

# On the Plains

## Idalia News

### Idalia School Board News

Wayne Weyerman, president, called the Nov. 17 meeting to order with all board members present.

Items approved included the agenda, the consent agenda, having a staff Christmas party at the Route 16 Steakhouse in Burlington. A bid for replacing windows in the coach's house and canceling school March 18 to enable the annual Y-W meeting to be held at the school.

Discussion items included ESL program, CASB convention, offering health insurance to part-time employees. The Idalia volleyball girls represented the school well at the state tournament and the football team ended their season with a record of nine wins and one loss.

Also approved was Kylie Burr as the junior high girls basketball coach, Brad Wingfield as the junior high boys' basketball coach. Leif Sackett as the high school coach and the high school boys' basketball coach with Jeff Hurburt as the assistant high school boys' basketball coach, the first reading of seven policies and the second reading of ten policies. The next regular meeting will be Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

### Box Tops

The Idalia Elementary will be saving box tops for education again this year, with your support. Each box top has a cash value of ten cents. The tops are turned into the company which then sends the school a

check. This money goes to buy equipment for the classrooms or outdoor play.

### St. John United Church of Christ News

St. John United Church of Christ invites everyone to come join them. Sunday school is at 10 a.m. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school will start practicing for the Christmas party.

### Idalia Vision Foundation

Idalia Vision Foundation elected new board members at the annual meeting held Nov. 10 at the Idalia School cafeteria. Board members elected were Kevin Shively, Theron Shaffer and Dennis Wieser. After the annual meeting a short board meeting was held and officers for the 2004-2005 year were elected. Gary Moellenberg will serve as president, Chris Soehner, vice president; Kevin Shively, secretary; Roger Richards, treasurer and historian will be Susie Richards.

Angie Toledo and Chelsea of Parker were weekend guests of her parents, Larry and Janie Beckman.

Julie Morris, Jodi Morris and Carmen and Crystal Richards enjoyed dinner and visiting together Sunday at Prairie Vista Restaurant.

Darby Shanks took her grandmother, Elsie Shanks to church Sunday morning and then ate dinner at Prairie Vista Restaurant and

visited friends. She visited her father in the afternoon.

Keith and Katie Weyerman, Nichole and Sierra hosted Thanksgiving dinner with their family at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Katie, Nichole and Sierra Weyerman left Thursday afternoon to go to see daughter and husband, Lori and Jason Carnahan at Black Hawk, S.D.

Keith Weyerman visited his mother Marie Weyerman several days before Thanksgiving at Hillcrest Towers in Wray.

Jim Schiel is improving every day. Phyllis Long was admitted to Goodland Regional Medical Center at Goodland the day before Thanksgiving and was dismissed Wednesday, she had a bad reaction to medicine.

Mac and Robin Sneddon enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner with their family at Las Cruces, N.M.

Junior and Jerry Weisshaar spent Wednesday and Thursday with their son and family, Dale and Trena Weisshaar and family at Elgin, Wyo.

Terry and Janice Souther went to son, Heath's for Thanksgiving in Johnstown. Then on the 26th to daughter Misty's for Dillon's second birthday at Milligan.

Lynn and Renada Doddridge hosted Thanksgiving dinner at their home with all their children attending. Bill and Debbie Thompson of

By Elsie Shanks



Attending Thanksgiving dinner at John and Michelle Cure's were Tyson, Tonya and Ryan Cure. Lee and Kathy Thompson. Angela Brinkhoff, Kaitie and Joshua, Rod and Paulette Thompson, Trey, Trevor and Torrie; Bruce and Michelle Thompson, Courtney and Lauren of Stratton.

Terry and Debbie Crites hosted Thanksgiving dinner at their home. Guests were Dr. Guy and Trisha Coberly and son, Caden of Loveland, Bernice Zweygardt and Link Zweygardt both of St. Francis.

Dr. Sayre and wife, Penny of Colorado Springs, Bill and Judy Langendoerfer, Lucas and Hannah of Idalia were Thanksgiving dinner guests of their parents, Alvin and Burnetta Langendoerfer in Burlington.

## Haigler News

By Opal Collicott



### 90th birthday celebrated

LaVoine T. Collicott celebrated his 90th birthday this past week on Dec. 1. Family gatherings and the many birthday cards received throughout the week made the occasion very special. Telephone calls from his grandsons, Mitchell and Matthew Collicott were also enjoyed.

On Wednesday afternoon, his wife, Opal and three daughters, LaNeta Carlock, Myrna Mulligan and Galena Webster, decorated the house with birthday banners, posters and balloons.

On Friday afternoon, the family was entertained by The Classy Clowns (Mopsy, Topsy and Flopsy). It was a special occasion for The Clowns as well, as they began clowning 10 years ago for their father's 80th birthday.

A giant "bag of Memories" was presented to their father and included many wrapped gifts and pictures, each representing a memory of something in LaVoine's life of 90 years.

