

One-day course helps recognize workplace problems

Colby Community College will offer a workshop for healthcare supervisors on Thursday, March 24, in the student union, room 107.

The workshop, worth six contact hours, is designed to help supervisors recognize and resolve potential problems in the workplace before they are allowed to escalate and affect productivity, said Debbie Schwanke, public information.

Those who have recently been promoted to a supervisory position as well as those in need of new ideas will benefit from this program, she said.

John Mulvaney, a private management consultant in business, education and allied health is the

presenter for the workshop.

He has taught college courses at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Peru State in Peru Neb., and Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Neb. in the areas of psychology, organizational behavior, public speaking and business writing. Mulvaney has presented a variety of training sessions in Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado and Wyoming.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. on March 24.

The workshop is scheduled from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Cost for the workshop is \$45. Advance registration is required. Call Mary Herbel at 462-3984.

Are elderly people vulnerable to scams?

Dear Attorney General Kline: I am concerned that the aging Kansas population is too often preyed upon by unsavory characters who target the elderly and the disabled. What can I do to help guard the most vulnerable citizens in my neighborhood from scams and con artists?

Dear Kansas Consumer: You are right to be concerned. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 13.3% of Kansans are 65 and older. Additionally, by some estimates people over age 50 control as much as seventy percent of the national wealth. This fast growing portion of our Kansas population is targeted by criminals looking for an "easy mark."

To combat the growing problem of fraud and abuse involving Kansas' elderly and dependent citizens, I created a Vulnerable Adults Task Force (VATF) in October, 2003. The VATF prioritizes consumer complaints in which vulnerable adults appear to be targeted and places them on a fast track for investigation, intervention and enforcement action.

The task force works with a variety of groups and agencies, developing legislative agendas, educating the public on financial scams, and working together on community outreach and investigating complaints. I encourage you to contact the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office toll free in Kansas for additional information, including literature we have produced on the VATF mission. You can dial 1-800-432-2310.

My office and the Kansas Bankers Association have produced a film entitled "What You Can Do To Help." This informative video should be shown to employees at every bank and credit union branch in Kansas.

We encourage citizens to ask local branch managers whether this thirty minute training video has



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been shown at their location, and, if not, to contact the VATF or KBA and request a copy.

The Consumer Protection Division offers a variety of information and publications to help keep seniors and those who care for them safe from scams and con artists. Speakers from the division are also available to community groups across the state. By being better informed and recognizing signs of abuse, neglect, and violations of the law, you can help look out for those who are unable to look out for themselves.

Finally, the VATF is always looking for volunteers from the elder and disabled community. If you are a mature, adventuresome, and convincing person who is willing to take part in civil (not criminal) undercover investigations, work with AARP and other associations to get out the VATF's basic message, and otherwise aid the VATF in visiting justice upon those who would scam the elders and vulnerable persons of the great state of Kansas, please call the Consumer Protection Division and ask for our VATF volunteer packet.

Editor's note: Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help people avoid becoming victims of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions. For other information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

Emporia State, community coordinate scholarship drive

EMPORIA — Many community members and area businesses have already pledged their support to the community drive for Emporia State University's Presidential Academic Awards scholarship program, which kicks off next week.

"In addition to raising funds for scholarships, one of the most important aspects of the Campus/Community Scholarship Challenge is that it gives us the ability to show students just how important they are to our town," said John Blaufuss,

contoller and chair of the foundation's development committee.

"There are many ways to support this year's community drive," Blaufuss said. Lyon County State Bank, Jock's Nitch, Dwyer's Hallmark and JavaCat 5 are offering Emporia State University bracelets for a suggested donation of \$3.

Other businesses are designating certain days beginning Monday, March 14, as their "ESU Day."

Call David Decker at (620) 341-5440 or deckerda@emporia.edu.

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Moment of suspense



RANDY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Left to right: Brandon Gordon, Eric Blanton, and Cole Finley were among the many at Monday night's Colby Eagle boys—Ulysses game in the quarterfinals of the Class 4A sub-state tournament in the Colby Community Building. All three students attend Colby

Middle School. By their looks something of concern was taking place on the court. The Eagles won the barnburner, 55-54, and go up against Scott City tonight at Larned in the semifinals. The Eagles are seeded #4 and Scott City at #1.

State News

Pastor visits BTK suspect in jail, says congregation won't cut him off

WICHITA (AP) — The pastor of the church whose leaders include the suspect in the BTK serial killings talked to Dennis Rader in jail Wednesday and told him he will continue to be a part of the congregation.

"We are not going to cut him off. I could tell that he was relieved," Michael Clark, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Wichita, told The Associated Press. "He is still a part of the body of Christ — and that is something some people will have a hard time hearing."

Clark declined to disclose more details of his 45-minute conversation with Rader, citing confidentiality as his pastor. They spoke a day after Rader was formally charged with 10 counts of first-degree murder in the serial killings that have haunted Wichita for the past three decades.

"His demeanor seemed to be OK," Clark said. "He seems to be handling things as well as he can."

For now, Rader remains president of the church council — although he will eventually have to relinquish some church leadership positions, Clark said.

Senate pares back education funding plan

TOPEKA (AP) — Senators pared back an education funding proposal, rejected higher taxes to

pay for it and suspended debate Wednesday night in time for the men's basketball game between the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. Senators planned to resume debate Thursday, the same day the House was to consider a one-year, \$102 million plan also relying on existing revenues and cash reserves.

Sacred Heart School C•A•R•N•I•V•A•L THANK YOU

Sacred Heart School would like to personally "THANK" the following businesses, organizations and individuals who donated to this years carnival.

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