



On the Plains

Idalia News by Elsie Shanks

The Idalia school board has been selected as the recipient of the 2003. All Colorado School Board award. The award ceremony will take place at the Colorado Association of School Boards convention at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Fourth General Session, beginning at 3:30 p.m. in Colorado Hall.

Attached is the nomination letter submitted by Superintendent Tim Gibben.

Please consider Idalia School District RJ-3 for your All State School Board Whole Board Award. District RJ-3 has only been a district since June 2001, having passed a vote in November of 2000 to take advantage of rare legislation (HB 99-1367) that allowed the deconsolidation from East Yuma County RJ-2 in Wray, East Yuma County in Wray and West Yuma

County in Yuma were the only districts in the state that had two kindergarten through 12th grade attendance centers, one under 200 students, which would aid favorably from the legislation to receive the higher per pupil state aid.

Upon deconsolidation the new district, RJ-3, was funded at levels due to smaller schools of similar size throughout the state. There were no changes in the current mill levy, all current facilities remained open, and no programs or classes were lost. The election of new board of directors, employee contracts, transportation agreements, Board Of Cooperative Education Services contracts, and facility changes were just a few of the challenges the new district and board faced. They were added administrative costs but the budget became more efficient and effective, control of finances and

specific issues were given back to the local communities.

This board elected in November 2000, took on the task of starting a new district, a new board and new administration. They have demonstrated excellence in leadership and a tremendous amount of foresight in planning. The district's enrollment has stayed steady and the financial condition of the district is sound. The board of directors have overcome administration changes, facility planning and the many other tasks that come with starting out on their own and becoming a new district. Idalia Junior High and Idalia high school have both received excellent ratings on the school accountability reports and have been honored as a John Irwin School of Excellence the past two years. The high exceptions of students and staff are a direct influence of the

board of directors. The boards of directors and the administration have developed new policies that support student achievement and have responded to the needs of the students, staff and community.

Idalia School District RJ-3 has created one of the top educational facilities in the state and through the guidance of this board has overcome many challenges to have designed a model for the other districts around the state.

Idalia School Board members include president Jim Soehner, president; Kevin Reeves, vice president; Gary Soehner, Kristi Minor and Ron Chamberlain.

Wedding Reception

A wedding reception honoring Justin and Michelle Allen, will be held Saturday, Nov. 29 at Beecher Island Sunday school, dinner at 6p.m.

Womens Fellowship

St. John United Church of Christ Womens Fellowship met Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. at the Vision building, 13 members and two guests were present. Elsie Shanks and Shirley Boden presented the lesson on "The First Thanksgiving" which was very educational. Everyone brought their thanks offering and their shoe boxes filled which were taken to church to gift wrap. Secretary Laura Lengel read the minutes and Debbie Crites gave the treasurers report. Elsie Shanks reported on cards sent.

Church cleaning was postponed from November and re-scheduled for Dec. 2. A sewing day will be Jan. 14 in the morning. Officers elected Debbie Crites was re-elected as treasurer and Judy Wieser as vice president.

Hostess was Jerry Crites who served candy, mixed nuts, pumpkin pie, with whipped cream, iced tea and coffee.

Pastor Ralph Datema who attended and played his guitar and led the singing of "Count Your Blessing" and "Faith is the Victory" also sang Happy Birthday song for Judy Wieser. Pastor Ralph passed out gift wrapped packages and literature for advent Sundays with candles for everyone. The candles represent glory, hope, peace, love and joy. Then they took the shoe boxes to the church to be Christmas wrapped.

Idalia School News

There are still some sports blankets and stadium blanket for sale. Call the school if you are interested.

Junior high boys and girls basketball teams played Aricharee Tuesday evening at Idalia both winning.

Thanksgiving vacation starts Wednesday through the weekend for teachers, students and staff.

St. John United Church of Christ

St. John United Church of Christ invites everyone to come join them. Sunday school is at 10 a.m.

Join the church Saturday, Nov. 29 at 4 p.m. to decorate the Christmas tree and the church.

Family Community Education

Bicentennial Family Community Education Club of Idalia met Thursday night at St. John United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall with thirteen members attending.

