

weather report

77°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:07 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:22 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:08 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 61 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds S-SE 17 mph
- Barometer 30.18 inches and falling

- Record High 106° (2002)
- Record Low 36° (1951)

Last 24 Hours*

High 77°
Low 67°
Precipitation .01
June 4.93, Year to date 11.04

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear lows in mid 60s. Wednesday: Very hot, mostly sunny, highs 100-105. Wednesday night: Mostly clear, low upper 60s.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly clear, slight chance of thunderstorms in afternoon and evening. Highs near 100. Independence Day: Mostly clear, slight chance of thunder-showers in afternoon and evening. Continued very hot, high 100-105, low upper 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.67 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.55
Loan deficiency pmt. — 16¢
Corn — \$2.31 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.24
Loan deficiency pmt. — 00¢
Milo — \$1.95 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.79
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0.00¢
Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.20 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$9.40
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$.42
Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
Nu Sun — \$9.45. New — \$9.65
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigoo Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Ready for Freedom Fest

Volunteers from civic organizations were out in force Saturday, getting rides ready at the county fairgrounds for the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Freedom Fest on Friday. Clark Jordan climbed up on the carousel to make sure every horse had been well greased. See Photo Page 3.

Goodland teen starts modeling

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A familiar face may soon show up in magazines and on television.

A 15-year-old Goodland youth who has been going to modeling school since last August is starring this week in a modeling and talent convention and has a television audition lined up.

Chris Baumfalk, son of Virgil and Jackie Baumfalk, said he had an audition for a television commercial Thursday, is scheduled for an audition for a television show in July and is starring in the Millie Lewis International company's American Modeling and Talent Convention July 1-8 in Orlando, Fla.

The family began making weekly trips to Wichita last August to take Chris to modeling school and continues to make the 700-mile round tripeach week. Since Chris was one of the 10 called back by major recruiters (out of a field of over 200), and his prospects for a modeling career look bright, he says it's worth the trip.

Transforming a mechanic into a runway sensation requires a lot of fussing by makeup artists and a lot of work on his part, and Chris says modeling has proven not to be as easy as it looks. What started as kind of a lark has snowballed into at shot at stardom.

His mom said it started with people telling them Chris was so pretty he should be a model. Now, she said, the family is working their tails off non-stop. At 14 or 15 years old, Jackie said, it seemed like something to get started for later. But it's taking off sooner than expected, she said; it seems like Chris has what they're looking for.

Agents and promoters are pushing acting pretty hard, Chris said. Not that he minds, since Chris said he really wants to be chosen for a Spangles commercial.

"Four of us from our company are going," he said. "I really want to get it."

And why not? It pays \$70 an hour.

Chris said he is hoping to earn enough money to pay for college and not "just in case" modeling doesn't work out.

"College doesn't fall into the op-



Chris Baumfalk started the gas pump and then washed the windows on a car at McB's Motor and Radiator Repair on Tuesday.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

tion category in our house," Jackie said. "It's mandatory."

Chris, who will be a sophomore at Goodland High School this fall, said he wants to one day get his master's degree in private investigation or forensics. He said his favorite subjects are science/biology and English. His brother attends a school in Prescott, Ariz., where agents train for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

But for now, he is living in two worlds. In Goodland, he is a mechanic at McB's Motor and Radiator Repair, his parents' shop, and in Wichita, he's a model. The two are not similar.

"Kids down there live in a different world than we do," Chris said. "They don't work."

Certainly not as mechanics.

"They wouldn't believe if they

saw him here," Jackie said. "They pluck his brows, mess with his hair and put on makeup."

And after hearing stories about that, Chris's friends in the this world tease him a bit.

"My friends give me a little trouble about it," he said, "call me pretty boy. I don't mind it much."

Despite the glamorous image, he said, modeling isn't as easy as it looks.

"They make me smile my hardest on a 30-foot runway," Chris said.

And then there's the ostrich neck, which he demonstrated. And there's the fact that he has to coat himself in sun block to be sure he doesn't get any more tan. Of course, that's a problem many people would like to have, or they think they would.

But Chris seems to enjoy the



Chris Baumfalk posed for a professional photographer for his portfolio to "sell" himself as a model and actor.

Photo by Beth Boldt

glamorous world, and he has some help from Goodland to fit in there.

He said Mr. Jim's His Shop has loaned costumes and tailored clothes for his shows. The clothes have to fit as snug as possible, Jackie said, because they want a skinny look.

