

Consider safety when picking out toys

While picking out a child's toy is an exciting part of every holiday season, Safe Kids Kansas wants to remind you that safety needs to be on the top of every shopper's list.

Selecting toys

Parents and caregivers can make sure they're choosing safe toys for their children by paying close attention to warning labels and manufacturer's guidelines.

"More than three billion toys and games are sold in the U.S. every year, and most of them are very safe. Warning labels and manufacturers' instructions tell you how to use the product safely," says Cherie Sage, state director of Safe Kids Kansas. "If the manufacturer sets a minimum age or other restrictions, there's a reason. For example, a label reading 'not appropriate for children under three' may be present because the toy poses a choking hazard, not because it's too difficult for a 2-year-old."

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2009,

there were an estimated 186,000 emergency room-treated injuries related to toys with children younger than age 15. This is an increase from the 152,000 injuries reported in 2005. However, toy-related fatalities have decreased; 12 deaths to children under age 15, down from 24 toy-related fatalities in 2007 and 2008.

"If you buy toys secondhand or get hand-me-downs, visit www.recalls.gov to make sure the toy hasn't been recalled for safety reasons," says Sage. Sign up for email alerts to keep up-to-date on toy recalls beyond the holiday itself. If a new toy comes with a product registration card, mail it in right away so the manufacturer can contact you if the item is ever recalled. To sign up for recall emails, go to www.cpsc.gov and click on "Sign up for safety news and recall emails."

Don't hesitate to report defects or design features that seem dangerous. "If your child has a close call, the next child might not be so lucky,"

says Sage. "Report safety concerns about toys to the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772 or www.cpsc.gov. Your experience could be part of a pattern that might lead to a recall."

Safe Kids Kansas also recommends:

- Make sure to buy age-appropriate toys. All toys are clearly marked if they have small parts; do not buy toys with small parts for children younger than age three (or allow a child under age three to play with those kinds of toys belonging to an older sibling). Also, avoid building sets with small magnets for children under age six. These magnets are dangerous if swallowed.

- Identify dangerous small parts. To be sure of a toy's size, use a small parts tester or the cardboard tube from a roll of toilet paper to identify choking hazards. Do not let small children play with anything that can fit into one of these cylinders.

- Keep batteries out of sight and out of reach. Lithium button batteries

are coin-sized batteries that can easily be swallowed by children and can come from many devices such as remote controls. Other places you may see them are: singing greeting cards, watches, bathroom scales and flameless candles. If a child swallows a battery, go to the emergency room immediately. Tell doctors and nurses that your child may have swallowed a battery. Do not let the child eat or drink until a chest X-ray can determine if a battery is present. Do not induce vomiting. Call the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at (202) 625-3333 for additional treatment information.

- Buy the proper safety gear. Riding toys account for the greatest number of toy-related injuries. If you purchase a riding toy, such as a scooter, skateboard, in-line skates or bicycle, remember that the gift isn't complete without a helmet and appropriate protective gear.

- Inspect toys to make sure they are in good repair. Check children's play areas for missing or dislodged

parts. Do not let young children play with toys that have straps, cords or strings longer than seven inches, due to the risk of strangulation.

- Actively supervise children. Caregivers should actively supervise children playing with any toy that has small parts, moving parts, electrical or battery power, cords, wheels or any other potentially risky component. Simply being in the same room as your child is not necessarily supervising. Active supervision means keeping the child in sight and in reach and paying undivided attention.

- Practice proper storage. Teach children to put toys away after playing to prevent falls and unsupervised play and make sure toys intended for younger children are stored separately from those for older children.

Shop safely

It is estimated that more than 20,000 children under age five are injured by shopping carts each year in the U.S. Falls are the most

common cause of shopping-cart related injury in children of this age group, accounting for 83 percent of all injuries. Tip-overs and children colliding with the shopping cart are other causes of injury.

Top five ways to avoid shopping-cart injuries:

- Never leave your child unattended in a shopping cart and stay close to the cart at all times.

- If you are placing your child in the shopping cart seat, always use a harness or the safety belt provided to restrain your child.

- Never place your own infant carrier on top of a shopping cart.

- Use the shopping carts that have a sheeled child carrier that is permanently attached and made part of the shopping cart. Some of these models look like cars or benches attached to the shopping cart.

For more information, visit www.safekids.org.

Couple married in Goodland

Tanae Garrett of Goodland and Christopher Lauer of Gothenburg, Neb., were married Saturday, July 16, 2011 at the Goodland United Methodist Church, 12th and Sherman, Goodland with the Rev. Dustin Petz officiating at a double ring ceremony.

