

the goodland gazette

Thanksgiving is over and it's less than five weeks 'till we'll celebrate what some people say is the true millennium. I'm not going into this, but I just hope the new year doesn't go as fast the one that's almost history.

I've gotten some Thanksgiving stories, but the general theory behind them all was the usual family get-togethers here or at one of their children's homes.

Florence Farris called to say her Thanksgiving was spent with her family here. The family had dinner at the home of Rich, Sherri and J.J. Farris and Patrick Farris.

John and Laura (Reid) Jones and family of Kismet took their mother and grandmother Helen Jones along with them for dinner on Nov. 23 with Laura's parents, Warren and Bonnie Reid of Brewster. Florence said her sister Helen is doing as well as can be with the trouble she's having with her legs. They all had a nice time of sharing and fellowship, the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

A friend Lucille Nash was in Dallas for the Thanksgiving holiday with her family. Marvin, Cindy, her daughter, and Ryan Swayne hosted the dinner for mother Lucille and brother Terry and his wife Linda from Tennessee. The group will be getting together for the Christmas holiday. The Swaynes will spend part of the time with Marvin's family, Ted and Gertrude Swayne of Kanorado.

Another friend Ila Zeigler and her son,



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Steve, spent the day in Woodland Park, Colo., with her other son, Jerry Zeigler, and his wife, Ildie. They made the trip in one day as Steve had to get back to work. Ila said the weather was cooperative and they made the trip in safety. She said they had a nice day.

Laura McClung came home on the evening of Nov. 22 for a couple of days. Her dad, Mac Been, is still in the hospital in Hays. Her mother, Nila Been, was joined by her brother, Kent Been of McCook, Neb. He came earlier in the week and stayed until Saturday to give Laura a few days home with Gary and the kids who were really missing their mom, especially Jonah. They moved her dad back to the hospital in Burlington, Colo., on Nov. 27.

His condition is relatively unchanged from the past few weeks. The only new twist was that Nila was put into a hospital bed. She has been battling a bad cough which has now turned into pneumonia. She got home on Friday with orders of in-house rest and confinement. So Kent and Laura are split between here and there to look after their parents. I sure hope there will be a light soon at the end of this long, dark tunnel. My last report was that Mac has had a few better days, so we've got our fingers crossed that all will continue to improve to the point of his maybe being able to come home.

Esther Splattstoesser called to tell me they had Thanksgiving at a church in Hoxie. The dinner was attended by her family which included daughter Nadine and Fred Aufdembrink and twins, Lauren and Amy, and Benjamin from Norfolk, Neb.; son Gary, wife Kay and children Kelley, Dustin and Jackie of Colby; Chance, Lisa and Shaylynn Splattstoesser of Hoxie; Albert and Nadine Mills, Lisa's parents; and David and Kathy Patterson, all of Hoxie. A good

time was had by all. Esther told me she's been having trouble with a knee that put her in the hospital for a few days. It's still very sore and has some swelling in it, so she's still not back to work at her job at Wal-Mart. I wish her well and hope all gets better shortly.

It is Thursday evening and I was trying to get this done after I got home from doing a big majority of my church work for the weekend. For December, the vestry decided to try having mass at 5 p.m. on Saturday. I can't get it all done by that time when I get off work at noon on Saturday, so I have had to reschedule my work time at the church, thus Thursday. I didn't print the bulletins as I might need to make some changes by Saturday. We had a good turnout and will have to see how it works out. The Saturday time was more suitable for the priest and deacon to come and give us the Holy Eucharist.

Elaine Thompson has been moved to a rehabilitation center in Fort Collins, Colo., for a couple of weeks. Then what happens, I'm not sure, but her wish is to be moved back to Goodland. So for the next week or so, she'll be receiving therapy at Spring Creek Rehab Center. Her daughter, Biff Young, told me that the break was actually in the leg between the hip and the knee, not the hip joint. They had to put screws and a plate in to stabilize the fractures. Biff said she has limited pain and is very upbeat about the recovery and her return to complete recovery in her home.

Belated birthday greetings to Inez Bennett from her family. Her special day was Dec. 1. Birthday greetings to Rosetta Lindsten on Dec. 1, Sarah Boehme on Dec. 6, Dale Hilty and Danielle (Pettijohn) Silsbee on Dec. 8, and Andrew House on Dec. 9. There are no anniversaries to my knowledge.

