

Legislature honors bill's supporter

The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature named 102nd District State Rep. Janice "Jan" Pauls, D-Hutchinson, as the "Kansas Legislator of the Year" at the annual convention in Topeka.

"The award is intended to recognize and honor Representative Jan Pauls' many years of support for senior issues in general," Wendell Turner, speaker of the legislature said, "as well as the enormous amount of effort she expended during this year's 2012 legislative session that culminated in the 'Grandparents Rights Bill' becoming law."

According to Turner, the new law says, "When a child is removed from the custody of a parent and not placed with the child's other parent, a grandparent who requests custody shall receive substantial consideration when evaluating what custody, visitation or residency arrangements are in the best interest of the child. And if the court refuses a grandparent's custody, then the court is required to give the reason in writing."

"Because of Rep. Pauls' efforts, Kansas grandparents are now, by law, automatically considered above all others whenever the custody of their grandchildren is before the court," Turner said. "...For grandparents who are affected by this new law, it's difficult to put into words just how much her hard work is appreciated."

The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature is a group elected by seniors across the state to recommend bills and help guide state poli-



State Representative Jan Pauls, D-Hutchinson, addressed attendees of the 2012 Session of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature Oct. 3, after receiving the KSHL Legislator of the Year Award as Speaker Pro-Tem Jim Snyder (left) and Speaker Wendell Turner listened.

cies on issues that concern senior citizens. Explaining the need for the new law, Turner cited a study of 2006 data that reported more than 17,000 grandparents in Kansas were acting as primary caregivers. He noted that the struggling economy has likely pushed that number higher today.

"Now, when grandchildren are removed

from both parents," said Turner, "grandparents will be given first consideration for custody."

"As a state," said Pauls, "we want to keep families together and keep kids out of foster care whenever it is possible and in the best interest of the children."

Alarm sees danger in militant Islam

Some time ago I read an essay by Joseph Rosenberg, alarming because it contained a sobering warning that western civilization is in danger of being destroyed as a result of the rise of radical Islam, which he called Islamofascism.

I was curious to see what Rosenberg had to say. He began by sounding an alarm, warning of dangers he sees in radical Islam:

"Life as we know it - the profound blessings of the Age of Enlightenment, and the ... progress in the arts and sciences that resulted - absent of an outrageous defense, is doomed to be devoured in the maws of ... Islamofascism."

He followed up his first alarm by sounding a second: "Militant Islam means to convert, enslave, or exterminate the infidel non-Muslim world, depending on the degree of resistance encountered. The Koran demands it..."

Rosenberg believes we are seeing an epic clash of civilizations, and he believes the surviving culture will be the one fittest for survival. He argued that the ultimate winner will be the civilization that "imposes its will on its neighbors sufficient to expand its borders, increase its population, and accumulate treasure."

Rosenberg supported his argument by citing evolutionary-biologist Jared Diamond's book, "Guns, Germs, and Steel: the Fates of Human Society."

"The rise and fall of one society or another reflects the simple



Mark Carlton

• From the Pulpit

equation of warfare, biology, and technology development."

Rosenberg concluded with this sobering assessment:

"Islamofascists, [are] reproducing rapidly, brainwashing young boys ... overcoming a complacent West... That Islam condemns half its population (females) to abject servitude and shows profoundly little ability to advance the frontiers of science and technology suggests an approaching dark age if left unchecked."

I found Rosenberg's analysis chilling. Is his analysis correct? Only time will tell. I cannot think of a greater irony. Wouldn't it be ironic if the West - which abandoned its rich spiritual heritage by embracing a dry and empty secularism - ends up being destroyed by the very forces of natural selection it embraced when it threw out its belief in a creator?

Secularism, thus, would be proven to be nothing more than an unhealthy mutation which left its offspring unfit for survival. How ironic will it be if the West's embrace of the notion that God is dead ultimately results in its own?

Mark Carlton is pastor of the Colby Berean Church. Reach him at pastormark@colbyberean.com or 460-2763.

