

# the goodland gazette

Hasn't this weather been wonderful? I made a call to get my sprinkler shut down for the winter, but I turned it on again Thursday as the grass looked a little dry. Tony said he'd be around later in the week, so I may get one more watering in before the winter shutoff.

I've been trying to get some drawers and closets cleaned out and get stuff ready for our church garage sale, only to find out it's been postponed until spring.

I went to the school board meeting on Monday, but not as a reporter. I wanted to thank the crew for all their kindness and for the trust they put in my reporting. It did seem a little strange to just sit there and not get writer's cramp before the night was over.

Even left when they went into executive session. I'll go to these meetings, but not every time. I found I've developed an interest in what's going on with that group of people.

I made something I've not eaten for a long, long time—butterballs. Now I can see some eyebrows lifted in a "Ye gods, what is she talking about" look. They are really a treat when put into chicken noodle soup.

They are made of finely ground toasted bread and mixed with eggs, milk and butter. When they are just right, you roll them into walnut-sized balls and add them to your soup. Ymmm.

I shared them with my neighbors, Lillian and David. Both had never heard of them, but were most pleased with the soup. Even my dog Casey likes them, including the homemade noodles and chicken.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church will have its annual chicken noodle dinner and craft sale on the second Saturday in November. Mark this date on your calendar and come and enjoy the food and fellowship. No, there will be no butterballs on that date.

I've got a couple of belated birthday greetings to extend. Derrick Mull had his birthday on Oct. 7 and Oscar Ihrig had his on Oct. 6. Biff Young will have one on Oct. 17. Best wishes to these and any others.

We've had some deaths that had local ties. Among them are the families of Austen Doyle, Bryan Skinner, Bruce Channell, Velma Stephens and Millie Jetton. Most of these had sons, daughters and brothers here in town. Austen and Bryan were both infants that most



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people didn't know, outside of their immediate families. Sincere sympathy to these folks as they cope with their losses. May the Almighty be with you one and all.

The tragic death of a mother and five of her children in a house fire sends a reminder to each of us of how fragile life is. Don't forget to offer a hand to someone in need and do it without thought of being paid back. As witnessed by the caring of people for this family, one friend told me she was so astonished by the caring of these other people.

She wondered if we, as a nation, might not be better off if we all did as these folks did. Something to think about.

Some traveled from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and the neighboring states to be with this family, many not knowing the departed. The love of their God and faith in Him should be a guide for many of us.

May the remaining family members have the hand of the Almighty upon their shoulders as the reality of this enormous loss really sinks in.

News from Edson came from Florence Farris. She said she attended the Sept. 13th funeral of Elsie Musil, formerly of Edson. Later in the day, her sisters, Faye Golden and Dora Belle Wagner, from Larned, visited her.

She said on Oct. 14, eight members of the Edson Social Club gathered at the home of Doris Craft for an afternoon of fellowship and lunch. Evelyn Finegan was co-hostess. These ladies have been getting together for a long, long time.

The 88th birthday of Florence's sister, Helen Jones, was observed with a family get-together on Sept. 23 at the Good Samaritan Center.

Her family members who were able to come included June and Boyd Miller of Apple Valley, Calif.; Fern Martin of Broomfield, Colo.; Jean Warren of Colorado Springs; Betty Kear of Salina; Dick and Joyce Jones of Parker, Colo.; John and Laura Jones and three daughters of Kismet; Dennis, Maxine and Emily Howard and Emily's girl-

friend of Tribune; Florence Farris of Edson; and Gary and Laramie Farris of Goodland.

The group enjoyed the time of visiting and the cake and ice cream. Helen's daughter Marjorie Stegman and her husband, Joe, of Hays had come earlier as they had other plans for that day. Happy belated birthday greetings.

Florence said she and Helen attended the activities at the Flatlander Festival at which time she saw and visited with some of the Stroyek family. Among them were Walter of Nebraska and John of Goodland. There were others in attendance and all enjoyed homemade peach ice cream in Chambers Park.

