

# Caps and gowns to make occasion more formal

**GRADUATION, from Page 1**

Second, all graduates will be wearing caps and gowns to give the ceremony a more formal feel. Clouse said he thinks having caps and gowns will make it a more special occasion for students and families.

"It's an American tradition," he said.

Lastly, 38 students will be receiving two-year associate degrees — something that wasn't possible before last year.

When the state Legislature allowed the technical school to become a college last spring, it gave the institution the right to award associate of applied science degrees to its students.

Before, graduates received the degrees from Colby Community College. Clouse said students still have to take required classes from Colby, but can receive their degree from the technical college.

Since this is only the second year the college has awarded associate degrees, Clouse said more than 60 students will

be receiving degrees from Colby this year. Those students will be recognized at the ceremony, he said, noting the number of graduates awarded degrees from the technical college will likely increase in coming years.

The title of Hampton's speech will be "You're It Today." Clouse said he asked Hampton to speak because she

understands issues in Western Kansas and is a great advocate of technical colleges.

Hampton and her husband own a farm and ranch in Dodge City, Clouse said, and several of her children have gotten a technical education. He said she is chairperson of the Regents' Commission on Community Colleges and Vocational-Technical Education.

Hampton has served as a Dodge City Community College trustee for 16 years, is past president of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees and served on Gov. Bill Graves' Task Force for Excellence in

Higher Education.

Students from Goodland who are graduating include Lisa Studer and Justin Owens, engineering technology; D.J. Baehler, auto body; Cynthia Bohl, cosmetology; Justin Colby and Johana Rodriguez, office/computer technology; Courtney Fogg and Crystal Phillips, medical assistant; Matt Krayca and Eric Corke, electronics technology; and Casie Brock, Aaron Cebula, Stacie Cooper, Nathan Elliott, Katy Hillmer, Eric Johnson, Donovan Nichols, Jarrod Precht, Sumar Rheaschek and Toby Wurtz, communications.

## Firemen hope to educate younger kids

*Important to have fire escape plan and practice the plan monthly*

**FIREMEN, from Page 1**

children know what they sound like. It is also important for families to have an escape plan, he said, and to practice it.

"The plan is only about as good as the number of times you've practiced it," he said.

Especially with small children, it is important to practice, he said, because they will probably forget where they should go otherwise. Griffith recommended practicing the escape plan

*Program introduces pre-schoolers to city, county emergency workers*

"Community Helpers" is a program for preschool and Head Start students at West Elementary School that gives the children a chance to meet and learn about emergency workers in Sherman County.

Community Helpers was started as part of the language program. Speech/Language Pathologist Michelle Hayden said.

Teachers realized many of the younger students were afraid of police officers and had been taught they were "the bad guy," she said.

As part of Community Helpers, Hayden said, preschool and Head Start students have seen presentations from the police and fire departments and from a dental assistant from Dr. Imel's office. The National Weather Service will do a presentation this week, she said.

The presentations will help the chil-

once a month and using the smoke detector as part of the drill.

Bentzinger told the students to crawl on the floor to escape if the house fills with smoke. He had the children get down on the ground and practice crawling.

