



McPherson County News

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Graphic Files

TEN YEARS AGO
OCTOBER 4, 2007
Arika Starr, Deserie Williams, Addison Starr and Alexx Starr entertained with dance at the Sr. Friendship Club in Stapleton, Friday, September 28.

The Suchy team won Thedford's annual Ranch Rodeo. Members were: Melvin Suchy, Ryan Kucera, Matt Schaeffer and Shawn Brott.

A large crowd was on hand September 16 for the annual Oldster's Party. The oldest man present was Al Knott, 94, or Arthur, and the oldest lady was Susie Bond, 96, or Tryon.

Another school year is in session for students at Peaceful Plains. They are Kristina Miller, Arika Starr, Julia Hines, Alexx Starr, Kindra Smith and Desiree Williams. Tina Connell is their teacher.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
OCTOBER 2, 1997
Zachary Alan Winters, 10-month-old son of Todd and Mitzi Cummings Winters, passed away September 23, 1997.

Students who will be involved in the pilot program, Powering-Up through the National 4-H Council are: Gina Fisher, Darla Arensdorf, Jeremy Arensdorf, Jeremy Neal and Luke Connell.
Bob and Phyllis Kins-

man would be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, October 11 with a reception and dance at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Arthur.

THIRTY YEARS AGO
OCTOBER 1, 1987
Mrs. Elnora Neal and her students from the Ringgold School visited *The Stapleton Enterprise* office September 25 to learn how newspapers are made. The students were Tanya and Gina Fisher, Joe and Tim Schmidt and Melissa and Chad Fisher.

The volleyball and football teams won their games over Arthur County Friday at Arthur. The boys won 26 to 14 and the girls won in two sets 15-7 and 17-15. Jacquie Snyder led Tryon with 10 points; Ellen Gosnell and Angie Jameson each had four and Theresa Black had two points.

FORTY YEARS AGO
OCTOBER 6, 1977
Five ladies from the Hall Church went to Mason City on Tuesday for Ladies Retreat. They were Pauline Lutes, Lorna Dobbins, Grace Miller, Wanda Wilkins and Marla Lanka. Mrs. Frank Lanka accompanied them from Broken Bow.

Rusty Brouwer and
(Continued on page 10)

Waits Ranch recipient of State Grassland Award



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured (left to right): Jim Bendfeldt, NARD Board President; Wanda Waits, Mike Waits, Ty Waits, Pauline Waits, Vernon Waits, Steve Waits, Judy Ridenour, NARD Native Vegetation Subcommittee.

The Waits Ranch of Tryon was presented the 2017 State Grassland Conservation Award on Monday, September 25, in Kearney. The Waits family received a plaque recognizing their conservation achievements at an awards luncheon held during the Nebraska Association of Resources District's annual conference at the Younes Conference Center. Several hundred people were in attendance. The Waits Ranch was nominated by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District after receiving the District's Grassland Award in 2016. In 1972 Vernon and Pauline Waits purchased the ranch operation consisting of 1,280 acres from

Vernon's father, Lee Waits. After several years of leasing rangeland for their livestock operation, Vernon and Pauline purchased an additional 7,720 acres in 1990. In 1991, they began operation of their Uncle Francis Waits' place which had been the original Waits and Wisner homestead. Following many years of improvements on the ranch, they now utilize 16,000 acres which complement their 1,000 head cow/calf operation and the raising of 450 yearlings. With sons Steve and Mike Waits and other family members actively involved in the operation, the Waits Ranch is successful as they continue to use conservation practices on their grasslands.

There are several examples of conservation activities which have allowed the Waits Ranch to manage their grasslands well. They have installed multiple miles of cross fencing and developed numerous livestock water locations over approximately 30 years. That has allowed for improved grazing distribution within their pastures while improving grass cover and plant

vigor. More recently, the Waits Ranch removed large cedar trees that were growing on newly acquired grasslands. However, on lands they have managed longer, the Waits Family has set an excellent example by consistently dealing with cedars while they are still small. Vernon notes "it takes a persistent approach because the cedar trees are persistent." Therefore, they carry clipper with them when they check pastures to promptly remove the new trees.

