

## Building the dream house



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Jerry Faber worked on an igloo in front of his house after last month's snowstorm with help from his daughter Kaitlynn and son Tyler. They made the blocks by packing snow into a plastic tub.

# Identity thieves now using income tax filings to take info

Identity thieves are constantly looking for new ways to separate you from your hard-earned money.

You may know about the typical identity theft scheme that might involve someone stealing your credit card and racking up thousands of dollars in fraudulent charges. But with income tax filing season upon us, we are seeing a new type of identity theft.

Identity thieves are finding ways to use a legitimate taxpayer's identity and personal information to file a tax return and claim a fraudulent refund, according to the Internal Revenue Service. With the speed and efficiency of electronic tax filing, the victim is usually not aware of the incident until notified that more than one return was filed in his or her name, or that he or she has a discrepancy in taxable earnings and employer identification information. By that time, your tax refund is often already in the hands of the scam artist.

Here are some tips to help protect you from becoming a victim



**Derek Schmidt**

• Attorney General

of identity theft.

- Protect your Social Security number. Don't carry your Social Security card or other documentation with your number on it. Provide your number only when required, such as filing taxes or applying for a loan. Be wary of websites or retailers that request this information.

Protect important financial and personal information. Personal financial documents and past years' tax returns should be kept in a secure location such as a locked filing cabinet or a fire safe box.

Protect your personal computer files by installing firewalls and anti-spam and anti-virus software. It's also extremely important to periodically change your comput-

er and Internet passwords.

Check on your credit report annually. Monitoring your credit report helps make you aware of unusual or unauthorized activity and can alert you to possible identity theft.

Never share your personal information online, on the phone or through the mail, unless you initiated the contact and are 100 percent certain of that person's identity.

If you receive a notice from the IRS or suspect your identity has been falsely used to claim a tax refund, you can go to the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for instructions on proper reporting procedures.

Any time you suspect you might be a victim of identity theft or other financial scams or fraud, contact the Kansas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 432-2310 or [www.ags.ks.gov](http://www.ags.ks.gov).

## Laws suggest state's landowners responsible for planting windbreaks

The second chapter of article 20 of Kansas state statutes indicates "soil erosion caused by wind or dust storms is declared to be destructive to the natural resources of the state and a menace to the health and well-being of our citizens."

The statutes suggest it is the duty of Kansas landowners "to conserve the natural resources of the state, and to prevent the injurious effects of dust storm by planting perennial grasses, shrubs and trees" and introducing other emergency control measures.

Kansas continues to experience extreme drought conditions over 76 percent of the state with the remainder in exceptional drought. These conditions have created concern among Kansas State University soil scientists, agronomists and foresters that severe dust storms and wind-blown soil erosion will occur in late winter and spring of 2013.

Annually, an estimated 2 tons per acre per year of topsoil is lost to wind erosion on the 24 million acres of cultivated cropland in Kansas. There is little doubt that 2013 will exceed that average.

"There are many conservation techniques that can reduce soil erosion such as the integration of crop residues or performing emergency tillage to roughen surfaces," according to Bob Atchison, rural forestry coordinator with the Kansas Forest Service. "However, during drought years it is hard to beat the time-tested shelterbelts and windbreaks to provide the most effective and persistent control of wind erosion."

Tree and shrub windbreaks provide excellent wind protection at

a distance 10 times the height of the windbreak. In Kansas, that equals an estimated 579,221 acres protected by the 289,577 acres of windbreaks that stretch 43,436 miles in length.

"In response to drought and dust storms of the 1930s, more than 200 million trees and shrubs were planted to windbreaks on 30,000 farms throughout the Great Plains between 1935 and 1942," Atchison said. "Unfortunately many of these windbreaks have been removed to make way for pivot irrigation systems and are continuing to be removed to make way for more farm ground due to high prices for crops."

Though many of the windbreaks established following the Dust

Bowl were large multi-row windbreaks, research shows effective wind control can be obtained with two- to three-row windbreaks.

Some producers raise concerns over loss of crop yields to shelterbelts. However, more than 30 years of research conducted by James Brandle, forestry professor at the University of Nebraska, shows that wheat yields actually increase by 15 percent on the average, corn by 12 percent and soybeans by 17 percent when windbreaks were present.

Kansas Forest Service foresters can help Kansas landowners with windbreak design, planning and financial assistance opportunities by calling (785) 532-3300 or by going to [www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org).

## Mother and grandmother rescue toddler who fell from second story

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A toddler who jumped on a bed and bounced out a second-story window was saved by his mother, who leaped behind him, caught his foot and lowered him safely to his grandmother who was having a smoke on the porch below, police said.

The mother was just getting out of the shower when she saw the 14-month-old boy, who had been jumping on the bed, trip on a pillow and fly out the half-open window, Police Communications Director Monique Cotton said.

The mother smashed through the window and caught him by a foot as his head bounced on a small roof overhanging the front porch.

The momentum took them both out the window to the porch overhang. The mother was able to lower the baby to the grandmother just as his shoe came off in her hand, police said.

