

Wedding outside Goodland drew about 80 guests

By Evelyn Ward
Sherman County Historical Society
December 14, 1904: Wednesday evening at half past eight o'clock, at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kolacny, five miles southwest of Goodland, Mr. Percival R. Murray and Miss Annie Kolacny were united in marriage. The Rev. J. Ed Stevens officiated. There were about 80 guests present. An elegant supper was served. Numerous presents were given the young couple. Mr. and Mrs. Murray will make their home at the Garton place, one mile east of Mr. Kolacny's.

December 15, 1904: To Merge Land Offices — That government land in Kansas is fast becoming exhausted is shown by the purpose of the Interior to do away with some

today in history

of the land offices and to merge the territories of adjoining districts. The offices at present are located at Topeka, Dodge City, WaKeeney and Colby. The consolidation is to be made under the authority of a law which provides that when the number of acres of vacant public land in a district is reduced to less than 100,000 acres, the secretary of the interior shall discontinue such land office. Accordingly, if an agreement is carried out, Colby will absorb the WaKeeney office and the vacant land of that district added to the Colby district. The land office is retained in To-

peka under the provision of law which authorizes the continuing of any land office which is situated at the capital of a state, although there is no vacant public land in the Topeka district. There were 82,000 acres of vacant public land in the Colby office on July 1. **December 16, 1904:** Alleged Operations of Cattle Rustlers in Sherman County a Myth — Some daily papers and aspiring reporters have always found northwest Kansas a fertile field for making news out of nothing. They connect the territory with murder, starvation, cattle stealing; in fact some people are so ignorant

as to think us a desert and lawless people. The fact of the matter is, the people of western Kansas are more law abiding and less given to crime than equal areas in the east. The worst tragedy in the history of northwest Kansas was enacted, not by our really bonafide residents, but by imported cowboys acting upon the orders of their imported feudal lord, who was drunk with suddenly imposed power. They regarded not the settlers' rights and trampled law and civilized customs under their feet. And now it seems that the large cattle owners, who have been maintaining their herd more by free range than by right, have hatched the story of their being plundered in order to gain prestige. A Topeka dispatch to the *Rocky*

Mountain News has this to say on the alleged cattle rustling situation: "Cattle stealing in northwestern Kansas has become so general that the ranchmen have notified U.S. Marshal W.H. Mackey that they want a deputy marshal and a U. S. Commissioner appointed for Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman and Thomas counties, which are infested with thieves. "The failure of the county officers in some of the counties in which the robberies occurred is given as the reason why the federal officers are needed. Another reason is thorough organization of the 'cattle rustlers.' The thieves are operating in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado, and their work is so systematic that the officers cannot secure the necessary evidence to convict them."

Whatever may be the exact status of the alleged cattle stealing business in some of the counties enumerated, it is certain that cattle stealing is not going on in Sherman county. Moreover, the county newspapers that come to this office from Thomas and Cheyenne counties contain no news or information about cattle stealing. The fact of the whole matter is, the cattle rustling reports are the stuff that dreams are made of, and are manufactured at some of the ranch headquarters. There is method in their madness. *From weekly issues of The Goodland News, provided by the Sherman County Historical Society. Since the paper was published weekly, some items were arbitrarily assigned a date.*

Year of heartache, tragedy, overall turmoil and unrest nears its end

The month of December and the year are almost history. This has been a year of a lot of heartaches, senseless tragedies and an overall year of turmoil and unrest. Our small community has had, in my opinion, more than its share of tears and sorrows. Sitting the other evening, I began to remember some of the more sad losses in the community. The year didn't start out too whoppie to begin with, with the shooting death of the young woman from Brewster. This was followed with the dirty dust storm that took the life of a man on I-70, followed by another dirt-related storm east of here, again on I-70.



jan zwetzig
• goodland gazette

Close behind that horror, the lives of three women were lost due to the uncaring driving of a female who was drinking, drunk or whatever you want to call it. These deaths shattered the lives of three families within a close-knit family group. A teenager was killed in a car accident, while his companions were spared with non-life threatening injuries.

