

Goodland wins third straight regional olympiad

The Goodland High School Science Olympiad team earned first place at the regional competition in Hays for the third year in a row, and the fourth time in school history.

Thirteen teams from across Northwest Kansas competed at the Hays regional competition on Feb. 10. Finishing second was Ell-Saline and Russell came in third.

Science Olympiad is a national organization to promote science education by sponsoring competitions. Each fall national rules and events are decided, and then teams of high school students prepare to compete against other students from different high schools.

Two different types of events are held, building and written. In the building events, students build projects within predetermined criteria. Written events test the students' knowledge within the various areas of science.

All 15 representatives of the Goodland High School Science Olympiad team competing medaled at the Hays regional competition.

Nine events brought home gold medals. Hazen Deeds and Kayler Rietcheck in Mousetrap Vehicle; Chantel Coates and Jarod Lake in Disease Detectives; Day Waugh and Michaela Garrett in Ornithology; LeRoy Prine and Nick Thomas in Fossils; Deeds and Thomas in Towers; Prine, Waugh, and Garrett in Protein Modeling; Caleb Fugleberg and Garrett Geist in Sounds of Music, and Jason Cowan and Thomas in Sumobots.

Silver medals went to three events. Brianna White and Prine in Write it, Do it; Berkley White and Brianna White in Helicopter, and Coates and Lake in Astronomy.

Four events earned bronze medals. Waugh and Fugleberg in Ecology; Waugh and Carly McCracken in Anatomy and Physiology; Cowan



Barkley and Brianna White (above) won silver medals in helicopter, an event in the regional competition at Hays for the Science Olympiad. Nick Thomas (right holding controller) and Jason Cowan got ready to drive the sumobot to victory and a gold medal.

Photos by Brian Coon/Coach

and McCracken in Dynamic Planet, and Rietcheck and Parker Sieck in Technical Problem Solving.

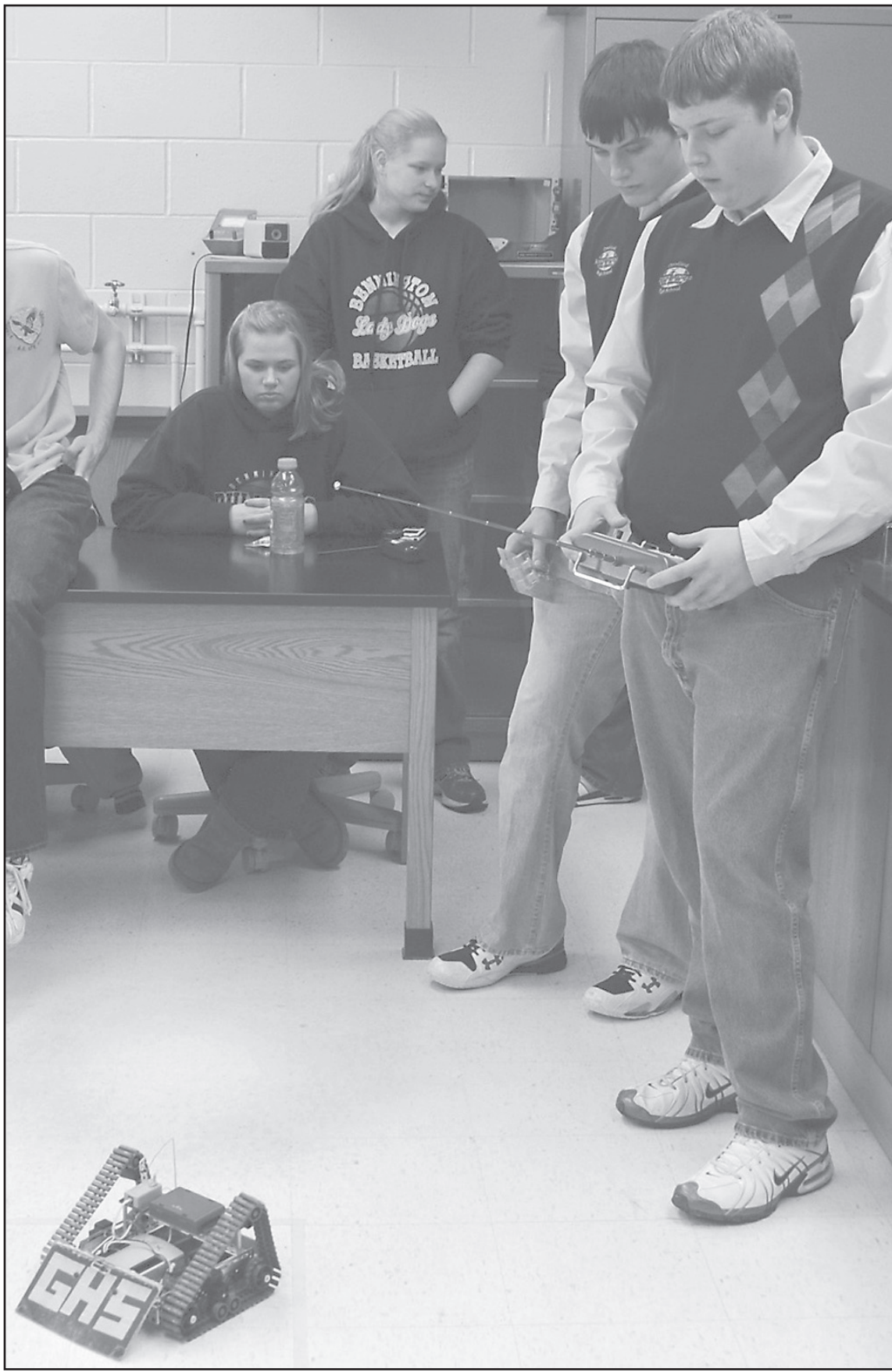
As a team Goodland medaled in 16 of the 22 events held at the Hays regional.

