

weather
report

67°

noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 63 degrees

• Humidity 56 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds Southeast 6 mph

• Barometer 30.34 inches

and falling

• Record High today 107° (1963)

• Record Low today 48° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 65°

Low Sunday 55°

Precipitation —

This month 2.99

Year to date 8.17

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, breezy, high lower 80s. Winds south, 15-25.

Extended Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low around 60, winds south 10-20. Wednesday: Partly cloudy, 50 percent chance of thunderstorms in afternoon, high mid 80s, winds south 10-20. Wednesday night: Partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low lower 60s. Thursday: Partly cloudy, high lower 90s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.23 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.23

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.69 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.60

Loan deficiency pmt. — 00¢

Milo — \$2.32 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.39 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.92

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0.00¢

Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.

NuSun — \$11.20

Pinto beans — \$15 (new crop)

(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



Legion team
wins opener

Goodland's Jared Duke (left) kept an eye on an Imperial base runner while pitching during the first inning of the game Saturday afternoon. Goodland lost to Imperial, Neb., 10-9. Story, photos on Page 12.

Big Brother has a special bond



By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland Star-News

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 delivery 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.

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Big brother Ryan Scheopner said he enjoys taking his little brother, Brandon Sissel, to the park. The two like to play on the swing or toss a football. Scheopner said sometimes they just sit on a park bench to talk about what happened that day. The pair has been together since January and Janet Becker, Brandon's mom, said they have spent most of their time getting to know one another.

Photos by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star-News

Candidates hear about education issues

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Three candidates for the Kansas legislature were 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, the 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 similar meeting in Hays.

About 15 people attended the meeting, sponsored by the Kansas 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



Tim Peterson (left), Democratic candidate for state Senate, talked with Rob Loftin, District 9 vice president of the Kansas Association of School Boards, before the start of the association's information meeting Wednesday at the Goodland School District office.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

vice president for District 9 and president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College board.

Jim Edwards, governmental relations specialist for the association, 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 address.

The briefing started with three things the association said people must consider before they can understand the current issues. The first is how, and why, the mission of pub-

lic 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 in Kansas has changed, he said, 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 the federal "No Child Left Behind" law are major reasons for this 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 school district's budget is built,

starting with how enrollment figures are calculated and how they determine the amount of a district's general fund. Supplemental funds were explained along, with the local 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 Progress on student performance in math and readings tests. He said every state that scored better than Kansas spent more money per student. Edwards noted that Kansas had been ranked fifth, and although its test scores increased, scores in

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Great Race rolls through Kansas



The crew of the Ravenwood Plantation car (far left), a 1917 Hudson Speedster driven by Joe Minshew and navigator Guy McDorr, waved as they drove west on U.S. 40. The team finished 43rd on the seventh leg of the 22nd Great Race, which rolled through Sharon Springs Friday afternoon. About 100 cars were headed to Colorado Springs. The National Guard team, (left), driving a 1939 Ford four-door convertible, finished 60th. People lined the highway waving as the cars headed west. The race ends Saturday in Monterey, Calif.

Photos by Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News