Area



By GREG STOVER

The Goodland Star-News GOODLAND - Three candiwere in the Goodland school district's office Wednesday night to learn more about education issues they may have to face.

Danny Rasure of Goodland, one of two Republican candidates for the 40th District Senate seat, was there, as was Tim Peterson of Monument, they only Democratic candidate.

John Welsh of Weskan, a candidate for the 118th District House seat currently held by Ralph Ostmeyer, also attended.

Ostmeyer, the other Republican candidate for the District 40 Senate

seat, said he planned to attend a address. similar meeting in Hays.

dates for the Kansas legislature meeting, sponsored by the Kansas must consider before they can un-Association of School Boards. They included Goodland School Board president Dick Short, Superintendent Marvin Selby, County Commissioner Kevin Rasure, and Rob Loftin of Weskan, the association's vice president for District 9 and president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College board.

Jim Edwards, governmental relations specialist for the association, in Kansas has changed, he said, led the meeting. After a short introduction, he began an audiovisual briefing about some of the "crucial and controversial" issues in education the Kansas Legislature has to

The briefing started with three About 15 people attended the things the association said people derstand the current issues.

The first is how, and why, the mission of public education has changed in recent years.

The second is the current levels and challenges of school performance, and the third is the processes, and challenges, of school finance and budget.

The mission of public education from simply making programs and courses available to students to demanding that they learn while taking part in them. The state's Quality Performance Accreditation and

change in mission, he said.

The levels and standards of school performance are governed by federal and state laws and regulations.

These include tougher graduation requirements beginning in 2005 passed by the Kansas State Board of Education. Students face increased learning standards while teachers and their aides face tougher certification standards.

The guests were shown how a starting with how enrollment figures are calculated and how they determine the amount of a district's general fund. Supplemental funds

the federal "No Child Left Behind" were explained along, with the lolaw are major reasons for this cal option budget, based on a local property tax.

> School money has increased an average of 6 percent a year since the 1992-1993 school year, an increase of about \$1.4 billion. However, Edwards said, most of this increase went to new costs and not to existing programs. That is why some school districts face cuts in programs and personnel.

Edwards said that Kansas was ranked No. 8 in the country by the National Assessment of Education school district's budget is built, Progress on student performance in math and readings tests. He said every state that scored better than Kansas spent more money per student.

cover children who already have

die in an accident or from disease.

which case records won't be opened

lic access to records and protecting

child's file often contains informa-

tion about relatives who were con-

sidered as potential guardians for

the child but who did not receive

custody. Also, Schalansky said, a

file also may discuss a parent's per- or neglect.

up at all," Schalansky said.

individuals' privacy.

'There will be lots of instances in

Schalansky said SRS must strike

For example, she said, a foster

However, the new law does not sonal history.

been adopted or foster children who counsel, said: "Once they're re-

Edwards noted that Kansas had been ranked fifth, and although its test scores increased, scores in other states increased more.

Edwards said Kansas schools are have trouble maintaining an effective teacher force and the state expects a lot of retirements over the next five years. He said Kansas ranked No. 43 in the nation in teacher salary and benefits, down from No. 41 a year ago.

Peterson said the meeting was informative and the data presented well researched.

Welsh said the information was proof that whoever ends up in Topeka after the election will have a tough task ahead in getting education on track.

John Badger, the agency's chief

Also, the new law says people

affected by the release of records

have the right to ask a district judge

Schalansky said SRS will open

records after receiving a written

request from a news organization or

the public, but only after an outside

party — a law enforcement agency

or a medical examiner, for example

was severely injured because abuse

determines that a child died or

to keep the documents closed.

leased, you can't go back and

unrelease them.'

Child organization offers special bond

By KATHRYN GURFUNKEL

The Goodland Star News GOODLAND — Ryan Scheopner, 30, and Brandon Sissel, 8, have developed a special bond since their match last January by the Sherman County Big Brothers-Big Sisters program

Brandon was referred to the program, but his mom, Janet Becker, wasn't sure it was right for them. Her skepticism faded when she heard the match would be with Scheopner, an old family friend.

"I did some research on the program, talked to quite a few people," she said. "When they called and said it was him, I said it was OK.'

Becker said she feels a big brother helps to support her role as a single mom. She said Scheopner reinforces lessons by serving as a role model when she isn't around.

"I work a lot of weekends," she said. "Ryan is there for the weekends.'

Scheopner and Brandon spend their time together playing at the park, enjoying video games or going out to eat. Brandon is a dog

lover and enjoys playing with Scheopner's dogs.

"I get to have real fun with him," he said.

Recently Scheopner, a service technician and part owner at Scheopner's Water Conditioning, a Culligan dealer, took his little brother along on his deliv-

erv route. "I was a Culligan man once," he says with a grin.

