



Paraguayan student Ruben Quinteros (above) played the guitar at the Carnegie Arts Center opening on Saturday, Oct. 1. David Aquino watched. Rachel Gonzalez (right) did the Paraguayan dance where the dancer balances a jar on their head.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



Paraguayan students end visit, go home

By Pat Schiefen
pschiefen@nwkans.com

The six Paraguayan students who have spent the last 2 1/2 weeks in Goodland and at Goodland High School gave a presentation for the Goodland School Board on Monday night. When the students talked about how appreciative they were and how much they enjoyed Goodland they were almost in tears.

The three boys and three girls with their mentor came to the U.S. under the Partners of the Americas program which is scheduled to end this year. The program was initiated by President John F. Kennedy, said mentor Maria Esther Machuca Vera. The students arrive in the U.S. the last week of September and spent

the first four days in Washington, D.C.

The competition to be in the program is hard, said the mentor. At first 400 students are picked from the applicants and then narrowed to 100 with numerous interview and then to a smaller group of 25. The process is coordinated by the U.S. Embassies and Consulates, Paraguayan department for education and the final 12 students are selected by the U.S. Ambassador. Kansas is the sister state to the country of Paraguay.

Students must be between 15 and 18, from families with limited economic means, have outstanding school records, display leadership qualities and have demonstrated an interest in community service.

Two of the students Ruben Eugenio Aguero Quinteros and Laura Stefany SantaCruz Vera were 16. The other four Jorge David Aquino, Maria Raquel Cabrera Gonzalez, Angel Dario Cabrera Pereira and Ambar Zaira Perez Villalba were 17.

The students said they would graduate from high school right after the first of the year. Also their school principals knew they were coming to the U.S.

The group were very proud of their country and all wanted to do something to improve their country when they went home. They said that Paraguay is celebrating its 200th anniversary of becoming a republic and independent of Spain.

The country, said the students, has two official languages which are Spanish and Guarani. The Guarani were the native population that was taken over by Spain. The majority of the people are of mixed heritage between Spanish and Guarani. They said everyone speaks both languages. Guarani is very expressive and emotional. Their country has tried to maintain the Guarani heritage in its language and handcrafts.

Laura Vera said their country was very rich in resources but have not developed them. The country is agricultural and is the sixth largest producer of soybeans and the eighth largest producer of cattle. The climate is mild and they don't have snow or earthquakes. Paraguay is

surrounded by Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia.

The group said their flag is the only flag that has a different symbol in the middle on the front and the back. The flag has three bars with red on top, white in the center and blue on the bottom. On one side is a symbol with stars that stands for peace and the other side has a lion which stands for justice.

The students have presented at different places and were at the Carnegie Arts Center for the opening on Sunday, Oct. 2.

Part of their presentations was singing by the group with Quinteros playing the guitar. Quinteros also sang some songs by himself. Villalba also danced and did a dem-

onstration of a traditional dance where the woman balances a pot on top of her head.

All of the students wanted to promote Clean Paraguay where the public places were cleaned up. They said people needed to be educated about not littering and how to recycle.

The students all wanted to attend university. The mentor said going to a university in Paraguay is very expensive. They wanted to be everything from a teacher, economist, lawyer and a doctor.

Ambar Villalba said their main food is manioc, corn and beef.

David Aquino said he especially liked the corn and sunflowers.

Committee redoing districting to be at Colby

By Kevin Bottrell
kbottrell@nwkans.com

A committee redrawing the political landscape in Kansas will hold a public meeting Thursday at Colby Community College.

The Kansas Legislature's Special Committee on Redistricting will meet with the public from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at the college's Cultural Arts Center.

The Legislature is required to go through the redistricting process after each census, to make sure House and Senate districts are equal in population.

The population has declined in northwest Kansas over the past 10 years, while Kansas as a whole increased its population by 6 percent, mainly in urban areas. This will likely mean local districts will pick up more territory, or one or more districts will be broken up and divided among the others.

The Legislative Research Department has released adjusted population numbers along with data on how far above or below target population each district is.

"Ideal size" for a Senate district is 70,986 people. The 40th District, represented by Sen. Ralph Ostmyer of Grinnell, includes 18 counties in northwest Kansas and has 62,105 people - about 88 percent of its ideal size.

Ostmyer, who sits on the redistricting committee, said in a June interview he would not like to see his district grow any larger, but acknowledged he may have to absorb some territory. He speculated Phillips or Rush counties could be added to bring the 40th up to ideal size.

Ideal size for a House district is 22,716. The 121st District, represented by Rick Billinger of Goodland, sits at 19,113, about 3,600 people below ideal size. The district includes Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham counties.

Ward Cassidy's 120th District, which includes Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties, sits at 19,855, about 2,860 people below ideal size.

Ostmyer said Don Hineman's 118th District - which includes Wallace, Logan, Wichita, Gove, Lane, Trego and Rush Counties and part of Ness County - will be heavily affected since its counties were already sparsely populated and continued to lose people over the past 10 years.

One or more of these districts could be eliminated entirely.

The committee will come up with a redistricting proposal to submit to the Legislature at the next session. If ratified, the new districts will take effect for the 2012 election.

Flu shot clinic



People waited in line to get their flu shots given by the Sherman County Health Department as part of an emergency preparedness exercise Tuesday afternoon at the Elks. About 500 people received their shots at the clinic. Those who did not make the clinic can make an appointment for a flu shot anytime from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the health department's of-

ice, 1622 Broadway, by calling 890-4888. Groups that helped the health department at the event were the Northwest Kansas Technical College, Colby Community College, Goodland Elks, Applebee's Golf Carts, Goodland Regional Medical Center, City of Goodland and Sherman County.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

corrections

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.

matters of record

Marriages

The following marriage licenses and divorces have been issued by the Sherman County District Court:

Marriages

Christopher James Zimmerman and Christina Lynn Zwegardt, Goodland, KS.

Sherman County Bastille

The following people were booked into the Sherman County Bastille:

Sept. 8: Terrence Pete, 43, Aurora, Colo., arrested by state trooper for driving while suspended.

Jesse Sandoval, 27, Kanorado,

arrested by KBI for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of cocaine, distribution of cocaine and conspiracy to distribute.

Sept. 9: Juan Benitez, 26, Goodland, arrested by KBI for sale of cocaine, conspiracy to distrib-

ute cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

James Barrera, 24, Goodland, arrested by KBI for no drug tax stamp, unlawful use of telecommunications device, sale of cocaine and conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

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