

Family

Family violence growing

For most families, the holidays are a time to be thankful and share time together. Unfortunately for some Kansas families, this time of year can bring stress, anger and even violence.

It's critical that we raise awareness about the programs and services available to families in crisis. Many communities have shelters dedicated to protecting women, men and children from abusive family members. Some also have services to help batterers abuse and violence.

Significant efforts have been made in recent years to combat the ever-present problem of domestic abuse. My office stepped up efforts to help shelters that assist families in crisis situations by increasing training for these programs, providing grant money and improving services to victims.

We also created the Domestic Violence Shelter Improvement Program which encourages businesses and corporations to support shelters across the state through financial or in-kind contributions. Along with Walmart, we developed an awareness campaign and distributed posters containing information about domestic violence services and prevention.

Recently, I established the Batterer Intervention Unit and Advisory Board, to develop programs throughout the state. We believe that developing these programs is a critical step toward improving our statewide response to domestic violence and better addressing a batterer's cycle of abuse.

My office also coordinated the development of the law enforcement model policy on stalking to better



Robert Six

• Attorney General

protect victims. We provided regional law enforcement trainings across the state regarding the new stalking law to ensure uniform response to these serious crimes.

With efforts being made on all sides of the problem, it's troubling that domestic violence fatalities are increasing. With economic stress and financial pressure, many more families may be in crisis. It is critical that each of us work to ensure that families in our communities have access to quality services. Domestic violence impacts all Kansas communities.

With two multiple homicides this year, the number of domestic violence fatalities is on the rise. If you or someone you know is struggling with abuse, please seek help from law enforcement or a domestic violence program. You can contact (888) END-ABUSE for help. You have a right to be safe.

To find out more about services available in your community, call the attorney general's Victim Service Division at (800) 828-9745 or visit our online directory at www.ksag.org/files/ResourceDirectoryrevised_12_03_09_2.pdf.

Cops called over video habit

BOSTON (AP) — Police say a frustrated Boston woman called 911 to say she couldn't get her 14-year-old son to stop playing video games and go to sleep.

Police spokesman Officer Joe Zanolli said Monday the mother called for help around 2:30 a.m. Saturday to say that the teenager also walked around the house and

turned on all the lights.

Two officers who responded to the house persuaded the child to obey his mother.

Zanolli says the mother's 911 call over video game obsession "was a little unusual, but by no means is it surprising — especially in today's day and age when these kids play video games and computer games."

The Boston Herald first reported the 911 call, saying the boy was playing the popular game "Grand Theft Auto."

Claus robs bank

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — He may have been dressed all in fur from his head to his foot, but this Santa was no saint.

According to Metropolitan Nashville Police, a man wearing a Santa Claus suit — including hat, beard and mustache — and dark sunglasses robbed a Sun-Trust Bank on Tuesday morning, demanding money from the teller at gunpoint.

After the teller complied, the man fled in a gray midsize car.

High Plains Lions Club

The Colby High Plains Lions held their last meeting for the year Dec. 14. After dinner at the Colby Community College Student Union, President Justin Burrus called the meeting to order.

Elmer Lawver gave the prayer and Sheryl Brenn led the club in Christmas carols and "Happy Birthday" to Melinda Morton, Roger Hale and Larry Brenn.

Guests included past district governor Walley Severson; Kate McFadgen, Lions international exchange student from Australia; Melda Moore's guest and new member Tom Peyton, the new

minister at Mingo Bible Church; and Donna Lawver.

McFadgen, 17-year-old from Coleamblaay, New South Wales, Australia, talked about her home and her experiences in America. One of the big differences she notices is the temperature.

"I don't think I have ever been this cold," she said. "At home, it is probably in the upper 60s. It's summer there."

McFadgen is staying with Wally and Carol Severson and their daughter Ariel.

Elmer Lawver presented an award to Larry Koon and Hale for

being charter members of the club. Lawver gave an account of the offices and activities both had been involved in over the last 33 years. He presented each a ceramic lion with a plaque that read: "Charter Member July 23, 1976."

Koon led an induction ceremony for new club members Diane and Byron Fritz and Caroleta Herl.

President Burrus announced the midwinter rally in Salina, Friday through Sunday, Jan. 15 to 17.

Tom Peyton won the drawing.

The next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 11, at the college.

— Roger Hale

Environment is meeting topic

MANHATTAN — The Kansas State University Pollution Prevention Institute will hold a free workshop Wednesday, Jan. 20, in Olathe, designed to help small businesses reduce solvent emissions.

The workshop will be from 7:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. at the county's Sunset Drive Office Building at 11811 S. Sunset Dr. in Olathe.

The workshop will help business owners learn about new technology, materials and process changes that reduce environmental impacts and costs, said Nancy Larson, institute director. Participants also will be able to test their

spray gun technique and learn about efficiency in a virtual spray system.

The types of businesses that could benefit from this workshop include painting and coating industries, printers, machine shops and any business that uses solvents.

Attendees can choose among sessions and will have time to network with peers and vendors.

Information, including registration and the full agenda, is available at www.sbeap.org or by calling (800) 578-8898. Participants who register by Jan. 15 will be eligible for door prizes.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.09
Corn (bushel)	\$3.51
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.62
Soybeans (bushel)	\$8.89

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

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MOVIES

NOW SHOWING

December 26th - December 31st
Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

THE BLIND SIDE

Starring: Sandra Bullock & Tim McGraw
Genre(s): Comedy/Drama/Sports
PG-13 2 Hours, 10 Minutes
Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:15
Sunday -Thursday 7:00

ALVIN AND CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUAKQUEL

Genre(s): Comedy/Sequel
PG 1 Hour, 29 Minutes
Wednesday & Thursday 7:00

COMING SOON

Invictus
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LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!

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