



With a combined age of 110, Chase Sawatzky, 12, and Eula Babcock, 98, (right) worked together on a puzzle Monday at a Sherman County Big Brothers Big Sisters "Big for a Day" at Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community. The evening of games not only brought together the young and the old, but it reunited two old friends and neighbors, Thern Bagley and Christy Schiefen (above). Bagley, who used to live on the same street as Schiefen, still calls her "grandma" even though they aren't related. The two played cards, along with Morgan Hand (right), before sharing juice and cookies.

Photos by Kathryn Gurfinkel  
The Goodland Star-News



## Games bring groups together

By Kathryn Gurfinkel  
The Goodland Star-News

Young and old mixed together Monday to play games, visit and share juice and cookies as Sherman County Big Brothers Big Sisters held a "Big for a Day" event at Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community.

Residents fanned out with the kids to play checkers, dominos, triominos, Jenga, darts or cards. Some went to the library to put together a puzzle.

Activities director Tammy Freeman said they planned the event as a fun activity for the residents as well as the children.

She is trying to set up more activities, she said, to keep the residents busy through the winter. She said church groups are signed up to visit every other month, but more groups could visit the home.

Dennis Daise, Big Brothers director, said they would love to match a child with one of the residents at Wheat Ridge. He said they could set a time for the little brother or sister to visit.

After the "bigs" and "littles" played games, they enjoyed juice and cookies in the dining area.

"We'll definitely want to do this again," Freeman said. "The kids are having a lot of fun."

She invited the public to the home on Sunday, Oct. 31, to trick-or-treat with the residents. She said each apartment will have candy.

## Forecasters gather for meeting here

By Kathryn Gurfinkel  
The Goodland Star-News

Roughly 50 meteorologists will gather in Goodland next week for the High Plains Meteorological Conference, talking about everything from thunderstorms to snowstorms.

The three-day conference will be held at the Murray Center on the campus of the Northwest Kansas Technical College starting Wednesday.

The High Plains Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association, two professional meteorological groups, have sponsored the yearly conference for the past eight years. The meeting rotates among weather station sites at Dodge City, Hastings and North Platte, Neb., and Goodland.

The conference is geared towards weather research and forecasting for the High Plains, which includes roughly the western half of Kansas and Nebraska.

Chapter President Bruce Entwistle, Science and Operations Officer for the National Weather Service in Goodland, said the conference will draw meteorologists, students and weather enthusiasts from the area, including the four National Weather Service offices.

He said with the nearest professional weather community at least three hours away, the conference will not only help participants learn more about their jobs, but it will give them an opportunity to socialize.

"It's a chance for people to come together and rub elbows," he said, "to build a weather community."

Along with talks from meteorologists at the Goodland National Weather Service office, students

and keynote speakers will give presentations.

The conference starts at 8 a.m. Wednesday with registration, and continues until noon Friday. Entwistle said they will look at forecasting, radar and climatology, or long-term weather patterns.

He said one of the presenters will use modern tools to take a second look at a historical tornadoes in Grand Island, Neb. in 1980. Another presentation will look at using a scale of severity, like the ones used to rate hurricanes, to rate winter storms.

One of the keynote speakers, Greg Stumpf with the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorology Studies and the National Weather Service Meteorological Development Laboratory, will demonstrate developments in radar technology.

Entwistle said he is looking forward to a public presentation from keynote speaker Nolan Doesken, assistant state climatologist in Colorado. He will cover the recent drought in the High Plains and how it stacks up against historic droughts. The open presentation will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at the college.

"Nolan is a very engaging speaker," he said.

The conference will feature a student paper competition, with scholarship prizes awarded to the top three.

After hours, the clubs will hold a dinner at the Howard Johnson Hotel at 7 p.m. Wednesday and a dinner at the technical college at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Three meteorologists from the Goodland weather service plan to present papers at the conference, with almost everyone else taking some time out to attend.

## Only 10 days left to register for national, state and local elections

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

If you plan to vote for president, the deadline to register is 10 days away, and Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel says a lot of people have come in to register in the past week.

Rumpel said a lot of those who came in thought the deadline was Monday, but she said that was the deadline in Colorado.

"We will be open for registration through the close of business on Monday, Oct. 18," she said.

Rumpel said she plans to open advance voting on Tuesday, Oct. 19, and mail ballots will be sent out beginning Wednesday, Oct. 13.

People who will not be in town on Nov. 2, or just want to vote early, can come to the clerk's office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 19 through Nov. 1.

The major focus of the election is the Presidential race between Republican George W. Bush and Democrat John F. Kerry. In Kansas, there will be other names on the ballot for President, including Libertarian Michael Badnarik and Independent Michael A. Peroutka.

There is a statewide race for U.S. Senate between incumbent Republican Sam Brownback and Democrat Lee Jones. In the 1st Congress-

sional District, Republican Jerry Moran's only challenger is Libertarian Jack Warner.

The 40th District features a state Senate race between Republican Ralph Ostmeyer and Democrat Tim Peterson.

In Sherman County, Commissioner Mitch Tiede, a Democrat, is running unopposed for reelection, as is Commissioner Kevin Rasure, a Republican.

