

On the Plains

Beecher Island News

By
**Bessie
Dent**



Introducing Bruce Ronald Ehler
Violet Brown is happy to announce the birth of her 10th great-grandchild, Bruce Ronald Ehler, born Dec. 26, 2007, to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Ehler. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Brown.

Ellie Danielle Jeurink
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ekberg are happy to announce the birth of their great-granddaughter, Ellie Danielle born, Dec. 15, 2007. Parents are Mr.

and Mrs. Cory Jeurink.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways attended the birthday party in honor of Dean Thompson at Cedardale Thursday.

Nelson Ekberg came Saturday to spend the Christmas week with home folks.

Larry and Fran Crites were visitors of Violet Brown Saturday, Dec. 22.

Dennis Allen of Tacoma, Wash.,

is spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. Todd Novak and family spent Sunday to Christmas morning with Mr. and Mrs. Gary Mansfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dent visited Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Homm Sunday afternoon.

Christmas dinners
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mansfield hosted dinner Sunday for Mr. and Mrs. Steve Goodman, Mr. and Mrs.

Monte Mansfield, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Mansfield, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mehl, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Mehl and Desiary, Mr. and Mrs. Todd Novack and family and Mr. and Mrs. Greg Goodman and Charolette.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kris Jones and family were Mr. and Mrs. Keith Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Ekberg.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brown's guests were Violet Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bowker and Amanda

and friend Aaron, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Larkin and children, Mr. and Mrs. Tad Brown and family and Tyson Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Smith were among the guests Christmas Day at Mr. and Mrs. Dave Smith in Burlington.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wieser and Katie.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rose hosted dinner for Pam Zuege and girls, Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Rose and girls, Mr. and Mrs. Kent Rose, Chris Rose and friend Kim.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Osmus's guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Osmus and Jacob, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Beverlin, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Fisher, Nettie Jane Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Brad Haake, Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Marlow and son.

Mr. and Mrs. Thane Greene hosted dinner Christmas Eve day for Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ekberg, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Chapman and Tobi Jeurink. In the afternoon they all

went in to Cory Jeurink's for their gift exchange.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Rose and girls and Sylvia Madsen were Christmas Eve guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Madsen and Kinsey.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bowker and Violet Brown were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brown for chili soup Christmas Eve.

Attending the wedding of Sara Harwood and David Kelley in Tulsa, Okla., on Saturday, Dec. 22, were Mr. and Mrs. Dave Harwood, Mr. and Mrs. Josh Harwood, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Allen and boys, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mudd and family, Norma Allen, Dana Lasnetske and children, Mr. and Mrs. David Allen and family and Dennis Allen. The same group enjoyed Christmas dinner in Tulsa Sunday.

Ryan Allen came Wednesday to spend a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wieser and Katie were Christmas Eve guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways. All went to the Christmas Eve services at church.

Haigler News

By
**Floy
Ruggles**



Daneen and Phil Hilger of Edgerton arrived at the home of Daneen's sister, Yvonne and Royce Clemans and Anthony in Burlington on Saturday evening, Dec. 22. On Sunday, on their way to the Faylor ranch to spend Christmas with family, they went by way of Wray to visit their grandmother, Dorothy Rathbun, at Hillcrest Care Center.

Shirley Ridgeway of North Platte, Neb., sister of Dode Faylor, arrived at the Faylor Ranch on Sunday, Dec. 23 to spend Christmas with family. Her first stop was at Hillcrest Care Center to spend some time with her mother, Dorothy Rathbun.

Dale and Dode Faylor received word of the arrival of their 15th great grandchild born early Friday morning. Parents of the little boy are Yvette and David Korbelik who recently moved to Connecticut. The little lad has a sister and two brothers to welcome him. Yvette is the daughter of Yvonne and Royce Clemans of Burlington.

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 23, country schoolhouse 67 south was smiling. The first Christmas party in 63 years was held at the schoolhouse. The last one would have been Christmas of 1944 during World War II before the school closed its doors in the spring of

1945. Donors and friends of 67 south were invited to an open house from 3 to 5 p.m. Though window openings were covered with plastic to keep out the cold wind, and the inside of the school awaits its renovation in the spring; Christmas music was playing and it was warm, cheery, and decorated for the holidays. Homemade baked goodies, hot coffee and hot cranberry punch were served and enjoyed by those attending. Many brought a hand-made or older Christmas ornament to adorn the large 10-foot live Christmas tree in the center of the room. These decorations will be used every year, as the new tradition

for the annual holiday open house has begun.