Legislature addresses health, financial issues

The 30th annual Kansas Silver Haired Legislature concluded on Oct. 4, with 60 representatives voting on a number of proposed resolutions and bills.

The Silver Haired Legislature is a body of individuals aged 60 and older who are elected by their peers to develop bills and resolutions of interest to Kansas' older adults and their families. They work with members of the Kansas Legislature to get their proposed legislation introduced and debated as bills in the state Legislature.

Representatives from northwest Kansas include Virginia Hopper of Gem, Alice Lindeman of Oakley and Bill Beamgard of Atwood, among others.

This year's sessions were held in the Ramada Inn in downtown Topeka.

The following legislation passed.

1. Resolution urging the Kan-

sas Legislature to provide additional funding for the Home and Community Based Services/ Frail Elderly Waiver to provide older adults with all needed dental health services. (Beginning January of 2013, KanCare will provide Medicaid patients with preventive care.)

2. Resolution urging the Kansas Legislature to continue supporting the Department of Health's "Kansas Optimizing Health Program," an interactive program in which people with a number of chronic conditions come together to learn and practice new skills to manage their conditions.

3. Resolution urging the Kansas Legislature to enact legislation to help combat predatory payday lending practices, and to enact legislation to regulate or prohibit Income Tax Refund Advance lending practices that adversely affect older adults and others.

4. An act concerning insurance, relating to the mandatory reinstatement of certain insurance policies in case of mental incapacity of an insured; life insurance; long-term care insurance; preexisting conditions; and dementia diagnosis. (If there is a lapse in insurance premiums paid due to dementia, this would allow for reinstatement of the policy.)

5. Resolution urging Congress to reauthorize and increase funding for the Older Americans Act.

6. An act concerning property taxation, imposing a payment in lieu of tax on certain qualifying crude oil pipelines, procedures. (Qualifying pipeline property currently exempted from property taxation would pay a payment in lieu of tax in the amount of 3 percent of the qualified investment.)

7. An act concerning postsecondary educational institutions, relating to fingerprinting and crim-

inal history record check of nursing program applicants. (Nursing program applicants would be required to be fingerprinted and have a background check and would not be admitted if they have certain felony convictions.)

8. An act concerning the Coordinated Public Transportation Assistance Act, relating to eligibility of applicants for assistance to transportation systems. (Makes changes to current law.)

9. An act amending the uniform consumer credit code, relating to payday loans. (Would prevent a borrower from having more than two outstanding loans with any lender.)

10. Resolution urging the Kansas Legislature to call upon U.S. Congress to support funding for the U.S. Postal Service to ensure that senior residents in rural Kansas have continued access to operating community post offices.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Tuesday
12:29 a.m. - Narcotics violation report filed on traffic stop.

12:43 a.m. - Caller reported open door on a van. All appeared OK; contacted owner, shut door.

3:00 a.m. - Clerk called about two males walking through parking lot looking at vehicles. Spoke to subjects, who were connected to incident at 12:29 a.m.

3:22 a.m. - Caller needed attempt to locate. Contacted subject.

7:50 a.m. - Caller reported criminal damage to vehicle. Re-

port filed.
10:15 a.m. - Report filed for failure to report.

10:18 a.m. - Caller reported injured rabbit; animal removed.

11:35 a.m. - Caller caught cat. Animal turned over to Colby Animal Clinic.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Tuesday
2:17 a.m. - Booked Tanner Lee Hull.

10:52 a.m. - Served warrant on Jesse Crumrine.

2:43 p.m. - Released Crumrine.
2:43 p.m. - Rollover accident

12 miles south of Colby on K-25.
5:48 p.m. - Released David Mayer.

6:40 p.m. - Booked Stephanie A. Grooms.

7:28 p.m. - Booked Cynthia D. Grooms.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$8.53
Corn (bushel)	\$7.68
Milo (hundredweight)	\$13.36
Soybeans (bushel)	\$14.58

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.