The Waits Ranch has participated in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) in recent years. This has allowed them to receive cost-sharing and technical assistance from the USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). The Waits Ranch has progressively moved toward rotational grazing strategies on all of their rangeland. They run their cattle in different age class herds, which gener-

ally rotate through a set of three to five pastures during the growing season. The number of days of grazing in each pasture varies according to the size of the pasture and number in the herd. This usually results in the grazing period being less than 45 days in a given pasture. That allows ample rest and recovery for the grasses. The Waits Ranch recognizes the importance of allowing rest for their pastures during the growing season to maintain good grass production, health, and vigor. They also have observed that their grazing program has prepared their grasslands to better withstand occurrences of drought, fire, grasshoppers, and hail.

The Waits Ranch has hosted tours to allow the exchange of good conservation information. The family has also participated in other rangeland education programs to expand their knowledge base. It is due to this commitment to the resources under their management that the Waits Ranch is receiving the 2017 State Grassland Conservation Award.

Aunt Bea's Senior Meals Lunch Menu

Thursday, October 5 - Barbecue riblet sandwich, baked beans and French fries.
Friday, October 6 - Tator crusted cod, Au Gratin potatoes and beets
Monday, October 9 - Hamburger patty with gravy, mashed potatoes and carrots
Tuesday, October 10 -

Sloppy joe, baked beans, French fries.
Wednesday, October 11 - Pork chops, baked potato and peas
Thursday, October 12 - Swiss steak, mashed potatoes and green beans
Friday, October 13 - Grilled ham and cheese sandwich with chicken noodle soup.

Over The Hills

By J.R. Trumbull



Quote: "Respect is earned. Honesty is appreciated. Trust is gained. Loyalty is returned." - Unknown

Clarification on the quote - Loyalty should be returned. Sadly, it often isn't returned or is treated with scorn. Honesty isn't always appreciated either, because some people do not want to hear the truth especially if it interferes with their little world.

Take time to read the American's Creed slowly and then read it again. Meditate on the words.

THE AMERICAN'S CREED

"I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon. I seek opportunity to develop whatever talents God gave me - - not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and to build, to fall and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed stale calm of utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence

nor my dignity for a hand-out. I will never cower before any earthly master nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act myself, enjoy the benefits of my creations and face the world boldly and say - 'This, with God's help, I have done.'"

All this is what it means to be an American.

We are not guaranteed

anything. Be grateful for that with which you are blessed. Many in this world have much less and are grateful for every small blessing that comes their way.

"NO" is a complete sentence. It does not require justification or explanation. There are too many people in our nation who have no idea what the word NO means.

Freedom Isn't Free

Do you ever stop to think
When you do just what you want
That you are exercising freedom
And freedom's not for flaunt.

It costs to have that freedom—
No, freedom isn't free!
It may mean some sacrifice
Like taxes or service for you and me.

It may mean military service
Whether here or over there,
It may take some time and effort
Supporting candidates who care.

You may have to speak out
When you see things that aren't right
Because true freedom takes some doing
And it's everybody's fight.

Study the real U.S. Constitution,
Not just what's interpreted by law
And compare it to the Bible,
Our forefathers knew what they saw.

Freedoms not a freebie,
It has to be well earned,
Maintaining it takes teamwork
So teach others what you've learned.

Apathy defeats freedom
Don't bury your head in the sand
You still have rights as an American
So take a "freedom" stand!

J.R. Trumbull
2 October 2009

Foreign Exchange Student adjusting to rural life

One of two foreign exchange students at McPherson County High School this year, is settling into rural life and adjusting to a different culture. Fernando Cardona of Malaga, Spain, is spending the year with Ryan and Christena Schultis, Michaela, Jared and Aubrey.

"I think it's really cool here and a lot different than Spain," Fernando commented. "The teachers and everyone are very helpful. It's also a lot quieter."

Fernando played soccer and basketball in Spain. He is out for football and plans to play on the basketball team here.

His brother was also a foreign exchange student and that prompted Fernando to come to the United States.

"You learn so much, make new friends, and get to experience new things," Fernando added.

Art has always been high on his list of priorities, and he enjoys painting.

Fernando has been able to create graffiti art and



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

Fernando Cardona shares one of the "graffiti" artwork pieces he has created under art instruction from Mr. Gary Johnson. Fernando poses in front of other "cave" artwork completed by K-12 McPherson County School students.

says he appreciates the freedom to express himself.

In addition to painting

he enjoys sporting events and going out with his friends.