

Shop for toys with safety savvy

While the kids are making a list of toys they want for the holidays, adults should be checking it twice for safety. Make sure you and other gift-givers are safety savvy before you hit the stores this holiday season.

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 3 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, 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 3 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 (CPSC), 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 emails 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 E-mails."

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. 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 find 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 7 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 help prevent falls and unsupervised play, and make sure toys intended for younger children are stored separately from those for older children. Safe storage also applies to adult toys, such as the small, powerful magnets used as stress relievers. Magnets that are ingested can attract to each other in the digestive system and cause extreme internal injury, sometimes requiring radical gastrointestinal surgery. Keep these out of reach and out of sight of children.

Shop Safely
It is estimated that more than 20,000 children ages five and under are injured by shopping carts each year in the U.S., according to the CPSC. 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:

1. Never leave your child unattended in a shopping cart and stay close to the cart at all times.
2. If you are placing your child in the shopping cart seat, always use a harness or the safety belt provided to restrain your child.
3. Never place your own infant carrier on top of a shopping cart.
4. Do not let your child ride in the cart basket, under the basket, on the sides or front of the cart.
5. Use the shopping carts that have a wheeled 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.

Norton man honored with award

Garrett Beydler of Norton, was recently selected to receive the Honorary American FFA Degree - Teacher. This award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment.

The National FFA Organization works to enhance the lives of youth through agricultural education. Without the efforts of highly dedicated individuals, thousands of young people would not be able to achieve success that, in turn, contributes directly to the overall well-being of the nation. The Honorary American FFA Degree is an opportunity to recognize those who have gone beyond valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists.

Recipients in the "teacher"

category are selected on the basis of their contributions in the following seven areas: classroom/laboratory instruction, experimental learning of students, the National FFA Organization, building partnerships, agricultural education program marketing, agricultural education program development and evaluation, and professional development of agricultural education teachers.

In addition, teachers must have taught for a minimum of 10 years and their agricultural education program must have had 85 percent membership in the past year.

Members of the National FFA Board of Directors approved the nomination. Garrett traveled to Indianapolis to receive the honor during an on-stage presentation at the 85th National FFA Convention & Expo, Oct. 24-27. All recipi-

ents received a certificate and medal, and their names will be permanently recorded.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 540,739 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,489 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.FFA.org for more information.

Kansas promotes hunting at Ringneck Classic

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback hosted the second annual Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic November 16-18. The city of Oakley and the surrounding areas were the gathering spots for the event, which included 70 hunters and the Governor.

"This weekend was a great weekend for hunting and for promoting Northwest Kansas," said Governor Brownback. "Thank you to the city of Oakley for hosting us, along with the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and everyone who planned and helped make this event possible."

Brownback said promoting hunting is one way Kansas can promote agritourism and grow the state's economy. Hunting in Kansas brings in more than \$400 million annually and accounts for nearly 6,000 jobs in the state.

"Pheasant hunting is part of the heritage of Northwest Kansas," Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Secretary Robin Jennison said. "Western Kansas has some of the best pheasant hunting in the country, unfortunately many people don't know about it. "The Classic" has brought and will continue to bring more notoriety to great hunting in Kansas. The hunt also showcases the many

tourism opportunities already present in Northwest Kansas."

Hunters taking part in the second annual hunt included State Senator Ralph Ostmeier, State Representative Ward Cassidy and State Representative-elect Travis Coture-Lovelady as well as former KC Chief Bill Maas, National Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever President and CEO Howard Vincent, and freelance outdoor photographer Larry Kruckenberg.

This year's Classic benefited four worthy non-profit organizations: NW Kansas Classic Conservation Foundation, The Logan County Health Care Foundation, The Buffalo Bill Cultural Center, and Pheasants Forever.

The weekend included a community BBQ dinner and silent auction on Friday night with a performance by Nashville recording duo Joey+Rory. On Saturday, after hunting, the group had an awards dinner with a musical performance by Rivers Rutherford. A bonus hunt capped off the weekend on Sunday.