The grandmother heard the breaking glass and was in the right place at the right time to catch the baby before the mother fell into some bushes. She was taken to a

hospital for treatment of cuts and a shoulder injury, Cotton said.

"The baby actually did fall," Cotton said. "Grandma caught him and mom fell in the bushes nearby. She's pretty scraped up."

The baby also was taken to the hospital with grandma to be checked out.

"The baby is going to be fine," Cotton said.

GET REBATES<sup>1</sup> UP TO

# \$160

when you purchase a set of four select Goodyear® or Dunlop® tires on the Goodyear Credit Card.

1. Mail-in Rebate paid in the form of a Goodies Visa® Prepaid Card. Get up to an \$80 Rebate on a qualifying purchase or double your rebate up to \$160 when the purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card. Subject to credit approval. Offer valid on purchases made between 03/01/13 - 05/31/13. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. See Store Associate for complete details and Rebate Form. Additional terms and conditions apply.

**NO INTEREST IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 6 MONTHS\***  
on purchases of \$250 or more made from March 1, 2013 to May 31, 2013. Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase balance is not paid in full within 6 months or if you make a late payment. Minimum payment required. See this ad for details.

**Great Western Life** 1170 South Country Club Dr. • Colby, KS 67701  
785-462-2100  
319 E. Front • Oakley, KS 67748  
785-672-3217

*Come see us for all your appliances needs!*

USE THE CLASSIFIEDS! 785-462-3963

**ALL YOU CAN EAT**

**& WAY MORE THAN YOU CAN CATCH**  
**All you can eat Friday Fish Fry**

Enjoy all the hand battered, golden fried cod you can eat. Served with seasoned french fries, tangy cole slaw & delicious homemade tartar sauce.

**EVERY FRIDAY FROM 5 - 9 P.M.**  
Village Inn • 2215 S. Range, Colby, KS • 785-462-6683

# You

*Can Make A Difference*

## POST ROCK CATTLE COMPANY Bull & Female Sale

MARCH 16, 2013 • 12:30 PM (CST)  
Post Rock Cattle Company Sale Facility • Barnard, Kansas

**200 GELBIEH & BALANCER® LOTS SELL**  
120 Purebred Gelbieh & Balancer® Bulls  
80 Purebred Gelbieh & Balancer® Females



HE SELLS!  
SALE BROADCAST LIVE ON THE INTERNET [www.dvauction.com](http://www.dvauction.com)

**POST ROCK CATTLE COMPANY**  
3041 E. Hwy. 284, Barnard, KS 67418  
Bill Clark: 785.792.6244  
Leland Clark: 785.792.6208  
Fax: 785.792.6250 • Email: [prcc@twinvalley.net](mailto:prcc@twinvalley.net)

**MMS**  
www.mms.biz 2262 C Avenue • Gladbrook, IA 50635

**COLLECTOR CAR AUCTION**  
**KANSAS CITY, MO**  
APRIL 25-27  
Kansas City Convention Center

**750 VEHICLES**

Interested in buying or selling?  
Contact a Mecum sales agent today!

**MECUM AUCTIONS** 262-275-5050  
[www.MECUM.com](http://www.MECUM.com)

**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**  
Join us in Richmond & Haven, KS  
Columbia, MO & Glenwood, IA  
For the Lowest Prices of the Year!

Friday, March 15th 8AM-6PM  
Saturday, March 16th 8AM-6PM  
Sunday, March 17th 1-5PM

Refreshments will be Served  
Prizes and Giveaways All Day!

2012 NFBA Building of The Year

**QSI**  
Quality Structures, Inc.

[www.qualitystructures.com](http://www.qualitystructures.com) Like us on facebook

Call for FREE ESTIMATES  
**1-800-374-6988**

**Living with VISION LOSS?**

*If you've been diagnosed with macular degeneration, find out if special microscopic or telescopic glasses can help you see better. Even if you have been told nothing can be done you owe it to yourself to seek a second opinion.*

Call today for a free phone consultation with  
**Dirk M. Gray, OD**  
Toll Free: 877-393-0025

locations throughout Kansas

**MORTON BUILDINGS, INC.**

**Farm Show Specials**  
Basic Farm & Ranch Storage  
Mid-Am Farm Show, Salina - March 26-28

Size	Starting at
30' x 40'	\$13,983
42' x 60'	\$23,913
48' x 80'	\$30,646
60' x 120'	\$50,993

8 Offices Serving Kansas. Call your local Morton Buildings office today for details and to schedule an appointment.

Prices and availability vary by location. Pricing and products subject to change without notice. Offer ends 3/30/13. Photos may contain features not included in price. Certain restrictions apply. All transactions are subject to credit approval, applicable taxes and other terms. ©2013 Morton Buildings, Inc. Morton Buildings is a registered trademark. All rights reserved. A listing of GC licenses available at [mortonbuildings.com/licenses.aspx](http://mortonbuildings.com/licenses.aspx). Ref 324.

**800-447-7436 • [mortonbuildings.com](http://mortonbuildings.com)**