

Screenings coming to Colby for stroke and osteoporosis

Residents living in and around Colby can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke or bone fracture next Monday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds 4-H Building with Life Line Screening. According to the company, stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of permanent disability, and 80 percent of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs prior to their stroke. Screenings can help avoid strokes by identifying potential cardiovascular conditions such as blocked

arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms and hardening of the arteries in the legs, a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered by the company. Packages start at \$159. Screenings take 60 to 90 minutes to complete. For information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call (877) 237-1287 or go to www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Out-of-season flower buds signal loss of dormancy in landscape plants

Some of Wichita's spring daffodils have already bloomed. State-wide, the buds on certain landscape plants have swelled, and a few have actually flowered. "This year's early spells of unusually warm weather fooled those plants. Unfortunately, bud swell is a sure sign that plants have lost virtually all of their winter hardiness. So, between now and spring, extreme cold snaps could be damaging," said Jason Griffin, K-State Research and Extension's horticulture program leader.

hours to around 1,700," he said. "In general, though, plants adapted to colder climates require a longer chilling period than those adapted to warmer zones do. That's why your hardest plants are the least likely to be caught by an early warm spell or late freeze." This year's outcome will depend partly on whether too-early bloomers also produced leaf buds.

fer drought damage during winter, too, and much of Kansas has been dry for quite a while," Griffin said. "Plus, a tree with damaged buds will be even slower to recover if it also has damaged roots." Wintertime irrigation can be challenging, he warned. Frozen soil can't absorb water. Cold soil can.

Ironically, winter's earlier cold weather opened the door for this problem, he said. Deciduous plants must go through a certain number of "chilling hours" before they can bud and grow again. When the balmy days of January arrived, the plants that recently broke dormancy had already been through enough cold to meet their annual chilling requirement. "Chilling hours" are those with temperatures between 32 and 45 degrees, Griffin explained. The number of hours required to meet a plant's needs can vary widely, even within species. "Depending on the variety, for example, apple trees' requirements range from less than 250 chilling

"Losing a year's flowers shouldn't affect plant health," said Griffin, "although it can mean losing a year's fruit production. Losing leaves isn't as common, because leaf buds are hardier. But, if cold kills the little leaf buds you've seen along stems, your healthy plants should survive. They'll just take a while to recover." "From roses to grape vines and trees, woody plants have secondary buds that remain dormant unless and until plants lose their primary leaf buds. Secondary bud growth can make your plants unsightly. But, at least they can continue making food." Plant owners can't do much to help vulnerable plants, other than keep drought from threatening their health further. "Readily available soil moisture is always important. Roots can suf-

Griffin recommends that plant owners test for thawing by trying to push a rod, piece of rebar, or long screwdriver at least a foot into the ground. Just as that kind of rod stops when it reaches dry soil in summer, it will stop when it reaches frozen earth now. "For winter irrigation to do much good, the water needs to reach 8 to 12 inches deep, across the plant's root zone - or, comparatively speaking, at least as far out as a tree canopy's drip line," he said. "To achieve that, you have to irrigate slowly, slowly, slowly, so the soil can absorb every drop. It'll take a while. Again, though, a rod will let you know when moisture has percolated deeply enough." Griffin also is director of K-State's John C. Pair Horticultural Center near Wichita, where he specializes in nursery crops.

Dad was drunk picking up son after DUI

ALTOONA, Pa. (AP) - Police say a central Pennsylvania father was drunk when he drove to a police station to pick up his even drunker son who had been arrested for drunken driving after he was found passed out in his car. Online court records don't list attorneys for 44-year-old David

Peterson Sr. and 24-year-old David Peterson Jr., who list the same home address in Bellwood. The *Altoona Mirror* (bit.ly/yB122G) reports Monday that city police have charged both men with drunken driving and other violations for incidents that occurred early Jan. 20. The elder Peterson

