	56	26	0
8	72	29	0
9	77	36	0
10	71	36	0
11	76	38	0
12	75	38	0
13	58	39	.65
Winds were measured at 36 MPH at 10:43 a.m. on Oct. 6; 31 MPH at 10:17 p.m. on Oct. 12 and 44 MPH at 5:17 a.m. on Oct. 13. Thunder was observed on Oct. 12 & 13. A killing frost was received on Oct. 7.			
Sept. total moisture was 1.68" with the moisture to date through Sept. at 23.13"			

McPherson Co. News



- Over The Hills
- Senior Menu
- Graphic Files
- Judith Basin MT Arrest

Public Notices

- Village Of Stapleton Legal Notice
- McPherson Co Commissioners Proceedings
- McPherson Co. School Dist. #90 Proceedings

Lone Valley Club

Lone Valley Club will meet Sunday, October 22 at the home of Daryl and Doris Starr north of Mullen. The noon meal will be at 12:00 p.m. MDT

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