

# Blizzard stalled trains, filled buildings with snow

One hundred years ago, the weather made the news headlines in western Kansas as it has in the decades since. *The Goodland Republic* reported in two weekly issues the aftermath of a devastating blizzard which struck the second week of March in 1906.

## MARCH CAME IN LIKE A LION

### A WESTERN BLIZZARD, WHICH RAGED FOR 24 HOURS

The storm of last week was the worst of the season, a genuine blizzard. Thursday afternoon, a mist began to fall about 4 o'clock, with a brisk wind from the north.

By 6 p.m., a genuine blizzard was raging, which continued all night and all the next day, the worst of the storm abating about 9 o'clock Friday evening.

The velocity of the wind must



## marcia smith

● from the vault

have approximated 60 miles an hour from the northwest and was accompanied with fine moist snow, which made it impossible to see but a short distance.

Passenger trains were stalled, and traffic on the Rock Island was blocked for 36 hours. One train having 200 passengers on board, No. 27, westbound, was stalled four miles east of Goodland, the engine being absolutely smothered by the fury of the storm.

After the location of the stranded train was known, a relief party of five young men (from the railroad)

By early Saturday morning, the snowplow cleared the way, and the train was pulled into Goodland, four miles.

Not only were sheds and other out-buildings filled with snow, but a majority of houses in town were not impervious to the sifting penetrating snow.

Congregations in churches Sunday had to sit on the south side of the main aisle to avoid getting wet from the dripping ceilings.

## PASSENGER TRAIN WAS LOST

volunteered to pack out provisions to the train and with eggs being shipped to Denver in the express car, the passengers were fed.

## Lodged in Drift Four Miles East of Goodland

The train, in charge of Engineer Carmichael and Conductor Webster, was 50 minutes late. It was 5 o'clock Friday morning and a howling, blinding blizzard obliterated every landmark....

Not being able to see anything ahead and nothing 10 feet away from the side of the train, he was running slowly for fear of hitting something when the force of the wind and the driving snow stalled the train.

Wet to the skin, the engineer and fireman stayed at their post for 12 long, weary hours, keeping up steam to keep the passengers warm, but finally there being not enough steam to work the injector, they had to let the engine die.

A (search) party was made up in Goodland to locate the train. Five

railroad men, one carrying a telegraph instrument, clad for the emergency, set out. The route was east, the tempest from the northwest, which made the venture possible.

They were between three and four hours making the trip, as they had to flounder through drifts and blunder along blinded by the storm. They ran nearly against the engine before they discovered the train.

A piece of barbed wire was torn from the fence along the right of way, thrown over the telegraph wire and conducted through the bell rope aperture and the instrument installed. Dawson, at the ticker, notified the dispatchers' office their whereabouts.

## FROZE TO DEATH IN THE STORM

## WALLACE COUNTY MAN LOST IN

## STORMY NIGHT AND DIES

As was feared by many people, the recent storm was not without its human sacrifice. Fritz Arkebauer, in who was the strength of youth and promise of old age, was chilled to death last Thursday in the driven snow within a short distance of his home.

His home was in Morton township in Wallace County, northwest of Sharon Springs. The coroner reported that Mr. Arkebauer came to his death from exposure in the storm.

The young man left home on horseback Thursday evening for the home of a neighbor about two miles to get some tobacco. The evidence indicated that the horse fell and injured him, as his head and face were bruised. Wandering over the hills and becoming exhausted, he had dragged himself upon his hands and knees and was found within 250 yards of his home.

# Bowl for Kids Sake to be April 1 in Goodland and St. Francis

We are approaching the time for our annual Bowl For Kids Sake fund-raiser on Saturday, April 1, for Sherman and Wallace counties.

And for the first time, Cheyenne County will be hosting their event at the Cheyenne Bowl in St. Francis. Both St. Francis and Bird City teams will be participating on the same date as the event here in Goodland.

I appreciate Bill Smith, owner of Cheyenne Bowl, for allowing us to use his business. Thanks also to Jerry and Lori Amthor for allowing us to use the Bowladium Lanes here in Goodland for the past years.

Please give us a call for a team captain packet if you would like to participate, to come bowl and make a difference at the same time.

One hope that we have when we make a match is that the Big can



## dennis daise

● big brothers big sisters

encourage the Little to not to be fearful and to use their imagination and dream about what they might want to achieve.

Hopefully the Big will set a good example of living in the moment and yet share what they've achieved or battled in life.

A recent article in *The Denver Post* told a story about Christian Belady, a "distinguished technologist" for the Hewlett-Packard Company.

In 2005 alone, Belady had eight

patents to his credit. For the past six years, he is credited with more than 100 inventions, usually dealing with computing hardware.

"Number is irrelevant if I haven't infected others with the passion for learning and innovation," Belady said. "My goal is to help develop the next generation of inventors who collectively will create more new ideas by a quantum magnitude than I ever could. This is what I hope my legacy will be."