Florence had other visitors this first part of the month, among them Johnny Beardmore of Columbus, Ohio; Howard Cunningham and a friend from Hesston, who have worked with Rick Farris in the harvest field; grandson, Danny Bagnell and his friend, Drew Wurtz; grandson J.J. and friends Mary and Travis Williams; Laramie, Gary and Nancy Farris and Betty Parker. She visited Barbara Caldwell at the donut shop. Barbara Lovelace accompanied her to the dinner at the Christian Church which she said was very good.

She bumped into Merle and Helen Metzler of Brewster at Wal-Mart and visited with them. Helen is a retired Brewster postmaster.

Her last piece of news was the monthly meeting of retired federal employees who gather at Ray's Cafe for lunch.

Retired postmasters in attendance at the meeting were Mary and Melvin Glad from Weskan; Charlie Timmons, a former postmaster at St. Francis; Dean Garwith of Dresden; and herself.

Florence said they finally got a half inch of much needed rain. She will be attending the Edson club meeting to be held Oct. 12 at the home of Mary Lou Franklin. Leona Finegan will be co-hostess.

My last word is that she got to see pictures of the triplet grandchildren of Evelyn Finegan. She said more later for the next week or so to come.

I don't see any more notes, so I will sign off for now. 'Till next time, take care and share a smile or a laugh with someone in need.

## Friends or relatives?



Halloween decorations have appeared in yards around Goodland as the holiday approaches. Scarecrows and pumpkins were just some of the decorations on the front lawn of Ryan and Kim Weis' house at the corner of Eighth and Harrison streets. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Colleges review plan for merger

TOPEKA (AP) — Two western Kansas institutions are bringing their plan for the first merger in the state's higher education system back to the Board of Regents.

Officials at Fort Hays State University and Pratt Community College describe their plan as an "affiliation." They once said it could serve as the blueprint for other, similar mergers.

The regents' Commission on Higher Education Coordination plans to have a hearing on the proposal Wednesday at Emporia State University, where the regents are having their monthly meeting. Three of the nine regents serve on the commission, which would pass any recommendation on to the entire board.

Fort Hays and Pratt drafted a merger proposal last year, but the Board of Regents didn't act on it.

The regents wanted more time to consider how such a plan would fit into their overall vision for the state's higher education system and expressed concern about increased costs for the state.

Until 1999, the regents oversaw only the state's six universities and the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, while the State Board of Education supervised the 19 community colleges. That changed when legislators put the regents in charge of all higher education institutions.

### AUCTION

Sat., Oct. 21 • starting at 10:21 p.m. CDT at Wheeler, KS on Captain Hook's Fine Dining lot

We are expecting lots of merchandise from several consignors. There will be furniture, appliances, storm doors, storm windows, a large selection of small and misc. items.

Come out and enjoy some fine food and spend the day at the auction • looking & buying!

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## Death puts spotlight on Kansas aircraft

TOPEKA (AP) — The aging plane that Gov. Bill Graves and other officials use to fly around Kansas probably will need an overhaul of its twin engines within the next 18 months.

Such an overhaul would cost the state at least \$500,000, and for months, officials in the Graves administration have considered whether the plane should be replaced.

Those internal discussions became public after the death of Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan in an airplane crash. Carnahan was flying in a 20-year-old airplane registered to his son's law firm.

Officials in Kansans weren't suggesting that the plane Graves and others use for state business is unsafe.

However, it is 15 years old. "When a tragedy like this happens, it raises questions," said Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer, who serves as secretary of commerce and housing and estimates that he uses the plane between 30 and 40 times a year.

Carnahan was traveling Monday night in a 1980 Cessna 335, which seats six and has two piston-driven engines. The plane had no history of maintenance problems, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Likewise, in its 15-year life, no reports of accidents or unusual incidents involving the Kansas aircraft have been reported to the FAA. Nor have there been any reports of service difficulties, which often cover minor main-

tenance problems, said Roland Herwig, an FAA spokesman in Oklahoma City.

"It has a clean record," he said. The Kansas state plane is a 1985 Beechcraft Super King Air 300, which seats nine passengers and two pilots. It has two turbojet propeller engines.

Secretary of Administration Dan Stanley noted that the Beechcraft has logged about 3,200 hours of flying time. When it logs 3,700 hours, the FAA requires its engines to be overhauled.

Stanley expects an overhaul to come due during the state's 2002 budget year, which begins July 1, 2001, making the plane a budget issue for the Legislature after it convenes in January.

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