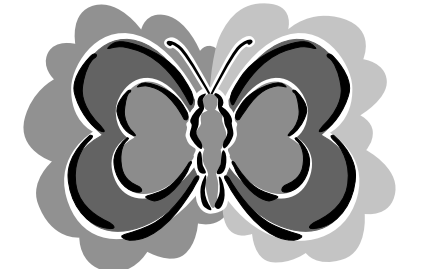
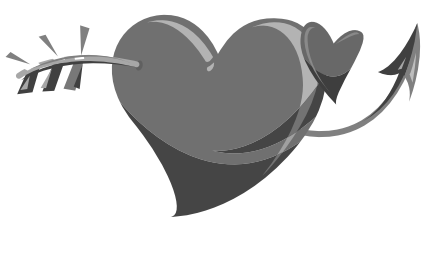


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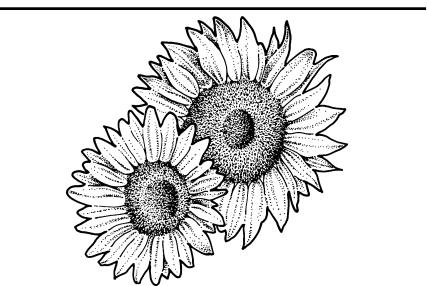
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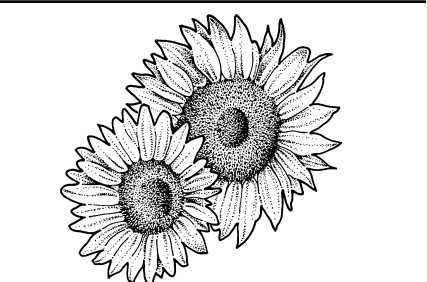


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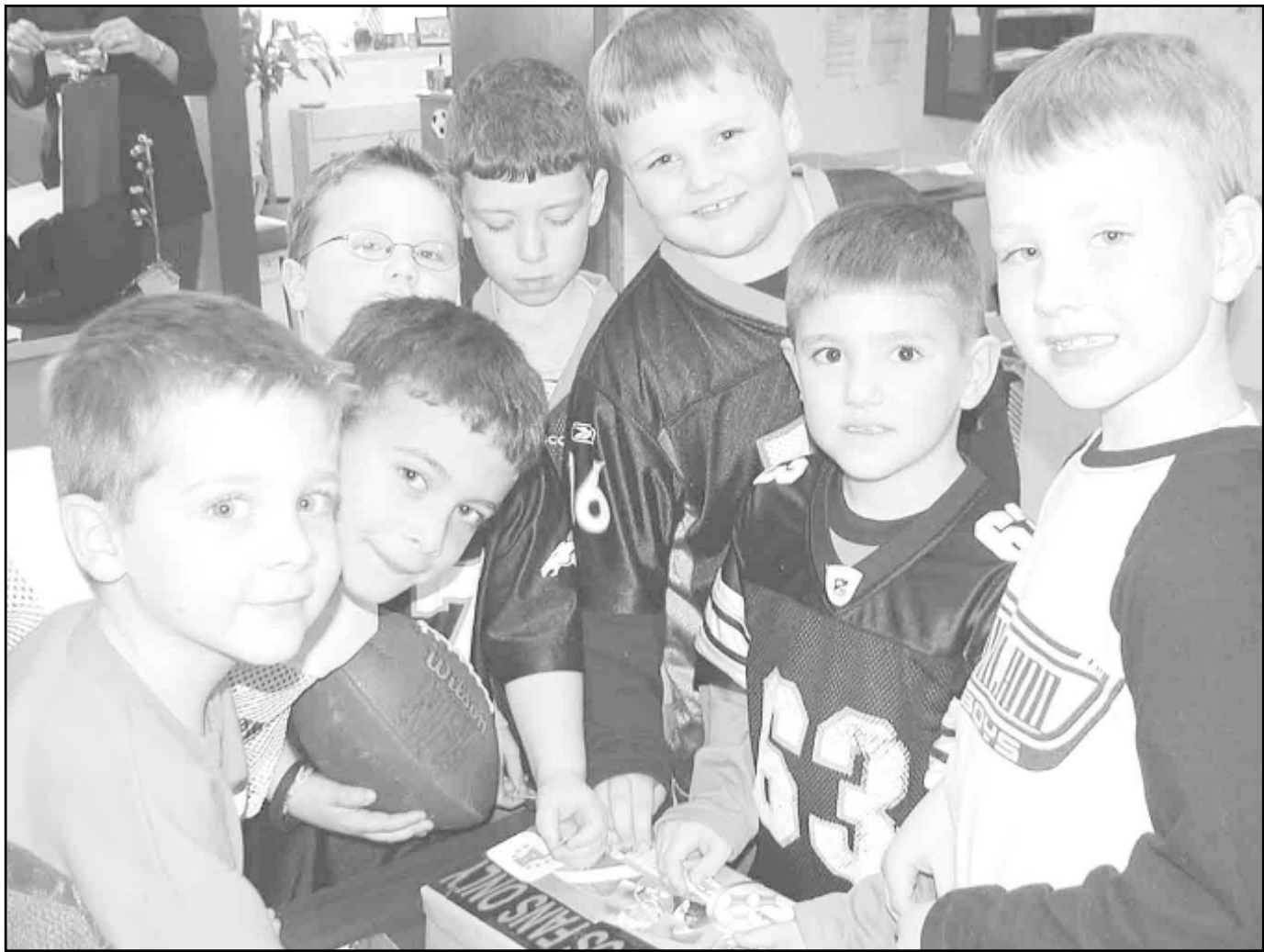
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Super Vote for your favorite team and help West Elementary at the same time



