

Girl shares sodas, movies, secrets with new big sister

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

Sisters share sodas, movies and secrets, so even though they're not really related, Bonnie Smith and Elaine Reiter reap all the benefits of family through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program of Sherman County.

The two matched up roughly two years ago when Big Brothers Big Sisters came to town.

As the unlikely pair sat down to dinner one night at Picnic in the Park, Smith's chatty nature took over. Elaine, a shy 12-year-old, and a seventh grader at Grant Junior High, saved her breath for direct questions or an occasional additions.

"She's a woman of few words," Smith says. "We're so totally different. I'm a gabber."

Smith, office secretary and food service director for the Goodland Schools District, said she was a charter member of Big Brothers Big Sisters here.

"I always thought I would like to be a part of it and be a big sister," she said. "I wanted to be involved as a role model to a young person."

Elaine, the daughter of Jennifer Smith, got into the program through her grandmother, Janet.

Smith said her match-up with Reiter was one of the first in the county. She had looked at files of a few potential little sisters, and she thought she would get along well with Reiter.

"She's a neat young lady," Smith said.

Reiter said she likes the match-up, too. She started seeing Smith when she was 10, so they have been together for important times in her little sister's life.

"I really like Bonnie," she adds.

Although they have missed some time together lately because of Elaine's busy schedule, Smith said, they see each other regularly.

"We usually try to get together at least once a week," she said, "but since Elaine has gotten in junior high and gone out for volleyball, we've missed some times."

When they do get together, the



Big sister Bonnie Smith (left) and her little sister Elaine Reiter shared a good time along with a dinner of fried chicken and french fries at Picnic in the Park. The two get together at least once a week as

part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program of Sherman County.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

pair said they like to see movies. Smith said sometimes they go to the theater, others they rent movies, pop popcorn and relax at her house.

"We like to have a good time together," she said. "We just hang out together."

Elaine said she likes going over to Smith's house to play with her chihuahua, Cricket, and her poodle, Lillian.

Along with movies, the pair has gotten together for craft projects.

Smith said they make Christmas gifts for Elaine to give her friends and family. They have made bracelets, bookmarks, decorative soaps and candy bar wrappers.

Smith said after having four sons and three grandsons, it is fun to do girl things.

"I never had a daughter," she said.

They also like to go out to eat. Elaine has to pick the restaurant and sometimes the movie, Smith said, because she is working on making

good choices.

"Yeah," Elaine chimed in, "but usually I can't decide."

They try to make it to most of the Big Brother Big Sister functions. Smith said they have been to the Halloween party, bowling get together, an event at the Goodland Activities Center, a fire safety program at the Sherman County Fire Department, a pool party and the Christmas supper.

Smith said she took Elaine's

younger brother, Shawn, to the Christmas party last year even though he has not been matched with a big brother. She said the program is short big brothers, and she encouraged more men to sign up.

"We're always needing volunteers," she said.

Shopping mania hit Goodland Friday

SHOPPING, from Page 1

day, and they had a lot of people come through the doors.

"We had more people than I expected," she said.

As the morning rolled on, employees said, business really picked up.

"We had all four registers running," Thomas said. "It's been busy, thank goodness."

She said restocking the shelves after people leave has been a bit of a challenge.

Bryan and Edna Bolen of Sharon Springs said they came to Goodland to do the bulk of their Christmas shopping.

"We try to get most of it done on our first trip out," said Bryan.

He said they come to town for their major shopping because they don't like to travel very far to spend

money.

"We like to keep our money local," he said. "I like the smaller businesses. They know your name."

In Penney's, they were looking for clothes for their 18-month-old grand-daughter. They searched for deals at Mann's Jewelry and Wal-Mart and were planning to continue on to more stores.

"We're shopping for bargains," Bryan said. "We try to save money."

They also said their Christmas tree has been up for a week and they're excited about filling it out with a lot of packages.

"It looks so bare under there," Edna said.

Vicki Cress of St. Francis said she was in town Friday to pick up gifts for her granddaughters. She said she likes to shop in Goodland, but she was ready for a crowd.

"I knew what I wanted," she said,

"and I zeroed in on it."

Jeff Nitsch of Burlington said he was fed up with shopping even before 10 a.m. He said his family had started out at Orscheln Farm and Home and had run the gamut since then. As he checked out winter hats for himself at Aten Department Store, he said his family was busy in the shoe department.

"I'm just along for the ride," he added. "I like to go right in, get what I want and leave."

He said so far they probably had dropped thousands of dollars and there was no end in sight.

The shopping in town, along with the holiday, brought people from all over.

One group with members from Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma and

Utah said they were visiting Aunt Kathy (Van Allen) of Sharon Springs for Thanksgiving and decided to go out shopping.

Others came from Kanorado, Kansas City, Grinnell, Burlington and as far away as Indiana for the deals.

"Today," said Sharon Mann of Mann's Jewelry and Gifts, "we've been very busy so far."

"We've had extraordinarily good sales," said Shane Aten with Aten's.

DD DIGITAL

www.goodlandnet.com/movies

Showing through Dec. 9

Christmas With the Kranks (PG)

Tonight 7:00

Colby college gets new dean of fiscal services

Daniel Erbert, formerly of Trinidad, Colo., will be the dean of fiscal services at Colby Community College starting Wednesday.

Erbert brings eight years experience in higher education serving as the chief operations officer at Cloud County Community College in Concordia and later served three years as the vice president of administrative services at Trinidad State Junior College where he responsible for various budgets exceeding \$17 million.