Kansans can view pictures from the Classic at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/govsambrownback>

State football championships decided

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State football championships in Class 3A and Class 2-1A were decided on Saturday in Hutchinson and Hays, respectively.

In Class 3A, Scott City finished the season with a perfect 14-0 record with a 28-21 victory over Silver Lake, who finished 13-1.

Silver Lake took an early 21-0 lead but Scott City held them scoreless the rest of the way while scoring 28 points themselves.

En route to the state championship in previous weeks of playoff games, Scott City defeated Cimarron 55-6, outscored Sacred Heart of Salina 55-7, shutout Garden Plain 49-0 and beat Beloit 42-26.

In Class 2-1A, Meade finished the season 12-1 as they handed previously unbeaten Centralia (12-1) a 28-25 loss in Hays. Centralia led 13-7 at halftime before Meade scored a third quarter touchdown to lead 14-13. Both teams scored twice in the fourth quarter but Meade made two extra points and Centralia made none.

Centralia had slightly more total yardage, racking up 351 yards compared to 324 yards for the champions.

In playoff games on the way to the state championship contest, Meade shutout Oberlin 47-0, defeated Sterling 32-14 and outscored La Crosse 34-12.

Centralia won the state title in 2009 and 2011 while Meade won it all in 2010.

I know our players will respond and take care of their responsibilities, they are very resilient."

Junior Jays cruise easily past Panthers

The Norton Blue Jays Junior High School basketball team traveled to Phillipsburg on Nov. 13, and beat the Panthers handily, 50-28.

The varsity game saw the Blue Jays take command early, ending the first quarter with a 25-4 lead. That pace slowed down however, as the Blue Jays scored only 25 more points the rest of the game.

Tyus Henson led all scorers with 15 points, shooting 75 percent from the field. Jacob Green followed up with 12 points.

Norton had eight assists in the game. Will Ellis, Jace Ruder and Trenton Wright had two assists each.

"We started the game exceptionally well offensively. Tyus and Jacob had a good night, neither one missed a shot in the first quarter," said coach Cox.

Jace Ruder led the defensive effort with four steals, five defensive rebounds and four blocked shots. The Blue Jays forced 18 turnovers with 12 of those being steals. Henson had three steals and Ellis had two of his own.

"It was a good thing we played so well in the first quarter. Our defensive rebounding effort was not where it needed

to be throughout the game," said coach Cox. "A lot of Phillipsburg's points came from offensive rebounds. We must fix that.

•PUBLIC NOTICE• ORDINANCE NO. 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633

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City of Norton Ordinance No. 1630: On November 7th, 2012, the City of Norton, Kansas, adopted Ordinance No. 1630, which restricts certain vehicular parking and mandates certain handicap parking on the west side of the 100 block of South First Avenue in Norton. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www.DiscoverNorton.com or at City Hall at 301 E. Washington, Norton, KS 67654. This summary certified by Karen L. Griffiths, City Attorney.

City of Norton Ordinance No. 1631: On November 7th, 2012, the City of Norton, Kansas, adopted Ordinance No. 1631, which requires all builders and building contractors to maintain liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000 per occurrence. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www.DiscoverNorton.com or at City Hall at 301 E. Washington, Norton, KS 67654. This summary certified by Karen L. Griffiths, City Attorney.

City of Norton Ordinance No. 1632: On November 7th, 2012, the City of Norton, Kansas, adopted Ordinance No. 1632, which requires all plumbers and plumbing contractors to maintain liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000 per occurrence. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www.DiscoverNorton.com or at City Hall at 301 E. Washington, Norton, KS 67654. This summary certified by Karen L. Griffiths, City Attorney.

City of Norton Ordinance No. 1633: On November 7th, 2012, the City of Norton, Kansas, adopted Ordinance No. 1633, which requires all electricians and electrical contractors to maintain liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000 per occurrence. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www.DiscoverNorton.com or at City Hall at 301 E. Washington, Norton, KS 67654. This summary certified by Karen L. Griffiths, City Attorney.

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