Students from West Elementary putting votes in a ballot box for their favorite Super Bowl team were (from left) Levi Archer, Luke Avila, Caleb Rains, Brevin Gough, Drew House, Cade McLean and Zane Bateman. The students and the school's Site Council are collecting the boxtops to raise money; ballot boxes are out at area banks for everyone to "vote" for a better West.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

West Elementary School is running a poll to see what teams want to see in the Super Bowl, and who they think will win, using Boxtops for Education found on groceries as "ballots" that will help raise money for the school.

The school's site council will place collection boxes at West, 912 W. 12, the Goodland Public Library, and at all the banks, Western State, Peoples State, Bankwest and First National. Each boxtop is worth one vote in the poll, and everyone is invited to vote.

After Monday, the voting will switch to see which team everyone thinks will win the Super Bowl, said Denise Floyd, a member of the West Site Council.

General Mills started the program 10 years ago to help schools. The school gets 10 cents for each Boxtop for Education turned in.

West students have already met one goal of 5,000 boxtops this year, and hope to collect 5,000 more with the poll, said Principal Shelly Angelos. Their reward for meeting the first goal was a "Wacky Week," where the students dressed up and had activities for a week. When they collect the second 5,000 boxtops, Martha Bishop from the Puppet Factory will give a puppet show for the students, said Angelos.

West has participated in the boxtop program for six years, said Roberta Pinalto, secretary at the school. The first year, they collected about 400 and the second year they collect around 1,000. Last year, the

Program ten years old

The Boxtop for Education was started by General Mills nearly a decade ago to give money to schools.

- 1996 — Launched on cereals Cheerios, Total, and Lucky Charms.
- 1998 — 30,000 kindergarten to eighth-grade schools redeem coupons. The program expands to select food service products.
- 1999 — \$25 million given to the schools. The value of the coupons was

standardized to 10 cents apiece.

- 2000 — More than 100 million boxtop coupons.
- 2001 — Program has own credit card.
- 2002 — Program doubles in size, includes products made by Pillsbury, Progresso, Old El Paso, Green Giant, Totino and Gold Medal.
- 2003 — \$90 million given to over 77,000 schools. Booster Club started.

students collected 12,000, or \$1,200 worth. The amount collected every year has grown, Pinalto said.

Last year, the school replaced the soccer goals on the playground with money from the boxtop program, plus other playground equipment and balls, she said. Money used for the school's track day also comes from the boxtops. High school students made organizers one year for kindergarten and first-grade students, using material bought with boxtop money.

The boxtops come on grocery products, including General Mills cereals such as Cheerios, Wheaties, Chex, Total, Kix, Crunch, Lucky Charms, Trix, Cocoa Puffs, Golden Grahams, Crisp, Kaboom, Bran, Fiber One, Corn Fakes and Cascadian Farm. Also in the program are Pillsbury refrigerated products and Yoplait, Ham-

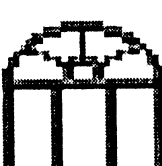
burger Helper, Betty Crocker sides and Old El Paso products. Frozen products include Pillsbury and Totino items. Snacks include cereal bars, fruit snacks, Chex snacks, microwave popcorn, Nature Valley products and Cascadian Farms products. All Betty Crocker baking products, as well as Bisquick and flour have the boxtops. Ziploc products have the coupons as well.

"The money will go to special school projects such as playground equipment," said Floyd.



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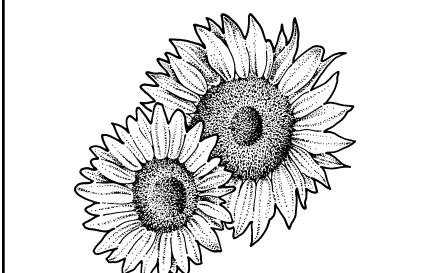
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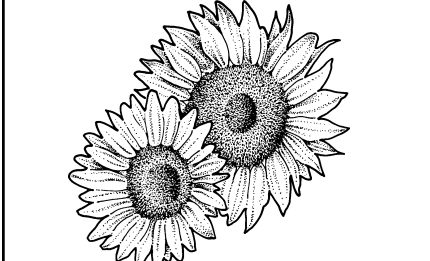
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