The bride was given away by her parents.

The matron of honor was Emily Lohr of Goodland and her attendants were Megan Stefan, Sarah Redmond, Callie Baalman and Katie Powell.

The best man was Lance Lauer, brother of the groom, of Gothenburg. The groomsmen were Landon Ruggles, Trent Lambert, Matt Krawjewski and Ethan Lamont.

The users were Devon Garrett, Aaron Lauer and Jordon Lauer. The ring bearer was Johnathon Lauer and the flower girl was Kya Conger.

Marla Harrison was the organist and Dixie Teeter the soloist.

The reception was at the Goodland Elks Club.

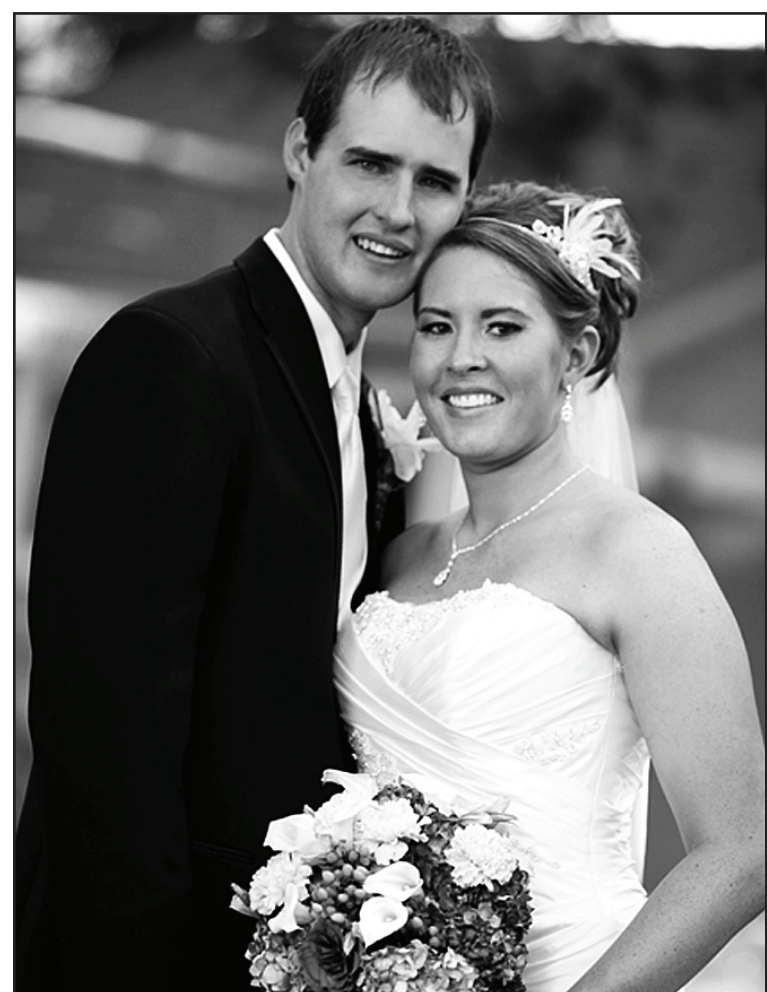
The bride's parent are Mike and Lorie Garrett of Goodland and her grandparents are Gary and Glenda Garrett of Goodland and LaVelle and Erma Palmgren of Brewster.

The groom's parents are Matt and Laura Lauer of Gothenburg and his grandparents are Roland and Norma Lauer of Gothenburg and Stanley and Maralee Jensen of Omaha, Neb.

The bride is a 2007 Goodland High School graduate and a 2009 graduate of the Hays Academy of Hair Design at Hays.

The groom was a 2009 graduate of Northwest Kansas Technical College in diesel technology and is currently farming in Gothenburg.

The couple lives in Gothenburg.



Christopher and Tanae Lauer

rotary

Goodland Rotary Club met Friday at the Student Union of the Northwest Kansas Technical College with five guests and 26 members present. Guests included Cassie Battistoni and Caleb Fugleberg, Rotary Honor Students for the month of November, and Colton and Laurie Klemm and Ryan Hambree, Goodland Walmart manager.

Club president, Marty Melia, welcomed the members and guest and thanked them for their response to his call for volunteers to deliver meals-on-wheels in November.

He encouraged members to sign up to ring the Salvation Army bell at Walmart leading up to Christmas. Funds collected in Goodland stay in Sherman County to help with charitable activities during the Christmas season.

Melia handed out the donation tickets for the annual Rotary Foundation fund raiser.

Rotarian of the Day, Bill Biermann, Goodland Superintendent of Schools, presented an interesting program concerning student performance and demographic and enrollment trends in the Goodland school district (USD 352).

