

Big Brothers/Little Brothers tell stories of friendship

January was National Mentoring Month, and Big Brothers Big Sisters in both Sherman and Wallace counties recognized a couple of Big Brother/Little Brother matches.

Both stories told of the friendship between the Big and the Little and the magic that can happen. As the month of February comes to a close, think about a way that you can make a difference in your community. The year is just beginning, but to a child that needs a friend, it is another year of loneliness.

I recently listened to the biography of Chuck Norris and was impressed with his life story and how he has also started a foundation by the name of Kick-Start. Norris believes this is his greatest accomplishment.

He started with the first group of kids in a middle school in Houston



dennis daise

- big brothers big sisters

with a total of 150 learning about the martial arts. On his web site, it was explained how the "program was so successful in helping these kids raise their self-esteem and instilling discipline and respect that the program is now in 30 schools with over 4,200 young boys and girls actively participating."

I thought that it would be difficult to have that in our school curriculum here in Western Kansas, but I knew about Wayne Luckert's Taekwondo class that he teaches in the area.

Wayne and the Goodland Activities Center have been gracious enough to allow us to host a Big For A Day that highlights what the area Taekwondo classes can offer. The demonstration is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Goodland Activities Center. Please plan on attending the event, which will be open to the public.

Bowl For Kids Sake 2006 is rapidly approaching with the Sherman-Wallace event scheduled for Saturday, April 1. Tentative plans for a Bowl for Kids Sake event in Cheyenne County is being planned as well.

The teams are made up of four people, and it is a fun time of Pizza Hut pizza, Coke and door prizes and a couple of games to bowl at Bowladium Lanes. The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County "Bigs and Littles" newsletter says a noteworthy anniversary is being celebrated.

"This year marks the 25th year of Big Brothers Big Sisters' annual fundraising campaign Bowl for Kids' Sake. The tradition began in Wichita as a way to raise money to match children with caring mentors.

"The event has been extremely successful over the years. In fact, the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County fundraising model is now used nationwide in other agencies."

Here in northwest Kansas, Bowl for Kids Sake has grown each year

and remains our most important event to serve kids needing a mentor.

The article continued with both positive and sad news: "Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County served more than 1,900 children, reflecting a 15 percent growth rate from 2004. However, there are still 1,600 boys and girls waiting for a mentor."

Our numbers reflect matches doubling each year in northwest Kansas, and yes, we do have a waiting list as well, mostly consisting of boys. It is good to see how some matches are successful as I mentioned earlier that were noted during National Mentoring Month.

So plan on forming a team and participate in the 25th anniversary year. Pledge if you can't bowl. Volunteer to become a mentor or refer your child to the program. Every

part is important to the "Big" picture of helping a child achieve a dream.

The team deadline is Friday, March 17, so please call 890-3665 if you have any questions about the event or the program.

Norris thinks his most rewarding accomplishment was the creation of Kick-Start. With the help of President George Bush, Norris implemented a program teaching the martial arts to 150 high-risk children at M C Williams Middle School in Houston, Texas, as part of the school curriculum.

The program was so successful in helping these kids raise their self-esteem and instilling discipline and respect, as well as getting them out of gangs, that the program is now in 30 schools with over 4,200 young boys and girls actively participating.

Child safety priority for troopers

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important commodity, our children."

Trooper Joe Greene will be one of the officers helping with the child safety seat installation and check clinic from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday at Lonny's, 1933 Caldwell. Greene said Goodland police officers and Sherman County sheriff's deputies will be on hand to help.

Keeping babies and small kids safe in cars is the top priority of the Child Passenger Safety Week, said Roxy Cabral, Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect director, of the Regional Prevention Center. Children 4 to 8 who use booster seats are 59 percent less likely to be injured in an accident than kids who are only in a safety belt, she said. She

said a study by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia found that kids 4 to 8 are generally too small for adult safety belts, and these kids need a boost to make sure the belt fits securely across their chests, and low and snug across their hips. This helps prevent internal injuries, neck, head and spinal injuries and ejection and death in a crash.

