

# High Plains News

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## North Elementary transforms into “Seussville” during Dr. Seuss Week

BY RACHEL REDLIN  
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Almost everyone living in America today has heard of the well-known Dr. Seuss. His actual name was Theodor Seuss Geisel, and this year North Elementary has once again been celebrating the birthday week of the famous author. From writing over 40 children’s books to creating easy books for new readers, Dr. Seuss has brought joy to those young and old. We sat down with Brooke Heiter, who helped organize and put in the hours of effort to make the school and Friday Night Event a success for families in Goodland.

Of course, Dr. Seuss Week includes fun dress-up days, and even the cafeteria offers themed meals for students, but Heiter’s connection goes back to her own childhood.

“As a kid, Dr. Seuss Week was one of my favorites! It wasn’t just about books; it was about excitement. Special activities. Book reports. Celebrating reading. Those kinds of memories stick with us. When something makes us feel happy and successful as kids, we carry that warmth into adulthood, and that’s why I love to celebrate it at school with our students now. As a Reading Interventionist, someone who solely focuses on reading and getting kids to love it, Dr. Seuss Week isn’t just nostalgia. It’s a reminder of the spark that reading gives to kids,” stated Heiter.

If you walked the halls of the school, you’d see a ton of details and effort. It makes one wonder how many hours it actually took to bring everything together.

“Each year, what begins as planning meetings in late January slowly transforms our school into ‘Seussville.’ Staff members start by choosing hallway themes, coordinating volunteers, and brainstorming creative ideas to bring Dr. Seuss’s imaginative world to life. Throughout February, classrooms buzz with activity as students and teachers design projects, write stories, and create colorful decorations inspired by their favorite books. In the weeks leading up to the big celebration, bulletin boards fill, murals go up, and the hallways are



Prechool students pose in front of a colorful Dr. Seuss-inspired display during Dr. Seuss Week at North Elementary in Goodland. The school celebrated the beloved author with themed decorations, activities and a family night event designed to encourage a love of reading.

transformed with whimsical characters, rhymes, and vibrant displays. The result is more than decorations — it’s a joyful celebration of literacy that brings our entire school community together and creates lasting memories for our students,” stated Heiter.

With 44 published books, it might be hard for someone to pick a favorite, but Heiter had hers on the tip of her tongue.

“If I had to choose a favorite purely for the fun of language, I’d say Fox in Socks. The rhythm and tongue-twisters are wild! It’s chaos in the best way. But if we’re talking heart? Oh, the Places You’ll Go! is hard to beat. It grows with you. As a child, it feels like adventure. As an adult, it feels like resilience. The ‘Bang-ups and Hang-ups’ page hits differently when you’ve actually lived a little. That book understands that life is exciting and messy, and you’ll still move forward,” stated Heiter.

Surprisingly, Dr. Seuss Week isn’t known to everyone in town. Something Brooke wished people knew



about it was the passion volunteers bring to the events.

“Each year, our annual Dr. Seuss Family Night at North Elementary is a true reflection of the passion

and dedication of our entire staff. What begins as an idea quickly becomes a labor of love, as teachers and parents pour their time, creativity, and heart into making the

Volunteers paint Dr. Seuss-themed characters on the front doors at North Elementary in Goodland as part of preparations for the school’s annual Dr. Seuss Week celebration. The colorful artwork helped welcome students and families into “Seussville” during the weeklong event celebrating reading and imagination.

week magical for our students. From transforming hallways into vibrant scenes from beloved stories to planning engaging activities for families, the artistic talent within our building is truly remarkable. The support and teamwork are essential in bringing ‘Seussville’ to life. We take tremendous pride in this event because it represents more than decorations and activities; it represents collaboration, commitment, and community. When families walk through our doors and see the joy and excitement on their children’s faces, it reminds us that the long hours and hard work are worth it. Together, we create something special — an event that builds lasting memories for our students and strengthens us as a team,” stated Heiter.

## Cheylin senior earns full-ride Rudd Foundation Scholarship

BY ALAYNA CARSON

Cheylin High School senior Emily Serrano has earned a remarkable honor after being selected as a recipient of the Rudd Foundation Scholarship. Serrano was chosen as one of only 50 winners out of more than 750 applicants, making this a highly competitive and prestigious achievement.

The scholarship provides Serrano with a full four-year ride to Fort Hays State University, covering tuition and

allowing her to pursue her college education without the financial burden many students face.

This accomplishment is especially meaningful for the Cheylin community, as Serrano is the first student from Cheylin USD 103 to ever receive the Rudd Foundation Scholarship. Being selected from such a large pool of applicants highlights her dedication, academic success, and commitment to her future.

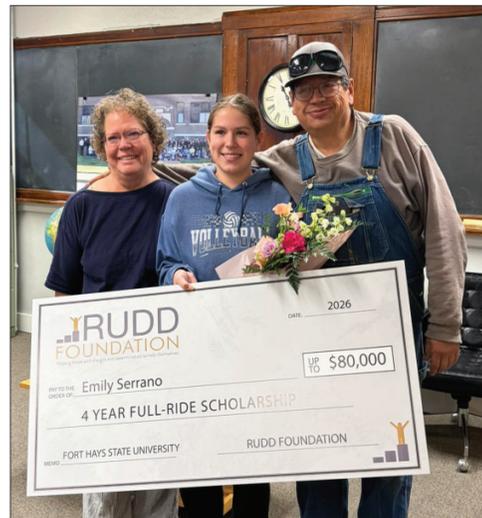
The Rudd Foundation

Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate strong character, leadership, and determination to continue their education. Serrano’s selection reflects not only her hard work throughout high school but also the positive impact she has made within her school and community.

Faculty, staff, and students at Cheylin High School shared how proud they are of Serrano and her accomplishments. Earning this scholarship is a major milestone and a

testament to the effort she has put into her education.

As Serrano prepares to begin the next chapter of her journey at Fort Hays State University, the Cheylin community celebrates this historic achievement. Her success represents an exciting moment for both Serrano and Cheylin High School, and many look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in the future.



Emily Serrano with her parents Frank and Belinda Serrano. Photo By G Adam Winington

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