



Law enforcement officers learned about crash reconstructions at a training event in early October that focused on investigative accidents related to driving under the influence of alcohol.

Law officers and prosecutors learn at combined 'lethal weapon' training

The first week of October, 68 prosecutors and law enforcement officers from throughout the state of Kansas met in Salina for a free, first-of-its-kind training. The "Lethal Weapon: Investigating and Prosecuting DUI Related Fatalities" training was held Oct. 3 through 6 at the Crisis City training facility in Salina.

The Lethal Weapon course is based on a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration course. To make the course more unique, the training was held in Idaho for ideas from their traffic safety resource prosecutors.

"This is the first time we've done anything like this in Kan-

sas," Karen Wittman, Kansas Assistant Attorney General said. "We wanted to make the training more unique to our state."

The course was funded by the Kansas Department of Transportation and sponsored by the Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Attorney General's Office, Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor's Office and Kansas Highway Patrol.

The seminar included training on crash reconstructions, technical investigation and trial advocacy skills. The law enforcement officers in attendance had the opportunity to learn about prosecutorial involvement in fatal crashes, while

the prosecutors had the opportunity to gain a working knowledge of crash reconstruction and toxicology, as well as skills to work with expert witnesses. The goal of the course was to assist prosecutors and officers in developing their knowledge and skills related to vehicular homicide cases.

Sessions covered a variety of topics including physics principles, intersection collisions, toxicology, preparing for court, ethical considerations and more. The Kansas Highway Patrol's Critical Highway Accident Response Team conducted a crash and completed a full reconstruction for attendees.

Public invited to cattlemen's meeting

The Kansas Cattlemen's convention and trade show will be held on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18 and 19, at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 1400 N. Lorrain in Hutchinson. This year's convention will showcase the pride and importance of the USA cattle producer.

Friday's events will include innovations of U.S. producers including the opportunity to see how one man established a mobile meat processing system to provide consumers with fresh localized food and created an environment for the humane treatment to animals. There will also be a panel of experts discussing the new animal disease traceability system and how it will affect the future of the U.S. cattle industry and its people. There will be additional sessions, leading up to an evening banquet and family fun.

"The family fun night is going to be one that you do not want to miss. We will have activities for all ages and interests spanning from carnival games to cards," stated staff member Kelsey Gibson.

Saturday's events will kick off with a panel addressing the U.S. food system and how consumers can be more informed about the food they eat.

Brandy Carter KCA Executive Director remarked, "the session on 'What We Want to Know About Our Food' is a great opportunity for consumers to come

in and not only hear about the difference in U.S production versus foreign food production, but there will be an opportunity to understand what restaurants and grocers are looking for as well. Consumers are welcome to provide comments on what they want to know and expect from the meals they put on the table each night. We hope folks will continue to stay throughout the day."

The afternoon luncheon provides a great opportunity for every citizen to come out and learn more about how a community and a country came together to save Greensburg, which has re-built its town "green" and has continued to prosper after a horrific F5 tornado.

The day will conclude with the annual meeting. Anyone who has a current membership at the time of the annual meeting and is involved in the production of raising, growing, or feeding cattle has the opportunity to vote at the annual meeting and will also receive a mail in ballot to vote on the issues.

The annual meeting is free. The convention cost will be \$85 if payment and registration are received by Tuesday, Nov. 1; cost at the door will be \$100. Registration forms may be found at www.kansas-cattlemen.com or by calling the association's office at (785) 238-1483.

Hardware chain markets Halloween 'zombie defense'

By Grant Schulte

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Hardware store manager Mike Dowling wants to be clear: His shovels might slow an attacking zombie, but you'll need something else to put the final nail in the creature's coffin.

"I wouldn't say it's for killing zombies," the veteran Omaha store manager said. "But it's helpful for cleaning up if you ever have to."

In a pop-culture world of zombie marches, video games and television shows, one regional hardware chain has taken the novel approach of actively marketing power tools and garden implements as protection against the undead.

