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LOGAN COUNTY, STAPLETON, NEBRASKA 69163

(USPS 518780)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017

NO. 33

The Ladies Of Main Street Welcome Eclipse Goers



KENDRA CUTLER PHOTO

These hard-working business women have been preparing for the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse coming your way Monday, August 21. From l-r: Erin Frey and Angie Kramer, The Feed Bunk; Cindy Frey, Frey's General Store, The Bunkhouse, and Mill Iron Campground; Kathy Hoberg, Logan County Clerk's office; Amberlee Martin, Community First Bank; Kim Kramer, Kimber's; Melody Hansen, Sublime Boutique; Velda Cassell, Stapleton Cooperative Market & Deli; Deb Myers, Logan County Clerk; Bea Gaites, Vet's Club; Kayla Kramer, Country Envy; and Marcia Hora, Creative Printers. You'll find smiling faces, great service, souvenirs, and hospitality "second to none." Welcome to Eclipse on the Range - Stapleton, Nebraska - Where the Skies Are Not Cloudy All Day."

Down to the wire!

Gary Johnsen stands on Main Street in Stapleton. There aren't many cars on the street today, but that will change, Monday, August 21, as the 2017 Great American Total Solar Eclipse is on its way.

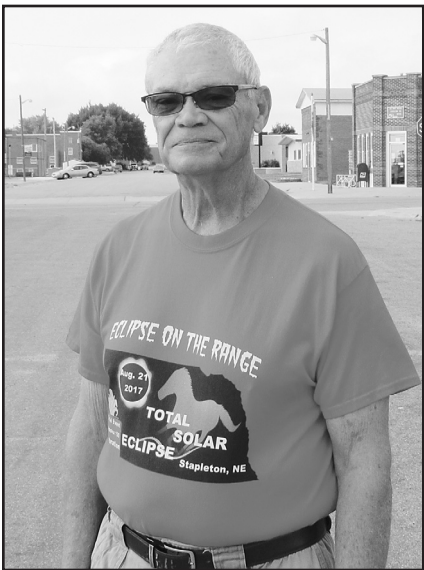
Great American Eclipse.com reports anywhere of up to 15,000 people may be coming to the Nebraska Sandhills, rated 4th in the U.S. as a prime location for viewing. A careful weather observer has taken notes over 20 years and reports that 70% of late August days are favorable for eclipse viewing. North Platte is a good staging area with hotels and good highways for distance traveling. A bonus is that you can enjoy dark summer nights and a glorious view of the Milky Way.

Derryl Barr, formerly of North Platte, and renowned eclipse chaser, first gave note that Stapleton and the Augusta Wind Golf Course, were prime locations for viewing. He met with a handful of skeptical people at the Vet's Club to get the ball rolling and explain what this could mean to the community.

That's when Gary Johnsen first heard the opportunity and started thinking about what Stapleton might do.

Johnsen, a 31-year physical science teacher, was excited with the prospect of such a magnificent event taking place here.

"I was asked if I would be coordinator for our community event at an organizational meeting at the Stapleton Community Center. Before committing to being coordinator, I wanted to check with my wife, Liz. I can't say she had the same excitement I did, but she agreed to be by my side and help coordinate. She accuses me of twisting her arm - so to speak. Her com-



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

Gary Johnsen who taught physical science for 31 years can't wait to see the Great American Total Solar Eclipse. Johnsen says it will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

puter knowledge has been a God send," Johnsen said.

The Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce decided on a design and theme for the eclipse two years ago and purchased banners to hang around town.

Local people helped with fund-raising events, including an eclipse kick-off dinner and auction at the community center, hamburger feed and garage sale on main street, and hot dog and brat meal at Stapleton Public Schools.

Johnsen said approximately 40 people were on board at the start. It has dwindled down to a handful

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Viewing the 'Ring' in Ringgold

When Ringgold, population 7, found itself right in the path of totality for the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse, residents decided to welcome people to the Sandhills. Kent and Kathleen Fisher went to work and set up Center Line Camping and established a website. They really didn't know what to expect. Now they are "sold out" and have 250 coming for the eclipse on Monday, August 21.

People will start arriving Thursday and keep coming until Sunday," Kathleen Fisher said. "We are partnering with Ryan and Chris Schultis and family and have a viewing site on their land."

Although some apps and maps have their location off, Kathleen reports Google Maps has the "Center Line Camping" location correct. They are located on Highway 92, between Tryon and Stapleton. A sign along the highway has been erected.

Center Line Camping's website advises people to bring a smile and the excitement of being in the middle of nowhere. You might also want to bring all the gear you need for your camping and RV excursion, including tents, sunscreen, bug spray,



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

Ringgold, population 7, is gearing up for the Eclipse. Centerline Camping is sold out and 250 people are on their way for the Monday, August 21 Total Solar Eclipse.

water bottles, food, chairs, overhead shade, and other outdoor gear. The Fishers have devised showers and are serving

pre-ordered food. People coming off of Highway 92 will be able to go to the viewing site on (Continued on page 6)

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"Megan Leavey"
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Obituary

- Dennis Little

Weather



DATE	HI	LOW	MT
Aug 1	86	56	0
2	89	54	.01
3	81	52	T
4	74	43	0
5	78	46	T
6	82	59	0
7	81	58	0

Observations: Wind, 34 MPH on Aug. 1; 24 MPH on Aug. 3; 22 on Aug. 4 & 6. Hail was reported in Stapleton on Aug. 1; Thunder was recorded on Aug. 1, 2 & 6; Fog was observed on Aug. 1, 4, 6 & 7.