

# School district gets good audit report

By Pat Schiefen  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The Goodland School Board heard Monday that the annual audit showed the district's books were in good shape and the audit report was favorable.

Cynthia Bieberle of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, an accounting firm of Colby, talked briefly with the board about the audit for the year ending in June.

Goodland School District spent \$9,412,301 for the 2005-2006 school year. Expenditures from the general fund were \$6,395,291 and the taxes collected for the local option budget were \$1,335,000.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos gave credit for the bookkeeping to Marvin Selby, superintendent until he retired in July, who helped with this year's budget.

President Ken Clouse of the Northwest Kansas Technical College told the board about new programs being offered at the college. He said the college is setting up a respiratory therapy program and expanding the diesel technology department.

Clouse said he wants to encourage students from the district to look at the college.

Angelos said they are waiting for an insurance adjuster to come and look at a school bus that was involved in an accident in Kanorado on Friday, Sept. 22.

"We want to make sure there is no axle damage," she said.

The board finally approved one student's request to participate in extracurricular activities. The student takes two classes at the high school and the rest on the Internet.

The board earlier agreed that all students, whether taking classes online or actually in the school building, must meet the same eligibility requirement of passing six classes.

The board decided students attending full-time, including students in virtual classes arranged and sanctioned by the high school, can participate in extracurricular activities.

Angelos reported the school's official student count was 925.2 full-time equivalency students and the total number of students was 988. That was 19 less than last year but an improvement from the first numbers in August, she said.

The board heard from the Kansas State Board of Education that annual yearly progress goals would remain the same as last year.

## Chilly work setting up booth



Knights of Columbus members (from left) Ron Barkley, Brent Wood, Robert Robben and Gene Becker began assembling their Flatlander Fall Festival booth about 7 a.m. Saturday morning. Wood said Saturday the Knights sold out of bierocks, but had

some brats and hot dogs left. He said the Coke went better on Sunday at Chambers Park than on Saturday, which featured a chilly wind.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# Helping children passion for Big Brothers, Sisters director

By Sharon Corcoran  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Helping children is her job, but it's also her passion.

Sarah Thompson, the new director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman County, says she is doing exactly what she wants to do.

Thompson, 29, a 1995 graduate of Liberal High School, said she enjoys the wide-eyed innocence of little children and being the one who pairs them with an adult who can make a difference in their lives.

"The kids are hysterical," Thompson said, "and they don't mean to be. One asked me, 'How old are you, 40?'"

The excitement in Thompson's voice is obvious as she talks about upcoming fund raisers and matching children with mentors.

"We're starting the Flamingo Drop again," she said, "and we want to get the entire community involved. It went really well last spring and was a good fund raiser. I heard that someone even bought a flock for the place where prom was held."

The money raised by the event supports present matches, she said, and helps with recruiting more. The flamingos will be popping up in yards around town through Saturday, Oct. 28, the night of the Dance for Kids Sake fund raiser.

Admission to the dance is \$5 for high school and up, Thompson said,



Sarah Thompson, director for Big Brothers Big Sisters, has been busy picking up where Dennis Daise left off when he went back to school. She is happy to be working with children and wants to continue the success of the program.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

or \$4 and a canned item for the Genesis food bank. For younger kids, she said, it will just be a can of food.

"We are nonprofit and have to have fund raisers," she said, "but we also want to give back to the community. We want the kids to see that's important too."

This is a good time for the dance, Thompson said, because it will help fill Genesis's shelves before the

holidays, when the agency gives out food baskets.

Wallace County supporters are planning a soup supper Monday, Dec. 18, she said, and Cheyenne County boosters have tentative plans for a Pizza Hut fund raiser Saturday, Nov. 11.

Thompson is the director for all three counties and the case manager for Sherman County. Wallace and

Cheyenne have part-time case managers.

The organization has 54 matches in the three counties, Thompson said, adding that she had an appointment later in the day to make another match.

For community-based matches, she said, the "bigs" meet with the "littles" once a week to do something they normally would do, shopping, cooking or going to a football game.

In site-based matches, she said, the mentors meet the kids at their schools and help them with homework. In both types, she said, the mentors become someone the kids can depend on and talk to.

A lot of people are nervous about becoming involved, she said, because they don't know what it takes. Mentors are responsible for helping the kids, she said, but they only have to meet once a week. It's not something they have to do every day or for hours and hours, she said.

It's an important program, though, she said; it really does make a difference in kids' lives. Just that little time each week is important to them, she said.

It can be tough to find volunteers in a small town, she said, because so many people already are involved with so many things.

But it's important to have many volunteers of all ages, Thompson

said; kids 5 to 17 can be "littles," and high school students can be "bigs." The older kids can't be matched with a high school student, she said, because they're too close in age. But the little kids do well with teenagers as "bigs," because they really look up to high school students.

Besides, she said, having many volunteers makes it more likely they can find a "quality" match for every kid needing a mentor. Women volunteers are always matched with girls and men with boys, she said, and it's important to match people with similar interests. And it's important to match volunteers with the age of kids they work best with.

It's frustrating, she said, to have volunteers on the list and not be able

to match them with a kid right away, and it's frustrating for the kids to be on a waiting list. It's especially hard, she said, when siblings come in together, and one is matched before the others. It's hard to explain to the kids why, she said.

Thompson earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Fort Hays State University and was a case worker for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Liberal. She said she was a foster care worker for Youthville and parent coordinator for the Liberal School District. She is working on her master's degree in counseling through Adams State College in Colorado over the Internet and said she is excited to be in Goodland and with Big Brothers Big Sisters again.

## Goodland Star-News changes subscription renewal process

Subscribers to *The Goodland Star-News* will see a change in the way we notify you it's time to renew your subscription.

The subscriber whose subscription is coming due will find a colored mark on the mailing label on the newspaper when the subscrip-

tion is due. Inside will be a letter on colored paper with the renewal information.

Circulation Manager Sheila Smith said the change started this week, and replaces the post cards that have been sent out in the past.

## corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news

should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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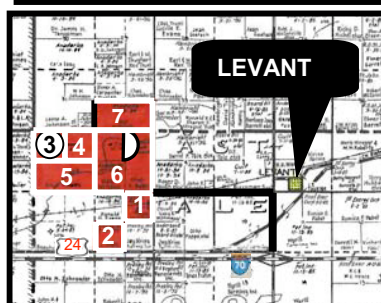
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## student of the week



**Name:** Leeanoora Kekalainen

**Parents:** Leenamari Nukanen-Kekalainen & Ari Kekalainen. Host Parents: Jackie & Mark Buller

**Grade:** 12

**Age:** 17

**We've nominated this student because:** she actively contributes to class and is performing at a very high academic level. Leeanoora has a talent for languages and is beginning to learn her 6th language. She is an excellent role model for learning multiple languages.

**Student Comment:** I will always remember my exchange year here at GHS. People are very nice to me and I'm so glad that I decided to start playing tennis. I really enjoy it.

**Activities involved in at school:** AFS and Tennis.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** Little Women is one of my favorite books because of the beautiful story, and I also like the movie Little Women. There are many Finnish bands whose music I like. My favorite bands are "Him" and "The Crash".

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** return to Finland and finish school there. After that, I would like to study to become a doctor.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** working hard to achieve my dreams and goals.



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