They traveled to Burlington, and Brandon got to carry cups and empty water bottles. When they finished, Scheopner took him to the Kit Carson County Carousel and a park.

Their bond not only allows Brandon a chance to have some fun, but Scheopner said, they get serious sometimes. Becker said she's glad her son has a big brother to confide in and to help work through tough times.

Scheopner said he became interested in becoming a big brother while in college in Garden City. When he returned to Goodland, he hooked up with a group of people who wanted to bring the program to Sherman County.

"We felt there was a need," he said.

State agency looks conservatively at new law

said Monday they will be conservative about releasing records under a new law that grants the public access to some documents in cases where a foster child dies or is severely injured because of abuse or neglect.

have been closed. The law, which applies to children age 17 or younger, takes effect Thursday.

Officials from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services said the law is narrow and unclear in places. SRS has asked Attorney General Phill Kline for a legal opinion on several issues, but he is not expected to issue one for several weeks.

SRS Secretary Janet Schalansky said until Kline acts, her agency won't release any record disclosing information from conversations among attorneys, doctors and therapists and their clients. Nor will the agency identify someone who reported a case of suspected abuse or neglect — or even open any record created before Thursday.

"We felt it was very important to be careful about this," Schalansky said during a briefing on the law for reporters. "We are taking a conservative approach."

The state has about 6,100 children in its custody. About 1,000 remain with a parent or guardian un-

TOPEKA(AP)—State officials der supervision, and the rest have been placed with foster parents, in group homes or otherwise removed from their family homes. SRS officials said Monday that few children — an average of less than one a year — die from abuse and neglect.

Some legislators pushed for Previously, all foster care records changes in Kansas law following a balance between giving the pubthe December 2002 death of Brian Edgar, a 9-year-old former foster child who suffocated after his adoptive parents in Overland Park bound him with duct tape and left him overnight.

The adoptive parents and baby sitter were convicted of murder and

Woman give false story in recent profile

TOPEKA (AP) — The elderly woman neighbors sometimes saw doing yard work seemed to have an extraordinary past. In one recent newspaper profile, Juanita L. Smith told of surviving the Bataan Death March.

But weeks later, she admitted tor of the Topeka YWCA's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program.

Then, a few days later, authorities removed another woman's decomposed body from Smith's home. Police said Smith herself was hos-

pitalized after being found inside, unresponsive.

"It's hard to make sense of this," Crystal Funk, a neighbor, said Tuesday.

Authorities had not identified the body as of Tuesday. Police Maj. John Sidwell said the task could take days, even several weeks.

Meanwhile, Smith was being treated for a medical condition that police did not disclose. Sidwell said it did not appear to be life-threatening.

According to voter registration records, Juanita Smith, 83, and an-

other woman, Shannon N. Smith, 39, lived at the same address, while driver's license records indicated a Mary Shannon N. Smith lived at the home. Juanita Smith owns the home, according to the county appraiser's office.

Funk said Juanita Smith told people she lived with her daughter, who also acted as a driver.

Funk and another neighbor, Bill Hancock, said Juanita Smith kept to herself, though people saw her tending her yard.

"This whole neighborhood is really close," Funk said. "

JULY 1

Check each issue of the Free Press for additional TV Listings

TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

sentenced to life in prison.

she'd concocted false World War II experiences. She resigned as direc-

WEEKDAYS

JUNE 29 - JULY 5

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC	News Good Morr			ning Ame	ing America			Mak- eover	The View		Holly- wood	News
KSNK/NBC 8 9	News Cor	nt'd	Today						Live With Regis and Kelly		Varied Programs	
KBSL/CBS	News				The Early Show The 700 Club			The Price	Is Right	The Young and the Restless		
K15CG 3	World News			Lions	Sesame S	treet	Clifford- Red	Teletub- bies				
WGN 13	Chang- Believer Celebrity Hillbil- ing Voice Justice lies			Hillbil- lies	Happy Days	Matlock		In the Hea Night	t of the	Rockford Files		
NICK 29	Oddpar- ents	Rocket Power	Rugrats	Spon- geBob	Max & Ruby	Maggie- Beast	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues		Blue's Clues	Rugrats	Rugrats
FAM 30	Digimon- Digital	Bey- blade	Power Rangers	Spider- Man	Varied	Living the Life	The 700 Club		7th Heaven		Full House	Full House
USA (31)	Varied Pro	ograms		-	Movie	-	-	Varied	Movie			
TBS (37)	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Movie			Varied Dawson's Creek		Daw- son's	Varied	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	
TNT (38)	The Lost	World	The Prete	nder	Charmed	•	ER		ER		Judging Amy	
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Varied Pro	Varied Programs Double Age				Designer Guys	Rally Round the House	
A&E (47)	Varied Pro	ograms	Movie	Varied Pro	ograms		Murder- Wrote	Varied	Third Watch	Varied	City	Varied
ESPN (49)	SportsCe	nter	SportsCe	nter	Varied Pro	Varied Programs		SportsCenter		Varied Programs		
HBO (7)	Movie Cont'd	Varied Pro	ograms		•		Movie	Varied Pr	ograms			
DISN (17)	Koala Brothers	Stanley	The Wiggles	JoJo's Circus	The Wiggles	Stanley	Rolie Polie	Rolie Polie	Out of the Box	PB&J Otter	Koala Brothers	The Wiggles
MAX (21)	Movie Movie				Varied Pro	ograms	Movie Varied Pr		rograms		Movie	Varied

