



Children's Fair is Saturday

The Pink Panther visited Smith Memorial Day Care Center Monday to tell pre-schoolers about Saturday's free children's fair at the National Guard Armory.

In the picture at left, Ryan Wardinsky, left, and Brad Doriot explore the "panther's" fuzzy face.

The fair is part of the Week of the Young Child celebration sponsored by Glacier 4 C's, a local United Way agency devoted to quality day care.

At Saturday's fair, which will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., children will have the opportunity to make crowns, try their hand at sandpainting, work with play dough, and participate in many activities sponsored by area day care centers.

They'll hear music by Dick Fazio on the piano, see puppets with Ginny Miller and Family, and have visits from the Pink Panther, Woodsey the Owl and clowns from the Ballooney. Pre-school dancers taught by Dianna Cole and Karen Sandstrom will give dancing demonstrations.

Children will be treated to nutritious snacks donated by local merchants and prepared by Flathead High School Home Economics Department.



Free children's fair showcases activities for preschool children

By ANNE CLARK
Of the Inter Lake Staff

"Children are important — we want people to love them and care about them and nurture them," says Susan Christofferson of the local Community Coordinated Child Care.

The national Week of the Young Child begins this week and to celebrate it, Christofferson's organization, the Glacier 4C's, will have a free showcase of growth-promoting activities Saturday at the Flathead County Fairgrounds.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., pre-schoolers will be invited to participate in art activities and see

presentations on drama, story time and puppetry.

"We want to help parents understand that there are things they can do every day with their children to provide stimulating, exciting, educational activities that promote growth," says Christofferson.

"We hear a lot about children with problems — abused children, handicapped children — but there are a lot of normal, happy youngsters whose needs should be recognized as our future leaders and problem solvers. We need to make sure they have the best possible early years."

Children needs are more than physical, she says. "We want to see children who can grow up to handle every situation. In juvenile delinquency cases, we're finding that if a child's needs had been met when he was 1-5, many problems would not surface in adolescence."

Saturday's activities will begin at 11 a.m. with an Easter egg hunt, after which children will be invited to join in activities in the grandstand building. Smith Memorial Day Care Center, Hocka-

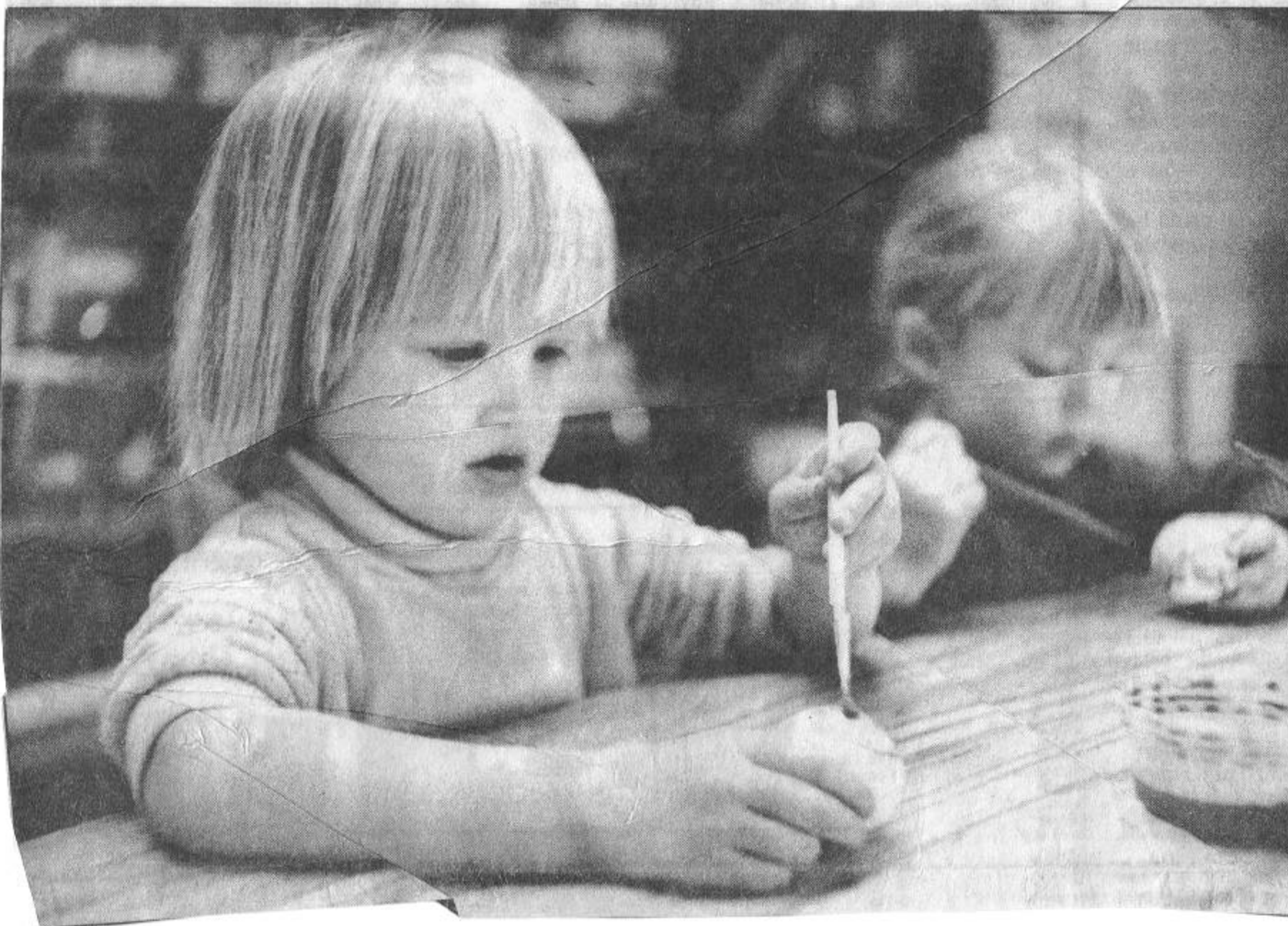
day Center, Montessori School and Summitt Educational Cooperative will have booths.

The Dance Art Center and the newly organized Children's Theater Group will give performances. There will be a storytime presented by the storyhour group from the library and a puppet show by Jeanne Morrison.

Children will be given snacks donated by local merchants, and will meet Smokey the Bear, Woodsey Owl, Easter bunnies and clowns.

"As adults we should be advocates for these young children," says Christofferson. "There are lobbyists for all sorts of interest groups, and people in many organizations helping and supporting one other. Children can't speak for themselves. We as adults must speak for them and enable them to be exposed to all the mediums that need to come into their lives to make them well-balanced, creative, intelligent human beings — the type of people we need in this world."

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Photos by Brad Hagadone

Eggs-acting work

Vanessa Horne, foreground, and Tera Carter give the Easter bunny a hand at the Smith Memorial Child Day Care Center. Conor Christofferson, above photo, puts the finishing touches on an Easter egg.