

Identity theft threatens anyone; hints can help safeguard children

This week I'd like to write to those who have children or youth they care about. Did you know that criminals are now stealing children's identities as well as adults?

Some of the principles to prevent this are the same for adults as for children. Do not give out your date of birth, Social Security number, birth certificate or personal information on bank accounts, medical IDs, school ID, etc.

Another way is to be sure and conduct online transactions from a secured Internet site or secured wireless connection. You can tell if a website is secure if it has an address that begins with "https" not just "http." It is the "s" that announces its security.

Do not leave your computers unprotected. Make sure you have antivirus and firewalls to prevent others from invading your computer from the outside. Be careful of transactions using your smart phone, tablet or iPad. Make sure they are password protected and secure as well. It is easy to buy and conduct business through handheld devices, but it is also easy to steal identity using wireless service. Explain this to your child.

What are some clues that a child's identity may have been stolen?

Has your home or vehicle been broken into? Has your child's identity been breached on a da-



Melany Wilks

•Library Links

tabase? Have you had collection calls from credit card companies, bill collectors or medical collections? Have you received an offer to apply for a credit card in your child's name? Has your child or family been denied government services because benefits are being paid to another account?

Has your child never worked, but a government agency asked to confirm that your child is employed? After you file your tax return listing your child as a dependent, did you get a letter saying the child's information is listed on another tax return? This is a dead giveaway for adults, too. Has your child gotten a notice about failure to pay taxes on income?

Have you received a notice from your medical insurance for services your child did not have? Also, remember, the IRS and Social Security Administration will never contact you initially by e-mail.

If you find your child's identity has been stolen, file a report with the Federal Trade Commission, a local police report and an initial fraud alert with the three credit agencies. You may also place a

freeze on their credit reports. Other things you may need to consider is applying for a new Social Security number, a new medical identity for your child, a new driver's license.

If you learn your child's Social Security number has been used, call the Specialized Identity Theft Protection Unit at (800) 908-4490 and complete an Identity Theft Affidavit (IRS form 14039). Checking your teenager's credit report at age 16 or just before he or she gets a job, buys a car or applies for tuition help is also suggested.

I have ordered brochures on this; you will find them on the display case as soon as we receive them. The information comes from "Safeguarding Your Child's Future," Federal Trade Commission, May 2012 (FTC.Gov/idtheft).

Now let's get to fun topics — books we are adding.

I have room to tell you about two westerns. The first is "South by Southwest: A Western Story," by Johnny D. Boggs, a recent Spur Award-winning author. In this book protagonist Zebulon Hogan supposedly dies of typhoid pneumonia. Soldiers Favor and Gardnhire wrap up his body and tell the Confederate guards he has died.

They take his frail body and bury him in a shallow grave. In the dark of the night, Zeb Hogan begins to dig his way out of his grave. He is on a mission to kill

the traitor Ben DeVere who turned on his men and landed them in the Florence Stockade.

The next western is named "City of Rocks," by Michael Zimmer, who has written three other books in the last three years. This western is a mix of story and history. Zimmer has taken excerpts out of the American Legends Collection and written from this recorded history of the Old West about happenings and persons in Pocatello, Idaho.

Zimmer himself grew up on a small horse ranch in Colorado and lives in Utah. He has a library that contains over 2,000 volumes covering the area west of the Mississippi from the late 1700s to the early decades of the 20th century. He also has taken time to master many skills used by our forefathers such as starting a campfire with flint and steel, gathering and surviving on natural foods found in the wilderness and building shelters as diverse as bark lodges and snow caves. He owns Old West firearms and has done horseback treks using 19th-century gear.

As the days and nights get cool, remember to come and check out a book, magazine, audiobook, videotape or DVD to enjoy. Our fall hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday, to 5 p.m. Friday and to 4 p.m. Saturday. Sunday hours are 1 to 4 p.m.

See you in the library!

Deaths

Joyce Joan Johnson

Joyce Joan Johnson, 85, Colby, died Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

She was born Feb. 4, 1927, in McPherson, the daughter of Tobias and Emma Smith.

Preceding her in death were her parents; three brothers, Vernon Smith, Clifford Smith and Raymond Smith; and a daughter, Sandra.

Survivors include her husband LeeVern Johnson, a son, Michael Lee Johnson, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012, at the Trinity United Methodist Church of Lindsborg, with burial in Elmwood Cemetery of Lindsborg.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at Christians Funeral Home, 103 N. Washington in Lindsborg.

The family suggests memorials to Citizens Medical Center in Colby, in care of the funeral home, Box 386, Lindsborg, Kan., 67456.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.Christians-FuneralHome.com.

Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club

President Brennan Ziegelmeier called the monthly meeting of the Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club to order at 7 p.m. Sept. 3 at the Thomas County 4-H Building. Shelby Crampton led the flag salute and Donna Lamb led in singing "If You're Happy and You Know It." Fifteen members answered roll with their favorite vehicle. Katie Nelson and Trista Urban were visitors.

Secretary Josh Koon read the minutes from the June and July meetings, which were approved as read.

Reports of officers were given by Cassie Wells, reporter, Josh Koon, council representative, and Donna Lamb, community leader. After a

short business meeting members took a short break for recreation lead by Kinley Ziegelmeier.

Officers were elected for the year. They are: Jory Koon, president; Hallie Vaughn, junior president; Brooke Ziegelmeier, vice president; Tylor Todd, junior vice president; Taylor Todd, secretary; Lakin Denny, junior secretary; Tucker Gerstner, treasurer; Kailley Shields, historian; and Cassie Wells, reporter.

The song leaders and recreation leaders will be selected before installation next month.