Crowning it all was the unexplained deaths just this week of two people found dead in their home. You read about such things in larger towns and never give it much thought of occurring in smaller towns. All of these deaths, coupled with those losses due to illness, has made for a sad year for many. I think back to my own problems, and somehow they don't look too bad. Sure it has been a long, drawn-out time, a lot of pain and many tears, but the future looks better each and

every day. The aforementioned deaths can't be changed, but their families' lives must go on just as yours and mine will, even though they may at times be very troubled. I guess you can tell I was in some sort of mood when I wrote this. May God show his mercy upon each one of us as this troubled year is about to silently leave. We pray 2005 will start out better and also be better for us all. My birthday sheet shows Dorothy Hirsch, former resident; Carl Nelson; Mike Miller; Terry Imel; and grand niece Cristal Opydyke will have birthdays the week of the 12th. Best wishes to all. No anniversaries this week. The Christmas parties are going

to start in full swing this week end and continue until Christmas. There are some family dinners the next two weekends, as some of the families couldn't arrange them to be held on Christmas weekend. May they be fun-filled days, as one never knows what is in store for any of us. I'm not planning on going back to Colorado for the holidays, as all of the kids have plans to be with the other side of the families except my nephew Gary, who'll spend the day with Martha and Bob. They have their share of problems, so I will just stay home and enjoy the day on my own. It's really the day for children and young teenagers, and as we get older, it seems to be more of

just a day to remember why we have the day in the first place. I've read several articles on how the season is being started before Halloween, which is crazy. Everything is in a hurry. Sincere sympathy to all mourning their losses. May they know that the Almighty is with them, even though they feel the world around them is falling apart. I hope to start the new year with my being able to do short trip driving. I've not driven for 14 months, so I may not be a good driver the first time or two. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. There's nothing further, so I will close until next time.

Goodland graduate a national scholar at KU

A 2002 Goodland High School graduate has been inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars at the University of Kansas. Lacey Brooke Brenner, daughter of Dan and Dawn Ann Brenner, a junior biology major, was one of 517 students inducted in September. The organization recognizes scholarship and leadership in freshmen and sophomores and focuses on community service projects that include tutoring and volunteering in schools. Members must have a 3.4 grade-point average. Among the 205 chapters nationwide are four in Kansas, including ones at KU, Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University and Wichita State University. The KU chapter was founded in 2000. Sue Lorenz, assistant director of the KU Honors Pro-

gram, is the adviser. The chapter operates the Planning for College Success Tutoring and Mentoring Program. The group has placed about 80 student volunteers in 19 public schools in Lawrence, including the East Heights Early Childhood Family Center, elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools, as well as the St. John Campus of the Lawrence Catholic School. Volunteers help students with homework, academic and organizational skills and class projects. They also work on community service events each month that have included Relay for Life, Trick-or-Treat So Others Can Eat, adopting a family for Christmas and volunteering at the Jubilee Café, a Lawrence restaurant that serves breakfast to impoverished or homeless people.



Brenner

matters of record

Goodland Police
The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:
Dec. 3 — Reckless driving was reported at 1600 Main. Kayla Tatman was arrested for obstruction of the legal process at 204 W. 11th.
Dec. 4 — Diane Stefan reported aggravated battery at 318 Washington.

Dec. 5 — Robert S. Gonzales was arrested for driving under the influence, driving under suspension and disorderly conduct at 500 Cherry.
Dec. 6 — Danny Hershberger was arrested for criminal trespass at the home of Leota Heskett at 1317 College.
Saul Sigala was arrested for driving under suspension and no proof of insurance at 1600 Wyoming.

Sharpen blades before tucking mower in for winter

Mowing can be one of the most critical and underrated cultural practices in turfgrass management. Sharp blades are an essential component of proper mowing, as they leave a smooth-cut surface that heals quickly. Dull blades can tear grass, leaving a shredded tip that heals slowly. These shredded leaves can be more susceptible to disease, less efficient in water use and the damage can be misconstrued as a pest problem. Because we are doing other things to prepare our mowers for winter, such as draining or treating



dana belshe
• ag notebook

gas and changing the oil, now is an excellent time to sharpen mower blades so they'll be ready next spring. Sharpening rotary mower blades is fairly straightforward. The following steps will guide you through this process:

- Check the blade for major damage. If you can't fix it, it likely will need to be replaced.
- Remove grass and debris from the blade with a moist cloth. Dry before beginning to sharpen the cutting edge.
- Remove nicks from the cutting edge, using a grinding wheel or hand file.
- If using a grinding wheel,

match the existing edge angle to the wheel. If hand-filing, file at the same angle as the existing edge. • Grind or file until the edge is 1/32 inch, about the size of a period. • Particularly with a grinding wheel, avoid overheating the blade, as this may warp it. • Clean the blade with solvent or oil, much like if you were cleaning a gun, for optimum winter storage. Avoid using water, as it will promote rust. Following these tips can help you better prepare your mower for winter storage and also save you some steps this coming spring.

club news

There was a lot of chatter and laughter as the Lincoln Larks Family, Community and Education Club met at Howard Johnson's for the club's Christmas party. The club discussed the standard of excellence and other reports. Colleen Duell gave a lesson on "Someone's in the Kitchen Cooking for One or Two." She said you need to modify your recipes by dividing the measurements by three. She also advised to look for single-serving packages or buy larger packages of frozen foods and only taking out what you need.

Try the salad greens in a bag, she said, as they are fresh, delicious and a compliment to any meal. If you cook too much, you may freeze it in small quantities for later use. Whether you're 6 or 76, she said, you need to eat, and you need

to eat right. To stay healthy, she said, you must eat right, exercise and drink plenty of water. The meeting was adjourned, and the club will meet again in January. Submitted by Arbutus Topliff.

A Perfect Christmas Gift for the Entire Family!
DISH NETWORK HAS YOUR LOCAL CHANNELS!

ABC CBS NBC FOX WB UPN PBS

OVER 60 OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE CHANNELS PLUS YOUR LOCAL WEATHER, NEWS AND SPORTS! WITH FREE INSTALLATION

ONLY \$29.99/MONTH
CALL 1-866-SKY-EYES for details

All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Call Decision Weather, Inc. for details (785) 626-8066.

Internet tonight! Call 899-2338.

Claremont Inn
Stratton, Colorado
Holiday Specials!

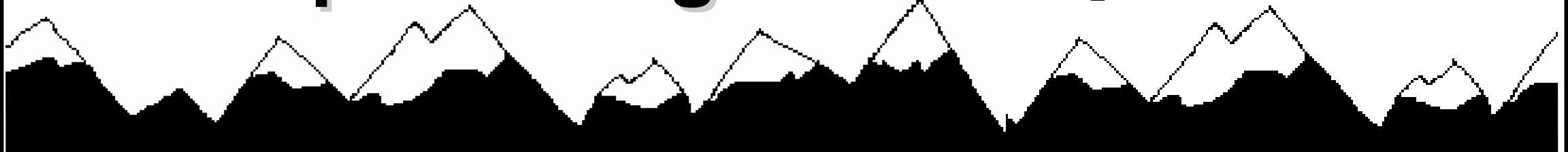
New Year's Eve Murder Mystery
"you'll laugh 'til it hurts"
Complete Package
Call Today!!!

Holiday Gift Certificates
Order-by-phone
Plus
Get a **FREE** Holiday Music CD with you order while supplies last.

1-888-291-8910
719-348-5125

www.claremontinn.com

Shop Burlington for all your needs



Health Essentials

Natural Foods, Vitamins, Massage Therapy, Acupuncture & More

Natural Living Cottage & Wellness Center
314 14th Street, Burlington, Co.
719-346-4681

In Stitches

Your Total Scrapbooking Store
Next Crop
Saturday, Oct. 16, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Come join us to learn how to scrapbook. Call for information
1371 Rose Ave., Burlington, Co.
719-346-5538 1-800-247-9081
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - noon

The Feed Bunk

VITALIX INC.™

- Controlled consumption guaranteed
- Protein and mineral tabs
- Increase Profits and Herd Health

1847 Rose Ave., Burlington, Co.
719-346-5220

Let Advertising work for you!

Call
785-899-2338

MOHAWK COLORCENTER
 flooring • tile • carpet •

- Flooring • Gift Items
- Gourmet Chocolate
- Window Covering
- Wall paper

Superior Flooring & Rugs
360 14th Street, Burlington, Co.
719-346-7579
Dan & Myrna Troyer