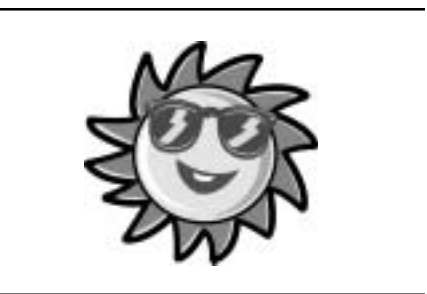


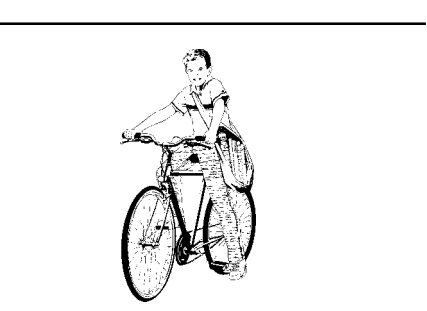
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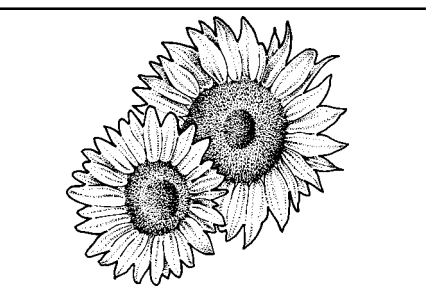


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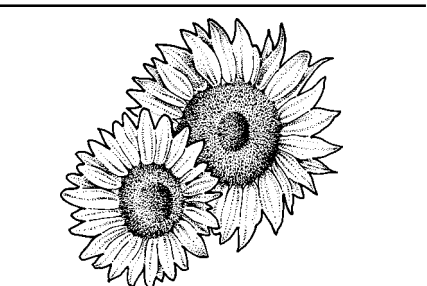


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Students celebrate Cinco de Mayo

Sadie Avila, fourth grader at Central Elementary, posed with a piece of a broken pinata on her head.

Students study Mexico for day of fun

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

From games to history, students in the Goodland School District learned last week what Cinco de Mayo is all about.

Wednesday at Max Jones Field House, high school Spanish II students taught sixth graders about the holiday.

Thursday, students at Central Elementary got a lesson lead by Maggie Hernandez, migrant coordinator for the district.

Eight stations were set up in the gym for sixth graders, starting with a musical lesson in the upstairs foyer.

The students learned “The Wheels on the Bus” and “Mary Had a Little Lamb” <in Spanish?>, a song in English about the Fifth of May and some nursery rhymes.

On the gym floor, students learn to make a piñata and paper flowers at a craft table. Many folded the flowers into their hair or hung them off of belt loops.

Another craft booth taught students how to make Ojos de Dios, or God’s eyes. The project involved two sticks with yarn weaved around them

One group learned to play Boleros, a traditional Mexican game. The toy has two wooden parts, a brightly-colored round ball with a hole in the bottom with a string attaching it to a wooden stick. The object is to hold the stick and try to get the ball to fit on top of it.

The sixth graders learned to play a game with candy and spinning tops, too.

The games continued at another booth, where students played Mexican bingo and a Spanish version of the Chutes and Ladders board game.

Students learned about the history of

Cinco de Mayo and the Mexican flag.

Sixth-graders got a glance at Mexican culture through a dance station. The class learned traditional dances and a more modern style. Students were encouraged to dance along.

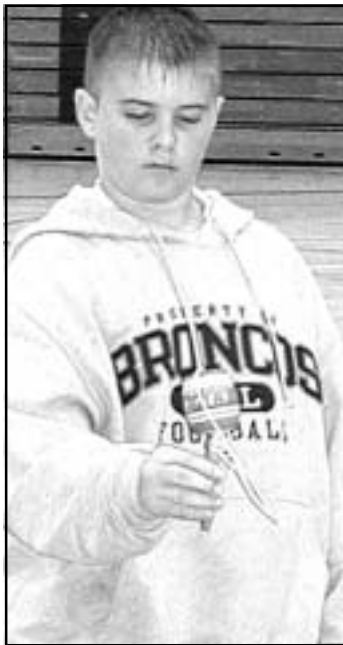
A nibble of traditional Mexican food, including burritos, chips and salsa, accompanied a folk tale lesson by Cris Lovington, a Hispanic teacher’s aide who works at West Elementary.

