## **Goodland boy has chance of a lifetime**

## By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News A Goodland youth credits his teacher with giving him the opportunity of a lifetime, the chance to interview a celebrity and even become a published author.

Andrew Shores, who will be a fifth grader at North School when classes start, is one of 30 semi-finalists in a contest to become a journalist for Time for Kids, a weekly publication.

Shores was chosen from over 800 entries nationwide from children ages 9-13, based on an article he wrote from an interview with local radio personality Curtis Duncan. The next stage will be judged based on a mock interview with First Lady Laura Bush and a video clip showing Shores' personality and the top five things he is good at. Fifteen of the 30 semi-finalists will be chosen as reporters, and Andrew will find out in August whether he will be one of the lucky few.

For the mock interview, Shores said, he did research on the first lady and came up with a list of questions he would ask if he had the chance to interview her and a bibliography of his research sources.

He said some of his questions include: Does President Bush look to her opinion and ask her for advice? How have her travels influenced her? and since she is a librarian, How does she feel about mandatory screening of Internet computers in public libraries?

Shores said he wondered if the magazine was having prospective reporters get ready for one of their assignments. The magazine hasn't interviewed the first lady before, he said.

He said he started thinking about the contest when his teacher at Central Elementary School, Phyllis Zielke, told him to look at something on a certain page in Time for *Kids*. Shores said he read the rules and was a bit boggled by the crite-

"I thought, 'What am I getting myself into?"" he said.

His family agreed. His older sister, Leah Shores, said the sheet asked for a list of interviews.

"It makes you think you need a lot of experience," she said.

His mother, Nancy Shores, said when she looked at the criteria, she didn't know if her son could do the interview. (Andrew is the son of the late Norman Shores.)

"I thought we needed to interview someone with a nationally known name," she said. "I was ready to give up, but Mrs. Zielke got really determined.



Andrew Shores (above) practiced his piano solo for an upcoming performance and showed off a replica he made of the Duke's of Hazard car (below) Tuesday. Shores had to make a video of clips showing his talents and interests for the second phase of the contest to be a *Time for Kids* reporter. He will find out next month whether he won. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

over the initial fear instilled by read- wanted some unusual questions and ing the rules for the contest, the tried to come up with things others Shores family had to come up with someone for Andrew to interview, set up the interview, record it and enter the contest has made him think transcribe it, and then Andrew could write his article.

"It had a lot to do with working together," he said. "I wonder how much other kids' parents and siblings helped."

The second phase of the contest was a family effort, too. The of the 15 chosen, Andrew will be a Shoreses worked together on the research on the First Lady and on the video showing Andrew's personality.

The Shoreses said they went to the Kidder Massacre site to show the beginning of civilization in Sherman County, showing Andrew's interest in history. They went to Monument Rocks in Logan County, and Andrew told what it was

He listed the top 10 things they need to know about his personality, and they went around town recording Andrew at various places, including showing his love for reading at the library and showing him playing the piano at their church.

Andrew also told about Jeff Vignery, the Goodland pilot who was held captive in China a few years ago, showing that world events touch even people in Goodland. And the video included a section on drama, showing Andrew's love and talent for acting.

Since the video could only be three minutes long, Nancy said, a lot of things were only 10-11 seconds. Leah was the technician, Nancy said, and they had help from Duane Coash.

Andrew said before he did the projects, he thought the video would be harder than the mock inwouldn't think to ask.

Andrew said doing the projects to about his future.

"It has made me think, 'Wow! Maybe this is something I'd want to do as a career," he said, adding that he also wants to be in the Air Force.

But he may get an early start on his career in journalism. If he is one reporter for Time for Kids from this September until next August.

He said the magazine will pay his airfare and other expenses, see to it he stays in a safe place and gets to where he needs to go. He may cover conferences with some of the people running for president, Andrew said, but the magazine can't guarantee that all reporters will cover something like that.

And he may get to interview someone famous. Andrew said he would like to interview J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books.

But mostly, he said, he is going to be preoccupied for the next month ondering whether he won or not.



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terview, but now he feels the mock interview was harder. It wasn't easy coming up with questions, he said. Andrew said he didn't want the questions to just reveal basic things that could be answered by doing research on the Internet. He said he

And the Shores family says that it was her determination that helped get Andrew where he is.

"I'm glad Mrs. Zielke pushed me to do this," Andrew said, "because if I get to interview someone famous, it will be because of her."

Andrew said his teacher pushed him to enter the contest because she thinks he has a gift for writing and because he watches the news.

He comes to the dinner table, Nancy said, and tells the family all about what was on the news and gives his opinion.

He says, "If only they did this," she said.

"Kids at school ask, 'Don't you ever watch Spongebob?" Andrew said.

"I say, 'Of course," he said, "'I just like watching the news.""

Andrew said he likes to do something that helps him learn and that gives him information to store in his brain.

And Nancy said he's plenty eager to share that information with others. Even after going to bed at night, Nancy said, when she says good night and leaves the room, he is still telling her what he thinks about what he saw on the news.

"Andrew's not a man of few words," she said.

Duncan was supposed to be only

one page, Leah said, and to get it to That gift of gab comes out in his fit, they had to decrease the font and computer, Nancy writing, too. The article about expand the margins, and then it a typewriter. But barely made it.

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