Students not participating at the regional tournament, but vital to team success include David Murray,

Cortney Cowan, Chloe Goodwin, Tanner Jones, Brooke Lockhart, Cy Paxton, Ian Bonsall, and Zach Miller.

Coaches for the team are Brian Coon and Jeff First.

The team will next compete at the state tournament on Saturday, April 2, held at Wichita State University.



Fate of Bonnie Lake subject of March public meeting

Colorado parks and wildlife will hold a meeting about the future of recreation activities at Bonnie Lake at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 7, at the Burlington Community and Education Center, 340 S. 14th Street.

The future operation of Bonny Lake will be discussed at a joint meeting of the Colorado State Parks Board and the Colorado Wildlife Commission on Thursday, March 10, in Denver at the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Hunter Education Building at 6060 Broadway.

Over the past several years, the amount of water available for storage in Bonny has decreased significantly. At the same time, Republican River compact obligations and other pressures require Colorado to reconsider recreation and reservoir management.

Based on current and expected conditions, state officials anticipate Bonny will shift from an actively managed flat water reservoir to

a more passively managed State Wildlife Area with a much smaller or non-existent reservoir.

Colorado officials have said they expect Bonny Reservoir to be more of a bird bath than a lake by the end of this summer.

Bonny's future is tied to Colorado's compliance with the Republican River Compact between Kansas and Nebraska. The lake's water will be used to supplement a pipeline project to provide water for the compact.

The reservoir and pipeline were on the agenda of a recent Colorado Agriculture Preservation Association meeting in Burlington.

"My expectations are we will pull the plug on Bonny by the end of summer," said Alexandra Davis, assistant director of water for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

Davis said the question is what happens to the campground and

surrounding area. She said the state wants to have public access to Bonny State Park. The meeting in March is to determine how the lake will be managed this year.

Releasing water from Bonny is not expected to drain the area dry. The lake is expected to have some deep pools of water, but not expected to be deeper than six feet. Silt will be cleared from near the outlet and debris is expected to be removed from the Republican River entry to the lake to allow for constant stream flow through the lake bed.

State officials will take feedback from the public at the community meeting in Burlington.

Bonny was opened in the 50s as a flood control project for the Republican River. The lake has become a popular place for thousands of migratory birds, and the plan is to leave the least amount of water possible for those birds.



Among those responding to a shooting at the gun club on Wednesday morning around 9 a.m. were Goodland Police Officer Steve Johnson (from left), Sherman County Investigator Burton Pianalto, Goodland Police Officer Doug Whitson, Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts, Emergency Medical Technician Lake Mellot and Assistant County Coroner Dr. Travis Daise.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Police investigate man's suicide

Ambulance and Goodland police were called to the Goodland Gun Club about 9 a.m. on Wednesday with report of a man on the ground with an apparent gun shot to the chest, and Dr. Travis Daise, assistant coroner, was called to the scene of what was determined to be a suicide.

Goodland city employee, Neil Thornburg, was out checking water wells Wednesday morning when he saw a white van at the Goodland Gun Club north of Renner Field and found a man lying on the ground next to the van. He called 911 and an ambulance was sent and the police called.

Police Sergeant Greg Kroskey said the call came in about 9:05 a.m., and Officer Doug Whitson and

the ambulance arrived on the scene shortly after.

Whitson said Dr. Daise was called to pronounce Brian Black, 39, dead at the scene.

Whitson said apparently Black had dropped his two children off at school before 8:30 a.m., and drove out to the gun club, where he was a member, and sat down on the ground and shot himself in the chest from a 12 gauge over and under shotgun.

Black of 802 Harrison, had been a mechanic at Finley Motor for about

11 years. Whitson said his wife Tamera found a note at their home saying good-bye and he was sorry.

Whitson said he was told Black had been depressed and his wife said he had been suffering from severe migraine headaches.

Sgt. Kroskey said the suicide must have happened shortly after 8:30 a.m. because a sheriff's deputy drove by the gun club about 8:30 a.m. and there was no van parked near the club house at that time.

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