

## Town fills for all-school reunion

By Tom Betz

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More than 1,220 Sherman County alumni registered by Saturday as the 10th All-School Reunion kicked into high gear and classes had parties all around Goodland and some nearby homes.

This was the 50th anniversary of the first reunion held in 1961, which established the five-year reunion schedule. The class of 1961 was the honor class this year celebrating their 50th year, and are expected back for the homecoming festivities at the end of September.

Alumni President Linda Rumpel said by Saturday morning 1,229 had registered for the reunion.

Friday afternoon things got going



Rumpel



Bauman

with the teachers open house at the Goodland Elks, and a large number of alumni gathered to meet and talk with old teachers.

Friday night a number of class parties were held including the classes of 1969, 1970 and 1971 who gathered at Fixsen's Electronics on Main Ave.

Later on Friday the alumni gathered at the fairgrounds for an open social gathering.

Early Saturday morning about 45 runners participated in the Third Annual GACTriathlon and a special 5K fun run and walk.

Saturday morning the alumni assembly was held at Max Jones Fieldhouse with Andrew Melia class of 2002 being the master of ceremonies.

Lt. Col. Doug Smith class of 1990 in full uniform presented the American Flag followed by the playing of the National Anthem. Greg Haligan, class of 1976, sang the Lord's Prayer to open the assembly.

Alumni President Linda Musalek Rumpel, class of 1982, said she had

been told she could take as much time as she wanted.

She asked how many got on Facebook, and a lot of those present raised their hands.

She said someone had started a site "You know you are from Goodland..."

She read a couple of the posts She asked if Josh Vignery was present and that he had posted "You know you are from Goodland if you have had John Golden ask you if you are having the best day of your life."

"You know you're from Goodland if you know what a Jumpin Junior is."

She introduced the Alumni Association officers and board members, and thanked them for their help in

organizing the reunion activities.

She went through the classes by 10 year increments starting with 2000. She said there was a lady from the 1920's and handed a bouquet of flowers to Margaret Cotter Bauman of Goodland from the class of 1929. Rumpel said she felt the 100 year old lady who drives herself to church deserved to be recognized. Rumpel said she was a nice lady and glad she had come to the reunion.

Jack McKenzie, class of 1971 sang "Love Me Tender," Janet Young Redlin class of 1977 sang "Blessings." Andra Townsend class of 2001 said she was singing one of the first songs she had learned by

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## Icelandic exchange student reunites with class

By Tom Betz

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A special guest at the 1964 class party was an exchange student from Iceland who had spent her senior year in Goodland and came back to enjoy those who she had known many years ago.

Snaebjorb (Rosa) Bjartmarsdottir, had lived with Ed DeFries and went to school with his daughter Evalyn DeFries Harris in 1963-1964.

Harris has kept in contact with her Icelandic friend, and other classmates Lynn Foust Hildebrand of Salina and Leslie Frazier Bartels of Oberlin were wondering about their exchange friend when the volcano erupted a few years ago in southern Iceland that caused air traffic problems over England and Europe.

They managed to contact Rosa to find out she was OK and living on the western part of the island.

Rosa said her family supported her in coming to the reunion and she had flown from Iceland to Boston and then to Denver where she met with Evalyn Harris of Arvada, Colo.

Rosa said she had enjoyed most of her time going to school in Goodland, but at first she had a problem understanding what was being said. She said she could write English well, but had trouble understanding the spoken language.

"I was sitting in Mrs. Smith's class one day,

and suddenly like having my ears pop I could understand every word being said," she said. "I almost fell off my chair."

Bartels and Hildebrand said they have been keeping up with Rosa on Facebook and through e-mails. They were excited to have Rosa come to the reunion.

The two classmates said they were shy when they were in high school and did not really hang out with Rosa or Harris, but have kept in touch since graduation and have been interested in helping connect with their classmates.

Rosa said she and her family are sheep farmers and she has four children three girls and a boy.

Rosa said they have Icelandic ponies on their farm and are very different from the horses in America.

Harris said her family (DeFries) lived about 25 miles northwest of Goodland.

Rosa said she does not get enough chances to speak English in Iceland, but is pleased she got to come. She said she has been in the U.S. for about a week and will return to Iceland on Wednesday.

The class had a special presentation for Rosa for being the one who came the furthest to attend the reunion, and she posed for pictures with her Facebook friends and her classmate she had lived with 47 years ago



Snaebjorb (Rosa) Bjartmarsdottir,

### weather report

82°

noon  
Monday

Today

Wednesday

- Sunset, 7:40 p.m.
- Sunrise, 6:02 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:39 p.m.

#### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 56 percent
- Sky Partly cloudy
- Winds North 7 mph
- Barometer 29.91 inches and falling
- Record High today 105° (1983)
- Record Low today 51° (1978)

#### Last 24 Hours\*

- High Sunday 91°
- Low Sunday 62°
- Precipitation .01
- This month 3.01
- Year to date 15.70
- Above Normal 1.12 inches

#### The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, chance of thunderstorms, high mid 90s, low mid 60s. Wednesday: Partly sunny, highs in the mid 80s, low mid 60s. Chance of thunderstorms.

#### Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny, high in mid 90s, low lower 60s. Friday, Saturday and Sunday: Partly cloudy, high in upper 80s, low in the mid 60s

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

### local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$7.40 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$7.79
  - Corn — \$7.10 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$7.49
  - Milo — \$6.72 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$12.46 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$13.49
  - Millet — \$11.25 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$31.70 cwt.
  - NuSun — No bid
  - Pinto beans — \$28 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

### inside today

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### Alumni enjoy rides

Alumni family and friends enjoyed the carnival rides at the Sherman County fairgrounds on Saturday evening as part of the all-school reunion. See photos on Page 8A.

