

Students have 'culture shock'

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News
Students from Marshfield, Mass., describing Goodland as a "culture shock," were surprised how little water western Kansas has, but found several things they like about the area.

Seven students from the town, 15 miles southeast of the outskirts of Boston and two miles from the Atlantic Ocean, came to Goodland from Thursday, Feb. 22, through Monday as part of this year's AFS short-term exchange. Goodland students will visit Marshfield over spring break.

Laura Wilson stayed with Steve and Susan McCall and Jena; Jacquelyn Fletcher with Rod and Michelle Cooper and host sister Cassie; Molly Drane with Mark and Jackie Buller and host sisters Kylie Buller and Leeanoora Kekalainen (an exchange student from Finland); Patrick White with Doug and Jeanne Irvin and host brothers Chris and Ryan; Jason Spooner with Roger and Cindy Ridder and Tehnee; Zachary Brentzel with Terry and Mary Redlin and Sandra; and their AFS sponsor, Patricia Salamone, with Cliff and Mary Porterfield, Goodland AFS sponsors. AFS co-sponsor Elaine Felver also helped with the exchange.

Coming here was a culture shock, Fletcher said. There are a lot of trees in Massachusetts, so you can't see far. Brentzel also commented on how open everything is.

The students said they were surprised to see so little water. After arriving at the Denver International Airport, they set out on a three-hour drive across the flatlands that went beyond their expectations.

"We kept thinking we'd see water on the horizon," Drane said.

"We knew," White added, "but we kept hoping."

There are marshes and lakes all around at home, Salamone said, water and bogs everywhere.

Drane, a vegetarian, said she

wasn't charmed by a visit to T-Bone Feeders. It seemed to be mutual.

"One lady was offended that I don't eat meat," she said, "and the people there kept talking about how well the cattle were being cared for right before they're slaughtered."

White had other concerns: "The stench on that stretch of road was unbearable."

The students loved the \$5 lunch buffet at Gambino's and enjoyed a tour of the Puppet Factory. "That lady is really into her puppets," the students said of owner Martha Bishop; she has a unique business, not what you would expect in this area.

White and Spooner said they were surprised at how many new pickups roam the streets here; both had a gleam of delight in their eyes as they talked about how nice they were and how big the wheels are.

And Goodland High School was a pleasant surprise. Being able to leave the campus during the day is awesome, White said.

"We can't leave for lunch at home," Drane said, "and we start at 7 a.m."

The Marshfield school has 1,200 students, she said, so Goodland High, with 214, is a lot smaller. She noted that Goodland has no security cameras. The other students agreed that no cameras was a plus, and the Max Jones Fieldhouse impressed them.

"The field house is awesome," White said. "I've never seen anything like it."

Other students agreed, saying it is like a college facility.

The school here is bright, clean and well taken care of, Salamone said.

The students said they were shocked at the social castes at Goodland High. The parking lot is divided by popular kids and unpopular, Drane said; they have separate sides of the building. There are more cliques, she said, adding that the school is not as divided by social classes at home.



Zachary Brentzel (left) and Molly Drane (middle), both of Marshfield, Mass., and Jena McCall of Goodland were in "tidal wave" position during a game last Friday in the Goodland High School gym. Goodland student Michael Smith led AFS students in a game where they responded to commands, some of which required being in groups of a certain number. When Smith said "tidal wave," all the

They were also surprised by a current news item in Goodland — they couldn't believe all the firefighters are volunteers.

The students said they had eaten a lot of good food here, and they enjoyed their host families and their homes, especially White.

students were to get in groups of three. The command "lighthouse" required students to get into pairs, and "row" required groups of four. An odd student out would be eliminated. The activities were part of an AFS short-term exchange between the two schools.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

"My house has a movie theater," he said. "My mom drives a minivan with all the extras, wireless headphones and everything, and dad

drives a new truck. I always thought of farming as poverty, but it's clearly not. I have my own bathroom."

Body missing Atwood man

Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson says a body found by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks employees Monday afternoon at Keith Sebelius Reservoir west of Norton was that of an Atwood man missing since fall.

A pickup belonging to Dale

Nelson, 81, was found at the reservoir two days after he was last seen in Atwood, on Nov. 7.

Searchers dragged the lake, but had no luck finding the body.

The Norton County sheriff's officers, an ambulance crews and other rescue workers joined Wild-

life and Parks employees Monday at the water's edge in a refuge area at Prairie Dog State Park after the body was found.

Officials said rising water from the snowmelt may have brought the body to the surface.

corrections

A story on Page 3 of the Tuesday, Feb. 27, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* gave the wrong costs for two sports. The high school spend \$10,048 for baseball and \$9,745 for softball, said Superintendent Shelly Angelos.

The addition of \$15,000 for a secretary belongs to North Elementary School, not Central. That makes total cost to run North \$129,329. Both were due to reporter error.

In the patient news section on Page 2 of the Tuesday, Feb. 27, edition of *The Goodland Star-News*, the address to send cards to Margie Albers should have read in care of Kevin Albers, Box 402, Torrington, Wyo. 82240, not Box 401. This was a reporting error.

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In matters of record on Page 9, Sandy Vasquez's name was spelled Vasquex. This was due to a reporter error.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story.
Please call our office at (785)

899-2338 to report errors.
We believe that news should be fair and factual.
We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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Mayor field narrowed to two after Kanorado primary Tuesday

Dennis Korbelik and Sandra Bagley topped the vote in a primary election for mayor of Kanorado on Tuesday.

Korbelike had 26 votes, Bagley 9 and Wanetta Webber, who was eliminated, 3. The primary was to narrow the field to two candidates for mayor. Voting was at Sherman County Courthouse or by advance ballot.

The general election will be Tuesday, April 3.

The Goodland School District has four seats up for election. Incumbents Jane Philbrick and Andrew House filed for re-election; new candidates who filed were John Hendrich and Chuck Wilkens.

On the Goodland City Commission, three incumbents filed for the three seats: Dave Daniels, Annette Fairbanks and Rick Billinger, drawing no challengers. The top two on the election ballot will win four-

year terms and the third will win a two-year term.

Colleen Duell filed for a seat on the Sunflower Extension District board to represent Sherman County. The extension district includes Sherman, Wallace and Cheyenne counties. The 12-member board includes four members from each of the 3 counties.

Four people are running for the Kanorado City Council. Gerald Webber, Deb Fahey, Larry Wilkerson and Cody Pettibone filed for the two open seats.

Four people filed for five seats on the Brewster School Board, Rod Gilley, Bonnie Holm, Don Allen and Willard Crumrine. With only four candidates, the fifth seat will have to be filled by an appointment by the Thomas County commissioners on a recommendation from the school board.

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