Kathy Fonte, president opened the meeting with all reading the creed together. Roll call was "Your Favorite Thanksgiving Activity", secretary report by Roberta Moellenberg and treasurers report by Sheryl Wudtke both were approved. Elsie reported no cards sent this month. The commodity distribution discussed. Kathy told about the Turkey Shoot and the winners of the boxes. Sheryl Wudtke showed the angel ornament she had made for the Hospice Tree of Light which will be displayed at the Christmas music program Dec. 17. Wednesday night at Idalia school. They voted donate money to Bonny Community Club for candy sacks for Santa to distribute after the program.

Joyce Helling, Lois Lippert and Sherlyn Wudtke attended the Fall Festival at the Senior Center in Wray with a soup supper Nov. 17.

Christmas party, hostesses, Kathy Fonte and Susan Knodel. Bring a guest and a gift for her and your secret pal gift too. They will send out invitations when it will be and where and time.

Kathy read a list for the cookie plates and we added some. Then we all packed the large plates with cookies that everyone brought. Kathy won the Scholarship Basket brought by Elsie Shanks and everyone took some plates to deliver.

Violet Knapp attended her Pinochle Club Wednesday afternoon hosted by Amanda Jacobson at her home.

Arla Hall entered North Colorado Medical Center in Greeley Oct. 22 and had surgery on her hip and is still in the hospital.

The news is scarce this week as I had to get the news out Friday as everyone is not sure what they will do for Thanksgiving due to weather.

Keith and Katie Weyerman, Sierra and Nichole plan to leave Wednesday afternoon for Rapid City, S.D. to spend Thanksgiving with her daughter, Lori Scheler and fiancée in her new home.

Rob and Marcy Beckman, Tyler and Kristin of Atwood, Joey and Amber Huber of Castle Rock, Tom and Angie Toledo and Chelsea of Parker, Ryan and Ginny Beckman of Glenwood Springs, and Anna Beth Beckman of Wray plan to be Sunday Thanksgiving dinner guests of Larry and Janie Beckman.

Bailey Jackson of Pittsburg, Kan., arrived this week to visit her grandparents, Priscilla and Steve Lindsey at the Mullen Ranch till after Christmas. Bailey and Sydney Weyerman helped Betty Moellenberg pack and wrap Christmas shoe boxes to send over seas to Latin America.

Betty Moellenberg and some of her sisters attended the Thanksgiving dinner last Sunday at the nursing home with her 96 year old mother, Arla Duret at Eads.

Betty Moellenberg and volunteers packed and Christmas wrapped Wednesday evening through Thursday evening 74 boxes to be sent over seas to children that will be happy to get something for Christmas that would not otherwise. If anyone else has anything it can be left at St. John United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall before Thanksgiving Betty will be taking them to Denver after Thanksgiving and she appreciates everything that has been contributed and those who helped pack and wrap.

Harlan and Shirley Boden plan to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner at Hillcrest Towers with the patients in Wray.

Beecher Island News By Bessie Dent

The Beecher Island Helping Hand Club met with Teresa Allen Wednesday. Jessica Towns will be the hostess for the next meeting on Dec. 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wall and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmons and Quentin were among the guests helping Madison Perila celebrate her first birthday Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Dickson took Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways out for lunch Thursday in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Heaths attended the awards banquet for the Greeley Saddle Club last Sunday, Nov. 16. Dustin Lance is a member. They were Sunday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dana Lance and family.

Jacque Ekberg had lunch with Rhoda Renzelman Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Shaver and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Cutforth visited Mr. and Mrs. Berl Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Allen Thursday morning.

Lynn Jones and Walter Kincheloe were Tuesday morning callers of the Paul Dents.

Judy Shively went to Denver for a medical check up Thursday and Rowe Shively went to Boulder to help Kelly.

Larry Allen had a jam session with the Rowe Shivelys Wednesday evening.

Doris Whomble visited Tuesday late afternoon with Judy Shively.

Doris Osmus and Mary Allen took Judy Shively out for lunch for her birthday Tuesday.

