

Enjoying the weather



Derek Matthews, 6, was enjoying the warmer weather Monday morning, scooting down 12th Street near West Elementary School. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Spring isn't too far off, but you can't tell



jan
zwetzig
• goodland gazette

We've been having some spooky weather. One day it's like early summer and the next a reminder that it is still winter time. I know spring isn't too far off, but you sure couldn't tell by the temperature. It was cold, windy and just plain gloomy the entire weekend. The sun peeked into the window as I put these notes all together on Saturday.

I would like to congratulate the kids who were named to the all star teams following the recent state tournaments. They were Ashley Hallagin and Jara McKee from Goodland and Brett Arnberger from Brewster. Congratulations to all the others who helped make the tournament what it was.

My niece and her husband went through Goodland Saturday morning on their way to Wichita to see their son play hockey. Patsy left a message on my phone as I was at the church finishing up my bulletins for the service. Matt plays both Sunday and Monday, but I'm not sure of the time. They will be coming back through on Thursday and maybe we'll make connections this time. Patsy is on spring break from her duties with the Greeley, Colo. schools and Bob took a week of vacation in order for them to spend some time with Matt.

Speaking of family, my brother-in-law Bob, who fell and broke his shoulder, is doing just fine. In fact he's been given permission to do short drives, but he will still need therapy for a couple

of months. My sister Martha's knee is healing fine, just very slowly. She is no longer under home health care and she too will be on extended therapy. So, it's good news for a change.

I saw Marlin Roeder the other day walking with a cane. He had knee work done a couple of weeks ago and is doing OK. Some days are better than others, but he's up and about and is getting therapy.

I visited briefly a couple of times with Mildred Laughlin at Wheat Ridge Acres. She is doing OK. She just needed the care that is available at the center. She told me it will be at least six weeks or more 'till she'll be going back to her home. She is happy with the care, food and all of the fellowship at the center. It's a good place for someone like her who's in the stages of recovery from the surgical correction of a broken bone.

Speaking of broken bones, Biff Young fell a week ago and messed up one of her arms. She had to be moved to Denver for surgery, which by the way wasn't as complicated as they first thought. She is in Greeley, Colo., at her daughter Tiffini's home, for a short

time before she returns to Goodland. Biff's mom, Elaine Thompson, is getting along fairly well and is having to handle her own care for a few days. It never rains, but what it pours. First, Elaine's broken leg and now Biff's broken arm. Each of them will have to have therapy also.

My sincere messages of sympathy to the families of Dorothy Phillips, Larry Conarty and Durward Hoffman. Another one who passed away over the weekend was Lizzie Mae Ferrell, a longtime resident of Goodland. Dorothy and her husband, Carl, lived in Goodland when Carl was the cleaning man at First National Bank. I've known them for a good number of years and had a brief message from her before the holidays. She's been ill for a few years, but we all thought she was getting better. One never knows when the tide turns and things go completely haywire. So to all who are mourning their loss, remember the Almighty is, in spite of the ache, with you on your long walk in these trying times.

Spring must be going to make an appearance soon as I saw and heard a lot of birds singing in the trees the other day as I hung out my wash. Several robins were about as were a couple of squawking blue jays, which are the noisiest, feistiest birds one will see in the trees. I hadn't seen too many squir-

rels around, but I see some scampering around the yard, up the trees and running across the streets. They too must be getting a peek of coming spring weather.

I got a peek of spring, but not one of good wishes. I was looking at my lawn and it sure is going to need a good raking. In fact I've seen several individuals doing just that on some of these nicer, warm days. I love spring, but I'm not overly fond of the upcoming yard work.

There are two birthdays on my calendar. My nephew Mike DeCicco's on March 22 and Laura McClung's on March 25. Conrad and Carol Pettjohn will be having an anniversary on March 24. Best wishes to these and anyone else having a special day.

Berna Biem is in the hospital, but the main reason was not fully decided from the last information I got. I hope it's not serious and that she'll be home and out and about before too long. Christie Schiefen has gotten the green light to resume her normal activities following her accident in December. She's pleased to be able to drive and get out in the world again.

I don't have any other notes floating around, so I will sign off and get this ready to take to the newspaper office on my way to the finger food gathering at the Goodland Senior Center this evening.

Take care 'till next time and call or leave a message if you have something you want to share.

Second day of rolling blackouts in California

LOS ANGELES (AP) — State power managers ordered rolling blackouts across California for a second straight day today as demand for electricity again exceeded supply.

The same factors that collided to strap California's power supply on Monday hit again, officials with the Independent System Operator said. Those include reduced electricity imports from the Pacific Northwest, numerous power plants offline for repairs and higher-than-expected demand because of warm temperatures.