The LaVoine Collicott family gathered together on the traditional Christmas Eve. Dinner was hosted by Stan and Galena Webster. Those attending were LaVoine Collicott of Hillcrest Care Center in Wray; Myrna Mulligan, Stan and LaNeta Carlock and Darrell Webster.

Policy set enhance safety on the two-lane highways

Safety on hundreds of miles of state highway will be enhanced next year because of a new Kansas Department of Transportation policy.

Under the policy adopted this summer, centerline rumble strips will be included in most asphalt resurfacing and new construction projects on rural, two-lane highways. The rumble strips are football-shaped indentations that are ground into the center of the road surface separating directions of traffic.

The centerline rumble strips, which have been tested in two pilot projects in Kansas during the past four years, are designed to alert a driver when his or her vehicle is drifting left of

the center line. According to the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS), 20 percent of the fatal crashes that occur on the nation's two-lane roads are head-on collisions or side-swipes.

Although data on the state's two-pilot projects—one on U.S. 50 between Newton and Hutchinson and the other on U.S. 40 in Douglas County—is still being collected for evaluation, agency leaders decided to implement the new policy.

"We saw enough evidence of the benefit of centerline rumble strips from looking at other states' experiences and at research that has been done at Kansas State Univer-

sity," said David Church, chief of the department's Bureau of Traffic Engineering.

"I expect the policy will help keep people on the roadway, which will ultimately save lives and prevent injuries."

Under the new policy, the centerline rumble strips will be included when resurfacing rural, two-lane asphalt highways that have a paved shoulder of at least 3 feet. Other two-lane, asphalt roads will be considered case-by-case.

Beginning this month, resurfacing contracts awarded for projects that meet the policy criteria will include centerline rumble strips. As a result, hundreds of miles of rumble strips will be installed on Kansas highways during the 2008 construction season. The Kansas department estimates that the cost of installing centerline rumble strips will be about \$1,800 a mile when added to an existing project.

"This is a low-cost improvement that will greatly enhance safety on our two-lane roads. Over the next few years, we will have thousands of miles of centerline rumble strips on Kansas highways," said Mr. Church.

St. John United Church of Christ
Epiphany Sunday is Jan. 6. Come search for the wise men! On this Sunday the worship will include a visit from the wise men who will tell us of their journey to the Christ Child and the meaning it holds for us. This service will be especially meaningful for children, so we welcome all families to worship this day.

Remember to take your poinsettia home after Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6.

Family Community Education Club
Family Community Education

Idalia News

By
**Angela
DeLeon**



Club will meet Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. with the hostesses being Sheryl and Laura. Installation of officers and sign up for committees and refreshments for the year will take place. Look for more closer to the day.

4-H Club
4-H Club will have a meeting at 2 p.m. on Jan. 6. You may call a member for more information

School resumes
Jan. 7 is the first day back for students in Idalia.

FFA
FFA will have a meeting Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 6:30 pm.

Womens Fellowship

Womens Fellowship meets at 1 p.m. on Jan. 9. Sheryl Wudtke is the leader and host.

New officers will assume leadership. New officers are Laura Lengel, president; Joyce Helling, vice president; Deb Crites, treasurer; and Janie Beckman, secretary.

Blood drive
There will be a blood drive between 2 and 6 p.m. at the school library on Jan. 11.

Clinic
Marlene Miller and Denice Baucke will not be visiting Idalia this month. They will be back to the usual on Jan. 30 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Prairie Vista Cafe!

Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

Unwrapping Christmas
By Lori Copeland

It's the Christmas season, and once again Rose plans to do it all; the decorations, the baking, the gifts, the parties... But too soon, Rose finds herself exhausted and harried with her endless list of commitments.

In a season of giving, Rose feels rather empty. Her words of cheer and encouragement sound flat even to her own ears. And she can only watch as her family drifts away during a time that should celebrate

family traditions. When, she wonders, did she stop feeling the awe and anticipation of Christmas?

But in her weakest moment, God reveals his strength - and in this charming and winsome story, Rose discovers what giving is really about.

With her gift for storytelling, Lori Copeland takes a heartwarming look at all the bedlam that surrounds Christmas, gently unwrapping the meaning of the holiday. Let the joy and wonder of Christmas be yours again as you soak in the warmth and humor of this inspirational holiday novella.

Cliff Like came home from the Hillcrest Nursing home Dec. 20. To be with his family. The Like's will celebrate together for Christmas dinner.

I hope everyone had a great holiday celebration with family and friends.

