

Storm Chasers Converge On Kimber's

MARCIA HORA

The parking lot of Kimber's near Stapleton was the meeting point for a number of storm chasers who were poised to photograph and video possible severe storms in Logan and Thomas counties on Monday, June 17.

Approximately 50 people, including tour groups, were ready to take off en masse, as this area was a model for storm clouds that were ready to "blow up" and move north into Thomas County.

This reporter is not a "storm chaser" so all of the terminology and thrill of actually getting up close and personal with hail and tornadoes is quite foreign. Usually I am taking cover in my basement, but I decided to forego getting my pickup in the garage and venture out to see what storm chasing is all about.

What I learned is the dewpoint was at 72. This is extremely high for the Sandhills.

According to Nick Smego of Live Storms Media of Colorado, he has been traveling across the country chasing and

documenting all types of storms. His work is featured on main stream media outlets and he was able to get some photos of the amazing structure on a June 8 chase in Nebraska.

"I guess you could say it takes a special type of person to be a storm chaser," Smego said. "I've always been into meteorology and I was always watching the Weather Channel when I was young. Of course I watched Twister. I would have to say you have to have a tough mentality to be able to do what we do."

After totaling four vehicles last year he used two coats of a special truck bed liner to protect his new vehicle from hail.

"So far it's worked really well," he said. "One thing about storm chasers, we don't want to see damage to communities and we have emergency equipment on board to help out whenever we can. It's really strange going in to help residents after a tornado has hit. I always think it smells like an antique shop."

He added he does not do wildfires because they are just too unpredictable.



Storm chasers Max Archer, Curtis Lergher, and Nick Smego pose for a photo op after their interview in the Kimber's parking lot on Monday.

dictable.

Be on the lookout for Nick Smego Stormchaser. He will be the guy driving the heavily coated vehicle with Twister on the license plate.

Curtis Lergher of Chicago & Midwest Storm Chasers and MaxArcherWX of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma were also among those waiting in the parking

lot.

Lergher and Archer said they use computer models, surface observations and mesoscale analysis pages to determine where storms are going to form.

All of this sounded very technical to me and I told them I usually just look at the Weather Channel on my phone and sometimes I can even find the radar if I am in the right spot. Other than that I just look out the window and try and determine whether I should seek shelter or not. This has included watching metal grain buildings blow down main street. One of the scariest times was hiding out in the shower in the bathroom at the Wells Enterprise farm while my farmer husband and Doug Willard watched the corn snap off and the overhead door was about to blow in.

Lergher said he wanted me to text him a picture of the front page of *The Enterprise* so he could show his grandmother that he was doing all right.

"She worries a lot about me being a storm chaser," he said.

He gave me a tip to go to www.spc.noaa.gov to access NOAA/National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center information.

Getting to visit with a polite kid from New York who stopped in to see me at Creative Printers as part of the tour group was also very interesting. He said his parents weren't too happy with him being out in all of these storm situations, but he did have some very good pictures on his phone of the cell at McCook.

This pretty much sums

up my interviews with the "storm chasers" in Logan County. I am happy to report we did not have a tornado or hail at Stapleton and I know that all of the people I interviewed would agree. They don't want to see any devastation in cities, towns, or villages.

This story should probably be in my "Odds & Ends" column, but it seems to be more of a front page story since we rarely see this many chasers congregated here.

I was quickly deflated when I got to work on Tuesday morning to tell my editor and Kelsey Amos about my interviews. They told me if I hadn't talked to Reed Timmer "The Dominator" they weren't interested in anything I had to say about storm chasing. Who knew?

Library To Host Trick Roper Joan Wells

The Logan County Library with support from Humanities Nebraska will be presenting Joan Wells and "The History of Trick Roping & Wild West Shows," Friday, June 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Stapleton Community Center.

Wells will be using the vanishing folk art of trick roping to bring the color and history of the Old West alive. Wells follows the evolution of trick roping through the heyday of Will Rogers and his affiliation with the Texas Jacks Wild West Show and the Ziegfeld Follies in the first decades of the 20th center. Vincente Otopeza introduced trick roping to Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in 1894, and he gave American cowboys a different perspective on trick and fancy roping.

