

West school's early child class now accredited

West Elementary's preschool program is the first in northwest Kansas to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"We are proud to receive this great honor. It is a good feeling to know we set our standards high and then were able to reach them," said Nona Mason, the early childhood teacher. "We have created a safe, enjoyable, motivational and nurturing environment that helps children grow and develop."

The Early Childhood class, part of the Goodland school system, serves children from age 3 to kindergarten.

It is classed as an integrated program, meaning that two-thirds of the children likely will be identified as needing extra help in some area. A child may be delayed in one area while being above age level in others, Mason said.

The other third of the children will be regular education students. This year, the class had 16 children

in the morning and 16 children in the afternoon.

Mason said she is certified in early childhood special education. Two aides, Penny Tedford and Peggy Blake, help in the classroom.

"Without the help and support from the paraprofessionals, parents, and the administration, this accreditation would have never been possible," Mason said. "There are many other schools that would love to have a preschool class like ours. We are very lucky as a community to have this program available to our young children."

"The support of the school board, Superintendent Marvin Selby and West Principal Jerry Burkett have helped make this a successful preschool program."

Smart Start, a Kansas grant program, has helped the program achieve its goals Mason said.

Smart Start focuses on improving the quality of early childhood care and education in Kansas, and Ma-



Nona Mason, early education teacher, read a story about "feet" to the 16 kids in the afternoon class at West Elementary in May.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

son said the program helped with materials, training and professional support.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children calls itself the nation's leading organiza-

tion of early childhood professionals. The accreditation recognizes Mason and her classroom as one of the outstanding preschool programs in the nation.

The association created its ac-

creditation program to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality child care and early education programs.

To earn accreditation, a program

conducts a self-study to determine how well it meets the standards. After improvements are made, the program is observed by independent, professional validators and then reviewed by a national panel.

County wants kids to help update, improve web site

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County's web site has been on line for a year, but commissioners feel it needs more attention if they are to keep it for the next year.

The county was given the first year free by Infiitec, and the renewal was an issue at the commission meeting on May 28.

Brent Gustin of Infiitec told the commissioners last year that his company would host the site free for the first year. After that, the basic monthly fee would be \$50 per month, but additional services could make it higher.

"I think we need to get some help to keep it up to date," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said. "I was thinking we might be able to find some high school or college kids to help."

"Part of the problem is a lack of understanding of what is needed by the department heads," said Crystal Wright, the county's computer person.

To date, the web site has been left to Sheriff Doug Whitson to main-

Mental health update on agenda

Sherman County commissioners meet at 8 a.m. today to consider buying photo identification cards for county employees and to hear an update and budget request from High Plains Mental Health by county representative Karen Beery and Walt Hill.

Gary Timmer with Press Oil will talk to the commissioners about the oil and gas lease on county

property at Caruso and rights of way to develop the area where they have completed seismic research.

Mark Bauer of VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt will present the annual audit report.

The meeting will be in the commissioners' room on the first floor of the county courthouse.

tain, and the sheriff's page is the most up to date of any.

The commissioners are expected to make a decision by the end of the month.

In other business at the last meeting, the commissioners:

- Approved a bid from American Boiler for \$1,350 to replace the feed-water pump for the courthouse. William McKnight, maintenance supervisor, said he had three bids for a new pump, but that American Boiler was his recommendation because they could do the inspection of the boiler at the same time and save the county some

money. The other bids were from J.B. McClure Plumbing for \$1,800 and Zimmerman Plumbing \$2,435.

The commissioners looked at the difference in the bid prices and said the American Boiler bid was probably the best, as it was \$450 lower than either of the local bids.

- Named Rasure to serve on the Goodland Economic Development Corp. board. Rasure said the board oversees the Goodland Industrial Park west of K-27, which has been inactive for many years. There is an effort to recreate the board and the bylaws required a county commissioner to be one of the members.

- Heard a proposal from Jim Hodgkinson, who owns Mr. Good Rinse car wash next to McDonald's, to provide fleet credit cards for washing the county cars. He said the cards would allow the county to keep track of the washings, and the cards could be set up for each department.

Tiede said he could see having

cards for the sheriff's department, the health department and the county van. He said the road and bridge department has their own wash bay. Hodgkinson said he would give the county a 10 percent discount. The commissioners said they liked the card idea and would think about a six-month trial. Tiede said they would get back to him after they talked to the sheriff and health department.

- Penny Nemechek, grant writer, gave the commissioners an update on her progress at getting grants for

the city, county, school district and hospital.

- Tiede said the county had not received a bid on drilling the county land with milo. He suggested that Commissioner Chuck Thomas find the best deal he could and report back at the next meeting.

- The commissioners held a closed-door session for 10 minutes on a personnel matter with Wright. No action was taken when they returned to open session.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

**Internet tonight!
call 899-2338**

Senator will be missed

SENATOR, from Page 1

recognition. He gave credit to others, Morrison said, but wasn't too concerned about gaining recognition for himself.

"I know many legislators who want credit for everything that goes right," he added.

Clark's word was gold, Morrison said; he was unique. He was a member of the Dunkard Brethren church, a group which shuns many of the trappings of modern life, Morrison said, and many didn't understand what that meant — his "yea" was a "yea," and his "nay" was a "nay."

Clark had strong abilities to build coalitions, Morrison said, and he might well have been president of the Senate next year.

"Western Kansas is going to miss him more than they realize," Morrison said. "He's a hard man to replace."

Besides the qualities that made him a good senator, Morrison praised Clark for qualities that made him a good person.

"He passed my kindergarten test," the representative said. "He shared and played well with others."

When you saw him in his home, Morrison added, you saw that he was a devoted family man.

Sunflower Contest

RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Fertilizer"
 - Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star-News office at 1205 Main or at our booth at the Fair by 12:00 p.m. by Monday, August 9th

Winners will be announced in the Friday, August 13th edition

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 30. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 31. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 32. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 33. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 38. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 40. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 45. _____ |
| 21. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 22. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 23. _____ | 48. _____ |
| 24. _____ | 49. _____ |
| 25. _____ | 50. _____ |

(If you have more than 50, please attach an additional sheet)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Winner of the Sunflower Contest will receive a FREE 1 year subscription to:

The
Goodland Star-News

**Classifieds
work!
899-2338**



LIGHT THE WAY TO A CURE

Keep the fire of hope burning by purchasing a luminaria candle in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, or in special recognition of someone who has beaten this dreaded disease.

Relay for Life of Sherman County Friday & Saturday - Aug. 13 & 14 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. at The Sherman County Fairgrounds

Complete this form and send it along with your donation to:
Sherida Shoff, 1222 Broadway, Goodland, Kan. 67735

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____

**Please join us for the luminaria ceremony at 9 p.m.
\$10.00 per luminaria please!**

☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of

☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of

Total Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to: The American Cancer Society