### Haigler American Legion Soup Supper

The Haigler American Legion Post 134 will have their soup supper on Dec. 11. The proceeds will go for Christmas candy for the school children.

### Santa's arrival at the fire building

Santa will arrive at the Haigler fire building on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. mountain time. Pictures with Santa will be

available if wanted.

### Church Christmas programs

The Sunday school of the United Methodist Church will perform their annual Christmas program, "3 Wisemen and A Baby" on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 5 p.m. mountain standard time.

The Zion Lutheran Church Christmas program will be held that same day, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.

### United Methodist Women

The Haigler United Methodist Women will hold their December meeting on Friday at 2 p.m. in the church basement. Roll call will be to tell a Christmas story and the Advent/Christmas program will be "Tell the Coming Generations." All ladies are reminded to bring with them any stories they may have written when they were very young. The Program Committee will serve as hostesses.

### Thanksgiving celebration

Thanksgiving this year was indeed a celebration of thankfulness for Charlie and Myrna Mulligan, as they were together with both of their children and all the grandchildren. They were guests in the home of Rich and Trit Mulligan, Hannah Reed and Lucy, in Mount Pleasant, S.C., for a two-week period of time and enjoyed visits from friends in the Charleston area.

On Wednesday, Nov. 24, Skip, Melissa and Alayna Mulligan from Saginaw, Mich., arrived by plane and were met by Rich.

Thanksgiving Day presented a festive celebration and a beautiful dinner. Skip, Melissa and Alayna left on Sunday morning, Nov. 28, to return to their home in Michigan and Charlie and Myrna started their drive back to Nebraska later that day. They returned home late Tuesday night.

Deloris Zuege returned home on Tuesday, Nov. 30, from a week's visit in the home of her sister, Almeda and husband, Ron Norris, in Longmont, Colo., and their mother, Louise Bier, in Loveland, Colo. Louise Thomsen of Watts, Okla., daughter of Deloris, came for the weekend. Gary and Brook Zuege of Wray joined the group for Thanksgiving dinner, which was held in the home of Ron and Almeda Norris on Nov. 25.

Dale and Theo Wishon were dinner guests on Thanksgiving Day in the home of her sister, Vera and Stan Keller in St. Francis.

Bob and MerryLu Simmons visited Saturday evening, Dec. 4, in the home of her parents, Richard and Laura Pearl Wall, after attending the Haigler United Methodist Women's bazaar and supper.

Lynn Wonder, Nancy Johnson and Riley of Greeley, Colo., were Saturday morning visitors in the home of Dale and Theo Wishon.

## Beecher Island News

By Bessie Dent



Due to the storm there was no Sunday school but residents are thankful for the moisture.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Allen were Mr. and Mrs. Dave Harwood, Norma Jo Allen, Dana Jo Lasnetske and children, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mudd and children. Joining them for Thanksgiving dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Gregg Allen and boys and Michelle Nelson and Jayean. Friday evening they took dessert in to have with Mr. and Mrs. Pete Allen.

Nelson Ekberg came Tuesday to spend Thanksgiving until Saturday with family. Mr. and Mrs. Kris Jones and family and Mr. and Mrs. John Willard and family joined them and spent Thanksgiving with Connie Ekberg in Colorado Springs.

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

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Perila and girls spent Wednesday to Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmons. Joining them for Thanksgiving dinner were Quentin Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wall, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Flaming, Wendy Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Dusty Wall and children, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Wall, Dwight Wall, Jessica and Linsey, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Kelin and Logan, Betty Green and Polly Thiringer.

Mr. and Mrs. John Osmus and Jacob hosted dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Phil Osmus, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Parmelee and family, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Fisher, Julie Fisher and Brad Haake, Keri Fisher and Jason. Mr. and Mrs. Pete Osmus's

guests were Matt Osmus of Boulder, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bowman and family of Colorado Springs and Perk Salvador of Yuma. All visited Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Salvador in the corn field in the afternoon.

Roger and Suzy Richards, Chad and Aubrey, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Richard and Macy and Bob Noffsinger were June Richers Thanksgiving guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Shaver had a busy weekend. They were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Faulkender and other family members Wednesday and Thursday. Friday they were home and their guests for the rest of the weekend were Gary Cranmer of Sioux City, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Chad Cranmer and family of Parker, Mrs. Pat Harr and daughter of Greeley.

Dillon Rose was a Tuesday to Sunday guest of Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Rose and girls. Joining them for Thanksgiving dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rose and Pam Zuege and girls.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Allen were among the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Carpenter in Burlington at the Tote Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe shively hosted dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Shively and family, Doris and Carole Whomble, Zack and Austin Bowman, Angie Whomble and a friend and Dallas Whomble. Jessica Bond called in the afternoon.

Bill and Ellen Mansfield's guests were Mr. and Mrs. Steve Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Mansfield and Monte Mansfield. Rick Finn visited in the afternoon.

