

# Charlie Brown to research Sternberg Museum soon

Charlie Brown is in trouble with the Environmental Protection Agency, Lucy knows the Earth has 48 suns and Snoopy and Linus are planting french fries in the garden.

These are just a few of the misadventures and explanations gone wrong as the Peanuts Gang explores the natural world. What other trouble will they find?!

“Peanuts... Naturally,” opening Thursday, April 21, at Fort Hays State University’s Sternberg Museum of Natural History, takes a lighthearted look at Charles Schulz’s exploration of the natural world through Peanuts comic strips, videos, objects and interactive stations.

Visitors get a Peanuts-eye view of the universe, the “web of nature,” trees, birds, the elements (snow, wind, rain and clouds) gardening, and Charlie Brown’s environmental protection escapade. Interactive stations allow kids, from preschool to adults, to learn more about and appreciate the wonders of the natural world.

Schulz, who drew the Peanuts comic strip for

nearly 50 years, was curious and an avid reader and took interest in the latest research. It is not a surprise that many of these findings and facts found their way into his comic strip, carefully interpreted through his characters’ unique and sometimes wacky understanding.

Another activity at the museum scheduled for the week of Earth Day, Friday, April 22, is the debut concert of the Smoky Hill Chorale at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, a community choir directed by Dr. Terry Crull, assistant professor of music, in the museum’s Seibel Lobby. The choir will be performing “nature-based” selections.

The Sternberg is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. Memorial Day through Labor Day, it is open Monday as well, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for kids 4 to 12. Children 3 and under are free.

For information, call (785) 628-4286 or (877) 332-1165.

# Conviction of robbing own home to stand, says South Carolina court

By Meg Kinnard  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Just because someone owns a piece of property in South Carolina doesn’t mean that they can’t be convicted of robbing someone there, according to a ruling handed down Monday by the state Supreme Court.

And an attorney who handled the case on appeal said the ruling could have further implications for landlords who rent out properties in the state.

Ferris Singley, 43, was sentenced to life in prison in 2006 after prosecutors said he broke into the Charleston County home he owned with his brother and mother, stole \$200 from her, tied her up and threatened to kill her with a knife.

Singley and his brother had each inherited a 12.5 percent share of the home after their father died, with their mother owning the remaining portion. Singley’s mother threw him out of the house, saying he did not have permission to come back to the house, according to court documents.

But early one morning in October 2005, the court says Singley went inside the house through a back window and waited for his mother. When she returned home

at 2:30 a.m., Singley put a 10-inch boning knife to his mother’s throat, stole \$200 from her purse, then used medical tape and clothing to tie her to a bed.

After her son left, Singley freed herself and called 911 from a neighbor’s home. Singley was arrested at his home around the corner from his mother’s house and charged with first-degree burglary, armed robbery and kidnapping.

At trial, Singley’s attorneys argued that there was no order of protection preventing their client from going into the house and that, as a partial owner, he could enter the home freely without his mother’s consent.

But a jury disagreed, and Singley was sentenced to life without parole on the burglary and armed robbery charges.

In its ruling, the court writes that Singley’s mother had thrown him out of the house and that he didn’t live there at the time, writing that its decision is based on the fact that, while Singley did legally own part of the home, he didn’t “possess” it at the time of the crime or have control of the property.

“Burglary is a crime against possession and habitation, not a crime against ownership,” the court wrote. “The mere holding

of title to property is not dispositive of whether the owner can be convicted of burglarizing it.... The jury must determine whether, under the totality of the circumstances, the defendant used the dwelling in such a manner that it could be said to be his own home, therefore making him a person in lawful possession.”

What’s unknown is the impact the ruling could have for landlords entering their own properties. Except in an emergency, landlords are required to give tenants at least 24 hours notice before entering a rental property and “may enter only at reasonable times,” according to state law.

Under this ruling, landlords who go into their rental properties at odd hours could potentially find themselves facing a burglary charge, an attorney who handled Singley’s case at trial said.

“Landlord-tenant situations are contractual,” chief appellate defender Robert Dudek said. “If somebody is a landlord and they go over there at 2:30 in the morning, let themselves in, how far this ultimately goes is only in the mind of the creative solicitor.... Just because you own something, you are not protected.”

# Public television prepares for annual auction

Smoky Hills Public Television’s longest running and largest fundraiser is scheduled for 7 to 10 p.m. Sunday, April 17, and Monday, April 18.

The auction is televised live and includes 99 pieces of fine art donated from artists across the state.

“We are very proud of the items we have available for bidding and thankful to the artists who have donated their work,” said Special Events Coordinator, Tricia Flax, “Our annual auction tends to be our most successful fundraiser of the year and we hope many people tune in and help make this year’s auction a success as well.”

