

Program targets abuse

Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Secretary Phyllis Gilmore announced a new campaign last Friday that will focus on protection of adults who are vulnerable to abuse or neglect.

Elderly or disabled adults can be targets for physical or financial abuse or neglect from caretakers. The department is responsible for receiving and investigating reports of abuse or neglect.

"It's a tragedy that often times the most vulnerable in our society are abused or taken advantage of," said Gilmore. "Our goal is to educate ... Kansans about the signs of abuse and what they can do to prevent or stop it from occurring."

Signs of adult abuse include bruises, or other physical marks, saying someone hurt them, drastic loss in weight, increased depression or isolation and new problems paying bills.

From July 1 to March 30 there were 11,154 reports of alleged abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult. Of those, 7,632 were assigned for follow-up.

In meetings earlier this year, the department found many Kansans are not aware of protection services designed for adults who are susceptible to abuse or neglect. Through brochures, bookmarks and other printed material, as well as presentations to long-term care facilities, law enforcement, medical practitioners and county attorneys, the agency hopes to grow understanding of the unique factors of adult abuse and neglect.

"Our overall goal is for everyone to know they have a part in helping ensure our vulnerable adults are protected, that they get support and resources they need," Gilmore said.

The campaign will distribute book marks and brochures statewide while coordinating presentations to raise awareness among various groups.

To request an Adult Protection Services presentation, call Leslie Huss, program manager, at (785) 368-8105.

To report suspected abuse of an adult, call the Protection Report Center at (800) 922-5330.

Senior Progress Center

Enjoy a backgammon game Thursday at the Senior Progress Center.

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 10:30 a.m. Skip Bo. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. pinochle game. **Wednesday:** snow cones. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. backgammon game. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 pool game.

Menus for the week: **Monday:** hamburger, potato salad, baked beans, bun, watermelon. **Tuesday:** ham, saucy sweet potatoes, cottage cheese salad, mixed fruit. **Wednesday:** country-fried beef steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, California blend vegetables, gelatin with fruit. **Thursday:** cook's choice entrée, potatoes Romanoff, peas, ambrosia fruit salad. **Friday:** baked fish, macaroni and cheese,

tomatoes and cucumbers, pears.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center. A contribution of \$3 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$5.25 for others. For anyone under 60, home delivery is \$5.75.

Make reservations at (785) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

Red Barn

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 2 p.m. Barnswallows. **Wednesday:** 10 a.m. ladies' Bible study; Doug Todd's birthday. **Thursday:** 2 p.m. "Come On Down." **Friday:** 9:30 a.m. Koffee Klatch; 10:30 a.m. board meeting; 1:30 Red Barn Gang; 2:30 p.m. "Stitch and Chatter."

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Monday
1:42 p.m. - Caller reported possible fight in progress. All OK.

4:13 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle stalled in the 2000 block of S. Range. Not found.

4:16 p.m. - Caller reported mailbox hit by tractor.

7:01 p.m. - Sexual battery report on file.

Tuesday
2:51 a.m. - Caller reported subject in violation of protection from abuse order. Report filed.

4:08 a.m. - Removed trash can from street in the 1100 block of W. Fifth St.

6:08 a.m. - Picked up two dogs at Franklin and Pine; turned over to Colby Animal Clinic.

8:38 a.m. - Removed debris from road at Country Club Dr. and Summit.

1:38 p.m. - Caller advised of customer involved in a scam. Spoke to reporting party and victim, no report.

1:45 p.m. - Caller reported graffiti. Nothing there; reporting party spoken to.

11:15 p.m. - Welfare check.

Wednesday
1:06 a.m. - Caller reported vehicle taken. No report, vehicle there.

3:17 a.m. - Removed a trash can from the street at Third and Franklin.

7:58 a.m. - Caller reported tenant moving out and destroying apartment, stealing items. No report.

8:55 a.m. - Helped ambulance

crew.
8:19 a.m. - Child in need of care report filed.

11:40 p.m. - Alcohol violation: caller reported a party with minors. Party dispersed.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Monday
3:39 p.m. - Booked Aaron Nichols.

Tuesday
1:30 a.m. - Caller reported domestic conflict at County Rd. 11. Report filed.

4 a.m. - Took subject to Larned State Hospital at 11:44 p.m. Monday.

12:56 p.m. - Brought prisoner from Rawlins County to Colby.

4:44 p.m. - Kirt Dugger arrested on warrant.

Wednesday
12:22 a.m. - Booked Timothy W. Uhrich.

2:27 a.m. - 911 caller reported he had been walking on U.S. 83 by the Mingo road and needed assistance. Located subject and took to Gem.

10:37 a.m. - Released Ladana Boleware.

12:09 p.m. - Subject called 911, advised of semi losing trailer on north K-25.

2:43 p.m. - Provided traffic control on north K-25 for above call.

3:34 p.m. - Released Aaron L. Nichols.

5:51 p.m. - Released Craig Hillman.

8:05 p.m. - Kily Miller arrested on warrant.

8:31 p.m. - Booked Miller.



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press
Even between activities, the Senior Progress Center is a popular place to gather with friends, as seen with this group visiting together this morning.

New doors, cooks join Senior Center

By Marian Ballard
Colby Free Press
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There's change on the wind these days at the Senior Progress Center, with new technology and new faces making an appearance.

After about five years of fund raisers, with the final boost coming as a grant from the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, new handicapped-accessible doors costing about \$5,000 have been installed on the east entrance. The work was finished Monday, said Center Director Kaila DeBoer.

The automatic doors will give easier access to the center for those who use walkers or canes or simply have trouble opening heavy doors.

The center serves about 25 seniors each day who come

for activities and meals, along with providing an office for the Retired and Senior Volunteers Program and being the regular distribution site for U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities. It is also available to rent out.

Along with the new doors, Monday saw a new staff member as well. Sharon Lanning began that day as a new cook. She joins Frances Griego who is also fairly new to the senior center, having begun in the kitchen in May. Both women say they are enjoying the work so far.

"The ladies are a welcome addition to the center," said DeBoer, "and we're so excited to have them on board."

In addition to serving hot noon meals five days a week, the center cooks for Meals on Wheels here, as well as for the senior centers in Hoxie and Oakley.



Frances Griego (standing) and Sharon Lanning have been enjoying their work as the new cooks at the center.

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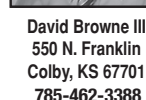
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