

**weather report**

**73°**  
noon  
Thursday



**Today**

Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

**Saturday**

Sunrise, 6:25 a.m.

Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 51 degrees
- Humidity 9 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west northwest 10 mph
- Barometer 30.05 inches and steady
- Record High today 82° (1912)
- Record Low today 5° (1995)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High Wednesday 78°
- Low Wednesday 25°
- Precipitation none
- This month none
- Year to date 13.89
- Below Normal 4.86 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 73, winds from the west at 5 to 30 mph and a low around 33. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 75, winds from north at 10 to 15 mph and low around 32.

**Extended Forecast**

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow or rain at night, a high near 72 and a low around 30.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

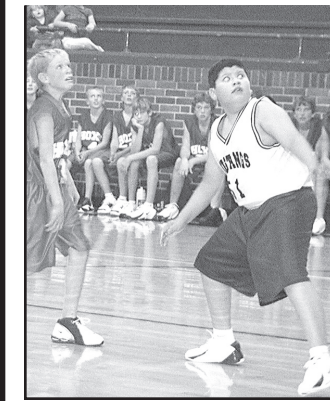


**Noon**

- Wheat — \$7.17 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.39
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.47 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.49
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$3.31 bushel
- Soybeans — \$8.73 bushel
- Posted county price — \$9.24
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Posted county price — \$17.82
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**inside today**

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



**Watching the ball fall**

Seventh grade Mustang Elias Flores waited to see if the Hoxie Indians were going to make the basket in their game Tuesday in the high school gym. The Indians beat the Mustangs 34-8. See photo on Page 11.

## Teacher, 'little' have fun together

By Sharon Corcoran

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For the past three years, a high school science teacher and a fifth grader have been going out to eat, bowling, golfing and making snacks together.

They read, do homework, play "Sorry" and have fun. The youngster plays teacher, helps on the farm and helps with school activities. And the pair have adopted each other's families.

Goodland High School science teacher Connie Livengood and Shaina Varney, a fifth grader at North Elementary, met three years ago through Big Brothers Big Sisters and have become such close friends, they not only think of each other as family but have grown close to each other's families.

Shaina, daughter of Bryan and Lisa Varney of Goodland, was looking for a Big Sister while her father was stationed in Iraq. Livengood was helping the organization to get high school students involved with mentoring and took an interest in being a Big Sister. She chose Shaina because she already knew her family a little.

"When Dennis Daise was the coordinator," Livengood said, "he asked me to help get high school kids involved with the Littles — that sparked my interest. It's been fun ever since."

"I had no friends," Shaina said. "My dad was gone in Iraq, and my mom was in school."

Some of the teachers recommended the younger kids to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Livengood said, and those interested in being mentors were contacted to pick a Little.

"She's become a part of my family," Livengood said, "and I have adopted her family too. It has become a joint venture for us."

Shaina said the best benefit for her has been having fun and getting to know a person.

"I've had a lot of fun with Shaina," Livengood said. "Instead of working with the older kids, I get to work with someone younger, and I get to help someone. We've become friends."

"I go to her house," Shaina said, "where I have chickens, and we make snacks together and make a mess."

She takes me out to eat, the girl added.

"Shaina had never eaten at China Gardens," Livengood said, "and it has become her favorite place. We eat there at least once a month."

"I spend the night at her house," Shaina said. And the two play sports and watch sports.

"We go bowling," Livengood said, "do junior golf all summer and play basketball."

They watch volleyball and baseball. And Shaina goes to Livengood's classroom to play teacher and has helped with school organizations.

"She helped me at the GAA (Girls Athletic Association) girls with the after school program the other night," Livengood said.

And Shaina goes to Tim and Connie Livengood's farm, about three miles east and one south of Goodland. Some not-so-fun activities, Livengood said, include cleaning the chicken house and cleaning the house.

"But we take different routes to the house," Shaina said. "The scenic route," Livengood added.



