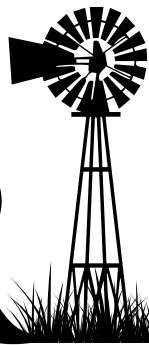


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THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

NO. 25

Working on a career

MARCIA HORA

You never know what's going to happen when you give a kid a leather working kit. The gift started Noah Anderson, 15, on a journey that has taken him to new heights with hopes of making a career in saddle making.

"My sister gave me the kit and I made a wallet. She jokingly asked me when I was going to make a saddle and that's what got it all started," Noah said. "I connected with Terry Bath of the North Platte Saddlery and he showed me how to improve my tooling and construction."

Noah used his own money to purchase a sewing machine and began selling items to friends and family. He started saving his money and more and more equipment was added.

"My bedroom got smaller and smaller and finally my parents said I could use the bunk house for a work shop," Noah said. "Now I have stamping, cutting and punching tools and after the North Platte Saddlery went out of business I was able to get some of Terry's equipment and be even more self suffi-



COURTESY

Noah Anderson working on a leather project as his dad, Eric, looks on.

cient."

Noah's latest purchase was a 300 pound piece of granite to tool on. Getting it into the bunkhouse was quite a feat and he was also able to buy a Cobra leather sewing machine.

"I started with a lot of trial and error and doing what I need to so that I can be better and continue to improve," Noah added. "My dad told me - you mess up once all right, the second time it's stupidity. He is always challenging me and pushing me to do better and he knows how a saddle should fit a horse. My dad is always picking my work apart and showing me ways to make it better.

I've watched my mom braid leather and make headstalls, but I never got into that."

Making saddles is what intrigued Noah the most. He has sold five of them, made numerous belts, wallets, key chains and coasters and people are taking notice. His first saddle won "Best of Show" honors at the Nebraska State Fair and he will be taking five saddles to Wichita Falls, Texas in October where top saddle makers in the world will judge them. There are various categories and prize money and vouch-

Noah Anderson
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Miss Nebraska Sparkler

NATALIE DEARDOFF

Young Stapleton resident, Jalissa Deardoff, participated in the Miss Nebraska Sparklers event June 8 and 9, 2024.

The Miss Nebraska Little Sisters program has been around for over three decades, and is now being called the "Sparklers" program. Older pageant contestants are partnered up with a little girl under the age of twelve to participate in a dance during the performance. The Sparklers are dressed in party dresses, with mini versions of the Miss America crowns for them to wear.

Madison Meek, Miss Alliance Teen, mentored Jalissa through the event, and was her dance partner in a routine. The Miss Nebraska and Miss Nebraska Teen performed a number onstage together with their little Sparklers, introducing them to the world of pageants.

Sparklers gain a lot of experience, and confidence by watching their older girls compete for the Nebraska crown. "I would like to think she learned about determination and hard work from me," Meek said, "She can do anything she puts her mind to in life."

The girls spend all week



COURTESY

Miss Nebraska Sparkler, Jalissa Deardoff with Madison Meek, Miss Alliance Teen.

together, practicing their dance, and getting to know each other during the meetings. "My favorite part was practicing and getting to eat lunch with my Sister," Jalissa said, "She is very pretty."

The experience is beneficial from both perspectives of the Sparklers

program. The little girls learn by watching their mentors. The older contestants enjoy their Sparklers. "I got to be a part of her experience. It just makes my heart melt watching the little ones get more comfortable on stage, and confident around everyone," Meek said.

Dog Shot Clinic



COURTESY

Bierman Vet Services was in Stapleton Tuesday, June 11, for the annual small animal shot clinic. Eric Anderson was one of those taking advantage of the clinic and vaccinated Ocho and Kip. Dr. Merle Bierman said 40 dogs and four cats received shots. Village of Stapleton Clerk, Stacey Anderson was on hand to license dogs and 26 licenses were issued. A license for all dogs is required within the Village limits and you must have proof of vaccination before a license tag will be given. Current fees as of June 1 are \$10.00 each (male dogs); \$15.00 each (female dogs); and \$10.00 each (spayed female dogs). Delinquent fees after July 1 are \$20.00 each (male dogs); \$30.00 each (female dogs); and \$20.00 each (spayed female dogs).

Let's make a

SPLASH

for our kids!

Total Raised
as of June 13, 2024
\$98,209.65

Thank you!

New donors include:

- June 3 - Baseball Concession Stand - \$1,001.01
- June 8 Garage Sale - \$1,008.73
- Monica Kramer - \$100.00
- John & Susan Stickney - \$300.00
- Ron & Shelley Ellis - \$100.00
- Mike & Brenda Monson - \$100.00
- Community First Bank (brick at Foundation Banquet action) - \$100.00
- Jim & Kristy Opela - \$2,000.00
- May Jar Donations - \$71.56

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

GOAL

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

Let's Have Fun At Water Wednesday

The Stapleton Splash Pad committee is reporting the fund now stands at \$98,209.65. Thanks to those who donated in any way in making the concession stand and garage sale a success. Also to those who recently purchased bricks and made donations.

Water Wednesday will be a fun way to help make money for the fund. It will be held Wednesday, June 26, in the Stapleton Park. There will be a water slide, sprinklers, water squirters, splash pad, bubbles, concession stand and a snow cone truck. Even if you are not up for water fun, you can attend and support the committee by purchasing pulled pork nachos and pulled pork sandwiches.

Committee members are working with the engineer to see if the project can be completed in two phases and will have a video conference later this month to obtain additional information.

Weather

DATE	HI	LO	MT
9	75	54	.05
10	82	56	0
11	82	57	.44
12	81	59	0
13	93	64	0
14	81	57	0
15	79	59	1.16

Observations:
Thunder was recorded on June 10 and June 15 and 1.16" rain.
Data is recorded at 7:00 a.m. for the previous 24 hour period.
Often rainfall increases as it moves eastward.

Stapleton's
Music On Main
Street
Saturday, July 13
Be watching for details

McPherson Co. News



- Over The Hills
- Graphic Files
- Poem - Broken Pieces
- Watermelon - A Summer Favorite

Public Notices

- School District R-1 Meeting Proceedings
- McPherson Co. Commissioners Proceedings
- * McPherson County Schools Secretary Wanted
- Upper Loup NRD Seeking Bids

Tryon
Blood Drive
Fri., August 23
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
McPherson Co.
Fair Building

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