



Humboldt craftsman at work on the Auditorium



Brett Hutton welds a bracket while installing the new steel railings at the Auditorium. Photo by Dennis Crispin

Brett, a Humboldt resident, was the successful bidder for the fabrication and installation of the railings which provide a safety and decorative function at the rear lower exit stairs.

The rails were built in Brett's shop and installed at the Auditorium for a trial assembly. The mounting fixtures were welded at the job site for an exact fit.

After the fabrication is finished, the rails will be removed, sent out to be hot dip galvanized, then reinstalled later.

Shrove Tuesday Celebrated at the Titan Diner



Pastor Dorothy Smith (L) and Clare at the Titan Diner Submitted by Clare Bachman

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday at Titan Diner Tuesday with \$1 pancakes!!

Pastor Dorothy invited the entire Humboldt community and paid for everyone's coffee and/or tea, along with buying the first 50 pancakes!!!

With a large crowd, lots of laughs and pancakes, everyone left with a full belly and a smile.

Searches conducted at NSP in wake of double staff assault

(Lincoln, Neb) – Two days of intense searches have been conducted at the Nebraska State Penitentiary (NSP) in the aftermath of an assault by an inmate that sent two staff members to the hospital. One staff member remains hospitalized.

"The thoughts of our teammates are with that staff member and his family. This was a particularly brutal and unprovoked attack," said Scott R. Frakes, director of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS).

"This situation is a serious reminder of the inherent dangers of working in a prison," added Warden Michele Wilhelm. "We train to be vigilant, but it is impossible to anticipate every situation."

The assault occurred the evening of Saturday, February 22, 2020. In addition to the staff member who was hospitalized, a second staff member was also attacked by the inmate. He was treated at the hospital for lacerations to his head and allowed to go home that night.

Early the following morning, 30 members of the NDCS Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) and members of the agency's trained canine team began searching the area where the assaults occurred, as well as other housing spaces at the facility.

This morning, 43 members of the Nebraska State Patrol joined 42 members of CERT, and 11 members of the NDCS Special Operations Response Team (SORT) in searching other parts of the penitentiary. State troopers also brought in canine teams. During both day-long searches, the state penitentiary remained on modified operations*.

"The searches uncovered homemade alcohol, items that will be tested for the presence of drugs and some items which could have been modified into weapons," noted Dir. Frakes.

Dir. Frakes called the involvement by the state patrol a "force multiplier" in terms of covering ground at the facility more effectively and efficiently. "This is the second time we have requested assistance from that agency to conduct wide-scale searches at the penitentiary. In both instances, the state patrol has responded immediately and with significant manpower."

The Nebraska State Patrol is also charged with investigating the staff assaults. Findings will be provided to the county attorney for determination of criminal prosecution.

Table Rock Fire Department Raising Money for New Truck



Table Rock's proud to have its REO Speedwagon Fire Truck – originally said to be Humboldt's! In a parade in 1954, and in recent times. The Historical Society has long kept the truck in its museum, although the past few years the fire fighters have been showing it off at the fire hall.

By Sharla Sitzman
The Table Rock Volunteer Fire Department held its annual "stag" party last Saturday night. They still call it a stag party, but everyone is welcome. The weather was unseasonably warm, a far cry from the ice storm that preceded last year's party, and the crowd was good sized. There was excellent food, including tender brisket and yummy chicken wings.

The party this year was a fundraiser for new equipment. The department has been saving for a new tanker-pumper. Right now they have a tanker with an 1,800 gallon tank and they have a pumper with a 1,000 gallon tank, as well as two grass rigs and a rescue-utility truck. The tanker-pumper would beef up their capabilities. They would replace the tanker with the combination tanker-pumper, upping their total water capacity from 2,800 to 4,000 gallons. The total larger capacity could make a do-or-die difference with a rural structure fire where there are no hydrants for back up. They have been saving money for quite a while, and each year the cost of the truck they want goes up about the amount of money they have saved, so they are hoping this year's fundraising efforts are successful and also considering a partial loan in order to get ahead of inflation.

This is not the first time that the Table Rock Volunteer Fire Department has had a fundraiser. This is the sixth stag party in modern times. But back in the day they were common, too. There was a revived interest in the fire department after the big fire of 1920 wiped out much of the business block on the south side of the Square. Maintenance had been sadly neglected so that when it came time to fight the fire, the fire laddies found their hoses rotted, their equipment nonfunctional. Since that time, there has been a strong spirit for keeping local fire-fighting up to date. One notable example of fundraising was a Fireman's Ball in 1925 that raised money for a fire siren; the Argus reported that it could be heard for ten miles on a clear day.

This year, a large number of the 26 volunteer fire fighters made their guests welcome. There were house prizes throughout the evening, which ran from ammunition to bottles of alcohol to tea towels machine embroidered with fire truck illustrations. However, the highlight of the party was the gun raffle. The fire fighters sell advance tickets and few are available by the time of the party because they limit the number of tickets. This year there were three winners. Jason Turnbull won a 9 mm handgun, Terra Blecha won a Henry .22 lever action rifle, and Tom Dunekacke won a Ruger AR 556 .223/5.56



Desmond Petersen of Pawnee City & Seth Rinne of Steinauer prepare to enjoy the food. In the distant background is the Department's 1924 REO Speedwagon Fire Truck.

semi-automatic rifle. The rifles were purchased from Table Rock's Wild West Arms; proprietor Gregg Clement gives the Department special prices.

The next fundraiser for the Table Rock Fire Department will be their annual Consignment Sale on Saturday, March 21. The firefighters will soon be advertising for consignments. They have one already, though. Sherry Sitzman Winkinhofer has made another special quilt.

Sherry's last fundraising quilt was for the Table Rock Community Club to help raise money for the fair, and was covered with Table Rock train pictures and articles. This time she took pictures of all the tiny details of the Fire Department's 1924 REO Speedwagon Fire Truck and had quilt blocks made. She added a Sitzman family picture of the fire truck; our dad, Bob Sitzman, took care of maintenance of that old truck for many years, beginning in the early 1960s. The Department will auction that quilt at the sale.

Heads up, Humboldt people! I have it on good authority that the REO Speedwagon Fire Truck on the quilt being auctioned was bought used from Humboldt! Apparently, Humboldt tried to buy it back at one point, but it's ours for good, now! But you can have a quilt covered with pictures of your old fire truck with Table Rock painted gloriously across its back! Why and when did this transaction take place? That I cannot say. I can only assume that Humboldt sold it as they modernized their department, a model of up-to-date firefighting for at least the past century, when they rushed to Table Rock's aid.

Aiden Worthey Receives 4th Place State Wrestling Medal



Aiden Worthey (2nd from left) on the 4th place podium for the State Class C Wrestling Champions Photo courtesy of Pandora Worthey

Aiden lost his first match at the state meet and came back the next day to win his next three matches which put him in the medal rounds.

He beat his first opponent in the medal rounds for an opportunity to wrestle for third or fourth place. During his final round he met his first opponent one final time and came up just short of earning third place with a final score of 2 to 1.

Aiden would like to express his appreciation for all of the community support during this post season.

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