

# Creating a safe campus

Collegiate life is not what it used to be. In the past, parents were anxious about their children adapting to living life independently, making wise choices, getting a solid education and growing up. Those concerns still exist today, but let's add a new one: Will my child be safe?

Now, more than ever, our higher education institutions are marketing quality academics in a true learning environment with attractive extra-curricular activities and world-class sports venues. Many colleges are also stressing safety and highlighting programs they have developed to ensure the health and welfare of their campus residents. Due to the federal Clery Act, which requires schools to record and report major criminal activities on their campuses, there is also a fish bowl environment which fosters responsibility and accountability.

What are the challenges of keeping campuses safe and how can today's administrators, campus law enforcement, and facilities services personnel rise to meet them? The answers lie in the mix of security and law enforcement personnel, technology, facilities design and crime prevention education. There is no single solution. Let's take a look at a few examples of what measures are in place today to keep our college campuses safe, and how we can successfully employ cost-effective measures to meet the challenges we face.

Some challenges...

**Affordable Police Presence** — On most college campuses, campus police maintain a law-abiding and safe environment. The challenge is creating a greater public presence on campus grounds without breaking the budget. Sure, it would be great to multiply the number of police personnel on site, but doing so is often financially prohibitive.

**Student Housing Access Control** — Colleges recognize the need to keep order and access in check at student residence halls. Many schools depend upon passive restraints such as door access control and/or stationary video surveillance. Some colleges staff the entrance with an individual who verifies identification and manages visitor access. In order to control costs, schools often deploy students to monitor access and

## Guest Commentary Robert J. Chartier

activities of their fellow students at residence halls.

**Technology** — A wide range of technology solutions exist that include door access control systems, emergency alert phones and kiosks, video surveillance, and email and text message alerts, to name a few. These are all useful and timely tools to employ, but they are each either reactive or passive. Such solutions are only an element of an effective security program. Without personnel to monitor, deter or respond, the systems are compromised. And while part of the solution may be in employing more campus police personnel, many of the tasks, like helping residents who are locked out or responding to alarms resulting from open doors, are routine. The overwhelming costs incurred in following up with the technology alerts may preclude today's administrators from selecting this option.

An Answer...

Since most agree that an increased physical presence of well-trained security professionals may be a large part of today's solution to the challenges college campus personnel face, this answer may be simple, reasonable, cost-effective and timely.

**Outsourced Security Personnel** — Increasingly, institutions are finding that one of the most cost-effective means to supplement law enforcement and technology is to employ the services of a well-trained and proven contract security firm. Pioneered in the large private urban research universities, the use of professional security officers is spreading across all locations and types of institutions as schools move to create a more visible deterrent and response capability.

Contract security companies who specialize in higher education, who train their staff on the specific challenges and reporting regulations of campus security, are the best choice. Companies with a lot of experience in this arena understand how their staff

can work in conjunction with campus police and know how to create a strategy for the best possible security solution.

Consider the following:

Campus law enforcement may not need to have more police officers that are costly to train and equip. And, a smaller budget may make it difficult to retain staff. A better response is to multiply the eyes and ears on campus by using a reputable contract security provider that can supplement their efforts. The key is defining a specific role for the contract security officers who can perform many of the routine tasks (e.g., personal safety escort services, foot patrols, parking details, vehicle assists, etc.) and also supplement building safety and maintenance systems.

Selecting students to monitor and facilitate residence halls access may not be the wisest practice. Not only are there related concerns regarding liability, but also, an independent resource would be the best choice for the security-related details. Again, choosing a well-trained and experienced contract security provider to monitor and patrol student residence halls maintains a higher degree of safety, security and impartiality, without incurring the heavy costs associated with employing law enforcement personnel or additional residence hall staff.