Using charts and graphs, he explained the Annual Yearly Performance data showing student improvement in key subject areas

over the past few years. Biermann explained although student achievement has shown steady positive progress, they have not yet reached the optimum proficiency levels desired. The annual performance measurement is part of the No Child Left Behind federal mandate. Biermann said the Goodland district scores are good and improving. The district is making the annual goals, he said, but results are lower in sub-groups where scores are improving, but not matching district goals.

Biermann said the district is not getting credit for the improvements because what people hear is the school is considered On Improvement because the sub-groups are not meeting the annual goals. He said the sub-groups continue to

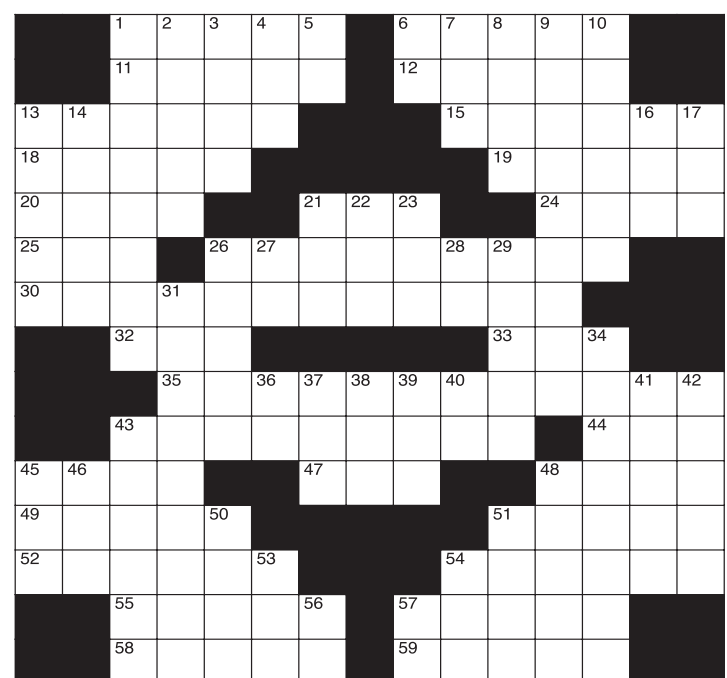
show improvement and are getting better, but because they are not up to the goals the district is On Improvement.

For presenting the program, a book, *The Brain Game*, will be presented in Mr. Biermann's name to the birthing center of Goodland Regional Medical Center to be given to new parents to assist them in providing brain stimulation games for the newborn.

Next week's Rotarian of the Day will be Stephen West. Goodland Rotary meets every Friday at noon in the Student Union of the Northwest Kansas Technical College. Guests and potential members are always welcome to attend the weekly meeting of Goodland Rotary.

Dick Liess

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Abu __, U.A.E. capital
6. Herring-like fishes
11. 55120 MN
12. Indigo bush
13. Pollyanna-ish
15. Pleasing to the ear
18. Parcels of land
19. Microns (alt. sp.)
20. Cooking containers
21. Express pleasure
24. Meat from a calf (alt.)
25. 7th Greek letter
26. Operated the sales register
30. Blueprint for the day
32. Congressperson (abbr.)
33. Angle (abbr.)
35. Fragrant health promotion
43. Trespasses
44. __ Lanka
45. Wife of Hercules
47. A large body of water
48. Chicken house
49. Sicilian volcano
51. Coarse edible red seaweed
52. __ May, actress
54. Opposites of credits
55. Unable to move
57. Someone who is highly skilled
58. 100 = 1 kwacha
59. "Rocky" star Talia

CLUES DOWN

1. Having a sophisticated charm
2. Minute amounts (Scot.)
3. Turkish leader's title
4. Used for hitting the ball in

5. Not out
6. South Dakota
7. Possessed
8. Grad
9. UPS driver
10. Fired
13. In a way, augmented
14. River in SE S. Am.
16. Division of geological time
17. Follows sigma
22. Expression of surprise
23. Hull Identification Number
26. Salmwood
27. Associated Press
28. Half of an em
29. Networks in Spanish
31. Dough fermenting agent
34. Auto fuel
36. An alternative
37. Manuscripts (abbr.)
38. Digested
39. Darjeeling or green
40. Horsepower
41. 1985 Formula 1 champion
42. Expression of alarm
43. Gain possession
45. Own (Scottish)
46. Snake-like fish
48. Dicer
50. Afresh
51. Hindu mother goddess
53. Before
54. Code for dash
56. Atomic #52
57. Millisecond

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