Happy Thanksgiving. There were 64 at Sunday school with Rose Pickard giving her birthday offering. Jim Sharp gave a special music program.

There is a wedding reception for Justin and Michelle Allen on Saturday at the Beecher Island Sunday school with dinner at 6 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Kent Rose and Mallory hosted a pizza and birthday cake Friday evening in honor of Chynna's 12th birthday. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Kent Rose, Amber, Chris and Bailey, Pam Zuege, Cory and Brooke, Duane and Sylvia Blessman, Albert Reitz and Hannah Langendoerfer. Cory, Booke and Hannah were overnight guests.

Tobi Juerink of Kansas City accompanied Betty Greene to Tuc-

son, Ariz., Saturday until Tuesday to spend time with Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Chapman and celebrate the birthdays of Betty and Carole.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmons attended the wedding of Ashley White and Martin Dale Derek Saturday evening.

Harry Ekberg took Beulah Ekberg, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways, Betty Green and Mr. and Mrs. Rex Shaver out Friday evening to the Sandhiller to celebrate the anniversaries of Harry and Beulah and Bill and Darlene and the birthday of Betty, all on Nov. 15.

The Bill Strangways continued to celebrate. They had pizza in Yuma after the ball game with Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wieser and Katie, Bernie Oberg, Mr. and Mrs. Al Lewis and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Meek and Jarrod and all enjoyed cake later. The Lewis' and Meeks are from Grand Junction and were Saturday overnight guests of the Strangways.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Osmus returned home from Branson Sunday. They were gone 10 days and celebrated their Nov. 15 wedding anniversary.

June Richers was among the guests at the supper and open house in honor of Mike and Sharon Gartrell's 25th wedding anniversary Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways took Mr. and Mrs. Phil Heath out for supper Wednesday in honor of Nancy's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hurlburt and Tatuim Armstrong of Johnson were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hurlburt and family. all attended the Idalia-Otis football game Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Osmus and Jacob were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Parmelee and family. Megan and Ben Jones were Saturday overnight guests of Jacque Ekberg.

Donna Dodge had lunch Monday with Violet Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Oberg were Sunday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways.

Ralph Walchle of Ridgeway was a Saturday and Sunday overnight guests of Nettie May Welton. Ralph was here to help Ada Walchle get settled in the Towers.

Jo Ellen and Mike Goodman

were Monday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mansfield. Bessie Dent was a caller in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wall were Friday afternoon visitors at the Robert Simmons home.

Andy Osmus of Minneapolis, Minn., came Friday for a few days, Tempy Bowman and Ted Kerbs came Friday to Sunday and Matt Osmus came Saturday to do some hunting. All were Saturday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Osmus. All but Matt were weekend guests of Pete and Boni's.

Last Wednesday Violet Brown had lunch out with the church ladies.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Shaver had supper with Bernice Eberhart Wednesday when they returned from Branson, Mo.

Ellen Mansfield and Gwen Shaver attended the Willing Workers Club Thursday at Joyce Helling's.

Nephew Steve Lewis of Alaska was an overnight guest of Doris Whomble.

Steve Lewis was a Wednesday night and Thursday guest of Mr. and Mrs. Rowe Shively. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Blazer were Thursday visitors.

Zack Bowman was a Friday and Saturday overnight guest and Austin Bowman was a Saturday overnight guest of the Rowe Shivelys.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe Shively met Kelly Shively in Boulder Saturday and helped him moved into his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sharp were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Rowe Shively.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Allen were Saturday overnight guests of Mary's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Shively in Brighton. They attended the Bronco game Sunday afternoon with Mary's brother and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Mansfield brought dinner into the Bill Mansfields for a belated birthday dinner for Bill on Sunday.

Sharilyn Mansfield attended the bridal shower Saturday at the Run Away Inn in honor of Candance Berry, bride-elect of Craig Schaal.

Mallory Rose, member of the EPYCS., helped with the Clean Up Day at Idalia Sunday afternoon.

McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Upcoming events

Sunday, Nov. 30: Garden Club members will decorate the barrels on Main Street with pine branches and poinsettias.

