

goodland gazette

Well, I had hoped to start this column with a big welcome home to the 24 service people being held in China, but I guess that will have to wait till next week, hopefully.

LaVerne Stegman gave me a call. She had just gotten word that her grandson Ricky was on the move from Colorado. He has been accepted into the Secret Service and will leave for training at the end of the month. She said it has been a dream of his to be a policeman since he was a young boy. They don't know at this point if he'll be on the presidential staff or just what.

He will be facing some rather intensive training for several weeks before he receives his assignment. He will have a tough few months of training for whatever he gets.

He has been told he will need to be in super physical condition and must be able to run for several miles. So, best wishes to this young man and his family as they face some uncertain times these next few months with training and being away from his family and not knowing what department he'll be assigned to.

I went to the Good Samaritan Center last Tuesday to hear the swinging senior band. A couple of ladies from Goodland, Arlene Beneda and Anna Marie Daise, are part of the group,



jan zwetzig

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Anna Marie had invited me to come and hear them. The group had been out at Wal-Mart earlier in the day and wasn't going to the hospital due to the large number of flu and pneumonia patients.

I was amazed to see the change that came about the residents' faces when the group started to play. You could see fingers, feet and bodies trying to keep up with the beat.

Their faces even got a more animated look on them. One gentleman even started dancing with the wife of one of the players. You could tell that dancing was something he had done very well years ago, but it was difficult for him now.

Nevertheless, he did a good job when you consider he has great difficulty just walking by himself. It was a good way to spend an hour, just hearing the band and seeing the reaction of the residents. Keep up the good work, band members.

Birthdays on my calendar include

those of my sister Martha, Chris O'Brien, Debra Mercer and Lea Acuff all on April 9 and Ashley Engel on April 11.

Best wishes to all of them and any others putting another year on their calendar of life. I've no anniversaries, but I'm sure there are some, so best wishes to all who are celebrating.

Clarence and Clara Scheopner are a set of proud parents. Their daughter, Cathy Esquibel of Dodge City, was selected as one of the seven master teachers in Kansas and was honored a week ago at Emporia State University.

The Scheopners were unable to get there, but they did wear their button pins with her picture on it that day. Cathy is a first grade teacher in the Dodge City school system and a graduate of our Goodland High School. Congratulations, Cathy, for a job well done.

Goodland had a few deaths, but I can't find my note with their names on it. Sorry about that, but I do want to express my sincere sympathy to all the families and friends of the deceased ones.

May they all feel the compassion and

love of the Almighty during these troubled times as they cope with their individual losses.

Florence Farris sent me a report of activities in the Edson area. A couple of weeks ago, she visited Alvis Jr. and Carol Galden and Jim and Linda Galden of Hughton. Jim's family had come to Edson for a few days to visit with relatives.

Kenneth and Pat Farris stopped in for a visit with Florence and Ricky, Sherrie and J.J. Farris and the group ate supper together. Ken and Pat left the following day for Denver.

Robert Farris arrived a couple of days later and joined them for a visit to the Grand Canyon. They had a four-day hike in the canyon and it was quite an experience for them.

Robert flew back to Michigan on March 27 and Pat and Ken drove back to Edson with Ken returning to Lawrence.

Florence, Gary and Laramie, along with another relative Dora Belle Wagner of Larned went to the funeral of a cousin, Marie Hampton of Pratt on March 24.

Dora Belle was here to be with her sister Faye Galden who had just returned home from the hospital. On their way home from the services, the group stopped in Hays to visit Joe and

Marjorie Stegman, former Sharon Springs residents.

When she returned Dora Belle to Faye's the next day, Florence had a visit with both of these ladies and had just started home when snow showers hit the area.

Slim Trebelcock of Arvada, Colo., stopped for a brief visit with Florence the last week of March. He was on his way to Dodge City to visit his mother and other relatives.

Florence's grandkids J.J. and Laramie visited her often during March. She said Ricky, Sherrie and J.J. spent a few days with Russell and Penny Tuckel in Santa Fe, N.M. during spring break.

As soon as J.J. got back home from the trip, he told Florence about skiing with Russell and Ricky and how he enjoyed that time.

Several residents either are or have been in the Goodland hospital. Berna Biem is still a patient there. She is to see a specialist on Monday and may get word on how much longer she has to stay in the hospital.

Gloria Kibel and Richard Ruddell were both there for treatment, but are now back home.

Paul Schippert remains a patient, as of this writing.

Opal Cogdill will have surgery on

Monday and will be there for several more days before going home. Carl Nelson is also a patient.

I visited with Elmira David one evening as she was at the hospital with her husband, Don David. He has been a patient for some time and will be for some time longer. Best wishes to these and any others having or undergoing medical treatment.

I continue to enjoy my times with the seniors in the community at the senior center. The ladies have been making "Easter hats" that they will model at our Thursday meal. They will be on display Wednesday at the center at which time they will be judged. The winner will be announced at the noon meal on Thursday.

Lucille Nash, Ila Zeigler, Esther Peters and I went to the chorus presentation in Colby Saturday evening. There was a quartet made up of four young sisters, who are 18, 14, 12 and 10.

These girls are good and can only get better. They have three younger sisters standing in the wings to take over if needed. The family is from Garden City. All in all it was an enjoyable evening.

Take care 'till next week and have a safe and happy Easter weekend with family and friends. See you.

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