



The Bluebird

A Publication for the Alumni of Goessel High School

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Goessel Volleyball Celebrates 40 years

At Goessel High the 1981-1982 school year proved to be a year of transition in sports. Although, football switched from eight to eleven man football, a more drastic change occurred on the girls' side as Goessel began its first year with a volleyball program.

The Bluebirds began competing in the Heart of America League with Brian Stucky as head coach. Stucky had previously coached the Buhler freshmen team from 1977-1979.

In order to introduce both the players and the fans to the game of volleyball, an exhibition by the Bethel College women's volleyball team was scheduled at the Goessel gym. The Bethel team gave a demonstration of the game as well as an explanation of the rules. The program was well received and 17 girls participated the first year. The Bluebirds opened the season on September 1 at Hesston.

Stucky was head coach until 1987-1988. Sandy Banman followed Stucky and coached from 1988-1989 to 2004-2005. Current coach is Crysta Guhr.

This fall will provide an opportunity to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Goessel Volleyball program and all of the people who have played roles within it.

Current head coach Crysta Guhr invites all former and current coaches, players, managers, filmers, statisticians, and fans to join the team at the Goessel Volleyball Invitational held on Saturday, September 11 beginning at 8:30 a.m; come for part of the day or the entire day! There will be a brief time to stand and be recognized at the end of Goessel's last pool play match, which should be between 1:00 -2:00. Throughout the day, there will be a volleyball to sign, a photo opportunity, and a place to write down memories/stories from past years and messages for future players. After the tournament, a reception will be held in the High School cafeteria. All three of Goessel's Head Coaches will speak briefly, then there will be a time to visit and reconnect. Light refreshments will be served. The tournament is likely to end between 5:00 and 6:00 with the reception following. Come out on Saturday, September 11 to see the current team play and celebrate with us as we remember how far we have come!

Contact Information

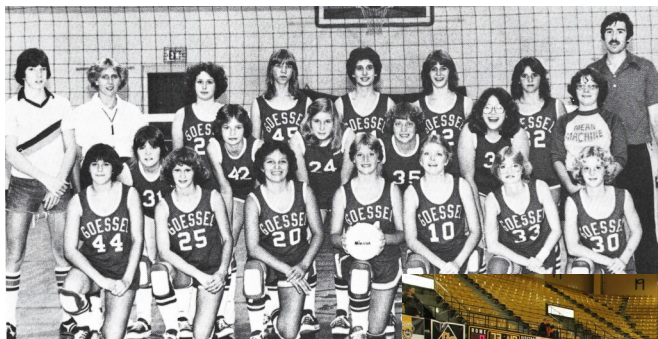
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The alumni newsletter is
also posted on the
alumni page of the USD
411 website.



1981-82 Team: Mgr.—Brad Goertzen, Asst. Coach—Sandy Banman, Melissa Razor, Laura Logback, DeVon Schmidt, J’Nan Hiebert, DeeAnn Byrd, Head Coach-Brian Stucky.
Middle: Betsy Stoetzel, Dianna McMillian, Susan Schmidt, Denise Hackney, Radene Unruh, Mgr. —Donita Girard.
Front: Kim Schmidt, Janna Brandt, Anita Graber, Kay Goertzen, Dee Kaltenbach, Debbie McMillian, Jenny Schroeder.

The 2015 Volleyball Team didn't "Relent", until they held the record of 44-0 for the season!



First team to go to State. 1996 Runner Up, Class 2A

Asst. Coach-Vanessa Schroeder , Yvette Peters, Head Coach-Sandy Banman, Carrie Schmidt, Krista Graber, Middle: Spencer Goertz-Giffen, Kylene Roberts, Tina Schmidt, Kendra Guhr, Front: Bobbie Williams, Letha Funk, Megan Schmidt, Janell Schroeder.



2015—State Champions

Head Coach-Crysta Guhr, Brittney Hiebert, Mgr.-Abby Han- non, Kara Burkholder, Leah Booton, Eden Hiebert, Olivia Duerksen, Shelbi Stultz, Savanna Wuest, Asst. Coach-Zana Manche-DeJong
Front: Mgr.-Kaleigh Guhr, Aleena Cook, Alicen Meysing, Aly- sa Booton, Anna Wiens, Page Hiebert, Mgr.-Ashley Hiebert.

