



Erica Hernandez blocked Shavaughn Barnes from climbing the ladder to the slide at Phillips Park on Thursday. The girls are among the youngsters who benefit from Sherman County Head Start.  
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

# Day care money may go to state

By Sharon Corcoran  
The Goodland Star-News

Head Start teachers, directors and parents and several political figures are upset about administration plans to turn the program over to the states.

A Goodland Head Start teacher said she feared turning the money for the program over to the state may cause western Kansas to be slighted due to its smaller rural population.

The program has to be reauthorized every five years, lead teacher Carrie Starns said, and that's when lobbyists and politicians start fighting over money.

Lobbyists and advocates for Head Start are trying to get more money for the program, she said, but President George W. Bush has considered turning the money over to the states, a decision many involved in the program consider to be a mistake.

Head Start is paid for with federal money, and the federal government tells the states how the money is spent for the program. If the president's plan is passed, they fear, the states could decide how to spend the money, even use it for other pro-

grams. Starns said she worries there are more kids from Salina east, and the state could spend the money on them, leaving northwest Kansas in the dust.

Now, the money for Head Start goes to the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley, she said, and from there goes out to the 12 sites in northwest Kansas, guaranteeing Goodland its fair share.

Besides the possibility of eastern Kansas getting all the money, Starns and others fear, given the choice, the state could drop Head Start altogether and use the money for other things.

The National Head Start Association said in a report, "Dismantling Head Start: The Case for Saving America's Most Successful Early Childhood Education Program," that Bush's plan would "dismantle within five years the Head Start success story."

The report says the current structure of Head Start "promotes community decision making and ensures that the dollars go to services for children, not into state administration."

Mary Baskett, executive director of the Kansas Head Start Association, said the program is working and should not be changed.

"Head Start has been continually showcased as a model program for preparing young children from low-income families for success in school and in life," she said. "To dismantle this structure in favor of an untested alternative is to compromise four decades of success."

The program is under the Department of Health and Human Services and, besides teaching children, it also includes nutritious meals and lessons to benefit health, such as teaching children to brush their teeth after eating.

Bush's plan originally would have moved the program to the Department of Education, which could have eliminated the health aspects, but Starns said she has heard that part of the plan has been dropped.

A grant from the Department of Health and Human Services paid for the new Head Start building next to West Elementary School, Starns said, and pays for the full-day/full-year part of the program designed for parents who work.

The grant was written, she said,

based on the need for that program, which was started about a year ago.

The one change that is good, Starns said, is requiring Head Start teachers to have a bachelor's degree by 2008. The program in Goodland already requires that of lead teachers, she said.

There were 54 children in the Sherman County Head Start program last year, and the program has been in operation here since 1970. The national program began in 1965.

Before Goodland got the expansion grant, Starns said, there were 30 kids on the waiting list for the six years she taught the program. Now there are 10-12, she said, but there shouldn't be any.

Besides Head Start, she said, there is preschool at West Elementary and a private preschool.

"We should be able to pick up all age-eligible children in one of these programs," she said.

The changes have not been voted on yet and may not be as big as originally planned.

"There will be some changes," Starns said, "but they may not be as big as everyone thought they would."

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## matters of record

### Real Estate

The following real estate transfers were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Gregory S. and/or Kathy A. Cochrane Lots 13 and 14, Block 11, First Addition to the city of Goodland, 923 Syracuse Ave.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Rodney E. and Michelle L. Cooper the S/2 of Lot 2 and all of Lot 3, Block 26, Beahm's Addition to the city of Goodland, 412 Harrison.

Stanley D. and Gwendolyn A. Cebula convey and warrant to Robert D. and Joann Frazier the E/2 of the SE/4 of Sec. 22, T8S, R37W.

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## Sunflower Contest

### RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Germinate"
- Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star-News office at 1205 Main

by 12:00 p.m. by Saturday, August 16th

Winners will be announced in the Tuesday, August 19th edition

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