Monday, Dec. 1: Senior Citizen Christmas dinner at the McDonald Legion Hall at noon.

Wednesday, Dec. 3: McDonald Area Development meeting at noon

Wednesday, Dec. 3: Garden Club cookie exchange at 1:30 p.m. at home of Kay Miller

Wednesday, Dec. 10: Christmas dinner for senior citizens at the Cheylin school at noon

Birthdays celebrated

Due to the upcoming holiday season, all November and December birthdays were celebrated at the

Frosty Mug on Monday, Nov. 24. Ladies receiving a card shower and a lunch with friends were Zelda Knapp, Lois Morelock, Helen Frisbie and Helen Johnson.

Members of the Federated Church enjoyed their annual Thanksgiving diner on Sunday, Nov. 23. Due to the extreme cold, several of their elderly members were not able to attend church services and dinner was carried to their homes.

Greg and Cheryl Wilkinson and Patty Skolout returned home last Monday evening from a trip to Oregon and Washington. They flew from McCook to Portland, Ore., where they were met by Barry Skolout. He drove them to

Bremerton, Wash., where they enjoyed time with Ryan Wilkinson of the U.S. Navy. While there they took a ferry from Port Angeles to Victoria, Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Nickel of Arkansas have been visiting his parents this past week. On Sunday Bruce and Susan Nickel and Brad and his wife were evening visitors of Ray and Marlene Johnson.

On Friday Karlyne Atchison and Amelia Banister visited in St. Francis with Viola Jones, Irene Kehlbeck and Alvin and Marie Holzwarth.

Tammi Carmichael, Ty and Taryn were Sunday evening visitors of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison.

Haigler News By Opal Collicott

Snow

As the news is being written, the weather is more like winter than fall. The first snow, although light, came during Saturday night, Nov. 22, bringing with it icy roads and bitter cold temperatures.

Santa is coming

The Haigler Fire Department is hosting an open house on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Haigler Fire Barn. Santa will be visiting during this time to have this picture taken with the kids, young and older. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy the fun and help begin the Christmas Season.

Hanging Of The Greens

The Haigler United Methodist church will have their annual "Hanging Of The Greens" on Sunday, Nov. 30, beginning at 5 p.m.

Birthday celebrations

The first birthday of Madison Paige Perila was celebrated at her

home in Westminster, Colo., on Saturday, Nov. 22. Her parents, Randy and Laurie Perila, and 3-year-old sister, Laura Ashley, along with grandparents, Robert and MerryLu Simmons of Wray, hosted a Teddy Bear Picnic at the Perila home.

The cold weather and falling snow did not deter the guests from enjoying the indoor picnic. Madison's sister, Laura and cousins, Blaine Lee and Logan Klein of Yuma, helped Madison open her gifts and checked to see if they worked properly!

Others who attended the party were Quentin Simmons, Dwight Wall, Jay and Carol Flaming, Wendy Lee, Julia, Rachel and Erica Rodriguez, Karen Osthus, Bill O'Neil, Jim and Brandon Howard, Jay and Angie Caudill.

90th birthday

Mary Stute, a former resident of Haigler, will be pre-celebrating her 90th birthday on Saturday, Nov. 29 at Holdrege Memorial Home. Greetings will reach her at 1320 11th Avenue, Holdrege, NE, 68949.

Gerald and Betty Myer, Velma Neville and Grace Adams attended a pre-Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, Nov. 23, in the home of Tom and Charlotte Myer and family in Wray.

Mrs. Richard Wall visited at the Jay and Carol Flaming home in Yuma on Wednesday. She also visited with great-grandsons, Logan Klein and Blaine Lee.

Myrna Mulligan was a visitor on Saturday, Nov. 22, of her aunt, Velma Neville, at the home of Betty and Gerald Myer.

Herald/Times Happenings:

Christmas Tab

This supplement will be filled with Christmas Cheer: Letters to Santa, Recipes and Memories. The advertising is reserved for Christmas well wishes!



For more details, contact
 Claire Jeanfreau-Hilt
 at 785-332-3162

Bird City Times

The Saint Francis Herald