Shaina Varney helped her Big Sister Connie Livengood print photos of the Goodland High School girls golf team plaque, as the team was the regional runner-up and finished fourth at state.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Shaina has learned to ride a mower and mow, Livengood said, and has learned a lot of things on the farm.

And the two played golf for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"She won the putting contest," Shaina said, pointing to her Big Sister, who is also the girls golf coach at Goodland High.

The two meet nearly every week, often for 30 minutes, but sometimes meet two or three times a week and sometimes for a couple of hours to watch a movie or overnight.

"I recommend people take time for a Little Brother or Sis-

ter," Livengood said. "It only takes 30 minutes, and we get a lot done in that time. It's very relaxing."

When the two can't meet, they send each other cards or balloons.

"We give each other birthday presents," Shaina added.

"Mine's coming up."

"You're not going to let me forget it, are you?" Livengood teased.

Shaina said Livengood's birthday is Feb. 16, but hers is first. She will turn 11 on Jan. 29.

## He sells bands, boys bands

The musical, "The Music Man" by Meredith Wilson, will be presented today, Saturday and Sunday at the Goodland High School Auditorium, 1209 Cherry. The show starts at 7 p.m. tonight and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and must be purchased in advance. Today is the last day to get tickets at Goodland High School.

The cast includes Chris Irvin, Brook Redlin, Martin Stadelmann, Andrew Shores, Stephen Buller, Tyler Jones, Taylor Tomsic, Jake Kling, Brennen Clouse, Dallas Price, Bryan Gray, Kade Sheldon, Tanner Oharah, Devin Mangus, Talison Crosby, Taylor McLemore, Courtney Sheldon, Kaitlin Fugleberg, Abby Jolly, Holton Witman, Saundra Redlin, Kirsten Topliff, Bracelyn Redlin, Julica Bonsall, Alexandra Borders, Shonna Webster, Ashley Archer, Kaitlyn Lammers, Katlyn Topliff, Ben Waugh, Brooke Lockhart, Eryn Topliff, Michelle Smith, Ashley Martell, Day Waugh, Kendra Promise, Heidi Lawson, Ashley McDonald, Jordan Knitig, Ryleigh Paxton, Mara Kling, Kristina Stasser, Milan Branick, Cooper Slough, Tim Fugleberg, Jed Gray, Parker Sieck, Michael Pettibone and Caleb Fugleberg.



## City applies for money to replace more bricks

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners agreed Monday to apply for a grant to redo at least two blocks of Main Street and may include the sidewalks with participation from the businesses.

The recommendation is to do the two blocks from 10th to 12th, and the commissioners suggested that as the plan is developed the businesses in those two blocks should be contacted about replacing the sidewalks as part of the project.

Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who handles most of the city projects told the

commissioners the two blocks of Main are the next phase of the 25-year plan that was set up five years ago.

He said the application had to be sent in this week, but the project would not be approved before spring. He said if the city gets the grant it could be another year before the work was actually done.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked who felt it was better to do the streets rather than the rest of the intersections.

Neufeld said he was going by the plan the city commission and staff approved five years ago.

Billinger said he felt it would be better to

finish the intersections rather than the two blocks of the street. He said the plan is to replace the curb and gutter on Main, and asked if doing the street would mess that up.

Neufeld said the program to replace the curb and gutter on Main is planned for the spring, but he said there is no plan to rip out any of that to replace the two blocks of street bricks. He said the city doing the curb and gutter is an enhancement to the street and a point in favor in the grant application.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he was wondering about that because it did not seem to be a good plan to do the curb and gutter, and then have the state come in and tear it out.

Commissioner John Garcia asked about the intersections, and said he could see where Billinger was coming from about doing the intersections rather than the two blocks.

Neufeld said that in the past week he and the city people — City Manager Wayne Hill and Rich Simon, public works director — had looked at the intersections and the street and felt the block of the street from 10th to 11th was the worst section of Main.

Daniels agreed there were a lot of concrete patches in that block.

Billinger asked what the city is paying for