I'd like to thank those who have written me a note, stopped me on the street or at the post office or left a message on my recorder to tell me how much they like my ramblings. One caller even got me by mistake, but when he found out

who I was, we had a nice conversation about many things including how much he and his family enjoyed my writings. Like I've told everyone, I will do it as long as able or wanted by the newspaper.

It never ceases to amaze me how happy and thrilled people seem to be when I mention something about them or their family. A man stopped me to thank me about the reference I made to the passing away of his mother a few weeks ago. One lady over at Burlington, Colo., told me on the phone the other day that she and her husband look forward to reading my weekly "ramblings." Again thank you to all who have been so kind with their comments.

Co-worker Mary Wyant and her husband Charlie had two of their kids for the Thanksgiving holiday. Chuck, their son, and Jennifer Wyant of Wichita and Chris, their daughter, and Greg Williams and Garrett and Kaylea of Goodland for the evening meal. Their other son Craig was with his special friend, Jody, and her parents in one of the Dakotas with her grandfather.

Well, it's time to stop this rambling and print this before going to bed. 'Till next week, take care of yourself, check on your aging neighbors and supply your outdoor pets with shelter and food during these cold nights.

Well, I didn't get this printed, as I first thought. The printer was making noises, so I checked and found the ribbon was frayed and not working right. I had ordered a new ribbon earlier, but I've not gotten it yet as it had to be ordered. I worked on the ribbon, winding it by hand, but finally found an older ribbon that I put in, so now we are off and running. See you all.

Well deserved medal



Sheriff Doug Whitson pinned a medal on Dan Knitig, a Goodland man who rescued a woman from a burning car in October, and gave him a civilian service award at the Sheriff's Department on Friday. Bonnie Thompson, the Sherman County woman who got trapped in her car after colliding with a truck on a county road north of town, came to the short ceremony in a wheelchair to thank Knitig. Whitson said Knitig's actions, which put his life in danger to save another's, demanded the award. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

City passes noise rules

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they backed out," said Pickman.

The commission passed a noise ordinance, which prohibits any noise that is disruptive to anyone 50 feet away. It includes televisions, radios and musical instruments and car radios.

The ordinance would limit the Sherman County Speedway hours by making it illegal to race vehicles between the hours of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

"Some races go until midnight," Billinger said. "I don't want to be binding to them. I don't think the noise (the cars make) is that big of a deal."

Commissioner Hurd said if they couldn't get the races done in time, then maybe they should start the races earlier.

"This ordinance is to stop a problem," said Commissioner Jim Mull. "We aren't going to seek out people to charge. It just will stop habitual offenders."

Mull said the sound of the speedway didn't bother him, because he couldn't hear it even if he was right next to it, but it might bother some people.

Mayor Chuck Lutters agreed with Billinger, saying he appreciated the number of people who come into town for the races. He said the speedway could come in and ask for a variance on races they thought would go over 11 p.m.

The city is becoming a community of seniors, said Hurd, and these people want to go to bed earlier. As the community gains more and more seniors, the noise ordinance is going to become very important.

"One of my fears," said Billinger, "is that we are going to be pitting neighbor against neighbor."

Billinger said he was just asking for some common sense in enforcing the rule.

"This is just about being courteous of others," said Hurd. "It is time people took responsibility for their actions."

The commission accepted a grant from the Department of Wildlife and Parks for \$10,000 to put a gazebo in the new Pioneer Park, which will be built at the junction of Cherry Street and Business U.S. 24.

"I want to make sure that accepting this grant doesn't obligate us to keep this a park forever," said Mull.

Pickman said he didn't see anything in the rules which would obligate them for any length of time.

In other business, the commission:

- Agreed to pay Associated Pool Builders \$146,700 and Rhoads Construction \$53,879 for work completed on Steever Water Park. Pickman said the pool should be done by Memorial Day.

- Agreed to request reimbursement for a demolition to some property for \$4,875

- Approved a resolution they had decided on during the budget meetings in August for a \$1 an hour raise for all city employees and raising the starting salaries in all positions \$1 an hour.

- Appointed Steve Duell and Andy Scheopner to the recreation board for another term.

- Heard from Pickman that Eagle Cable is raising their rates by 62 cents per month. With city, county, state and federal taxes, the total increase will \$1.08, to \$35.28 per month.

- Heard from Commissioner Hurd on starting a task force for repairing Main Street.

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