Many of today's public and private higher educational institutions are recognizing the benefits associated with creating hybrid solutions to the design of their physical security programs. In their search for a solution to their safety and security-budget challenges, facilities managers, administrative personnel, and campus law enforcement departments are partnering with proven contract security providers. College administrators, campus police, professors, students and their parents agree that a comprehensive and cost-effective solution is the best remedy to today's safety challenges on college campuses.

*(Robert J. Chartier is a vice president for AlliedBarton Security services which provides security for many of the country's leading colleges and universities. He can be reached at Bob.Chartier@alliedbarton.com, or www.alliedbarton.com)*

## Open meetings: proper training needed

Kansas doesn't do enough to encourage transparency by requiring governments to receive proper training on open meetings and records laws. So it's not much of a surprise when local governing bodies and other public agencies subject to those laws make mistakes.

Such was the case recently when the Finney County Economic Development Corp. Board of Directors erred in taking some of its discussion behind closed doors.

As the Finney County Economic Development Corp. is a public agency utilizing taxpayer dollars, its board is subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act. During a recent meeting, the corporation's board announced it would go into closed session to discuss "staff issues," and ended up reviewing possible retirement benefits for the corporation's employees.

The law allows public agencies to go behind closed doors

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to discuss, among other topics, personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel. "Staff issues," as cited by the corporation, didn't qualify.

The board also erred in privately discussing a possible new location for the corporation, a topic outside of those allowed in closed session. And the board failed to disclose that it would be discussing that subject.

Kansas law calls for fines for such violations. But what matters more than fining public agencies is making sure they embrace openness and transparency.

To his credit, Finney County

Economic Development Corporation President Eric Deperschmidt acknowledged the board's missteps.

Often, such mistakes aren't deliberate acts of secrecy but the result of a misunderstanding of the laws in place to ensure that the public has an opportunity to observe discussions that go into decision-making.

Kansas, unfortunately, hasn't made education on open meetings and records laws enough of a priority, with lawmakers in the past rejecting legislation that would mandate such training for public officials.

Those we've entrusted with taxpayer dollars have an obligation to understand laws that not only help citizens see what's going on, but also encourage civic engagement. Any public entity confident in the good work they're doing should want no less.

— Garden City Telegram

## Ag insurance workshops scheduled

Three universities are teaming up to help answer questions regarding crop and livestock insurance under the latest farm bill.

Their insurance workshop, titled "Meeting the Risk Management Challenges of a New Farm Bill and New Price Relationships" will be Nov. 4 in Brush, Colo.; Nov. 5 in Grand Island, Neb.; and Nov. 6 in Salina.

"The program was designed for growers, ranchers, crop insurance agents, agricultural lenders, grain merchandisers, and commodity brokers — anyone who wants to enhance their knowledge of risk management and their ability to design an appropriate risk management plan for their farm or ranch, or provide risk management advice to clients," said Art Barnaby, risk management specialist with Kansas State University Research and Extension Departments.

Presenters will include William Murphy, deputy administrator for insurance services with USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), and Rebecca Davis, director of the regional RMA office, as well as Extension specialists from all three universities.

The workshops sponsors are K-State Research and Extension, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and Colorado State University Extension.

Presentation topics will include:

- The New Farm Bill: New Decisions for Producers,
- Grain Outlook — Can We Feed the World and Produce Bio-fuels,
- Using ACRE in a Risk Management Plan,
- Crop Insurance Program Update,
- Pasture, Range and Forage Policy Update, and
- Optimum Level of Crop Insurance Combined with the New

Standing Disaster Aid Program.

Continuing education credits are available for participants from Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and South Dakota. Application has been made for Wyoming credits.

More information, including registration instructions, is available online at <http://cropinsure.unl.edu> (click on Workshop Registration), or by phone at 1-800-535-3456.

