

THE STAPLETON

ENTERPRISE

SERVING
LOGAN & McPHERSON COUNTIES
FOR OVER 100 YEARS

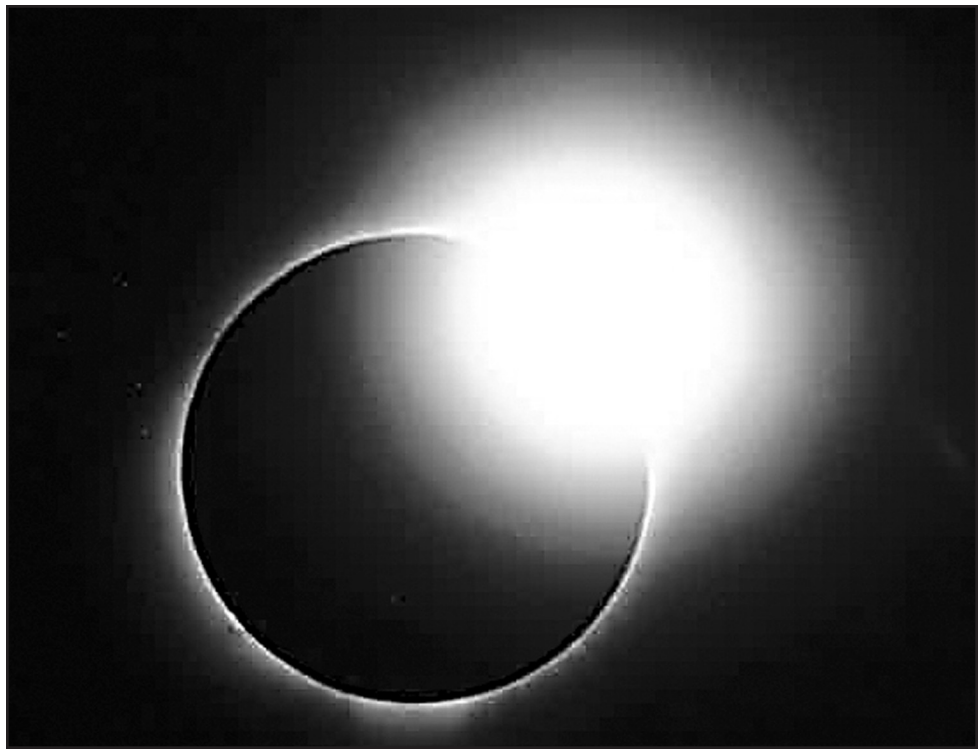
LOGAN COUNTY, STAPLETON, NEBRASKA 69163

(USPS 518780)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2017

NO. 35

Totality Hill



WICK OLIVER PHOTO

Photo uploaded by Wick Oliver of Alpharetta, Georgia, to be included in the Eclipse Megamovie Project. Oliver was set up from the second highest point in Logan County, known as the four corners, on the Kennard and Jo Lovitt ranch, located three and a half miles west of Stapleton.

MARCIA HORA

The Eclipse Megamovie Official Photo Team was among the thousands of people streaming into Logan and McPherson Counties for the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse on August 21. Amateur photographer Wick Oliver of Alpharetta, Georgia, contacted two Logan County ranchers this spring requesting to set up and shoot the solar eclipse from a vantage viewpoint.

Kennard Lovitt invited Wick to bring his team to the Lovitt Ranch located three and a half miles west of Stapleton. Lovitt has the second highest point in the county, known as the four corners. From this point you can see 21 miles east and at least 20 miles west. On a clear day one can see the Gerald Gentleman Power Plant at Sutherland. The Lovitts use the hill to spot fires in surrounding counties, and is their branding site.

Oliver accepted and the team arrived Friday to set up base at the Holiday RV Park in North Platte. They made a trip to the Lovitt ranch on Sunday to investigate the best possible set up point.

"We thought about going to Idaho, but decided on the Sandhills because of the favorable skies in August," Oliver said. "After seeing the line of totality went just south of Stapleton, I began researching locations and decided on Avenue 80. After checking the assessor's tax website I wrote Jason Johnston and Kennard. Cayson Johnston also wrote me a letter saying we could come out here and stay at his house. The Lovitts had already invited me, so it was difficult to have to let Cayson know we wouldn't be coming there."



KENDRA CUTLER PHOTO

Wick Oliver and company viewing the August 21, 2017 Total Solar Eclipse from "Totality Hill."

Google teamed up with researchers from the University of California, Berkeley to carefully stitch all of the collected photos together into one continuous shot of the view from earth - as if one single camera was racing across the planet to keep the eclipse in view.

The Eclipse Megamovie Project is a unique treasure of information on how the corona changes over time. Data gathered via the Eclipse Megamovie Project will be made available public, and will allow scientists to analyze the Sun's corona for many years to come. The experiment will be repeated when another total eclipse crosses the U.S. in 2024. This will show how the Sun changes over a few hours, but also how it's different after a period of seven years.

Of particular interest to the team are the moments when the Sun is almost totally eclipsed and again when it is just coming out of total eclipse, when observers can view something called "the diamond ring effect." More light from the Sun can be seen at this time through a single valley on one side of the Moon. This pro-

duces a flash of light that joins the fainter light from the corona that surrounds the Moon, thus creating something that looks like an enormous diamond ring - similar to what someone might wear on their finger.

