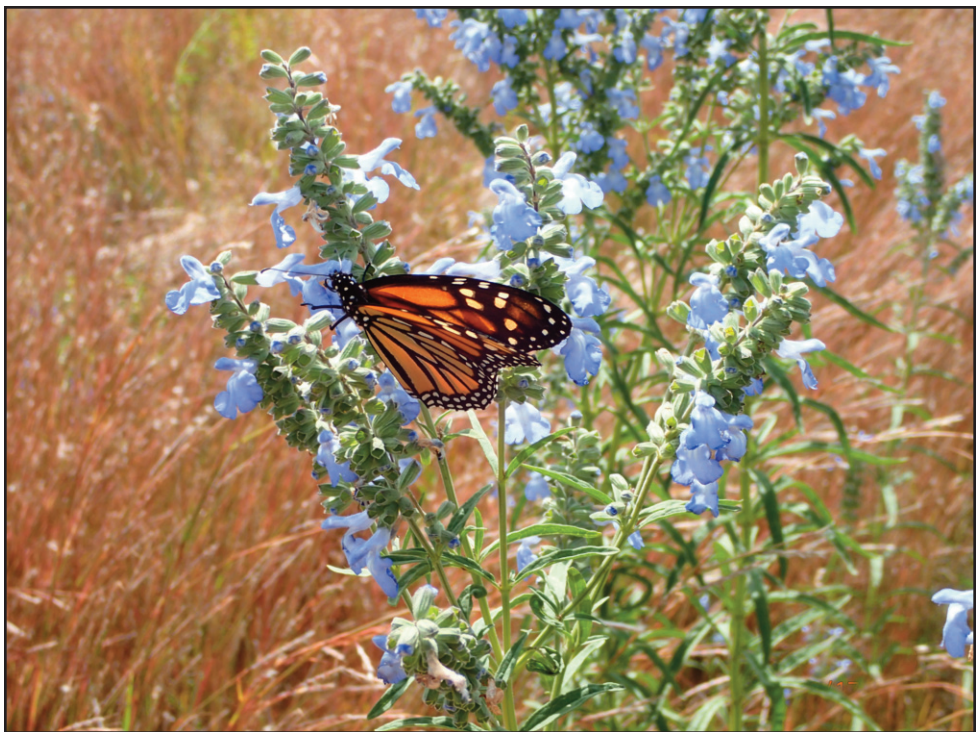


Local woman dedicated to improving habitat



Isaac Young - Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

A monarch butterfly enjoys the wildflowers on the Stickney farm located west of Stapleton. Pollinators and monarchs are in decline due to many factors, including reduced availability of milkweed, insecticide and herbicide use, and loss of habitat.

MARCIA HORA

Most people enjoy seeing monarch butterflies on their migration through the state. Many do not realize that monarchs and other pollinators are at risk of possible extinction due to loss of habitat, insecticide and herbicide use, and reduced availability of milkweed late in summer.

Susan Stickney not only knew that some species, including the monarchs were in danger, she decided to do something about it and took action. Stickney has always been an avid horticulturist and arborist. She owned and operated her own greenhouse business in Ringgold, assisted with tree planting and Arbor Day programs in the area, and has been involved in conservation practices, including the identification and planting of grasses native to the Sandhills region. It was only natural that Stickney would plant wildflowers on two half acre plots on the farm where she resides with her husband, John, west of Stapleton. The goal was to have a variety of species that bloom during

summer months and attract pollinators, including monarch butterflies.

With the help of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stickney saw real results this summer. Her farm was alive with monarch butterflies, drawing many visitors, including a group of ladies from Logan County, to experience the beauty of this unique species.

While some other butterflies do migrate, none of them accomplish the astounding feat of flying thousands of miles to a wintering roost where they spend the winter with millions of their own kind. The ability of the fourth generation to fly from as far as Canada to the high mountains of Mexico and then fly north again to lay eggs in the spring is truly remarkable. Their sense of navigation is a phenomenal ability.

Although Stickney is not sure why there has been such an increase in monarch numbers this summer, most agree that it may have to do with the abundance of rainfall in the area in 2018.

Monarchs are attracted to wildflowers and are

specialists, according to the NRSCS website. Their populations depend entirely on milkweeds. That is the only plant that caterpillars eat. Butterflies have decreased over the past 20 years, in part because of a decline in milkweed - their sole source of food.

Farmers and ranchers are now working to create monarch habitat across the country and USDA is providing technical and financial assistance.

Producers are encouraged to visit their USDA service center in North Platte to learn more about the Conservation Reserve Programs that helps select the best plants and develop a plan for properties to establish habitat for pollinators.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service also offers plant lists by region to help in choosing the best grasses and wildflowers.

There was a lot of excitement, not only from those who were able to see the hundreds of monarchs west of Stapleton, but for Stickney who has been working diligently to re-establish wildflowers and grasses for pollinators.

city benefits.

Local dates include Friday, November 9, at 1:00 p.m. at Gandy Community Bible Church and Monday, November 12, at 5:15 p.m. at the Ringgold Free Methodist Church.

To reserve a spot you may call Pelster at 308-325-3153 or email her at echo.pelster@thrivent.com

Believers & Achievers

U.S. Bank and the Nebraska School Activities Association are proud to announce the 2018-19 Believers and Achievers. Beginning in October and continuing through March, 48 Nebraska high school seniors will be honored as Believers & Achievers. From those 48 finalists, eight will receive \$500 scholarships from U.S. Bank to the college or university of their choice at a scholarship banquet to be held on April 28, 2019.