WEEKDAYS

JUNE 29 - JULY 5

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC	All My Ch	ildren One Life to Live		o Live	General Hospital				Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	ABC Wid News
KSNK/NBC 8 9	Tennis Cont'd	Varied	Days of Our Lives		Passions		Inside Edition	Family Feud	Million- aire	Jeop- ardy!	News	NBC News
KBSL/CBS	News	Bold, Beautiful	As the Wo	orld Turns	Guiding Light The People's C		le's Court	Oprah Winfrey		News	CBS News	
K15CG 3	Reading Rainbow	Mister Rogers				George Shrinks	Beren. Bears	Liberty's Kids	Cyber- chase	Arthur	Zoom	Busi- ness
WGN 13	News	In the Heat of the Night			Street Smarts	Street Smarts	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Home Improve.	Will & Grace
NICK 29	Varied Pro	rograms						Jimmy Neutron	Spon- geBob	Sabrina- Witch	Hey Arnold!	Rugrats
FAM 30	Family Matters	Family Matters	Step by Step	Step by Switche- Knock Step d! First			7th Heaven		Boy Mts. World	Boy Mts. World	Full House	Full House
USA 31	Movie Cont'd	Varied Pro	ograms		-		-	Walker, Texas Ranger			Walker, Texas Ranger	
TBS 37)	Cosby	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Seinfeld
TNT 38	Law & Ore	der	NYPD Blu	e	NYPD Blue Judging Amy			Angel		Charmed		
DSC (42)	Surprise t	oy Design	Surprise b	oy Design	Rally Rou House	nd the	Double Agents Varied Programs			ograms	-	
A&E (47)	Amer. Justice	Varied	Movie	Varied Pro	ograms		Murder- Wrote	Varied	Third Watch	Varied	City	Varied
ESPN (49)	Varied Pro	Varied Programs Around Interru the Horn tion										nter
HBO (7)	Movie Cont'd					Varied Programs			Movie Varied Pro		ograms	
DISN (17)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	House of Mouse	House of Mouse	Recess	Recess	Lilo & Stitch	Lilo & Stitch	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Lizzie McGuire
MAX 21	Movie Co	nt'd	Movie	Varied Pro	ograms	•		-	•	•	Movie	Varied

THURSDAY

	6 PM	6 :3 0	7 PM	7:3 0	8 PM	8:3 0	9 PM	9:3 0	10 PM	10 :3 0	11 PM	11 :3 0	
KLBY/ABC	(5:59) News	Ent. Tonight	Whose Line?	Whose Line?				Primetime Thursday (CC)		News Nightline (CC) (CC)		Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (CC)	
KSNK/NBC 8 9	Ne ws	Wheel of Fortune	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace			ER Where There's Smoke (CC)		Ne ws	Wim- The Tor bledon (CC)		ight Show	
KBSL/CBS	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	Without a Trace CSI: Crime Scene Kam Li (CC) Investigation				Without a Trace The Line (CC)		News (CC)	Late Show	(N) (CC) Late Late		
K15CG 3	The News With Jim I		Sun- flower	Kansas Spotlight	The New T House Ho		Wide Ang Bombers (World News	Keeping Up	Charlie Ro (CC)	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)	
WGN 13	Will & Grace	Home Improve.		n ongst Fri e eve Parlave	nds ★★½ ecchio.	(1993,	WGN New (CC)	s at Nin e	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Elimi- date	The 5th Wheel	
NICK 29	Jimmy Ne utron	Oddpar- ents	Spon- ge Bob	Sabrina- Witch	Full House	Full House	Who's Boss?	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Rose- anne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	
FAM 30	7th Heaven (CC) Movie: The Little is annoyed when the				scals (1994) Spanky Whose Whose ove bug bites Alfalfa. Line? Line?				The 700 Club (CC) America's Funni Home Videos (C				
USA 31	JAG (CC)	(DVS)	Law & Oro Special Vi				★★★½ (1995, Drama) A Scottish rebel rallies his countrymen I Gibson, Sophie Marceau. (CC)						
TBS 37)	Friends (CC)	MLB Base (Live)	ball: Florid	a Marlins at	Atlanta Bra	aves. Turne	er Field.	. Movie: Tango & Cash ★★ (1989, Drama) Movie: (PA) Sylvester Stallone, Kurt Russell. (CC)					
TNT 38	Law & Ord and Joy (C		Movie: Un Eastwood'	forgiv e n ★ s Oscar-wir	★★★ (1992 nning portra				Inforgiven ★★★★ (1992, Western) Clint d's Oscar-winning portrait of an aged gunma				
DSC (42)	Casino Diarie s	Casino Diarie s	Fear at Fir (CC)	st Bite	Hunting N	azis (CC)	Stomachs (N)	of Steel	Fear at Fi (CC)	rst Bite	Hunting N	azis (CC)	
A&E (47)	American Murder On				on his cases. (CC) The First 4						Cold Case Files (CC)		
ESPN (49)	Base ball (Live) (CC)		Wim- ble don				Baseball Tonight (Live) (CC)		SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		Rome - Burning	Outside- Lines	
HBO (7)			2) A woman r abusive h				(1997, Adv Shue. (CC)	renture)	Real Sex and Dirty		Movie: Terminator 3: Machines		
DISN (17)	Sister, Sister	That's- Raven		meward B n Francisc		Recess (CC)	That's- Raven	Sister, Sister	Bug Juice	Lizzie McGuire	Boy Mts. World	Even Stevens	
MAX (21)	(5: 00) Movie:				Teenagers ge. <i>Jeff Brid</i>		Movie: Mi predict that					Movie: Half Past	