Chris will start the show in Orlando in a tuxedo and top hat from Mr. Jim's. He has also modeled clothes from the Buckle.

Chris has professionals to help with his career. His acting agent is Models & Images; Mary Ann Van Sickle, a former model, is head of the company. He has been photographed by Beth Boldt, who discovered Naomi Campbell. Boldt brings a makeup artist and hair person with

her, Virgil said, and will be at the show in Florida.

Chris said Van Sickle recoreographed the Florida show for him.

"She wants me to be the star of the show," he said. "I'm going to start and end."

And the star has a family to back him up.

Chris is the baby of three brothers and a sister, Jackie said, and they have selected jobs to support the "supermodel."

Butch wants to be his bodyguard, she said, Katie his fashion consultant, Joey his pilot, and Justin hasn't chosen a job but has asked for a new car.

What are brothers for, after all?

Couple working to save Ruleton school

By Shannon Davidson

The Goodland Star-News

As you drive into tiny Ruleton, you can't help but stop and take a moment to admire the beautiful old brick school house sitting quietly, poised just as a dignified woman waiting for her next dance partner at the evening ball.

Then as you enter the school, you are greeted by the soft light coming faintly through a single stained glass window pane. As your eyes begin to focus, you see that the school is in need of some tender loving care, but its character shines through the layers of dirt and weather damage.

The way Gary and Cynthia Kickler finish each other's sentences, the sparkle in their eyes gets even brighter as they share the stories of the school. You know the building is in good hands and will get the care it needs. You know the school's next dance partner has found her waiting patiently.

The couple said they bought the house next to the school and the old building came with the house back in August 1997. The state Historical Society offered to take the school, but the Kicklers didn't want to give it up.

The couple said their main goal is to stop the deterioration of the building and preserve the school house because it has memories for so many people. The school, built in 1926, is now listed on the state Register of Historic Places, and the couple is ready to start raising money to save it.

Cynthia talked with excitement about the reunion held at the school two years ago. Maybe a dozen people came.

"It was so special to see the alums and their families come to share their memories of the school house," she said. "People like to reminisce."

The last high school class in



Gary and Cynthia Kickler (above) are shown in the 1926 Ruleton school house (right) they purchased five years ago. The school recently was put on the state Historical Society list and the Kickler's are looking for grants, monetary donations and manual labor to help restore this piece of history

Photo by Shannon Davidson
The Goodland Star-News

Ruleton graduated in 1942-43, though the grade school lasted until 1965. Today, the roof needs repair and there's water damage inside. Dust and pigeon droppings cover the floors.

"Milton Perish, an 85-year-old man," Cynthia recalled with a smile, "would call back every five minutes with a new story to tell."

She and Gary agree that the fun of owning the old school is nonstop.

"This is the place we want to be, and we love this process of learning and rebuilding."

"It will be even more fun to have something to show for all the time



on paper work and dedication to research ... and even that was fun."

When they were at the courthouse with boxes of records, Cynthia said, people would say things like, "That was my dad's mom."

Hearing people say things like that would keep her going.

Cynthia said she worked long and hard over a four-year period, going to the courthouse, reading books and doing all types of research to be able

to dig deeper into the history of the school. She said Lloyd Holbrook a member of the Sherman County Historical Society board, helped her find a lot of information through the library's microfiche system.

The Kicklers said they are ready to begin raising money for restoration of the old school. The Heritage Trust Fund, a branch of the state Historical Society in Topeka, provides grants for the preservation of properties currently listed on the national and state registers of historic places, they said. Along with money, the couple is looking for people to work and provide supplies needed to turn the school house into a multi-use facility that includes a lodging establishment and community space. They are not on a deadline, but they are dedicated to stopping the deterioration and begin the restoration process.

"Now comes the hard part of cleaning it up to preserve it and use it," Gary said. "the wind has been relentless. We have had some vandalism out of curiosity. The vandals thought they had found a real gold mine."

Cynthia and Jan Epp from the Greeley County Republican put together a package of information on the goals and history of the school house.

"The rise and decline of the Ruleton School building is also the rise and decline of a western Kansas community," they wrote. "The story of Ruleton is historically important as an example of what happened between 1925-1965 in many communities across the state."

"The Ruleton School should be preserved as a reminder of the community that once thrived there, for the memories of those Kansans who attended school and community activities there and for the benefit of their children and grandchildren."