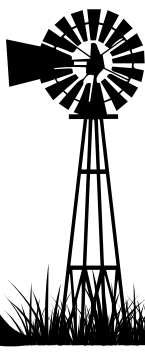


THE STAPLETON

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LOGAN COUNTY, STAPLETON, NEBRASKA 69163

(USPS 518780)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017

NO. 44



"Wind River"
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For Show Dates & Times

Senior Lunch
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McPherson Co.
News



Over The Hills
Graphic Files
Blood Mobile Nov. 10
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Weather



DATE	HI	LOW	
MT			
17	78	34	0
18	78	37	0
19	71	37	0
20	79	36	0
21	75	51	0
22	59	27	.02
23	69	28	0
Wind was recorded at 31 MPH, Oct. 18; 30 MPH, Oct. 20; 31 MPH, Oct. 21; 30 MPH, Oct. 22.			



Logan Co.
Sheriff's
Report
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Notices

- Notice Of Trustee's Sale
- McPherson County Commissioners' Public Notice
- Village Of Stapleton Public Notice
- Village of Gandy Public Notice
- McPherson County Board Of Education Public Notice

- Inside This Issue
- Letter To The Editor
 - Come Double Club News
 - New Superintendent At McPherson County Schools
 - MNAC Choir Clinic
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Concern mounts over controversial wind turbines, R-Line project

Story By:
Marcia Hora, Publisher

Criticism and concern over the controversial Nebraska Public Power District's transmission line that will cut through the heart of the Nebraska Sandhills continues to mount. Over 100 people, including two Nebraska state senators and one state senator's aid, were on hand for a session with U.S. Fish & Wildlife representatives at the Thomas County Fair Building, Wednesday evening, October 25. NPPD plans to construct a 345,000-volt transmission line from NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Station near Sutherland to a new substation to be sited adjacent to NPPD's existing substation east of Thedford. The line will go up U.S. Highway 83 to Thedford and then proceed east and connect to a second substation to be sited in Holt County. NPPD held three rounds of public open house meetings, as well as additional meetings for interested parties. Eight public hearings were held in November 2014, at which time people sought out information and expressed concern over the route. Public testimony against the project route has continued. NPPD contends the 225-mile long line will alleviate congestion, increase reliability, and allow for wind power development. It will cross seven different rivers and numerous wetland areas.

The cost for the R-Project line is estimated at \$365 million. Financing those costs will come through the sale of bonds in the market place. NPPD is a member of the Southwest Power Pool and cost construction of high-voltage transmission lines are shared between the two, as do other members of the SPP. NPPD's share will be roughly five to six percent of the costs

of the project. The remaining amount will be paid by other members of the SPP organization.

The Thedford meeting was the third attempt by area residents to have a question and answer session with U.S. Fish & Wildlife. The first meeting was cancelled and the second was postponed from October 11.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologists Eliza Hines, field supervisor, and Bob Harms, stated they were present to answer questions about the R-Project and the ramifications that will occur to wildlife and the fragile ecosystem.

"We want to hear what you have to say and we want your comments," Harms said. "Every comment will be considered."

Fish & Wildlife has completed and published a 1,500 page document known as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the issuance of the permit for public review. It is said to be one of the largest ever done on a project in the state.