As noted above, Belady's example goes along with our hope that the Big will inspire the Little. Belady said he hopes to teach his

two children through the power of imaginative play, just as his father did. He wants to do the same.

Belady pleads for parents to give their children boxes and throw away the toys.

"Toys that are too realistic and electronic games are numbing the creativity that has made Americans innovative leaders," he said.

I understand his thinking by the number of kids that list video games as one of their favorite hobbies. Belady's dad challenged him to build his own toys, which ranged from his own light saber, a stereo, a go-cart and even learning to always read the directions when he blew up his high school chemistry lab.

Belady continued, "give people the opportunity to take multiple roads, including wrong ones. You

learn from your failures and do things better the next time."

Following in his father's footsteps, Belady enjoys going against the grain.

"If someone tells me it can't be done," he said, "I immediately start thinking how I can do it. It's the same with my team here. We lock ourselves in a room and figure out a solution."

Belady finishes by saying that the "most powerful tool in innovation is a one-word question: 'Why?' Because when we question basic assumptions of what we think as the norm, we find the opportunities."

I couldn't agree more. Imagination is a gift that should not be taken for granted.

To close, Wallace County recently hosted a Volunteer Enrichment Session at the Wesleyan

Church that Joni Pearce directed by sharing information concerning awareness of child abuse.

It was an excellent turnout of Bigs and other interested individuals who attended the session. I want to state I was impressed by the number of high school students who participated.

All the students who attended are volunteers in the "Bigs in School" option under the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and they are setting a great example. Taking the time to attend the session is something a high school student could blow off and just figure that they had better things to do. For these students, I applaud them, and I hope they want to be innovators in whatever field they pursue. By mentoring, they have made a good start!

## 4-H news

### Prairie Dale

The February monthly meeting of the Prairie Dale 4-H Club was held Monday, Feb. 13, in the 4-H building.

President John Mosbarger called the meeting to order. Roll call was answered by 15 members and one leader. There was a special presentation on 4-H ambassadors by Aaron Duell and Sami Philbrick.

Jonathan and Jonah McClung did a demonstration on how to fold the American flag and on flag etiquette. Jace Mosbarger gave a project talk called "Where's the Beef?" Alex Goodwin and Nolan Deeds did a Health and Safety talk on taking care of your teeth properly.

Club members adjourned the meeting by saying the club motto.

Submitted by Whitney Schields, club reporter.

### Ruleton Eager Beavers February meeting

The Ruleton Eager Beavers began their meeting by saying the Pledge of Allegiance on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the 4-H building.

Eleven members, two leaders, five parents, and two grandparents

responded to roll call by answering "what is your favorite holiday?"

Minutes were read and approved. Correspondences were read. Treasurer, 4-H council and leader reports were given. Under old business, the club decided to participate in making a fair banner, and suggestions for the fair theme were requested.

Under new business, it was decided to change the next 4-H meeting date to accommodate the model meeting. Leader Kevin Winston will come up with a skit idea.

The program started by the group singing "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," led by Dani Mangus and Riley Wilson. Then Dani sang "Suds in the Bucket," by Sara Evans.

Cody Hooker gave a project talk on his dog Chris, and Devin Mangus gave a project talk on "Why do Record Books?"

Red light, green light was the recreation activity, led by Cody

Hooker. Announcements were given by the leaders and refreshments served by the Hooker family. Meeting was adjourned by saying the Club Motto.

### March meeting

The Ruleton Eager Beavers began their meeting by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge on Monday, March 6, at the 4-H building.

Eleven members, three leaders and one parent responded to roll call by answering "what is your favorite color?"

Minutes were read and approved. Correspondences were read. Treasurer, reporter, 4-H council, parliamentarian and leader reports were given.

The ceremony committee presented each member with military gifts from Pete DeleRosa, United States Marine Corps. There was no old business. Under new business, it was decided to give each member who turned in a record book \$25 to

be used for a 4-H activity.

The program started by the group singing "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," led by Dani Mangus and Riley Wilson. Dan Mangus accompanied on the guitar.

Kaitlyn Coon gave a demonstration on "Tea Time," and Devin Mangus gave a project talk on "Why do Record Books?"

The orange relay was the recreation activity lead by Holly Wilkening. Announcements were given by the leaders and refreshments served by the Mangus family. Meeting was adjourned by saying the Club Motto.

Submitted by Cody Hooker.

## Congressman accepting page applications

Congressman Jerry Moran is accepting applications for the U.S. House of Representatives 2006 Summer Page Program.

The program offers high school students entering or having just finished their junior year the opportunity to see Congress in action and help with official House duties.

Applicants must be sponsored by a member. Moran's office has forms which, should be returned by March

31. Students should call (202) 225-2715 for information.

The first of two sessions runs from June 12-30 and the second July 10-28. Pages must be at least 16 and have at least a 3.0 grade point average.

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