And not to leave out the walking dead, Westlake Ace Hardware's online "Zombie Preparedness Center" has a "Me zombie" section touting bolts and fasteners for broken bones, glue and caulk for peeling skin, and deodorizers to freshen up decaying flesh. Lose a limb? Try duct tape!

Marketing experts say such out-of-the-box campaigns can give smaller companies a competitive foothold.

"It's a great way to create brand awareness," said University of Nebraska Lincoln marketing professor Rob Simon. "But there is a risk. Say you have a jewelry store that was going to do something like that. In that case, it would really diminish what you're selling."

Westlake executives say they initially were reluctant to associate products with horror film imagery,

and the campaign shies away from serious blood-and-gore. One blurb in the pre-Halloween campaign advertises chain saws "for clearing away hedges blocking your view of oncoming zombies." Nail guns are for "zombie intimidation."

"I was a little worried that we might be a little too out there, that people might take offense," said Liz Benditt, Westlake's director of customer relationship development. "But if anything, (the effect) has been the opposite."

The campaign launched last week originated with Bozell, an Omaha public relations and advertising firm. Scott Bishop, the company's director of social influence, said members of the firm's creative staff wandered the hardware store aisles and jotted notes on how items could help or halt the undead.

"We found that zombies have a very, very huge following," Bishop said. "It's very much a part of our pop culture right now."

Benditt said the risk has paid off well so far for the Lenexa-based chain, which has 88 stores scattered through Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. She said web traffic has increased, and store managers said they've seen more potential customers coming into stores. It's not yet clear if that's led to increased sales.

The campaign is so popular that some stores that haven't yet received the zombie displays are clamoring to get them.

Alan Kulhanek, general manager for a Lincoln, Neb., store, said he's waiting for his zombie display, but several customers have already come in asking to see it.

Nominations open for commissions

Grain growers in western Kansas who plan to campaign for a seat on one of the state's five grain commodity commissions — corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, wheat or sunflowers — should be gathering petition signatures now to meet the Wednesday, Nov. 30, filing deadline.

The 2012 election will cover the western third of Kansas. Thomas County is in district one, which also includes Cheyenne, Decatur, Graham, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan and Sherman counties.

To be eligible to run for any of the five commodity commissions, the candidate must have been actively engaged in growing corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, wheat or sunflowers within the preceding five years.

Candidates must gather 20 signatures from eligible voters to be included on the 2012 ballot. No more than five signatures from any one county can be used to qualify a candidate. Eligible voters are Kansas residents who will reach age 18 before the election and who have grown corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers or wheat for the last three years.

Candidate registration packets are available from the Kansas Department of Agriculture or the grain commodity commissions.

- Kansas Corn Commission, (785) 448-2626 or www.ksgrains.com/kcc
- Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, (785) 341-6433 or www.ksgrainsorghum.org
- Kansas Soybean Commission at (785) 271-1030 or www.kansassoybeans.com
- Kansas Sunflower Commission, (785) 565-3908 or www.kssunflower.com
- Kansas Wheat Commission, (785) 539-0255 or www.kswheat.com
- Department of Agriculture, (785) 296-3556 or www.ksda.gov/kansas_agriculture/content/152.

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New universe comes to comics

By Matt Moore

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Stan Lee, no stranger to the world of comics, is bringing forth a new universe of characters with 1821 comics that will feature a bevy of new characters with the goal of entertaining and educating children.

Dubbed Stan Lee's Kids Universe, the new imprint is being announced Friday at New York

Comic Con, and will feature new characters including a mischievous team of dogs, a veggie-eating crocodile whose penchant for produce puts him at odds with his carnivorous colleagues and a book that, for the first time, details just what happens when a kitten sees a monster.

The former Marvel Comics editor and 1821's Terry Douglas say the new universe will boast comics, books, games and more as the titles start coming out in 2012.

This is personal.

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Terrence Howard, actor/musician

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