"We are very pleased that Dan will be joining our administrative team," said Colby president Mikel Ary. "He brings a wide variety of experience in postsecondary education. His background and profes-

sional accomplishments are outstanding and we look forward to the positive contributions he will make to Colby Community College."

Prior to making the move to high education, Erbert was the business administrator for the Lamar public school system for five years where he was responsible for budgets of over \$11 million.

Erbert earned his Bachelor of Science in business administration and his master's degree in occupational administration and supervision from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He is working on his doctoral degree in community college leadership also from Colorado State.



Erbert

matters of record

Goodland Police

The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

Nov. 22 — Stephanie Corcoran reported the theft of a temporary license plate valued at \$6 at 400 W.

13th.

Tyler Henderson was charged with disorderly conduct against Frankie Hayes at 2400 Enterprise.

Nov. 24 — Brandon L. Dinges was arrested for driving under the influence at 200 W. 19th.

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR DEC. 1 - DEC. 7
Wednesday - Western Kansas Liberty League Scholarship contest at Greeley County 10 a.m.

Thursday - Junior High basketball at Sharon Springs 3 p.m.

Friday - High School basketball at Brewster against Cheylin 6:30 and 8 p.m.

Monday - High school Academic Bowl at Colby 4 p.m.; Junior high Academic Bowl at Tribune 4 p.m.

Tuesday - Sagebrush Shootout at Brewster 3 p.m.; 1/2 day of school for students.

Life, Annuity and Crop



Kevin Petty,
Farm Bureau Financial Services
1610 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735
785-899-2378

S&T Telephone Cooperative wishes all students success!

S&T
Telephone Cooperative Association
P.O. Box 99 • Brewster, Kan.
• (785) 694-2256

USD 314

Wishes the best to ALL
Brewster Students!
Go Bulldogs!

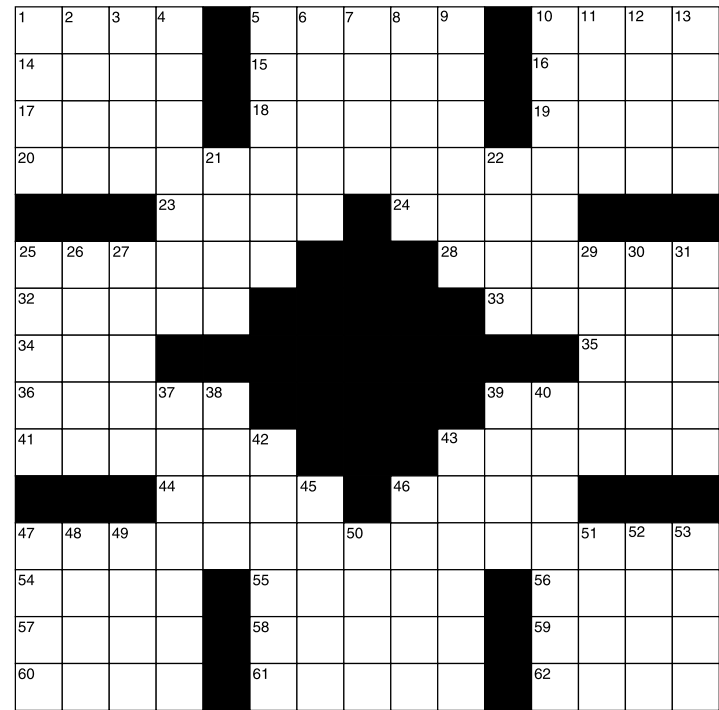


102.5 FM KKCI
Best of the 70s, 80s, & 90s



KLOE 730am
Full Service Radio

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- SW Indian
- Heeds
- Major (Big Dipper)
- Paddles
- Make a raid
- Time of day
- What a doctor gives
- Spin
- Alda, actor
- Not play it safe
- A female domestic
- Guru
- Takes place
- Rockwell, illustrator
- Offensive
- Inscribed pillar
- Of she
- Have already done
- Era
- Tan color
- Fill again
- Stripper
- Jazz singer _____ Laine
- Artist, _____ Chagall
- Best
- A traditional belief
- Composition
- Askew
- Out
- Breastplate
- Capital of Latvia
- Nominate
- Goody
- British School

CLUES DOWN

- Medical facility, abbr.

Smith said the program works with "site-based" matches, where the big and little meet at school or the library, or with "community-based" matches, where the two go out to eat or to the movies. Both bigs and littles, she said, have to go through screening and background checks to make sure they will match up.

In their two years together, the two said, they have made one major trip, a visit to Keystone, Colo.

Smith said she and her husband Don had been there before, and Elaine wanted to go to the mountains.

On the trip, they shared pizza, rode paddle boats, went rock hunting and fed ducks, geese and fish.

Smith has gotten Elaine started collecting bells from different states. Every time she goes to a new state, she said, she brings back a bell to add to the collection. Smith collects salt-and-pepper shakers and, she said, little sis has helped add to that collection, too.

"She's a very considerate young lady," she said. "It's really special."

Smith said her job as a big sister is to be a good role model for Elaine, not a substitute parent.

"I'm just a friend," she said. "I want her to know that she can do just about anything she wants to do."

She said young people are referred to the program when family or friends think they need a good influence in their lives. As Elaine gets older, Smith said, she will always be available as a confidante.

As for being a role model, Smith said she sometimes acts silly around her little sister.

"I'm sometimes a kid, too," she said. "I feel like I'm myself when I'm around Elaine."

She does take her responsibility as a big sister seriously, though, and tries to be there for Elaine's volleyball games and other activities.

"It's something really important for me," she said. "I truly enjoy the time I spend with her."

The
Goodland Star-News

1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735
785-899-2338