There is a race for sheriff between Republican Kevin Butts and Democrat John P. McCool.

Rumpel is seeking re-election unopposed. Republican Iris Scheopner won the primary in August and is unopposed to be the county treasurer. Register of Deeds Carol S. Armstrong and County Attorney Bonnie Selby are unopposed.

District Court Judges Glenn D.

Schiffner and Jack L. Burr are seeking re-election, both unopposed.

Most township officers are unopposed or there was no nomination. However, there is a race for Stateline Township trustee between Democrat Kelly J. Livengood and Republican Gary Winter.

On election day, all Sherman County voters will cast ballots at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 824 Main in Goodland.

## Ruleton man dies of accidental drug overdose

A 34-year-old man was found dead from an accidental drug overdose about 6 a.m. Saturday at his trailer home west of Ruleton.

Sherman County Undersheriff Kevin Butts said he was called to the home of Gregory Lamar Wheeler, 34, 745 W. old U.S. 24, about 6 a.m. Saturday after Wheeler's wife, Rachael, called 911.

Butts said his wife had found Wheeler on the living room couch when she woke up that morning.

Butts said an autopsy was performed and he was told death was caused by an accidental overdose of a prescription drug. Deputy Coroner Travis Daise said Thursday

morning he would not comment on the autopsy results.

Wheeler was born in Americus, Ga., on April 22, 1970, the son of James Chester and Dororthy (Kelly) Wheeler. He attended school in Morrow, Ga., for 12 years before joining the U.S. Navy.

He was honorably discharged and was a disabled Navy veteran. He came to Goodland in 2001 to be near of his older sister, Kemberly Obrien.

He married Rachael Hull on Nov. 22, 2003, at the Bible Baptist Church in Goodland.

He is survived by three children in Georgia, Brooke, Zachary and Justin Wheeler; two brothers, John

and James Wheeler; three sisters Misty, Monica and Kemberly; and his mother, Max, Neb. He was preceded in death by his father in 1998.

Services were held at 11 a.m. Eastern Time Thursday in Milledgeville, Ga., and he was bur-

ied with military honors in the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Memorials for the Wheeler children's education and can be sent to Bateman Funeral Home, Box 278, Goodland, Kan. 67735.

**SHOWING THROUGH OCT. 14**  
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**10:30 CT ♦ THURSDAY, NOV. 4**  
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**LOCATION OF LAND:** Approx. 2 N. & 2 E. of Brewster, KS.  
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**Another FUN BANE AUCTION**

**Bane Auction/Homestead Realty**  
**Saturday, October 16,**  
**starting at 9:30 MST**  
VFW Hall, 824 Main, Goodland, Kan.

Household items from several sellers. We have been storing items for several months so the hall will be FULL. Lunch served by the VFW Auxiliary so plan on spending the day at another fun Bane Auction where everyone has "Satisfaction at the sound of the gavel."

**HOUSEHOLD**  
Maytag washer & dryer; Console stereo; Zenith console TV; Matching swivel rockers; Matching lounge chairs; Magazine rack; 2 kitchen tables & chairs.; Lamps & Pictures; Writing desk w/chair; 2-4 drawer chests; Double bed, no headboard; 2-twin beds W/brass headboards; Brass hall tree; Sofa; Matching rocker-recliners; TV & Microwave stand; Singer sewing machine w/cabinet; Book case; 2 large wardrobes; Hoover vacuum; Eureka vacuum; Exercise bikes; Roll-a-way bed; Record player; Foot stool fan; Lots of glassware, dishes, Kitchen utensils, & cookware

**ANTIQUES**  
Dexter double tub, ringer washer W/lids, works; Maytag ringer washer; Oak rocker; Glassware & misc.

**MISC ITEMS**  
Murray lawn mower; 9' Extension ladder; Step ladder; Tools; Toolboxes; Extension cords; Hose reels; Garden hoses; Lawn & Garden tools

Lots of boxes to unpack so the hall WILL BE FULL. Come and enjoy the day. For more information contact Homestead Realty & Bane Action, 1023 Main, Goodland, KS. Maynard or Terry at 785-899-2328, 899-3093 or 800-974-2426. Web @ www.goodlandksrealestate.com

## student of the week



**Name:** Ashley Wing  
**Parents:** Mark and Laura Wing

**Grade:** Senior  
**Age:** 17

**We've nominated this student because:** She is a reliable, dependable, well organized student, who is also active in community service projects. She is in addition, a hard worker and highly motivated to succeed.

**Student Comment:** My favorite aspect of school life is the opportunities it presents in friendship and in knowledge. I will always remember Good-

land High School for its school spirit at the pep rallies.

**Activities involved in at school:** DECA, National Honor Society, American Field Service, Art Clob, musical.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** My choice for movies would include anything with Will Smith. I love music, but my favorite artist is Sarha McGlothlin. When I have time I really enjoy reading the Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowling.

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** further my education. I hope to attend Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** owning my own business. I think I would like to have my own photography business sometime in the next ten years.

**Favorite Quote:** "If you always do what you have always done, then you will always get what you have always gotten."

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