She said the National Highway Traffic Safety Association estimates only 10 to 20 percent of kids in this age group ride in booster seats.

"As children grow," she said, "how they sit safely in a car, truck, van or SUV changes. Parents and drivers simply need to remember these four steps."

- Use rear-facing infant seats in the back seat from birth to at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds.

- Use forward-facing toddler seats in the back seat from age 1 and 20 pounds to about 4 and 40 pounds.

- Use booster seats in the back seat from about age 4 to at least 8, or until a child is 4 foot, 9 inches tall.

- Use safety belts in the back seat at age 8 or older or taller than 4 foot 9. Children under 13 should continue to ride in the back seat.

"Some parents or drivers may feel booster seats are a hassle to use or a pain to convince their kids to use," Cabral said, "but protecting the ones you love means getting past the temporary complaints. Use the safety restraints because you love them."

For information about the proper use of booster seats, visit www.boosterseat.gov.

Farm-city banquet set for next week

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county are working to organize the event, with Sherman County Farm Bureau taking the lead role," said Amy Sederstrom, bureau coordinator.

Trent Loos of Luke City, Neb., known for his radio show and his weekly column in the *High Plains Journal* "Loos Tales," will speak.

Each year, the Sherman County Agricultural-Business Person of the Year is named.

"This award is presented to a Sherman County business person who exemplifies the spirit of concern, dedication and genuine feeling of enthusiasm for the preserva-

tion and expansion of the quality of life in Sherman County," Sederstrom said.

John Boyington, retired farmer, was the last person to receive the award.

The county Farm Bureau got a grant from the Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation to get Loos to speak at the banquet, Sederstrom said. He is also speaking that afternoon at the Colby Community College Collegiate Farm Bureau open house.

He is billed as one of the nation's leading advocates for agriculture. His column appears in the *High Plains Journal* every week.

"We know the struggles of being dependent on foreign oil," Loos

said "shortages, high prices. Imagine the terror of dependency if we allow food production to leave our nation. It is time to balance the scale with common sense ideas, based on sound science.

"Whether you're a farmer, livestock producer, processor or retailer, you are a crucial player in the production of food we eat. No one knows better the value and pride we take in creating the safest food supply in the world — but you wouldn't know it from what we read and hear."

For information, call Sederstrom at (785) 899-3594 or the Farm Bureau office. The deadline for reservations is Sunday.

Spring gardening time sneaking up

Even though it seems a long way off, if the weather we have been having continues, it will be gardening time before you know it.

Some of the first plants to emerge in the spring are plants from bulbs. These are generally plants we don't do a lot for because by the time they have bloomed, we are busy with other gardening chores. Fertilizing spring-flowering bulbs is one bit of the puzzle we can get done before the heavy chores begin.

The best time to fertilize spring-flowering bulbs is when foliage emerges in the spring rather than at flowering. Traditionally, gardeners have applied fertilizer during bloom or a bit after, but because bulb roots start to die at flowering, fertilizer applied at bloom is



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wasted.

Roots are active when the foliage first pokes through the ground. Nutrients applied then help the plant produce flowers the following year.

If bulbs have been fertilized in the past, there is often plenty of phosphorus and potassium in the soil. It is best to use a soil test to be certain. If the soil needs phosphorus and potassium, use a complete fertilizer (such as 10-10-10, 9-9-6, etc.) at the rate of 2.5 pounds per 100 square

feet. This would equal one rounded teaspoon per square foot.

If phosphorus and potassium are not needed, blood meal makes an excellent fertilizer. It should be applied at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet or one teaspoon per square foot.

Turf fertilizers such as a 27-3-3 or 30-3-3 can be used, but cut the rate by a third. Remember not to cut the foliage until it dies naturally. The energy in the foliage is transferred to the bulb as the foliage dies and will help it bloom next year.

Snoball royalty crowned



Derek Fenner and Morgan Titus were crowned king and queen of the Goodland High Snoball between basketball games Friday night at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. Lisha Tedford (left) was a runner-up.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

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District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court: **Jan. 3** — Donald K. Seigler, \$126 for speeding. Natalie A. Shipula, \$120 for speeding.

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