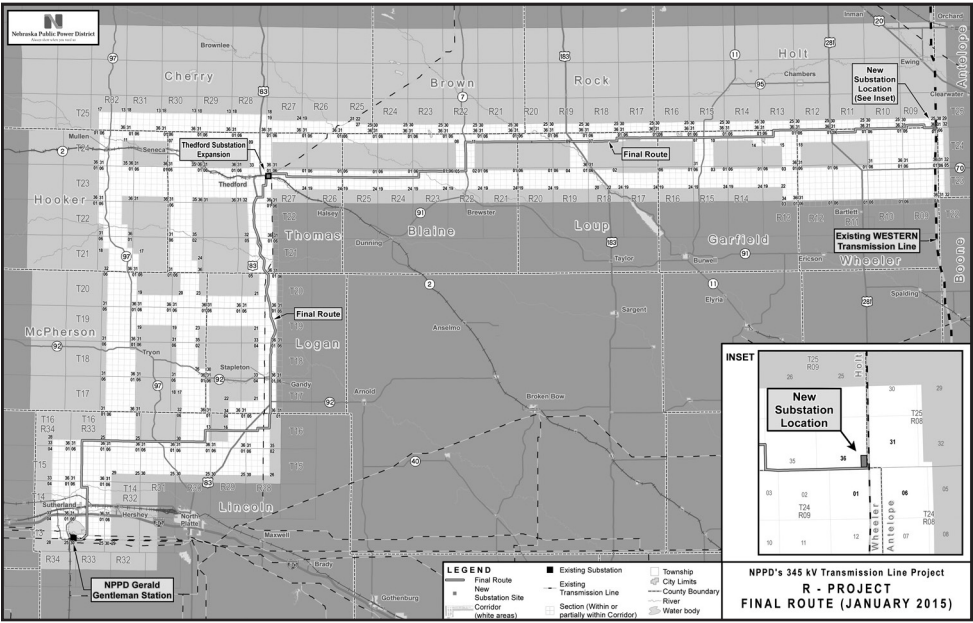
State Senators, Tom Brewer, District 43 and Steve Erdman, District 47, were also on hand for the question and answer session. Senator Rob Clements, District 2, was represented by his administrative aid, Mark Freeouf.

"Senator Clements sent me to gather information at this meeting," Freeouf said. "He wants to learn more about this project and wind energy."

U.S. Fish & Wildlife will decide whether to give NPPD a permit because construction of the R-Project will kill or harm the American Burying Beetle, an endangered species, and other wildlife.

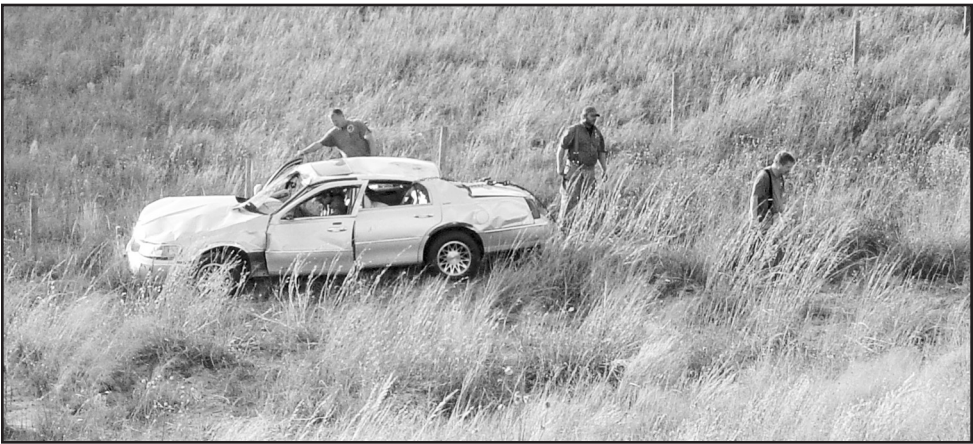
The Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits "take" of a listed species, meaning that under the act, the Service can issue permits for the "incidental take" of

(Continued on page 14)



The R-Project line map taken from the NPPD Website cuts right through the heart of the Sandhills and into protected and endangered species habitat and migration paths.

Accidents in two counties involve same vehicle, drivers
Criminal charges filed in Thomas County Court



THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT PHOTO

Thomas County Volunteer Fire & Rescue personnel assist a motorist and passenger following a one vehicle roll-over accident south of Thedford on Highway 83 Friday, October 20.

Logan County Sheriff, Sean Carson and Thomas County Sheriff, G.J. Eng were both called to accidents Friday, October 20, involving the same individuals and vehicle, only a few miles apart in their respective counties.

Sheriff Carson reports a call coming in at approxi-

mately 2:30 p.m. Sheriff Carson and Stapleton Fire and Rescue were dispatched to mile marker 117, approximately five miles north of Stapleton on U.S. Highway 83.

