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LOGAN COUNTY, STAPLETON, NEBRASKA 69163

(USPS 518780)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017

NO. 52

Second house fire in a week



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

The Stapleton Volunteer Fire Department was called out to another house fire in the Village of Stapleton in less than a week. Firemen were called to the home of Austin and Tristan Schell at 111 F Street, Tuesday, December 19.

An afternoon fire at the home of Austin and Tristan Schell caused extensive smoke damage and destroyed a bedroom. The Stapleton Volunteer Fire Department was called to 111 F Street at approximately 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 19.

Agustin Gutierrez, an employee of the Schells, said he and Tristan were going into the house after doing feeding chores when they smelled smoke.

"When we got inside we could see a black cloud of smoke," Gutierrez said.

He and Austin Schell and Deputy Dalen Wood were able to extinguish the fire using a fire extinguisher and a garden hose before the firemen arrived.

Tristan Schell said the fire started in a hamper in her daughter's bedroom, which received the most damage.

Firemen removed smoldering items from the house, checked for extension, and ventilated the house.

Gutierrez was taken to Great Plains Regional Health by the Stapleton

rescue unit where he was treated for smoke inhalation. He was treated and released the same day.

No other injuries were reported.

The Schells have four children, Roper, 10; Dually, 9; Dally, 5; and Cutter, 3. Dally's clothes were lost in the fire, along with some of Cutter's things. Dally wears a size 10 and Cutter, size 4T.

The fire was investigated by the state fire marshal.

Logan County Sheriff Sean Carson said Deputy Wood remained at the scene and offered assistance.

New management



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

William Cassell and Charles Stoeger will take over as new managers of the Vet's Club effective January 1.

Charles Stoeger and William Cassell have taken over management of the Vet's Club, and their official first day will be Tuesday, January 2.

A customer appreciation and grand re-opening has been set for Saturday, January 20, beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be polish dogs, hot dogs, drink specials and music. Everyone is invited to stop in and enjoy the evening.

"Associate memberships will remain at \$40.00 per year and this will entitle card holders to specials throughout the year.

Happy hour will be every day from 5:00-7:00 p.m.," Charles said. "One of the changes will be that you do not have to be a member to come into the club. All will be welcome."

The club will be closed Wednesdays and Sundays for the winter months. Organized pool tournaments are again in the works and poker nights will be every Monday and Friday at 7:30 p.m.

"We will be working for more involvement from the community by hosting special food nights during the month,"

Charles added.

William said he remembered the Vet's Club as a place where the community came together for events.

"Growing up this was the place where friends and family gathered and we would like to see that again," William said.

The two also hope to implement a fun night with card games on Saturday nights.

In addition to pizzas, there will be polish dogs and hot dogs added to the food list every night.

Pasture cruise ends in rollover



McPHERSON COUNTY SHERIFF PHOTO

A pickup that was driven through pastures and fences of at least four ranches west of Stapleton, ended in a rollover near mile marker 217 on Highway 92, west of Stapleton.

The Logan and McPherson County Sheriff offices are investigating an incident that took out fences in pastures of at least four ranches west of Stapleton. The incident apparently took place during the early morning hours of Wednesday, December 20.

A 1991 red Ford Ranger rolled one mile into McPherson County and the suspected driver of the pickup was Joshua Schiltz, 24, of Alliance.

Sheriff Tim McConnell said the vehicle left Highway 92 and rolled into the north ditch. Several feet of barbed wire was

hooked onto the pickup that led McPherson County Deputy Tom Burch and Logan County Sheriff Sean Carson to further investigate.

Fences were gone through at the Kennard Lovitt, Travis Hansen, Jim Opela and Tom Johnson places. The vehicle had gone through fences multiple times.

The vehicle was estimated as a total loss. It is believed alcohol was a factor.

Scott Leach, who is employed by Logan County, picked Schiltz up from the accident scene at approximately 6:30 a.m. and took him to the Charlie Dressel residence in Stapleton. Leach was on his

way to work. Schiltz refused medical treatment.

He has been cited for leaving the scene of a property damage accident.

Sheriff McConnell stated this was the second time the suspect has been involved in an accident in McPherson County.

He was found in the passenger seat of a Jeep SUV on Saturday, December 16, near mile marker 196 on Highway 92, west of Tryon.

Schiltz told McPherson County Deputy Burch there was a female driver and he was left behind in the passenger seat.

Mile marker posts and a speed limit sign had been struck by that vehicle.

SPS students continue to excel academically

Stapleton's board of education received a very favorable report from Principal Kris Walker at the regular board meeting held Monday, December 18, in the school library.

The Nebraska Department of Education significantly raised the bar for the ELA (English Language Arts) NeSA (Nebraska State Assessment) by increasing the base line score. Individual and district scores were lower than years past due to an increase in expectations for all students in Nebraska becoming College and Career Ready.

Stapleton Public School students continue to excel in the three testing categories - English Language Arts,

math, and science.

Stapleton Public Schools has 115 elementary students and 74 high school students.

Combined results for all grades tested (third through 8th grade) were ELA - 62%; math - 87%; and science - 91%. The combined average was 80%.

This compares to the state standards of 51% in ELA; 72% in math; 70% in science; and 65% average.

School strengths cited in the report were:

- Stapleton Public Schools exceeded the state average in all NeSA categories except 8th grade ELA.
- NeSA and ACT scores are highest in

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Aunt Bea's to close



GARRETT NEAL PHOTO

The last day of business at Aunt Bea's Cafe in Tryon will be Saturday, December 30. The cafe will permanently be closed January 1. The business has been for sale for 10 years with no buyer to be found.

A landmark business in Tryon will permanently close January 1, 2018, and the last day of business will be conducted Saturday, December 30.

Peggy Neal said she and her husband, the late Sandy Neal, purchased the business from Don and Mabel Hatch on May 1, 1995. They have operated the cafe ever since. Peggy and her family continued to operate the business after the sudden death of her husband. They provided senior meals for local residents.

"I'm going to miss the people, but it's time to close up," Peggy Neal said. "I'm

not going to retire. I'm just going to do something else. We would like to thank everyone in the community for their support the past 22 years."

Peggy said her children, Jeremy, Corey, and Stacy, who grew up in the cafe, are going to miss the people too.

"They've spent all their time here," she said. "Stacy told me maybe now we can actually go on a vacation."

Senior meals will now be discontinued in the county.

Peggy said they will continue to seek a buyer for the business.

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