



The Wichita Children's Theatre will offer a modern "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Goodland High School auditorium.

# Goldilocks to visit bears Thursday

The Wichita Children's Theatre will present "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Goodland High School auditorium.

In this modernized version of the well-known children's story, when Goldilocks finds no one home at the

Bears' house, she tried to find a phone to call her mom, wreaking havoc in the process.

The fun starts when the bear family returns home. Everyone is in for a surprise — Goldilocks, the Bears and the audience.

Admission is by Western Plains

Arts Association season passes or at the door. Students in sixth grade and under are free when accompanied by an adult.

The group also will perform at schools in Hoxie, Quinter and Colby.

# Ornamental grasses can stay for winter

Looking around town, you can see ornamental grasses in many places which add color and texture to the landscape.

Ornamental grasses can range in size from oatgrass, eight to 12 inches tall, to bamboo-like grasses that reach 10 feet or more. Some are showy from early summer through the fall, and others mature with seed heads right before frost. Whichever you choose, they add to most landscapes.

The question generally comes as to what a homeowner should do as the grass dries down, leave it until spring or cut it back in the fall?

Ornamental grasses should never be cut back while green, as



**dana belshe**

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they need time to move the energy found in the foliage into the roots. Even when browned by cold weather, most gardeners will leave the foliage until spring because of the interest it adds to winter landscapes.

Early March is the preferred time to cut back these plants. However, dry foliage is quite flammable and should be removed in the fall from

areas where it is a fire hazard.

Another question we often receive is whether you can divide ornamental grasses in the fall. Again, spring is the preferred time, as divisions done in the fall may not root well enough to survive the winter.

*Dana Belshe is agricultural agent for Kansas State University Research and Extension and the Sunflower Extension District, covering Sherman and Wallace counties.*

# Lead poisoning affects mind

The effects of lead poisoning in children have both a physical and a mental impact. Lead has not been an ingredient in house paint in the United States since 1978, but the danger of lead poisoning in children is still very real.

Parents are always going to worry about their children, and the modern world seems to give us something new to worry about daily. Although lead exposure is dangerous at any age, it is particularly dangerous for children 3 years of age or younger because during the first weeks and months of a child's growth, the brain is developing at its most rapid rate, and vital nerve connections may be damaged by lead or may not even form properly.

In addition to obvious physical health problems, lead poisoning in children may lead to lower IQs or mental retardation. Brain damage at such an early age can also cause behavioral problems such as increased irritability and anger.

Some symptoms even mimic Attention Deficit Disorder, such as being easily distracted, difficulty



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staying focused and poor reasoning skills. Once this type of brain damage has occurred, it is often too late to reverse the effect.

The good news is that lead poisoning is preventable as long as parents have the right information and take the necessary steps to keep their children safe.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, as many as one out of every 23 children nationwide has lead poisoning; indeed, as many as one out of six low-income children, living in housing built before 1946, has been poisoned by lead.

Other estimates suggest that as many as five million children have blood lead levels associated with impaired neuropsychological functioning. The most common source of poisoning occurs when a child breathes in lead dust or ingests paint

flakes from peeling paint on walls, baby cribs, older toys and furniture.

A child could also be poisoned by ingesting water carried by lead plumbing or pipes connected by lead solder. Finally, a child may be exposed to lead if he consumes food processed, preserved or stored in containers that have lead components.

Parents who have questions about lead poisoning or who think their children have been exposed should call their local health department or family physician.

*Contributed by Ken Loos, Consultation and Education Department. The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.*

*Mail questions to High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, Consultation and Education Department, 208 E. Seventh, Hays, Kan. 67601. Internet site: www.highplainsmentalhealth.com.*

**Wichita Children's Theatre & Dance Center Presents**

**Goldilocks and the Three Bears**

A Musical Adaptation by Kevin M. Reese

**Thursday, October 19 - 6:30 MT**

**Goodland High School Auditorium**

**Admission:**

Free for Students through 6th grade when accompanied by paying adult.

**Tickets:** Adults \$6 - Students \$3

**Sponsored by:**

Western Plains Arts Association

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