

# Child's stealing is concern to parents

*Dear Plain Sense: My 4-year-old frequently steals things from other family members. I'm worried he is on his way to becoming a petty thief! What should I do?*



Parents naturally become concerned about a child who takes things that don't belong to him. This should not be regarded as "stealing" until the child is capable of understanding the consequences of such behavior, which is usually between ages 3 and 5. Parents should consider why their child has stolen — for more attention, or showing off to a friend, to have something to give to someone else, or to get something they don't want to ask for.

Parents should teach children about property rights and consideration of others. Parents must also serve as positive role models.

If adults bring home items from their place of work or allow a mistake at the supermarket checkout to occur in their favor, it will be harder for a child to understand the concept of honesty.

In most cases, stealing will stop as the child grows older if parents take proper measures. Teach your child that stealing is wrong and is not acceptable within the family or the community. Guide him or her in returning the stolen object to the proper

owner; if for some reason it cannot be returned, then help the child in arranging to pay for or replace the item.

When the item has been returned or paid for, give the child praise for his effort and work.

If stealing is persistent or accompanied by other problem behaviors, it may be a sign of more serious emotional problems that both child and parents need help with.

Distrust can develop quickly in such family situations.

Your local mental health professional can assist in evaluating the causes for the behavior and work with those involved to re-establish better relationships and more healthy behaviors.

*Editor's note: The preceding column was contributed by Karen D. Beery, Consultation and Education Department. The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.*

*Mail questions to: High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, Consultation and Education Department, 208 East Seventh, Hays, Kan. 67601. The Internet site can be accessed by logging on to: www.highplains-mentalhealth.com*

# Oberlin Arts group releases fall events

The Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission is selling season tickets for the 2004-2005 season.

- Scheduled programs include:
- Tour of Sondra Johnson's Cambridge studio and sculptures, Saturday, Aug. 28. Meet 8:30 a.m. Mountain Time at the Gazebo in Centennial Park.
- World-renowned pianist Ronnie Kole of New Orleans, recently back from a European tour, 6:30 p.m.

Mountain Time Saturday, Sept. 25, at The Gateway.

- McLemore Family Gospel/Bluegrass group 1 p.m. Mountain Time Sunday, Oct. 17, at The Gateway.
- A performance of "Arsenic and Old Lace" by the Southwest Nebraska Community Theater, 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time Saturday, Oct. 30, at The Gateway.
- U.S. Air Force Heartland of

America Band Clarinet Quartet, 1 p.m. Mountain Time Sunday, Nov. 7, at The Gateway.

- Ian Varella, ventriloquist, 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time Saturday, Jan. 22, at The Gateway.
- Dinner Theater—classical guitarist David Burgess from New York, Saturday, Feb. 12, at The Gateway.
- Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time and concert at 6:30.

• Koshare American Indian Dancers from La Junta, Colo., 1 p.m. Mountain Time Sunday, March 6, at The Gateway.

• Local history tour of Kanona and Norcatour, Sunday, April 24. Meet in Gateway parking lot 1 p.m. Mountain Time.

Tickets may be purchased from any commission member or by calling (785) 475-3329 or (785) 475-3557.

# Horticulturist warns gardeners about 'drift'

Distorted leaves and stems on unrelated garden plants can bear silent witness to two basic truths: By nature, herbicides aren't good for plants. Chemical sprays can drift off target.

"Plants that are good indicators of accidental weed-killer injury include tomatoes, zinnias, grapevines and redbud trees," said Jake Weber, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension. "But herbicide drift can cause considerable damage to a variety of yard and garden plants."

The specific symptoms of accidental herbicide injury can vary, he warned. For stems, they often show

up as twisting and/or abnormal stretching. For leaves, they can include twisting, cupping, puckering and abnormal stretching. And, the results can range from fewer flowers or vegetables to loss of the plant.

Herbicide sprays can drift either as a mist of tiny droplets or as a largely invisible vapor, Weber said. Still, the actual harm they cause will depend on an array of factors:

- Air temperature. The hotter it is, the more vapors gardeners can expect — which is why applying herbicides in the cool of early morning is a good idea.
- Wind, which can help break up a concentration of herbicide par-

ticles, but also can carry toxic drift for miles. A calm day is the only safe time to apply chemicals outdoors.

• Amount and duration of non-target plants' exposure.

• Type of herbicide formulation.

• Amount of sprayer pressure. Using a low pressure helps to avoid excessive mist production - which is more likely to drift off-target.

• Stage of plant growth. New shoots and leaves are most vulnerable.

"The most serious plant damage typically occurs early in the season, when plants are actively producing new shoots and leaves. The reason for this is that phenoxyaliphatic

acid herbicides - 2,4-D and other weed killers - mainly affect the growing points of plants," Weber said.

Herbicide-damaged plants often need special care to survive summer's stresses, he said. If they can survive, however, they'll probably regain much of their vigor in the next growing season or two.

"To avoid the problem in the future, though, you'll need to remember the factors that can reduce the odds for herbicide drift. And, if you can, you should switch to using a granular formulation of the chemicals you apply in your landscape," Weber advised.

# Prairie Museum offers free exhibit to the public

The Prairie Museum of Art and History continues to have on exhibit the "High Plains Art," which is 59 paintings by members of the High Plains Art Club, said Sue Taylor, director of the museum.

The art display will continue

through Labor Day (Sept. 6) and is located in the Garvey Educational Room, she said.

The art includes subjects such as old barns, windmills, butterflies, wildflowers and oceans scenes.

In offering some background about the art club, Taylor said it was re-organized in 2002 after the group helped Ken Mitchell with the mural at Bedker Hall at Colby Community College.

"The (original) High Plains Amateur Art Club was formed in 1951," Taylor said.

On Oct. 4, 1952, a letter was sent

to the Amateur Artists Association of America, Inc in New York asking to form a chapter. According to the letter, Blanche Miller of Brewster, Thelma Baldwin Gift of Rexford, Shirley Snow Davis, Francis L. McKinney, and William Schroeder desired to transfer their membership to the new chapter.

Today, the current officers are Marlene Carpenter, president; Bev Kern, treasurer; Marj Brown, secretary; and Margaret Denneker,

vice-president.

Other members Lily Plummer, Irma Lee Fleckenstein, Joe Bricker, Fritz Ostmeier and Ruthie Hughes.

The exhibition, which is free and open to the public is available during regular museum hours 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; 1 to 7 p.m., Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday.

For questions, call Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin at (785) 462-4590.

## Happenings

### Cooperating Collection Site workshop here Wednesday

For those who research for grants as part of their job description, this week's free workshop could be

something many will want to attend, said officials with Western Prairie RC & D.

The workshop will be held Wednesday, from 5 to 6 p.m., at Pioneer

Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th St., Colby. There is no charge for this workshop. For information call Debbie Tittel, 462-4470, or Western Prairie RC&D at 462-2602.

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