

Preschool program earns first of its kind national accreditation

GOODLAND — 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-

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 organization 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.

Pioneer Memorial Library has arthritis book available for check out

An estimated 25 percent of adult Kansans have been told by a doctor or health professional that they have some form of arthritis. That number is expected to grow as the baby boom generation ages. Though arthritis is a disease with out a cure, recent advances in medicines and self-management are enabling people with arthritis and more than 100 related conditions to take control of their situation, improve their quality of life and prevent further disability. These steps to quality living are

described in a new book, Guide to Managing Your Arthritis, that is now available at the Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. Fourth, through a partnership between the Kansas Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation and the Kansas Arthritis Program. Published by the Arthritis Foundation, the guide describes arthritis for the newly diagnosed, provides self-management techniques for physical activity, explains medications and surgical practices and offers aids for reducing stress. This publication is the latest in the

Guide to Good Living series available at the library. Other volumes provide information on proper diet, the importance of regular physical activity, how to curb unhealthy habits and details new techniques and assistive devices to perform activities of daily living. The guides also suggest steps for establishing a productive dialogue with your physician. Visit www.kdhe.state.ks.us/arthritis for more about the Kansas Arthritis Program.

What does it take to have a political party?

TOPEKA (AP)— Kansas recognizes four political parties: Democratic, Libertarian, Reform and Republican. Parties obtain recognition by submitting petitions signed by enough registered voters to equal 2 percent of the total votes cast in the last general election for governor. Currently, that figure is 16,714. Once recognized, a party can place its nominees directly on the general election ballot, whereas in-

dependent candidates have to circulate petitions and collect signatures. To maintain recognition, a party must file a candidate for at least one statewide office and have that candidate obtain 1 percent of the vote in a general election. While Republicans and Democrats have primaries, Libertarians and Reform Party members nominate their candidates at conventions. According to the secretary of state’s office, Kansas had 1,546,873

registered voters in August 2003, the last time figures were compiled. Here were their affiliations: < — Republican, 715,724, or 46.3 percent. — Democratic, 421,876, or 27.2 percent. — Libertarian, 8,792, or 0.6 percent. — Reform Party, 1,703, or 0.1 percent. — No affiliation, 398,778, or 25.8 percent.

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Saturday, June 12, 2004

Time: 10:00 a.m. CST (doors open at 8 a.m. day of sale)

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Preview sale items between 5 - 7 p.m. CST Friday, June 11, 2004

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made in Beatrice, Neb.; 2 pedal tractor (International, 560 Farmall); Monarch 3855A; Maytag washer; Dolls; Pink depression dishes; Glass paper weights; cobalt blue vase, cup glasses; crock; McComb pottery, Copenhagen Christmas plates; Sad irons; Carnival glass; RS Prussia dishes; Hull; lots of other miscellaneous.

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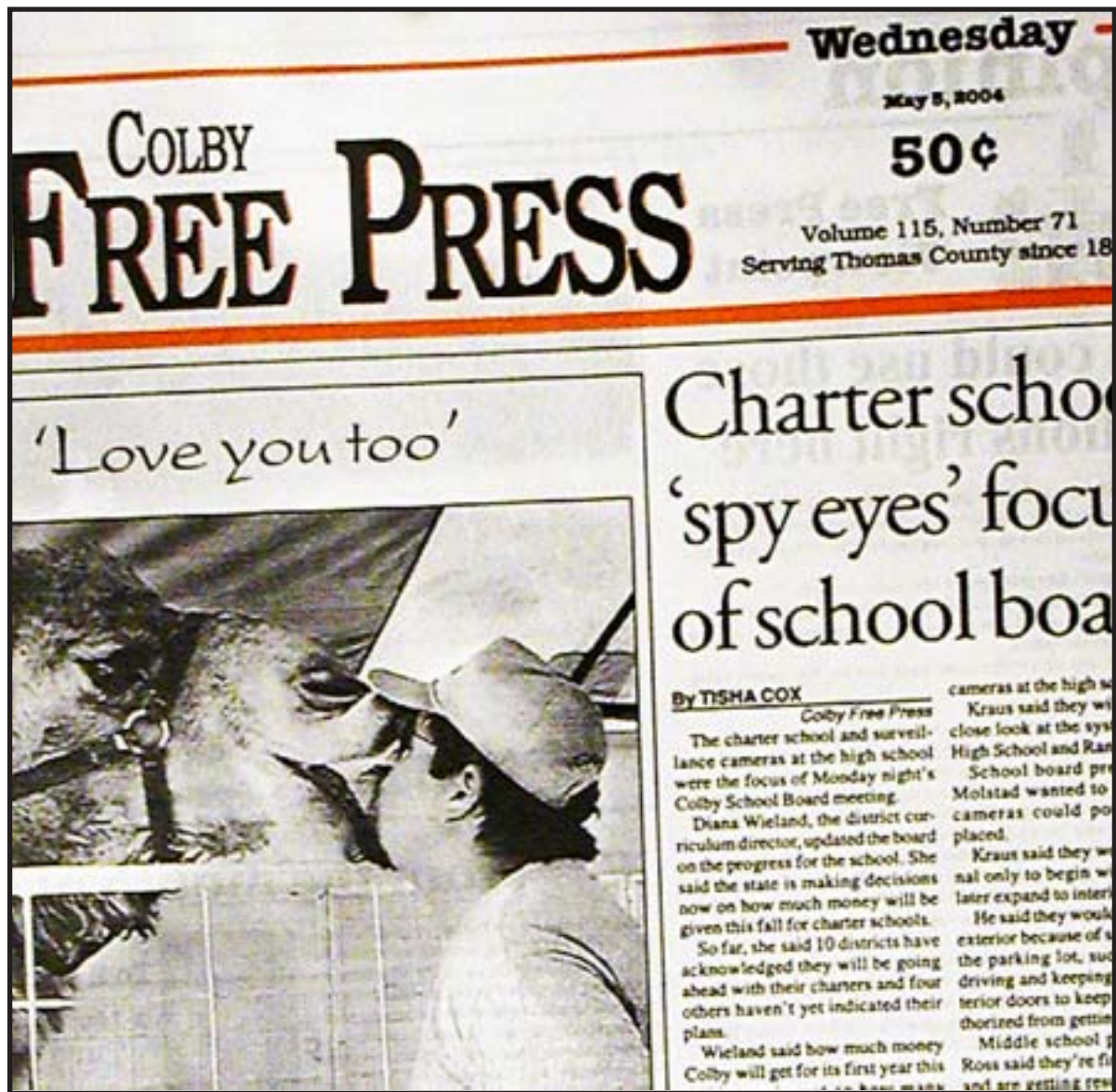
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