The family of John Galli, Jr. would like to honor him with a card shower on the occasion of his 85th Birthday on October 16. Birthday wishes can be sent to John at 2380 North Range Avenue, Colby, KS 67701

Burglar snacks

MONROE, Mich. (AP) - Authorities say a hungry burglar apparently made and ate a sandwich at a southeastern Michigan home before taking off with a \$25 towel rack.

The Monroe Evening News reports (bit.ly/VaYM49) the theft happened while a family was away from a Monroe home.

Police in the city about 35 miles southwest of Detroit say nothing else was missing besides lunchmeat and cheese. A plate was left behind on a counter.

A police report didn't name any possible suspects.

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Come out and enjoy a Sunday afternoon and help support a great cause.

Wine & Beer Tasting

with Hor d'oeuvres and Desserts

Sunday, October 14th
3 - 6 p.m. • Come and Go
City Limits Bar & Grill

Tickets available for \$15 at door or by calling 785-443-3261

Drawings will be held for cancer screenings donated by Citizens Medical Center, Inc.

Presented by: **the Haunted Fair**

Commercial Building at the TH CO Fair Grounds Colby, KS

Dates & Times
Oct. 19 & 20 • 7 p.m. - Midnight
Oct. 26 & 27 • 7 p.m. - Midnight
Oct. 31 • 7 p.m. - Midnight

Admission
Under 12 - \$4 • 12 & Over - \$6

Under 12 Children's Matinee
Oct. 28 • 3 - 5 p.m.
\$3 or \$2 with a Genesis food item

All proceeds go to AYSO: American Youth Soccer Organization

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.com

Stop and Take a Moment

Autumn is invariably a prelude to falling temperatures. Here are a few tips to help you prepare your home for winter:

- (1) Furnace Inspection (change filters/clean ducts)
- (2) Get the fireplace ready (clean it, get firewood ready, check damper)
- (3) Check the doors and windows (inspect for crevice cracks, seal them, do necessary weather-stripping around doors)
- (4) Inspect roof, gutters & downspouts (clean out cutters, replace worn roof shingles)
- (5) Service weather equipment (drain gas from lawnmowers, tune-up snow blowers)
- (6) Check foundations (seal up any entry points, tuck-point or seal foundation cracks, secure crawlspace entrances)
- (7) Make sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working
- (8) Prevent plumbing freezes (drain all garden hoses, insulate exposed plumbing pipes, locate water main in the event you need to shut it off)
- (9) Prepare landscaping (trim tree branches that hang too close to house, prune trees and bushes, plant spring bulbs, seal driveways, brick patios and wood decks)
- (10) Prepare an Emergency Kit (buy indoor candles and matches for power shortage, buy a battery back-up to protect your computer, store extra bottle water and non-perishable food supplies)

Autumn is my favorite time of year, and I love all the natural color, we have in our own back yard. Take a drive down 5th street or out in the open country and see the fall colors. However, it is important we protect our homes. I also have to prepare to put my old cruiser bike away in the garage...a sad day for me...but I can still walk!

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Colby Independent Baptist Church is sponsoring Evangelist Greg Waggoner in a FREE gospel music concert for the community on Saturday, Oct. 13th at 7 p.m. in the Colby Community Building.

Greg Waggoner grew up north of Wichita in Valley Center where he graduated from VCHS in 1972. He has always loved music and since entering the ministry 36 years ago, he has been actively singing in Churches for banquets, revivals and special services. Greg has also sung at Cowboy Gatherings in Texas, Colorado and Wyoming.

Greg lives in Amarillo, Texas where he pastored Bible Baptist Temple for 21 years. He and his wife of over 34 years, Sandy, have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. The Waggoners have been serving the Lord in Evangelism since June of 2011. Greg has recorded 9 albums over the years with another one soon. He sings Southern Gospel, Traditional Gospel, Cowboy Gospel, and Old Trail Songs.

If you have any questions please call Pastor Bernard Heinz at 785-460-0313.

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Ages 4-12

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