The students spent 20 minutes at each station and then moved on to sample another part of Mexican culture.

Mary Porterfield, Spanish teacher at Goodland High School and Grant Junior High, said the Spanish II students not only learned about

Mexico, but they learn to gather supplies, manage time and control a class.

“They learn about what it’s like to be a teacher,” she said.



Before they start working on booths, the high school students prepare a report on Cinco de Mayo, she said.

Porterfield said the classes started celebrating the day in 1999 as a community service project. The Spanish II class puts the day together, spending about a week preparing for the events.

“Every year we get more sophisticated,” she said.

Hernandez put together the celebration at Central, where students learned history, created crafts and sampled food.

Students made cascarons, a craft made by emptying the yolk out of an egg shell and then filling it with confetti. The eggs are meant to be broken over a friend’s head to show you like them.

The kids sampled tortillas, hand-made by Hernandez and filled with beans, chili and cheese to make burritos.

“They all loved it,” said Central secretary Marshall<???> Kennedy.

Hernandez taught students the significance of Cinco de Mayo and shared parts of her heritage with the students.

“They really liked everything,” she said.

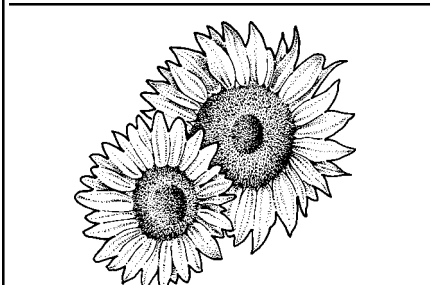


Arely Bacasuega (left, clockwise), Spanish II student, taught sixth-graders Mexican dances last week to celebrate Cinco de Mayo at the Max Jones fieldhouse. Sixth-grade student Devon Garrett tried his hand with the Mexican game, Boleros. Sandy Burr, Central Elementary physical education teacher, tied a blindfold around Jed Gray’s head before he tried to hit a pinata in the school’s gym Thursday. Cris Lovington told Mexican folk tales to sixth grade students while they enjoyed some traditional snacks.

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

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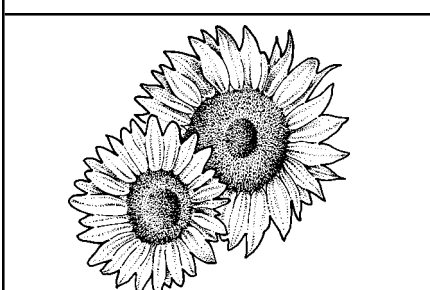
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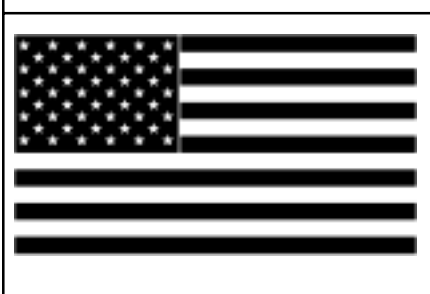
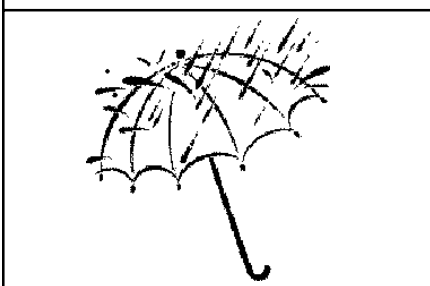
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