Plain Sense

"Children and the Holiday Season"

The holiday season seems to come quickly and start earlier each year, with advertisements and promotions in stores, businesses and in the media beginning as soon as August. As a result, children's interest, excitement and anxiety tend to increase and last for several weeks and can be stressful, not only for them, but also for their parents, teachers and other adults. Here are a few suggestions regarding what children need during the holiday season to help reduce stress and make this time of year more enjoyable for everyone involved:

- An Evenly Paced Holiday Season: in the midst of changing events and schedules, children are in need of a relaxed atmosphere within the family when possible. School events, guests, gifts, decorating and other plans can be overwhelming for any family. Space out these activities or eliminate some; choose quality of activities over quantity.
- Realistic Expectations: be clear about the amount and cost of gifts. Allow children the opportunity to learn about the true meaning of "giving"

by volunteering time as a family in helping others.

- Security and Comfort: children benefit from knowing about the family's plans and holiday schedule. In addition, annual traditions such as decorating with specific family ornaments and preparation of time-honored foods can bring a sense of security.
- Involvement and Input: include older children in the planning process. Then when time and money are limited, traditions are changed, or events are rescheduled or canceled, they will be aware of the reasons for those changes. Even when the final decision is not in their favor, children will be more understanding when they have had some say-so regarding the outcome.

Contributed by Karen Schueler, MS, LCPC, Prevention, Education and Outreach Department.

The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.

Advertisement For Bids

Separate sealed BIDS will be received at the City Clerk,s Office by the City Clerk in City of Bird City, 111 East 4th Street, Bird City, Kansas by the City Clerk, on January 29, 2008, until 2:00 PM, Local Time, and then such BIDS shall be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Office for furnishing all equipment, labor, materials and appurtenances required to construct two new lagoons, existing treatment plant demolition, and other such work as may be incidental to WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids; and to waive irregularities or informalities to accept the BID it deems most beneficial. Bids received after the specified time of closing will be returned unopened. The Owner will accept only those sealed bids, either hand delivered or received via U.S. Mail or other commercial carrier. Items transmitted by facsimile or electronically will not be accepted.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

- Miller & Associates, 1111 Central Avenue, Kearney, NE 68847
- Miller & Associates, 109 East 2nd Street, McCook, NE 69001
- City of Bird City, 111 East 4th Street, Bird City, KS 67731

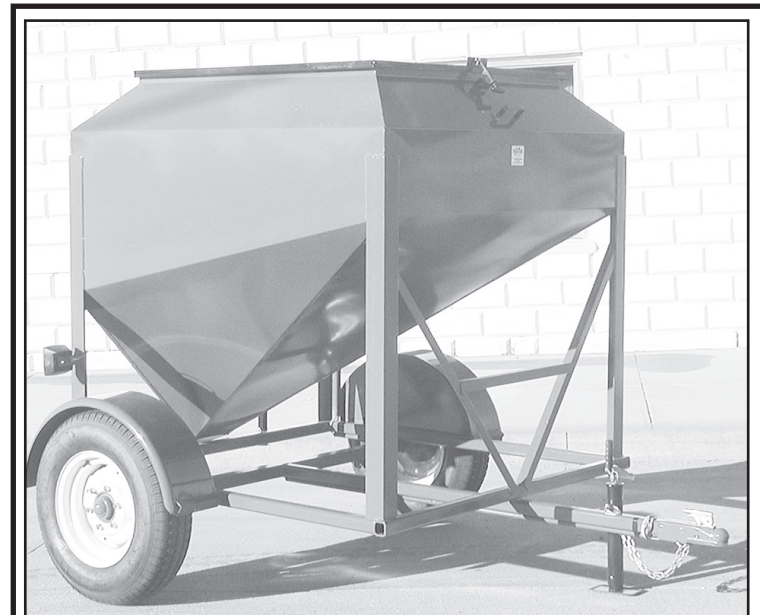
Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Miller & Associates, Consulting Engineers, P.C. located at 1111 Central Avenue, P.O. Box 306, Kearney, Nebraska 68847, Telephone 308/234-6456 upon payment of \$50.00 for each half-size set. Full-size sets of documents can be obtained for a deposit of \$75.00. Documents will not be available electronically. Any PLAN HOLDER, upon returning the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS within fourteen (14) days of the BID OPENING, and in good condition, will be refunded \$20.00.

Each BIDDER will be required to submit with his proposal, a certified check, cashier,s check or bid bond made payable, without condition, to the City Clerk, Bird City, Kansas, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the proposal.

Attention of BIDDERS is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract, Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109 and E.O. 11246.

BIDDERS on this work will be required to comply with the President,s Executive Order No. 11246 as amended as well as additional Federal provisions. Requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in the specifications.

The prospective participants must certify by submittal of EPA Form 5700-49 (Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters) that to the best of its knowledge and belief, it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency.



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