Humanities Nebraska, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the Logan County Library as part of the HN Speakers Bureau, make this presentation possible.

The program is free and open to the public. "The History of Trick Roping & Wild West Shows," is one of approximately 300 programs offered through the Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau.

The more than 165 available speakers include acclaimed scholars, writers, musicians, story-



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tellers, and folklorists on topics ranging from pioneer heritage to ethics and law to international and multicultural issues, making it the largest humanities speakers bureau in the nation. Speakers are available to any non-profit organization in Nebraska.

Each program lasts 30 minutes to an hour, plus a question-and-answer period. The most frequent users of the HN Speakers Bureau are pri-

mary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, libraries, museums and historical societies, agencies for the elderly, rural organizations, churches, arts organizations, and ethnic organizations.

For information detailing the available speakers and guidelines for booking them, access the website at www.humanitiesnebraska.org or contact the Humanities Nebraska at 402-474-2131.

Logan County Fair & Rodeo Schedule Announced

The Logan County Ag Society is announcing the 2024 fair and rodeo schedule. This year a Country Music Jam Session will kick off the events on Sunday, July 28. Viero Wireless will be sponsoring an ice cream social at 2:00 p.m. along with the jam session at the Logan County Fair Building. Contact Ken Jviden at 308-870-5547 for more information.

Contact Peggy Peterson at 308-636-6228 to reserve your bale for the decorating contest. The deadline is July 25.

Advance tickets will be going on sale July 15 for the rodeo to be held Saturday, August 3. Slack will be at 8:30 a.m. that morning and the performance is at 7:30 p.m. Along with the N.S.R.A./M.S.R.A. and open rodeo there will be a wild horse

race and Matt Schaeffer Memorial Pony Race.

Friday, August 2 events include a mini barrel race and mini bucking bulls with stock by Running Iron Mini Rough Stock.

Other Saturday activities include the 14th annual Stapleton Stampede,

pork breakfast, co-ed sand volleyball tournament, Logan County Fair parade, Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce tailgate barbecue, mutton bustin' and chicken scramble.

See the fair and rodeo schedule inside this edition for all the details.

Congratulations

to our local
Nebraska High School
National Finals Qualifiers
and to
Cayson Johnston of Stapleton
for taking home the
2024 Boy's Timed
Event Trailer

See pictures and story
inside this issue on page 9

Gandy Bible Church

VBS to feature Summer Olympic Games

Vacation Bible School will be held July 15-18 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day at Gandy Community Bible Church.

On your mark, get set...go!!! Come experience with us the Summer Olympics, by hearing about the Apostle Paul and his adventures and play some Olympic games, make crafts and more under the theme "Running for the Prize."

All kids 4-12 years of age are invited to attend. Call or text to sign up for this fun VBS by contacting Polly Burnside at 308-636-8300 or Sadie Trimble at 605-673-1327.

See the church page inside this issue for more information.

Weather

DATE	HI	LO	MT
16	89	59	0
17	83	62	.03
18	91	64	0
19	76	52	0
20	67	52	T
21	88	61	.59

Observations:

Thunder was recorded on June 17 with storm chasers arriving in the area. It was 84 degrees at 11:00 p.m. with 41 MPH winds at 10:51 p.m.

Wind was recorded at 43 MPH at 2:25 a.m. on June 18.

Fog and thunder was recorded on June 20 and thunder heard on June 21.

McPherson Co. News



- *Over The Hills*
- *Graphic Files*
- *Poem - Stress Hi-Lites*
- *UNL Feedlot Innovation Center Nears Completion*

Public Notices

- Village Of Gandy Meeting Notice
- Village Of Stapleton Proceedings
- McPherson Co. School District #90 Proceedings
- Village Of Stapleton Special Proceedings
- Logan County Commissioners Proceedings

Stapleton
Junior Rodeo
Saturday, July 6
Logan Co. Fairgrounds

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