A two-unit Southern California plant that the ISO hoped would be working today had not been fixed. One of its units might go online at noon to help the situation, the ISO's Jim Detmers said.

Hydroelectric power imports from the Northwest were 800 megawatts lower than Monday, he said. The ISO oversees most of the state's power grid.

The ISO asked PG&E, which serves much of central and northern California including San Francisco, to cut 196 megawatts, which translates to about 102,000 business and residential customers, utility spokesman Ron Low said.

Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric were also ordered to cut power. Utility representatives said they didn't have immediate information on how many customers would be affected.

The ISO had hoped demand would start to subside and conservation would kick in, but that did not happen, officials said.

"We've been giving the conservation message since last May and I'm at a loss about why it's not working as well anymore," spokesman Patrick Dorinson said.

The blackouts Monday struck without warning, coming in two waves that left more than 1.2 million customers without power from San Diego to Sacramento. It was a particular shock for Southern California, since the two previous blackouts, Jan. 17 and 18, affected only the northern and central parts of the state.

"It was quite sudden, with no warning or nothing," said Nina Prommer of

Globe Photos Inc., a Beverly Hills-based photo agency.

Intersections in Sacramento were jammed Monday as signal lights went dark. Trapped office workers had to climb through the roof of an elevator in Ventura, and businesses from San Francisco to Silicon Valley put up "Closed" signs.

Monday's shortages were blamed on a transformer fire and a lack of power from idled plants and out-of-state suppliers. At the same time, demand went up as unseasonably high temperatures — 87 degrees in downtown Los Angeles — prompted people to turn on air conditioners.

Power grid operators responded by ordering an initial round of blackouts that lasted from noon to 4 p.m. Monday, unplugging customers for about an hour at a time. A second wave started around 6 p.m. and lasted

through 7:15 p.m.

California's power woes are far from over. Natural gas supplies are

tight, water supplies are down and even higher temps could drive up demand.

Sewer line for airport less than first expected

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cently.

Pickman told the commissioners in his report that he spoke with Allied, Inc. of Hays about the cost of installing a sewer line at the Goodland airport to accommodate businesses that want to lease land there. He said the company estimated the project would not cost more than \$30,000, which is \$10,000 less than what commissioners were expecting.

Pickman said he was to meet with Allied this afternoon for a preconstruction meeting on repairing the brick intersections between Sixth and Eighth Streets on Main.

He asked the commissioners for their

approval to sign an agreement on the sewer line project, so the new asphalt on the airport taxi ways wouldn't have to be ripped up to put in the sewer lines.

He said the asphalt work being done by Grasser Construction of Stratton, Colo., was delayed because of the weather, but should resume in mid-April. He said he wants to have the sewer line installed before then.

The commissioners made payment estimates to Associated Pool Builders of Bismarck, N.D., for \$97,920 and to Rhoads Construction of Goodland for \$11,142.

They also approved the purchase of a new copy machine from Topside Office Products of Goodland for \$3,345 for the city electric department.

Student dies in Mexico

LEAWOOD (AP) — An 18-year-old high school senior died when he fell from a hotel balcony during a spring break trip to Mexico.

Grant Gullion was a student at Blue valley North High School.

Gullion's parents think he forgot his room key Saturday and tried to get into his eighth-floor room from the balcony instead of going to the front desk for help. He went into an open room on the eighth floor and started climbing over waist-high walls that separated balconies.

Gullion apparently lost his footing before he reached his room and fell to the second floor. He was unconscious when an ambulance crew reached him, and doctors declared him dead at a hospital.

Gullion's father, Michael Gullion, said his son played football and varsity baseball, and enjoyed weight training and art classes. During summers, he mowed lawns to make money and played baseball with the Kansas City Monarchs traveling baseball team.

Census eliminates half of town

WILLOWBROOK (AP) — A 1991 tornado that tore through this small Reno County community destroyed five houses and 300 trees.

That was nothing compared to what the U.S. Census Bureau has done. The nation's official head-counters have deleted almost two-thirds of Willowbrook's population.

The 62 percent drop — from 95 citizens in 1990 to 36 last year — earned Willowbrook the distinction of having Kansas' steepest population decline over the decade.

The city rebuilt the homes and replanted the trees lost to the tornado. Now, local officials want a census recount to accurately reflect all 92 citizens.

"Lord knows, 92 is not much of a community, but 36 is nothing," said Mayor Dick Parker, who calls the census nonsense.

Critics of past census counts have claimed that minorities, particularly in poor, inner-city neighborhoods, are often missed.

But Willowbrook is neither poor nor inner-city. It's close enough to Hutchinson that its residents have mailing addresses from the larger city.

Bob Rinaldi, a manager for the U.S. Census program for resolving questions about its counting, declined to speculate about what happened in Willowbrook. But he noted that the city can protest its census results after June 30.

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