Students stop on cross-country tour of the U.S.

Eastern Mennonite High School in Sherman County surrounding Discovery 2011 cross-country tour to introduce the young people to the various cultures of the United

Brad Schields, Goodland businessman and Kiwanis member said this was the third time the tour had stopped in Goodland.

The big red bus stopped for lunch near the Van Gogh painting, and the 42 students and 11 adults said they were enjoying the trip. They students and adults are on a month long journey that will take them to Alaska and back across part of Canada before dropping into Minnesota and finally back to Harrisonburg, Va.

Myron Blosser is the organizer and said he felt it was a good way to show the kids what their world looked like outside of Virginia. This is the seventh time the school has made the tour, and this year they are making the trip to Alaska and back

Schields said they had a good stop and honestly enjoyed spending time around Goodland. He said the group purchased a generator from Shores Brothers, and one of the students spent a little time in the emergency

Two of the students Jared Geil and Kendal Slabach Brubaker described their trip and stop at Goodland on

"When we arrived, we met with Brad Shields, who began by showing us a grain storage facility that was being built," the students wrote on the Facebook page. The amount

Saturday was day five of the of wheat that was grown and stored Goodland was massive; it could feed 1/3 of the U.S. with one loaf of bread for a day.

In Goodland there is an average of 18 inches of rainfall a year. This means most of their fields are irrigated, with most of the water coming from the Ogallala aquifer. They started to irrigate their land in the 1970's. They are using the water quicker than it is replenished, so there are major restrictions on the amount they can use. The land is sprayed with chemicals to sterilize the ground to control weed growth when the crops are not in the ground. Brad said because of the price of land it is "pretty much impossible" for a young farmer to get started.

"Shields took us on a tour of the equipment dealers in Goodland. He showed all the equipment farmers use for their operations for growing and harvesting. The most expensive combine sold there was \$350,000, and the most expensive tractor there was \$300,000. Brad then took us on a roadside tour of some of the fields around Goodland. In one area there was a hailstorm that destroyed over 200 acres of crops. The farmers safeguard against this by buying hail insurance that pays them for a lost crop. Once we got over 10 ten miles out of Goodland, we were told could. After our tour of the farms, right out of the field. we went to a local grain co-op and



Students on the Discovery 2011 cross-country tour stopped to eat during their stop in Goodland. They are students at the Eastern Mennonite High School at Harrisonburg, Pa. This is the third time for the tour to stop in Goodland.

Photos by Tom Betz The Goodland Star-News



brother's seed operation. We got that we could see Goodland, and we to taste multiple varieties of wheat

In the evening, at the local Arsaw how they packaged their beans mory, where we stayed, we talked and where those beans went. Brad to Jeff Deeds, who is a grain farmer,

we were done and showed us his crops; they raise no animals at all. He talked about how he farmed, telling about how he rotates differbasically run itself; there only has to be a person in there to make sure took us to his family's farm once and his family. They only raise nothing goes wrong. He told us in

the past farmers needed 15 workers downtown Goodland for ice cream to help them farm; today they need at the Vault Creamery, which is about 6 because of technological owned by Deeds. By 11 p.m. we ent crops every year. His equipment advances. Deeds likes all the tech-were in bed, most of us sleeping in is GPS guided, which means it can nology he has access to; it allows the gymnasium. him to do more tasks at once more efficiently when he is working.

At the end of the day we went to

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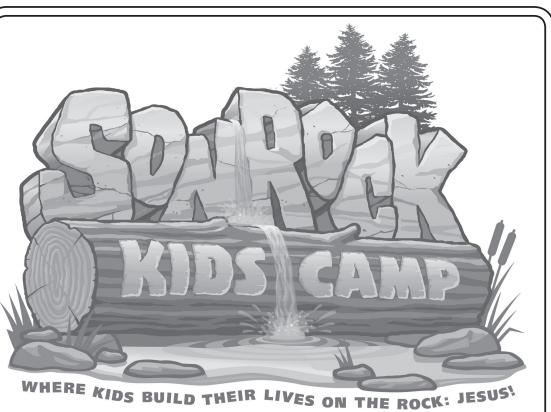
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Harvest Evangelical Free Church in Goodland will be having vacation bible school (for kids 3 yrs. through 5th grade) from June 20 through the 24th, from 9-11:30 a.m. MT. Join us for a week of fun at "Son Rock Kids Camp" VBS at 521 E. Hwy. 24 in Goodland. For information call the church at (785) 890-6423 or Brandi Jones at (785) 821-3546.



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