**Honor Our Veterans**  
this election year  
by exercising your right  
to vote on  
**Tuesday, November 4**

I would appreciate your continued support in the General Election,  
**Tuesday, November 4.**

**Ralph Ostmeyer**  
State Senate 40th District

Paid by Ostmeyer Senate Campaign Fund - Lori Edwards, Treasurer

## Monster bash: activities keep youngsters busy

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chance event, with a drawing for a winner each night. The winning ticket holder will get half of the pot, with the other half going to Valley Hope's Patient Care Fund. The tickets cost \$1 each, and there is no limit to the number of tickets someone can buy. The event will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

In the Video/Coloring room, the younger group can watch kid-friendly Halloween movies like "Winnie the Pooh Halloween" and there will be mats for them to sit or lie on, cards and games, and coloring contests will be held each night. The winners of the coloring contests will be notified after the weekend.

Kids can bring in their decorated pumpkins to be judged in a contest all three nights.

A snack shop, selling Frito Pies, chili, corn dogs, pizza by the slice, nachos, fruit, ice cream, muffins, cookies, candy, hot cider, pop, coffee, iced tea and bottled water will be next to the Armory's kitchen. "Caterers" donated their time and resources to make the chili for the

snack shop.

A "Scare-Wii" station will let kids play Wii games. To ensure everyone who wants to gets a chance to play, there is a set time limit for each child playing. The games are appropriately rated so everyone can enjoy playing the Wii. The "Scare-Wii" station isn't a contest, just a place for kids to play video games.

Don't forget to stop into the Fortune Teller's tent to see what your future holds.

For every contest, there are a variety of prizes that will be awarded to the winners.

"We've had a really good response from people willing to

support this first production of our Haunted House and Monster Mash Bash," said Megan O'Connor, the executive producer of the Monster Mash Bash. "We've had about 200 businesses and individuals help with their financial support, time, materials and supplies and prizes to make a safe place for kids to hang out on Halloween. We really appreciate the donations and sponsors."

Proceeds from the Haunted House and Monster Mash Bash will go to the Patient Care Fund, which helps patients purchase necessities they may not have brought with them or cannot otherwise afford. The goal is to raise

\$12,000 for the fund.

The Haunted House is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8-11 p.m. The Monster Mash Bash is open the same nights, but from 7-11 p.m.

Thanks  
for your  
support

**CITY OFFERS SAFE RIDE HOME!**



Individuals in the City of Norton may request a free ride home from local establishments serving alcohol on the evening of October 31, 2008. Individuals are encouraged to use this program to allow a safe ride home without incident or harm to themselves or others. For a Safe Ride Home, call Affordable Classic Limo Service, 202-0952.

**SPONSORS OF THIS SAFE RIDE HOME INCLUDE:**  
City of Norton; I.O.O.F. Lodge #157, Western Distributing, Craig Krizek D.D.S., Eagles Lodge, Nex-Tech, Ebke's Liquor, Norton Homestore

## Pick-Em Scoreboard continued

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Wheatland-Grinnell 42, North Valley 26  
Logan 46, Palco 0  
Quinter 56, Hill City 20  
Phillipsburg 40, Russell 0  
Hoxie 36, Plainville 18  
Georgia 52, LSU 38

✓ RE-ELECT

**JOHN MILLER**

*Dedicated*

**DISTRICT 3 COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Paid for by John Miller  
Karen Reedy, Treasurer

» Relief from years of back pain...  
*within reach.*

» » »  
Mike Brown had been dealing with pain since he injured his back while in the military more than 15 years ago. When one of the spine specialists at Good Samaritan Hospital recommended surgery, the prospect of being pain-free motivated Mike to agree. After surgery, Mike started a new job as a school principal, he's starting to hunt and fish again...and he's wondering why he waited so long.

Every day, Good Samaritan neuroscience experts treat patients with stroke, back pain, aneurysms and traumatic injuries to the brain and spinal cord. There's no need to put up with back pain. The expertise you need is...within reach.

CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES  
**Good Samaritan Hospital**  
Kearney, Nebraska [www.gsh.org](http://www.gsh.org)  
The medical center, centered on you.  
Call 877-632-2225 for more information.