These students will be recognized at NSAA State Championships throughout the 2018-19 activities year and on posters sent to all NSAA member schools and U.S. Bank branches throughout the state. Individuals must have at least a 3.75 or higher grade point average and be involved in school and community organizations. Nominated students were required to write a 250-300 word essay on a specific topic.

Aubrey Schultis, a senior at McPherson County High School was named as a "Believer & Achiever" finalist. Aubrey is the daughter of Ryan and Christena Schultis of Tryon.

Other area finalists included Leighton Bubak, Arnold; Kyla Wykert, Arthur County; and Kalen Dockweiler, Callaway.



Courtesy Photo

Aubrey Schultis is one of the 48 Believers and Achievers finalists. Eight from this list will receive \$500 scholarships.

Tammie Gaites, a senior at Stapleton High School, was also a nominee and she will be recognized for her achievements. Tammie is the daughter of Scott and Bea Gaites of Stapleton.

Tooth Tour Could Come To A School Near You

The West Central District Health Department Tooth Tour mobile unit is taking dental care on the road to a school near you.

Tooth Tour staff providers administering this program are dedicated to improving your child's dental health by offering outreach dental services.

Shelly Sale, Registered Dental Hygienist with a public health authorization with the state of Nebraska, along with Brandi Lemon, Outreach Director, are bringing equitable and accessible dental care to the adults and children in rural communities. Services include cleaning, fluoride treatments, sliver diamine fluoride and sealants.

Nobody is too young or too old. It is recommended to start taking your child to the dentist at age 1. The mobile clinics take adult and child Medicaid, file with the client's insurance or take self-pay. Services are charged at a very competitive flat rate fee and you may call WCDHD to get the fees prior to a visit.

The Silver Diamine Fluoride is an antibiotic liquid. It is used on lesions to help stop cavities and to treat tooth sensitivity. ADF application is every 3 to 12 months as necessary. Treatment with SDF does not eliminate the need for dental fillings or crowns to repair function or esthetics, but as an alternative until the person can see a dentist.

X-Ray services are pro-



Courtesy Photo

A McPherson County student is getting her teeth checked at the recent West Central District Health Department Tooth Tour mobile unit set up at the former Munson's Market building in Tryon. A Registered Dental Hygienist gives the youngster a once over to help with her oral health.

vided in the North Platte office and the Hygienist collaborates with a local dentist to read those x-rays. They are unable to do x-rays in the field at this time.

The Dental Clinic is also still available at the WCDHD in North Platte, but the need for dental care in rural areas has brought back the need for the Tooth Tour. If you have any questions or if

area schools would like to schedule a Tooth Tour, they may call Brandi Lemon at 308-221-6839.

Schools are encouraged to help the WCDHD Tooth Tour Staff bring preventative care to help protect youngsters' teeth and prevent periodontal diseases.

Counties serviced by WCDHD are: Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Arthur, Hooker and Thomas.

Free workshops to help retirees

Echo Pelster and Charles Cappel of Thrivent Financial will be conducting free workshops to provide tips to maximize retirement income and create an estate strategy. Mark your calendars now for workshops that will be coming to this area in November.

Free sessions will include the ideal time to apply for Social Security and ways to minimize taxes on Social Security

benefits.

Local dates include Friday, November 9, at 1:00 p.m. at Gandy Community Bible Church and Monday, November 12, at 5:15 p.m. at the Ringgold Free Methodist Church.

To reserve a spot you may call Pelster at 308-325-3153 or email her at echo.pelster@thrivent.com

-- News Briefs --

Free Farm/Ranch Clinic in October

Farmers and ranchers are invited to attend a free clinic. The clinics are one-on-one, not group sessions, and are confidential. The Farm Finance clinic gives you a chance to meet with an experienced Ag law attorney and Ag financial counselor.

The clinic will be held Thursday, October 11, in North Platte.

To sign up, or for more information, call Michelle at the Nebraska Farm Hotline at 1-800-464-0258.

DeJoWa's Diner to open Sundays

DeJoWa's Diner in Stapleton will now be open on Sundays beginning Sunday, October 14. Sunday hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and features a Sunday noon buffet.

Evening hours will also be extended at the diner beginning October 16. DeJoWa's will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays until 8:00 p.m. and a new evening meal will be featured.

McPherson Co. News



- Graphic Files
- Over The Hills
- Homecoming Highlights
- Upcoming MCS Activities

Notices

- Estate of Joleen M. Arensdorf Legal Notice
- Logan Co. Library Meeting Notice
- McPherson Co. Board Of Commissioners Notice Of Meeting
- School Dist. R-1 Special Meeting Proceedings
- McPherson Co. School District #90 Public Notice
- Village Of Stapleton Notice Of Meeting
- Stapleton Rural Fire Protection District Notice Of Meeting
- Early Voting Ballot Applications

Weather



DATE	HI	LOW	MT
18	94	59	.34
19	84	60	0
20	79	60	.08
21	72	45	.05
22	66	43	0
23	80	43	0
24	85	47	0

Observations: Thunder on September 18 with 38 MPH winds. Fog was recorded on September 19.

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