Donna Marie Koertge of Utah was northbound when she stated she fell asleep at the wheel. The car went into the west ditch causing the driver to wake up. She then over-corrected the vehicle, which spun 180 degrees and went into the east ditch. No injuries were reported and she and her passenger, James Allen Koertge, Jr. refused ambulance service. The rear passenger tire was repaired and the couple continued northbound.

Thomas County Sheriff G.J. Eng stated he and Thedford Fire and Rescue were called out at approxi-

mately 4:48 p.m. to a single vehicle roll-over at mile marker 141 on U.S. Highway 83 in Thomas County.

Two victims were trapped inside a silver Lincoln town car. Stapleton Fire & Rescue responded with mutual aid. Thedford rescue transported the two victims to Great Plains Health in North Platte. The driver, Donna Marie Koertge was later flown to Denver.

Sheriff G.J. Eng applied for, and was granted a search warrant for two containers located in the vehicle. Marijuana less than one ounce, drug paraphernalia, and 2,607 pharmaceutical pills were located in these two containers.

Criminal charges have been filed in Thomas County Court.

Traffic stop leads to arrest

A traffic stop led to the arrest of two people in Logan County, Friday, October 13. Logan County Deputy, Dalen Wood reports Samuel Avant, 18, of Hampton, Arkansas, and Tyler Wayne Lawson, 19, were stopped for speeding at mile marker 245 on Highway 92 in eastern Logan County, west of Arnold.

Avant was issued a speeding citation. Deputy Wood smelled marijuana and searched the vehicle for narcotics, finding three and a half ounces of marijuana. Lawson was also in possession of a concealed weapon on his person and another concealed weapon was found in the vehicle.

Logan County Sheriff, Sean Carson, assisted at

the scene and the two were taken into custody and transported to the Lincoln County jail. They were charged with possession of marijuana over one ounce and possession of a concealed weapon.

It was later discovered the firearm on Lawson had been stolen in Denver, Colorado. Lawson was then charged with possession of a stolen weapon and a concealed weapon, along with possession of marijuana over one ounce. A bond of \$25,000 was set and he remains in the Lincoln County jail pending his court date in Logan County. Arraignment will be November 7.

A search warrant was obtained on the im-

(Continued on page 12)

New student employee

Mackenzie Wood is a new employee at Creative Printers. She is a 17-year old senior at Stapleton High School. Mackenzie moved here from Broken Bow and she lives with her parents, Dalen and Tiffany Wood, and her 10-year old brother, Lee.

Both of Mackenzie's parents work in law enforcement; Dalen is the Deputy Sheriff in Logan County and Tiffany works as a police officer in North Platte. Lee is a fourth grader in Mrs. Kinderknecht's class at Stapleton Public Schools.

Mackenzie enjoys playing guitar, reading, and cars. She has played guitar for four years and has learned bass guitar within the last year. Mackenzie's favorite book genres are horror and fantasy. Her favorite car is a 1970 Dodge Challenger.

Mackenzie participates in several school activities. She's a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), stage crew in One Acts, a soprano in the Stapleton High School Choir, takes an art class through the high school, and she takes part in journalism at the school. She designs and hangs the "On the Go" readers in the bathrooms at Stapleton Schools. Later in the year she will be helping put together the 2017-18 high school year book. Mackenzie really enjoys journalism and writing, even as a hobby.

"When I was in middle school, I spent so much more time writing stories in my notebooks than paying attention in class that my parents eventually had to take every notebook that wasn't for a school subject away from me."

She accepted the job offer at Cre-



ative Printers because she saw this as an opportunity to expand her knowledge of how a newspaper works and to experience real-life, fast paced journalism. Mackenzie will be covering and taking pictures of the Stapleton Schools activities.

"We are pleased to continue an ongoing tradition that Art and Audrey French started many years ago," Marcia Hora said. "The Frenches always offered on-the-job training and after school jobs for high school students. Many have gone on to do great things, as well as remain close friends over the years. We know Mackenzie has a real passion and desire to write stories and we will be allowing her to design pages and ads, as well as show her all of the ins and outs of working at a newspaper and job printing shop. We are very pleased to have her on board."