Volleyball was played at Goessel as early as 1927 as an intramural sport for girls.



Menno Haus

Jerry and Leann Toews, former teachers at Goessel High School, have opened Menno Haus, a bed and breakfast. Menno Haus is located on their property at the edge of Goessel. It features two bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, and a spacious, open, accessible living area, decorated with unique Mennonite furniture and artifacts. Wi-Fi internet is available. Simple breakfast fixings are provided. If you are coming to Goessel for a class reunion, to visit parents, attend an event, or just driving thru, they would enjoy having you as their guests. Contact Leann at jtoews62@gmail.com for reservations or more information.



Teacher's Corner
Elaine Schroeder
1944-2021

Elaine Schroeder taught at Goessel from 1968-2001. She was a wonderful teacher and her students remember her for her kind, easygoing manner, while instilling an ethic of working to achieve their best. She taught a multitude of English classes, and was a sponsor for numerous extracurricular activities.

Her influence was felt in the development of the Goessel Library. The contribution of her creativity and her knowledge of books helped enhance the library and made it a welcoming place. She served on the Goessel Public Library board for many years and worked as a volunteer in the library until her health no longer made it possible. She loved books and she loved books about books.

Last year, during COVID, a temporary StoryWalk was created and positioned along the Bethesda sidewalk. It was considered a great success and addition to the community. It provided an opportunity for children and their parents to enjoy reading and the outdoors in a safer environment.

To honor Elaine Schroeder, the Goessel City Library is establishing the "Elaine Schroeder Story Walk" along the sidewalk of Bethesda. StoryWalks are currently used by the Kansas Health Foundation as a proven method to increase literacy in children ages 0 through third grade.



Goessel City Library has applied for a number of grants to help finance this endeavor. They would also like to encourage alumni to help finance this project. The library feels this is a great opportunity to work together for the best of the community and to remember Elaine's contribution to the school and community.

If you are interested in donating to this cause contact Laura Dailley, Library Director, for the Goessel Public Library. Email contacts can also be made through goeslib@mtelco.net.

*Mrs. Elaine Schroeder's Famous
Simile:*

*A short story should be like a
girl's skirt. Short enough to be
interesting but long enough to
cover the subject!*

Foundation Announces Agriculture Scholarship

Article submitted by Carol Reimer Duerksen

Although there were agricultural classes earlier, the Goessel Chapter of FFA and Vo-Ag officially was organized in the fall of 1953. For the 1959-60 school year, Nelson D. Galle, a first-year teacher with a farm background and recent graduate of Kansas State University took over the FFA/Vo-Ag program at Goessel High School. His tenure in Goessel went through 1963-64. Under Galle's leadership, "FFA blossomed", said Ted Nikkel, Jr. Students became active participating in competitive contests and leadership training. Many young men developed life-long skills from classroom theory and projects completed in "shop".



A scholarship, specifically for GHS graduates majoring in agriculture, has been established with the Goessel Community Foundation and will be known as, "Nelson Galle Endowed Scholarship". While the scholarship is named for Galle, many other Vo-Ag FFA instructors at Goessel High School have carried on successful programs. Over the years, the Goessel FFA Chapter has been recognized for achieving many awards—both as a chapter and individually.

An endowed scholarship with the Foundation requires a minimum of \$10,000 before scholarship disbursements can be made. Generous donations before August 31, 2021 can make that happen for 2022 graduates. Please consider a donation to this scholarship payable to: Goessel Community Foundation, P.O. Box 244, Goessel, KS 67053 with "Nelson Galle Endowed Scholarship" as a note. GCF is a 501 c (3) organization.

Nelson D. Galle, a Kansas State University alumnus and former chair of the Kansas Board of Regents, served as Kansas FFA President from 1953-1954.

Photo credit to Kansas State University, [K-State News](#), "History of Kansas FFA, rural life being preserved with help of Kansas State University undergraduate researchers", June 2017.)

1961-62 GHS FFA/Vo-AG student, Wesley Duerksen of Cedar Rapids, IA, shows his former instructor, Nelson D. Galle, his hobby of producing wooden replicas of equipment during Galle's recent visit to the Duerksen home.

(Photo credit to Donna Duerksen.)