Flax said this year’s auction includes paintings, photography, jewelry, sculptures and more. She encourages people to go to the website smokyhillstv.org to view the items and vote for the People’s Choice Award, their favorite art piece. The artist will receive a \$250 cash award.

Votes can be submitted by email at soden@shptv.org or by mail to

Box 9, Bunker Hill Kan., 67626. Smoky Hills Public Television

is a non-profit organization in central and western Kansas.

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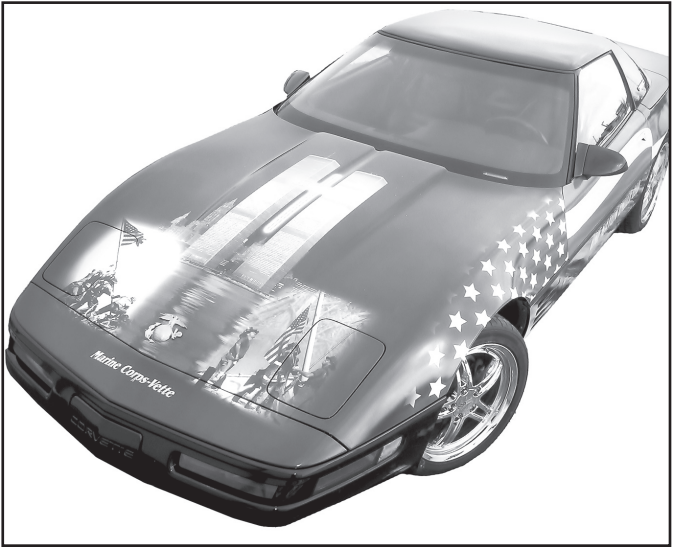
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# Patriotic car to be on display here

The speaker for a series of special services next week at the Colby Independent Baptist Church is bringing a special car with him, which will be on display from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Walmart parking lot.

The decorated Corvette is owned by David Sommerford, a Marine Corps veteran who, with his wife Debra, displays it at public events nationwide. According to his website, the purpose behind the “Marine Corps-Vette” is to encourage patriotism and support armed services members, to memorialize the victims and heroes of Sept. 11, 2001, and to remind Americans we are one nation under God. Sommerdorf will also be giving away video disks on Saturday.



# Uniform corn emergence important for good yields

MANHATTAN — With corn planters beginning to roll, it is a good time to think about the relative importance of uniformity of emergence and stand uniformity, said Kraig Roozeboom, K-State Research and Extension crop production specialist.

“These are two different things,” Roozeboom said. “Uniformity of emergence deals with timing. Do most plants come up at the same time, or are some delayed by several days? Stand uniformity has to do with how consistent plant spacing is within the row.”

Of those two, he said, uniformity of emergence is more important to yields than stand uniformity.

Getting good uniformity of emergence can have a big effect on yields. Farmers should make an extra effort to ensure that most of the corn seed comes up at nearly the same time. Many factors can come into play, Roozeboom said.

“Emergence can be delayed by having variable moisture in the seed zone,” he said, “crusting, nonuniform planting depth or nonuniform crop residue.”

Research has shown that if one

out of six corn plants is delayed by two leaf stages, yields can be reduced by 4 percent, Roozeboom said. If one out of six is delayed by four leaf stages, yields can be reduced by up to 8 percent. Other research has indicated that if all plants emerged within a period of two weeks, yield reductions were less than 3 percent.

Planter speed can affect both emergence and stand uniformity, said Stu Duncan, K-State Northeast Area crops specialist.

“Research conducted in northeast Kansas,” he said “has shown that higher planting speeds reduce final plant population, and that this had a greater impact on yield than did any reductions in uniformity of plant spacing....”

High-residue, no-till situations can be challenging for getting uniform emergence, said DeAnn Presley, K-State soil management specialist.

“Uniform distribution of crop residues during harvest is essential for uniform emergence of the next crop,” Presley said.

Presley recommended planters be adjusted to optimize seed

placement and depth, saying seed firmers may help.

Emergence might be delayed with deeper planting, Roozeboom added, but the corn will likely emerge more uniformly than if planted too shallowly.

Stand uniformity is also a good goal, but has less effect on yield, the agronomists said.

“Try to obtain plant spacings that are as consistent as possible,” Roozeboom said, “but don’t become overly anxious about it, provided the typical spacing between plants is within 2 to 3 inches of the desired plant spacing and the final population is not substantially lower than what was desired.”

Duncan said he has been studying corn plant populations and stand uniformity. His results indicate little yield reduction from non-uniform stands as long as the final population is within 15 percent of the target, he said.

Information is available at county Extension offices or in the K-State publication C-560, Corn Production Handbook, at: www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/crpsl2/c560.pdf/.

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Mother's Day is May 8

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