Book co-authored by Goodland graduate

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News Want to know the secret of great note writing? A 1993 Goodland High School graduate co-authored a book to help, "On a Personal Note."

Keely (Schields) Chace, daughter of Dale and Jacque Schields, is a senior writer for Hallmark Cards Inc. in Kansas City. Chace and her husband Jason have a 2-year-old daughter Olivia.

The other co-author is Angela Ensminger, an editorial director for Hallmark. Ensminger said she spent months researching the book before she looked for a writing partner.

Ensminger and Chace give samples of notes for different occasions, such as gratitude, congratulations, important days, love and romance, apology and reconnection, comfort and cheer, sympathy and business.

Chace said she and Ensminger are both real people who need to write and send notes. When faced with a difficult note, neither had been able to find a guide that really worked for them, so



"I was able to take a six-week break from my regular card writing responsibilities at Hallmark to collaborate with her on the actual writing of the book," Chace said. "Fol-

lowing our collaboration, it took about three more months for the book to be edited and designed. The book was published by Hallmark in November.

"I love writing cards, but it was nice to take a break from that to try my hand at writing something a little different — and much bigger than a card. It was a challenge I enjoyed."

The co-authors don't have any plans yet for another book but some chapters

"It might also be fun to do a book on notewriting for kids," she added." I think 'On a Personal Note' offers people a great way to take good care of their relationships - a way that we tend to forget about these days.'

The book is available through Jacque's Hallmark Gold Crown Store, 1124 Main.



Kelly (Schields) Chase's book is available at Jacque's Gold Crown Hallmark store.

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Jace Chipperfield, a 2002 Goodland High School graduate, Powercat team captain, was in the driver's seat while other team members did tests of the four 16-horsepower engines that helped the team win the overall tractor competition in Peoria, III., in June.

Goodland man leads winning Powercat team

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News The Kansas State University Powercat Tractor Design Team, lead by a 2002 Goodland High School graduate, won the quarter-scale design competition for the sixth time in eight years.

Jace Chipperfield, team captain, said he enjoyed being part of the team in his four years at K-State. Chipperfield, who is back to farming with his family west of Goodland, graduated in May with a degree in designing agricultural equipment. He said that includes tractors, combines and other farm gear.

"It was lots of fun in the competition," Chipperfield said. "It was stressful doing the

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Goodland graduate leads winning Powercat team

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building and getting ready. We had to meet deadlines and keep inside the budget."

He said the team starts with a budget of \$12,000, and \$4,000 of that is for travel expenses, including hotels and hauling the tractor.

This is the first year the competition has allowed the teams to use more than one engine, he said. The machines use unmodified 16horsepower Briggs and Stratton gasoline engines like those found on riding lawnmowers. The maximum weight of the tractor is 900 pounds, he said.

The Powercat team chose to use four engines all tied together with a common shaft, and Chipperfield said the design weighed in at 875

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pounds.

He said they had some help from the Agriculture Technical Management department with testing and building the tractor.

"The analysis showed that the four engines was the only way we could get the performance we wanted," Chipperfield said.

He said the competition, held in Peoria, Ill., in May, drew 28 teams from the U.S. and Canada. Each had 20 members and there were four from northwest Kansas, Chipperfield; Jeff Wessel, Dresden; Bradley Stewart, Hoxie; and Eric Bussen, Wallace.

Before the competition, each team has to provide a written design report in April. At the competition, Chipperfield said, there is an oral presentation that is sort of a pitch to tractor manu-

Our thanks to the Sherman County Alumni who helped make this a special section about the history of the county schools and accomplishments of those who graduated from Sherman County.

Tom Betz, editor Goodland Star-News Pat Schiefen, reporter and Sharon Corcoran, society editor facture representatives.

The performance competition tests pulling ability and maneuverability.

"We were ninth in the maneuverability," he said. "We did OK out of 28 teams, but that was only 100 points, and we did not design the tractor with that in mind.

"We won the pulling competition, the written and the oral. We won the overall competition."

He said firms like John Deere, Case IH, Caterpillar and others sponsor the competition to give students experience in designing ag equip-

ment from the beginning to the sales pitch. "I am back to farming," he said. "I went to

college as a backup. My first choice is farming." He said he made some good friends on the

team, and the training will help him maintain the farm equipment. He said some of the graduates go to Hesston and work for AGCO, which makes Gleaner, Massey, Challenger and AGCO-Allis farm equipment.

Chipperfield was on the team four years, and the K-State team has been on top all four. The competition has been held for nine years, and K-State has been in the top three since 1999.



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Women publish book on Ruleton and school

RULETON, from Page 15

in the future, they said, adding that people should contact them with any information about Ruleton.

Their tales from school include an outbreak of lice, Halloween parties, the best lunches at a great price and Ruleton beating Goodland at basketball.

"One of the worst things I remember," Sieck said, "was that all the girls used the same comb in the bathroom. There was an outbreak of lice that got so bad they had to close the school. And then they had inspection lines out front to get back in.'

Sieck had a lighter tale, which Topliff was able to add to along the way. "We used to have Halloween parties at school," she said, "and whole families would come. It was a big deal."

"Oh, yeah," Topliff said. "Mothers would bring cupcakes, and we played games."

Students took their trays to the classrooms and ate, Topliff said; they didn't have a lunch room.

"I was in the seventh or eighth grade," Sieck said, "when Ruleton's



Arbutus Topliff and Lois Sieck walked away from the old building, which was the inspiration for their book on Ruleton's history. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

basketball team, which only had one it, and I remember their players kept or two substitutes, besides the five coming in and coming in, and I was starting players, wanted to play Goodland.

"They finally talked Goodland into

wondering if there was enough room for them.

"They had cheerleaders who

looked so nice in their uniforms, and the team had uniforms. We only had jeans and T-shirts."

The Ruleton Bulldogs beat Goodland, she said, and the Mustangs never wanted to play them again.

"The most interesting story to me," Topliff said, "was when they consolidated all the country schools."

Sieck's family figured into the tale. John Gernhart, her grandfather, was one of the early postmasters in Ruleton, and her father was one of the first to graduate from the high school there. Her mother, Pearl (Parish) Gernhart, is the oldest living Ruleton graduate.

"My grandfather was instrumental in getting it consolidated," she said, "so they could have buses instead of riding horses. I didn't know about this until all this (compiling the book). Father was 9 when they moved here, and he fell off a horse and broke his leg.'

Many people were upset about consolidating and having buses, she said, because they thought it would raise their taxes.

The Ruleton School is on the state and national historical registries, and

its owners, Gary and Cynthia Kickler have been trying to raise money to restore it. It's been going slow, Mrs. Kickler said.

Topliff has lived in the Ruleton area since 1949. She graduated from Edson High School in 1945, but her daughters went to school in Ruleton for six years. Her husband Ralph was on the Ruleton School Board.

Sieck graduated from Sherman Community High School in 1956. The last graduating class in Ruleton was in 1943, and the school consolidated with Goodland in 1969. Scanlon said she went to school in Ruleton eight years. Her father, Milt Parish, is a 1935 Ruleton graduate.

To compile information for the book, the women went through old newspapers, called people they know, put an announcement in the newspaper, which garnered several calls, and went to offices in the area seeking records.

They said they had help from the Goodland School District; Carol Armstrong, register of deeds; and the Sherman County Historical Society, especially Lloyd Holbrook.

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