FRIDAY

JULY 2

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
KLBY/ABC	(5:59) News	Ent. Tonight	George Lopez	Married- Kellys	Hope & Faith	Life With Bonnie			News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kiı Adam Care	nmel Live olla. (CC)	
KSNK/NBC 8 9	News	Wheel of Fortune					Las Vegas Year of the Tiger (CC)		News	ews Wim- bledon		The Tonight Show (CC)	
KBSL/CBS	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joan of Arcadia Do the Math (CC) JAG Touchdown (CC) (DVS)		48 Hours (CC)		News Late Show (CC)		i (N) (CC)	Late Late			
K15CG 3	The News With Jim I		Wash. Week	Wall- Fortune	Market- Market	Kansas Week	Now With Moyers (N		BBC World			Charlie Rose (N) (CC)	
WGN 13	Will & Grace	Home Improve.		ve! Valour! nedy-Dram			WGN New (CC)	vs at Nine	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Elimi- date	The 5th Wheel	
NICK 29	Jimmy Neutron	Oddpar- ents	Oddpar- ents	Danny Phantom	Teenage Robot	Chalk- Zone	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Rose- anne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	
FAM 30	7th Heave	n (CC)	Movie: Getting Even With Dad ** (1994, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin, Ted Danson.			Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 C	lub (CC)	Paid Program	Paid Program		
USA (31)	JAG (CC) (DVS)		Law & Order: Law & Order: Special Victims Special Victims					Law & Ore Special Vi			Monk and Pies (CC)		
TBS 37)	Friends (CC)	MLB Base (Live)	ball: Bosto	n Red Sox	at Atlanta E	Braves. Turr	ner Field. Movie: Rain Man ★★★★ (1988, Drama) The Osca winning study of an autistic man and his brother. (0						
TNT 38	Law & Ord Pursuit of I			ossfire Tra ifficult prom					Saber River ★★½ Selleck. (CC)		Movie: Wyatt Earp ★★ ¹ ⁄ ₂ (1994) (CC)		
DSC 42	Great Bike Off	er Build-	American (N)	Casino	American Miller Elec		American Alumnatub		American Casino		American Chopper Miller Electric 1 (CC)		
A&E (47)	American Lipstick Kil		Biography Giancana:				Biography Henry Hill: Goodfella (CC)		American Justice Payback for a Bully		Biography: Sam Giancana: Gangster		
ESPN 49	Baseball (Live) (CC)		Wim- bledon match.		Wimbledon Tennis) (CC)		Baseball Tonight (Live) (CC)		SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		Outside- Lines	Baseball Tonight	
HBO (7)	(4:45) Mov Doubtfire			ardotCom ephen Dorff	t ★½ (2002, Movie: Eyes Wide Shut ★★★ (1 ff. (CC) on a sexual odyssey through Net						Movie: MenWar		
DISN 17	Phil of Future	That's- Raven		e Size ** (a spell that			That's- Raven	Phil of Future	Bug Juice	Lizzie McGuire	Boy Mts. World	Brace- face	
MAX (21)		tional Secu		Movie: Th (1988, Dra			Movie: Lethal Weapon *** (1987, Action) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover. (CC)			87, er. (CC)	Black Tie Nite	Movie: Bikini	