Oliver uploaded his pictures while the Lovitt family put out their outstanding spread of food, and Tiff Varney of Arnold, boiled lobster and sweet corn.

Joining Oliver was his wife, Nancy, James Oliver and Alex Koziol, both of Citrus Heights, California, Bob and Clara Johnson, Littleton, Colorado, Susan Gordon, Galt, California, and Robie Johnson, Elizabeth, Colorado.

When Oliver isn't taking photos, he works as a radio frequency engineer designing cell sites for Verizon Wireless. He was able to see a total solar eclipse in Hungary in 1999.

Within a week all of the pictures taken across the United States will be uploaded and the project will be completed. Check out [eclipsemega.movie](#) and be sure to see the diamond ring photo taken from what has now been deemed "Totality Hill in Logan County, NE."

2 counties handle 1,000's



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

Volunteers at the Logan County Fairgrounds welcome the first busload of people as they arrive from North Platte. Before the day was over an estimated 3,000 people gathered to watch the August 21, 2017 eclipse together at this viewing site.

Residents of Logan and McPherson Counties took on the undertaking of a lifetime as they hosted people from around the world for the Great American Eclipse that swept through the United States, including the Sandhills of Nebraska. It is estimated there were 6,000 people converging on Logan County and 2,500 in McPherson County.

Tryon and the Augusta Wind Golf Course, located south of Stapleton, were on the direct line and experienced 2 minutes, 34 seconds of totality. The Nebraska Sandhills was deemed the fourth best viewing site in the nation.

Stapleton, Nebraska's theme "Eclipse on the Range, Where the Skies Are Not Cloudy All Day," proved to be true. Eclipse viewers and residents awoke Monday morning to fog and cloudy conditions. The sun came out and the clouds gave way for those choosing Stapleton to experience a "once-

in-a-lifetime" glorious display.

Augusta Winds Golf Course had an estimated 450 viewers at the manicured course south of Stapleton on U.S. Highway 83. Golf course members put in countless hours preparing the course for the influx of people.

Logan County activities centered around the fair and rodeo that was moved up to precede the viewing.

A huge craft fair extravaganza was located at the north end of main street, people were treated to the annual pork breakfast and Chamber of Commerce barbecue, two performances of the rodeo, a street dance, and an eclipse presentation by Derryl Barr and star gazing with Amy Gazelle.

An after eclipse bash was held on Stapleton's main street. D.L. Bay provided music, souvenirs were on sale, and auctioning of three Stapleton Area Chamber of Com-

merce banners was conducted by Jesse Harwager. Stapleton coordinator, Gary Johnsen said he believes he is now prepared for the next eclipse we will have here.

"I kept a copy of the contact times just in case they might be the same. Seriously, I hope everyone of you enjoyed the eclipse as much as I did," Johnsen said.

Johnsen and his wife, Liz, worked tirelessly for over two years to coordinate the activities and promote Stapleton.

Logan County Sheriff Sean Carson reported there were no significant incidents in the county.

"There was one dog bite at the fairgrounds, but nothing serious," Carson said.

Stapleton Fire Chief, Frank Kramer said they assisted with traffic control and everything went smoothly. Stapleton was assisted by Hayes Center, Brown County and Madison County.

(Continued on page 10)



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

Mike Needs assists eclipse viewers at the Augusta Wind Golf Course in the early morning hours. The path of totality went directly over the tee box on the 4th and 7th holes. Around 450 people viewed at the beautifully manicured course located south of Stapleton on U.S. Highway 83.



JANELLE BLAKE PHOTO

Eclipse viewers in McPherson County. A viewing site was set up on the Kim and Janelle Blake ranch south of Tryon. About 300 campers were set up here and approximately 800 at the other site on the Blake's property.

Senior Lunch Menus

C.J.'s Menu3
Aunt Bea's Menu6



"The Big Sick"
See Page 5
For Show Dates & Times

Notices

- Estate Of Robert L. McPeak
- McPherson County Commissioners' Public Notice
- Logan County Board Of Adjustments Proceedings
- Logan County Commissioners' Public Notice
- Upper Loup NRD Budget Hearing
- McPherson County Budget Hearing

Notices

- Logan County Noxious Weed Notice
 - McPherson County Noxious Weed Notice
 - McPherson County Courthouse Closed
- Early Deadline**
Friday, Sept. 1, Noon
For Labor Day Holiday

Obituaries

- Eddie McClain
- John Bryan "Jack" Kyne

McPherson Co. News



McPherson County
Fair 4-H Results
Blood Drive August 25
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Weather

DATE	HI	LOW	MT
15	84	58	0
16	83	57	1.79
17	72	50	.33
18	85	50	0
19	87	55	0
20	91	57	0
21	85	56	0
22	83	52	0
23	83	52	0
24	82	55	0
25	85	59	0
26	88	57	0
27	81	55	T
28	82	52	0
August 15:	Thunder, small amount of dime hail;		
August 19:	Haze;		
August 21:	Fog - Eclipse;		
August 25:	Thunder;		
August 28:	Fog, thunder;		