

Two-Vehicle Accident Claims Three Lives

A two-vehicle accident near Thedford has claimed the lives of two adults and one minor. Thomas County Sheriff William Joseph Smith said the accident occurred Saturday, March 30 at approximately 12:40 p.m. A Jeep Cherokee occupied by two adults and two minors was traveling east on Highway 2 near mile marker 211 east of Thedford, when it collided head-on with a westbound tractor trailer. Front seat occupants, Justin Sprague, 43, of Thedford and Amy McKillip, 43, of Beatrice, were pronounced deceased at the scene of the accident. One minor passenger was transported by ground with serious life threatening injuries to Great Plains Health in North

Platte and then to UNMC. Braylee Jessmae McKillip later died from injuries sustained in the accident.

The other minor passenger was transported by ground with serious, but non-life threatening injuries to Great Plains Health and then to Children's Hospital and after a successful surgery was released.

The driver of the tractor-trailer was assessed by EMS personnel and released at the scene.

The accident remains under investigation by the Thomas County Sheriff's Office with assistance from the Nebraska State Patrol. Accident response was a multi-agency effort consisting of Thedford Fire & Rescue, Mullen Rescue, the Hooker County Sheriff's

Office, Nebraska State Patrol and the Thomas County Sheriff's Office.

Joint memorial services are pending for Amy L. and Braylee Jessmae McKillip. Memorials are suggested to the family's choice in care of Harmon-Wright Mortuary & Crematory in Beatrice. Condolences may be left online at www.harman-wrightmortuary.com.

Memorial services for Justin Sprague were held Friday, April 5, at the Thomas County Fairgrounds near Thedford. Memorials in his memory may be sent to Security First Bank, P.O. Box 288, Thedford, NE 69166. Govier Brothers Mortuary in charge of arrangements and online condolences may be left at govierbrothers.com.

Even more questions after USPS meeting

MARCIA HORA

There were numerous questions and concerns, but very few answers as about 200 citizens, employees and customers of the United States Postal Service gathered March 28 for a public comment meeting at the Sandhills Convention Center in the Ramada at Wyndham in North Platte.

Kathy Hand, senior division director for the USPS, gave a presentation prior to the comment period. She shared the transition from moving North Platte from a processing and delivery center for the region to a local processing center. Mark Inglett, strategic communications specialist for USPS, was also present and held the microphone as concerns were voiced about the change and impact the move would have on the region.

The USPS said the initial results of the facility review support the business case for keeping the North Platte P&DC open and modernizing the facility as a Local Processing Center (LPC) with simplified processes and standardized layouts. The facility would maintain destination operations once converted to the LPC and include destination letters and flats, packages, bundles; manual letters and flats; express; and Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU).

What that actually means for customers and reliable delivery remains vague.

Hand said the two-day shipping standard for first class mail would remain. That was met by an outcry from those in attendance. During the comment period there were numerous people who said they were not currently receiving two day delivery service on first class mail.



Questions were not specifically answered as whether or not 691 mail in North Platte would be sorted there or sent to Denver and then back to North Platte.

Hand continued to reiterate that the changes would make delivery more efficient and dependable as most mail does not stay in the local area and goes to other regions.

It was also brought out the Denver processing center would process mail from Wyoming, Kansas, South Dakota, New Mexico and Grand Junction, Colorado, in addition to Nebraska. The only full processing center in Nebraska would be in Omaha and the only one in Kansas would be in Kansas City.

USPS said moving the processing from North Platte to Denver would translate into a savings of about \$1 million a year in transportation costs. A banker at the meeting who had analyzed the proposal said no money would be saved and in fact costs would increase and service decline.

Former postal employees expressed their dealings with Denver and the move would not work.

They described Denver as a "black hole" for mail.

Gary Person, president of the North Platte Area Chamber of Commerce said Denver is one of the most inefficient processing centers in the U.S. and he said there has been a lack of transparency in the review process. If it had not been for a brave postal worker who came forward about the proposal nothing about it would have been known.

Numerous requests for factual information about the proposed downgrade of North Platte have gone unanswered.

Some commented the unreliability of the USPS is forcing people to change the way they do business.

One person said, "I do not want to do business online and it is something I will not do."

Others said mail delivery is critical to receive medication. Another said mail was delivered many miles from the destination according to the USPS's tracking and reporting system.

Everyone commenting expressed frustration

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Election Update



Secretary of State Bob Evnen has certified the statewide ballot for the May 14, 2024 primary.

Nebraska Revised Statutes section 32-801 states the Secretary must certify candidates, offices and issues to be placed on the statewide ballot at least 50 days before the primary election.

A notice of election for the primary election to be held May 14 was published in the March 28 issue of the *Thomas County Herald*. This lists the candidates to be voted on in Logan and McPherson counties, including those who auto advance. Secretary Evnen re-

minds voters to prepare for the new voter ID law. The voting requirement will take effect for the May 14 primary and be in place for every subsequent election in Nebraska.

Nebraska voters will need to present a photo ID before they vote in the primary election. According to research by the Secretary of State's office, more than 97% of Nebraska voters have an acceptable form of ID. Nebraskans who do not have an ID can get a free state ID for voting purposes from the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Acceptable forms of ID include:

- Nebraska driver's license
 - Nebraska state ID
 - Passport
 - Military ID
 - Tribal ID
 - Hospital, assisted-living facility or nursing home record
 - Nebraska political subdivision ID (state, county, city, school, etc.)
 - Nebraska college or university ID (public or private)
- Contact your local county clerk if you need voting assistance and remember to bring your ID to the polls on election day.

Final Senior Blood Drive



COURTESY PHOTO

First time donor Zeb Wilde giving the thumbs up at the final senior blood drive.

The final senior blood drive for the 2023-2024 school year was held Wednesday, March 27 in the Old Gym at Thedford High School.

The blood drives will start up again in the fall

with the new term of school. Watch the *Herald* for more information on times and dates of the Red Cross Bloodmobiles. Plan now to give the gift of life!



COURTESY PHOTO

Carson Cooksley was another new donor this time at the blood drive.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mrs. Holthus was also a new donor at the THS blood drive.

Miriam Ganoung Performs at 2024 Spring Chamber Recital

On Sunday, March 24, Concordia's music department hosted its spring chamber recital. Chamber recitals, given once each semester, allow students to facilitate,

practice, and perform pieces of their choice in small, or "chamber," ensembles. Students' ability to choose their own pieces opens the recitals to a variety of musical

genres, instrumentations and arrangements.

Six ensembles performed at this spring's event, which included both vocal and instrumental performances in

the recital hall of the newly renovated Borland Center for Music and Theatre.

Miriam Ganoung a sophomore from Halsey, performed in this recital.