faces a preliminary hearing Feb. 22 and his son on Feb. 15. Police say the father's blood-alcohol content was one-and-a-half times the state's legal limit when he drove to the police station, while his son's was slightly more than double the legal limit.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE
Sunday
 3:07 p.m. - Suspicious incident. All OK, subject had left area. Not found.
 4:56 p.m. - Caller advised a vehicle passed him at high rate of speed northbound in the 400 block of S. Franklin. Not found.
 4:58 p.m. - Caller reported dog at large. Gave warning and turned over to owner.
 6:26 p.m. - Clerk reported man in a semi had vehicle identification number plates covered and was acting strange. Not found.
 8:52 p.m. - Warrant arrest made by Sherman County Sheriff's Office.
Monday
 12:06 a.m. - Provided directions to motorist in the 600 block of Davis.
 6:47 a.m. - Alarm company advised of a panic alarm. Subject said there was someone at her door. Everything OK, management contacted.
 10:10 a.m. - Provided information about rental property.
 11 a.m. - Theft of trailer. Report filed.
 11:26 a.m. - Assisted ambulance crew on call.
 12:09 p.m. - Caller reported two dogs possibly left behind after subjects moved out. Spoke to reporting party, all OK.
 1:01 p.m. - Caller reported receiving scam letter. Provided information.
 2:36 p.m. - Funeral block for Baalmann Mortuary to Beulah Cemetery.
 4:27 p.m. - Caller reported subject hanging out of window of vehicle at Franklin and College. Not found.
 8:27 p.m. - Dog found at Franklin and College turned over to Colby Animal Clinic.
Tuesday
 11:31 a.m. - Theft: caller advised that item purchased over Internet has not been received. Report filed.
 12:59 p.m. - Subject came to station about dog that she said was stolen almost three years ago and was just seen in a vehicle. Spoke to reporting party, vehicle not found.
 1:11 p.m. - Helped ambulance crew on call.
 2:07 p.m. - Lost license plate.

Report filed.
 4:26 p.m. - Removed tarp from roadway in the 400 block of E. Fourth.
 4:31 p.m. - Protective custody report filed.
 5 p.m. - Bicycle in the trees at City Hall.
 11:11 p.m. - Security check at Walmart.
 11:58 p.m. - Assisted Sheriff's Office with traffic stop.
Wednesday
 2:42 a.m. - Security check at Walmart.
 4:31 a.m. - Assisted Sheriff's Office and Highway Patrol at mile 36 on I-70.
 7:13 a.m. - Caller advised items stolen from vehicle. Report filed.
 7:49 a.m. - Caller advised items stolen from vehicle. Report filed.
 7:51 a.m. - Caller advised of accident at 240 N. Copeland. No report.
 8:04 a.m. - Caller advised items stolen. Report filed.
 8:17 a.m. - Caller advised items stolen. Report filed.
 11:27 a.m. - Caller reported break in. Report filed.
 1:36 p.m. - Welfare check.
 2:27 p.m. - Removed debris from roadway on S. Franklin.
 3:44 p.m. - Subject came to station about theft of coat and keys. Report filed.
 9:17 p.m. - Walk-through at the college.
 9:33 p.m. - Minor in possession report filed.
 10 p.m. - Provided security at the Community Building during the game.
 10:40 p.m. - Walk-through at the college.
 11:25 p.m. - Security check at Twister's.
THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF
Tuesday
 12:26 a.m. - Booked Carey O. Alfa.
 12:36 a.m. - Released Alfa.
 12:48 a.m. - Booked Christopher J. Heinen.
 12:56 a.m. - Released Heinen.
 9:37 a.m. - Helped Highway Patrol on traffic stop for drugs at eastbound I-70 mile 49.
 9:46 a.m. - Logan County Sheriff's Office reported injured deer in east ditch U.S. 83 mile 165. Disposed of.
 10:44 a.m. - Booked Wade Ash-ton Roth.
 11:33 a.m. - Booked Jonathan Perry Gibbs.
 1:43 p.m. - Took three inmates to Sherman County Sheriff's Office.
 4:30 p.m. - Booked Rhonda Renee Flinn.
 4:57 p.m. - Served arrest warrant on Fredrick Michael Karrer.
 5:15 p.m. - Accident.
 5:26 p.m. - Released Flinn.
 11:51 p.m. - Caller reported lights on at the fairgrounds with a vehicle on the west end.
 11:55 p.m. - Driving under the influence report filed for traffic stop at Webster and Range. Butch's towed vehicle.
Wednesday
 12:39 a.m. - Booked Megan M. Alcala.
 12:58 a.m. - Released Alcala.
 1:08 a.m. - Booked Jonathan C. McDonald.
 1:25 a.m. - Released McDonald.
 1:34 a.m. - Booked Seth K. Shapland.
 4:21 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious incident and vehicle at the Brewster interchange. Turned over to Highway Patrol.
 5:20 a.m. - Caller reported subjects taking things from residence in Brewster. Spoke to reporting party; notified Sherman County.
 8:02 a.m. - Provided information to motorist.
 9:26 a.m. - Released Shapland.
 11:05 a.m. - Brought inmate from Rawlins County to Law Enforcement Center.
 3 p.m. - Released Karrer.
 4:57 p.m. - Booked Devon McCormick.
 6:42 p.m. - Released Kriss Barton.
 7:03 p.m. - Released Sharla Cotton.
 7:09 p.m. - Released Kayla Watkins.
 7:08 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious activity at residence in Brewster. Spoke with subject.
 10 p.m. - Provided security at the Community Building for the games.
 10:24 p.m. - 911 caller advised she had subject locked in the RV in Brewster. Report filed.

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