Nettie May Welton's guests Wednesday to Friday were Mr. and Mrs. Dave Welton, Helen Wilson and Paul Williams Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brown hosted dinner for Violet Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Tad Brown and family, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Bowker and Amanda, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Dent and Dwain and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Brown, Grant and Riley were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dent. Eric Brown called in the afternoon to talk to all.

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Perila and girls were guests Saturday of Mr. and Mrs. Dusty Wall to help Sydney and Gracie celebrate their birthdays.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Osmus, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Parmelee and family and Mr. and Mrs. John Osmus and Jacob were Saturday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Osmus.

Violet Brown visited Gary Cranmer at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Shaver Sunday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Rose, Dillon, Mallory and chynna were Saturday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Madsen and Kinsey.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe Shively, Zack and Austin met Mr. and Mrs. Mark Bowman in Salina for the boys to return home after spending a few days with their grandparents. The Shivelys visited the Glen Davenport and several of their families at Belleville on their way home.

## Sod house restoration plans

A sod house in Idalia is being restored and, if all goes as the El Pomar Youth In Community Service members plan, it will become a historical landmark.

Over the past few years, the Idalia organization has had the responsibility of cleaning and restoring the sod house which Joe Zion once called home. They have done their best to keep the piece of history a part of the area and keep it in the best shape as possible.

However, members have not been very confident as to how to refurbish it back to prime condition. All the organization has been able to do is clean the house itself and try to keep the surrounding area neat and well kept.

Yet, on Oct. 21, the members had a breakthrough. They met with three members from the Colorado Historical Society: Heather Peterson, the Society's historical information specialist; Sarah Rothwell, archaeological information specialist; and Greg Wolff, also an archaeologist. Members of the El Pomar Youth In Community Service, Kaleb Rittenhouse, president; Reece Farness, vice president; Katri Rittenhouse, secretary; and

Kaitlin Soehner, treasurer, accompanied the three preservers of history and gave information.

As it turned out, the sod house impressed the three because of its condition and location as well as its history. The primary objective of the El Pomar Youth In Community Service officers was to discover how they could get the sod house on the state or national registries as a landmark. If and when it becomes a historical landmark, the organization would be qualified to receive several grants from state and national historical preservation organizations. These grants would financially help the group with the renovation and upkeep of the soddy.

Ms. Peterson made several suggestions of who members could contact for information to help keep one of the remaining bits of history in first-rate condition.

Before Christmas, the organization should have a copy of the report of the property for the state and be able to begin the application process early next year.

### History of the soddy

Walter and Anna Zion, Joes' mother and father, moved from

Denver to eastern Colorado in the spring of 1909. They lived in a rock house on Copper Kettle Creek, northwest of Idalia. Joe was born that July.

The following year, Walter built the sod house where he and Anna raised their family.

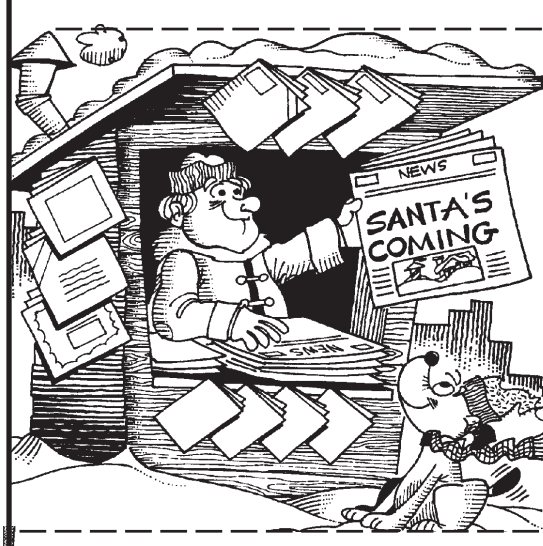
The floors were originally dirt and the family used curtains to separate rooms. As time went by, the Zion family made more and more renovations to the house.

They put in a floor using 1-by-12-inch boards. A bunk house and milk house were added. In 1948, Joe added layers of cement to the structure to contain the soil, which allowed him to live there until the early 1970s. In 1975, Joe sold the soddy to Clayton Poenisch who later donated it to the Idalia Vision Foundation.

Last August, during Vernon's Old Threshers Day, Mr. Zion held an open house allowing several visitors to tour a vintage sod house in fairly good condition with Joe on hand to tell the history of his home.

More can be read about the soddy in "Gusts Of Dust, Volume 3. Contact Mr. Rittenhouse to purchase a copy.

## HERALD HAPPENINGS —



## Christmas Section

This section will be filled with Christmas Cheer: Letters to Santa, Recipes and Memories. The advertising is reserved for well wishes!

## FIRST BABY

With the oncome of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy! Coming in January a bundle of business ready to congratulate the new baby and the parents!

## Winter Sports Section

This section will feature St. Francis and Bird City Jr. High and High School Basketball players, Wrestlers and Cheerleaders! To be inserted in your paper in January.



For more details, contact Casey McCormick at the Saint Francis Herald at 785-332-3162  
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