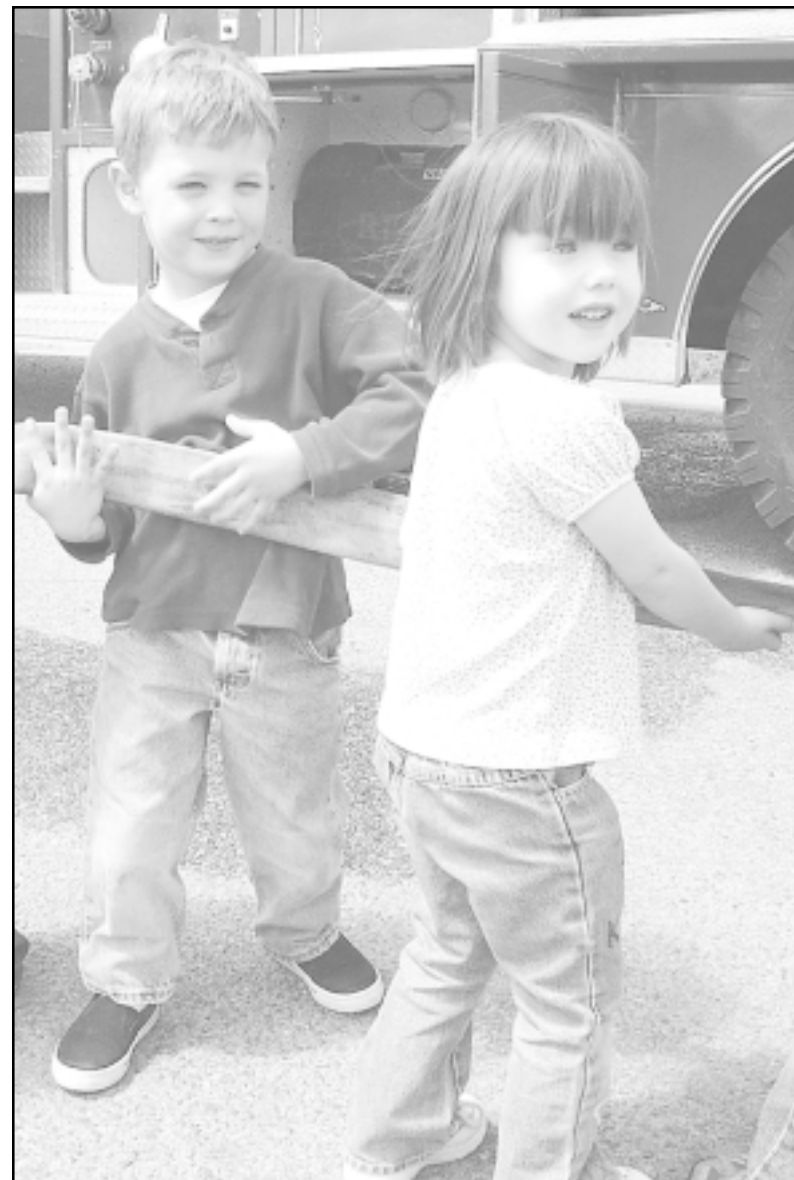
Griffith sprayed water out of the fire hose for the children. He let Nona Mason's preschool class try on the fireproof coat, two or three children at a time, and let Carrie Starns' Head Start class hold the hose while spraying water.

children understand the role these people play in the community, she said.

The Head Start classes serve 60-70 children per year, Hayden said, and always have a waiting list. Children qualify for Head Start based on their parents' income and the class is targeted to benefiting children of lower-income families.

The children in Head Start mainly learn social skills, said director Carrie Starns, and get used to the classroom setting. They learn about sharing and getting along, she said, and also do some academic things, such as learning the alphabet.

There are often children with special needs in Head Start, Hayden said, such as ones who need help with their language skills. The children receive a lot of individual attention, as there are four teacher aides and a teacher for each Head Start class, she said.



Elijah Bohl and Mallory O'Brien held the fire hose along with others in their class during the fire department's demonstration Friday. The children needed help from adults to hold the hose once the water was turned on, and some of the children said the hose was heavy before the water was turned on.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

## Economic group wants city support

**ECONOMIC, from Page 1**

through intent or lack of motivation, but because it hasn't gotten enough support or manpower.

Blume told Goodwin he thought the Chamber had done pretty well, considering the restraints it has worked under, and said it shouldn't be called a failure.

"There could have been a better effort," Goodwin said. "The guy has to wear five hats. Ron Harding (Chamber director) has done a good job for all he does."

Dave Daniels, a rental property manager and committee member, told the commissioners the group was not looking for all its funding from the city.

"We're just asking that whatever you

gave to the Chamber, you put in our direction," Daniels said, "in a place that might do more, do a better job."

The group is not trying to shut down the Chamber, Goodwin said, but rather supplement it.

The Chamber's job is to help maintain existing businesses, he said, and the group wants to bring in new businesses.

"We hope to make more business for the Chamber," Daniels said.

Goodwin said the group had already met with the Sherman County commissioners. He said the officials might let the group organize under the county, in which case it could be supported in the future by property taxes, but it will still be looking for money from private sources.

## Riders hope ride to wall will continue to happen

**WALL, from Page 1**

here, people who tell us they can't ride with us, but that they are with us in spirit.

It sounds corny, but it helps us heal old wounds."

Turnel said he usually goes "all the way," that is, rides with the group all the way from California, but he is starting to feel the effects of age, and joined up this year in Colorado.

He says he's not sure if he will be able to make the trip at all next year.

"As we keep getting older, we will have to pass this torch on to the next generation," Turnel said.

"I hope this doesn't just stop. It is too good to stop. It needs to be kept alive."

Among the gray beards and bald heads, there were some scattered younger faces, and they say they are determined that the annual ride will not end anytime soon.

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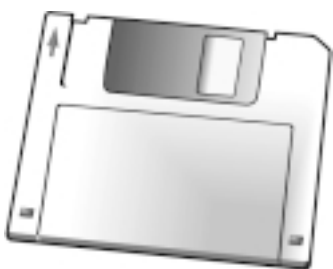
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