Brooke Ziegelmeier announced the program for October and the meeting was adjourned.

—Cassie Wells, reporter

Tax credit program award to hospital

Citizens Medical Center Inc. has been awarded \$200,000 in tax credits from the Department of Commerce through the Community Services Tax Credit Program.

This is the fourth tax credit award the company has received. The first award was in 2002 for the expansion of the diagnostic services area. In 2005 the award was used to expand Family Center for Health Care and in 2009 the tax credits helped replace outdated heating and air conditioning systems at the hospital.

The award will have a net benefit of \$285,000. It will be used

toward our health care expansion campaign and the further expansion of the clinic.

The medical center anticipates the demand for these credits to be high. Because of the rural designation, participants in the program will receive 70 percent of their total donation as a direct tax credit against any Kansas state income tax liability.

If you are interested in tax credits through this program, talk to Tama Unger in the Citizens Foundation Office, 100 E. College Drive in Colby or call 460-1214.

Meadow Lake Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners for Tuesday were: Gail Vacca, first; Dave Ulmer, second; Jean Snyder,

third; Elaine Ptacek, fourth; Sarah Jane Barrett, fifth; Barb Ulmer, sixth; and Joy Davis, seventh.

Send local news to colby.society@nwkansas.com

Golden Plains first grade gets grant

Mindy Christensen, Golden Plains Elementary School first grade teacher, recently won a grant of \$420 from the McDonald's Classroom Grants program, now entering its 25th year.

The grant is for "Read Together Take-Home Packs," a set of 16 backpacks containing a book, engaging manipulatives, thought-provoking question cards and a journal.

"These fun, hands-on interactive activities will assist parents in getting involved in their child's learning by reading and writing with

their child plus having a little fun," said Christensen.

The program has made 364 grants totaling over \$128,500 in 25 years, awarded to teachers in 65 schools in 13 northwest Kansas counties.

"Butterfly Garden," "M&M: More Math," "Palco's Little Einsteins," "Take One This Evening (T.O.T.E.)," and "Ebb and Flow Hydroponic System" are just a few of the projects that will be implemented in classrooms across

the area through the 2012-2013 grants cycle. Twelve grant applications were awarded funding.

Ensuring continued progress toward educational excellence remains a high priority with Rick and Gail Kuehl, owners of McDonald's of Colby, North Hays, Russell, South Hays and WaKeeney.

Grant applications were reviewed by a committee of business owners and educators and selected based on specific criteria.

Indiana study shows health majors have best shot at jobs

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — An Indiana University study has found that what people studied in college had a direct effect on their chances of employment during the Great Recession.

People with degrees in health, education and biology/life sciences had the best chance of getting and holding a job from 2009 to 2010, according to the recent study by the Indiana Business Research Center at IU's at Kelley School of Business. Only one out of every 44 graduates in those fields found themselves unemployed, according to the data.

However, the odds of employment were against those with degrees related to architecture, industrial arts, consumer service and engineering. One of every 13 graduates in those fields experienced some period of unemployment from 2009 to 2010.

Yodeling back

VIENNA (AP) — In one part of Austria, the hills are again alive with a particular sound of music — yodeling.

The Alpine country has inaugurated a new hiker's path where participants are invited to let loose with an occasional melodic mountain yell.

Organizers say it's push-button easy: at rest stops along the way, hikers press a knob and hear a recorded yodel in two-part harmony. They can also listen to each part separately and decide which one to try.

Local yodeler and hotel owner Christian Eder came up with the idea. He told state broadcaster ORF Monday that it is an attempt "to get people to loosen up a bit with a simple yodel."

The study used data from the Indiana Workforce Intelligence System to examine the employment history of 178,000 people living in Indiana who graduated from state public colleges and universities.

People with health-related majors stood the best chance of landing a job after graduation, regardless of degree level, *The Herald-Times* reports (bit.ly/T7ir40).

Timothy Slaper, director of economic analysis for the IU Business Research Center and a co-author of the study, said the results were fairly consistent with a similar study last year by Georgetown University.

"The more advanced the degree, the greater the chance of short-term unemployment," the IU researchers wrote. "Compared to other levels of degree attainment, sub-baccalaureate graduates had wider ranges of unemployment

Corrections

In an article on Page 1 of the Friday, Sept. 7, *Colby Free Press*, titled "Quilting tradition continues," there was incorrect information about the quilt being given to Chris Griffin, museum employee. Griffin will keep the quilt and make a monetary donation. This was an editing error.

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The article "Leader steals \$16,300 from Colby Cub Scouts" on Page 1 of the Wednesday, Sept. 12, *Colby Free Press* contained two misleading statements. Dismissed leader Gary Schuette actually used stolen money to pay the taxes on his house, not to help buy the house. Also, though Boy Scout Troop 140 has met in the gym of Sacred Heart Catholic School at times, Cub Scout Pack

probability," the study added.

But industrial arts and engineering graduates often found their time without work could be relatively brief.

"What was most interesting to me was that, while those who were in engineering had a relatively high unemployment rate, in comparison to others, they also tended to find another job more quickly," Slaper said.

However, architects had both high and prolonged unemployment, which *The Herald-Times* said was likely related to a decline in new construction during the recession. Slaper said those jobs will likely resurface as the economy recovers.

Slaper said the study showed the importance of watching for trends in employment as the economy evolves.

"You look at the aging baby

140 meets at the Colby United Methodist Church. These were reporting errors.

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The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$8.32
Corn (bushel)	\$7.44
Milo (hundredweight)	\$13.20
Soybeans (bushel)	\$16.45

Thank You

A huge Thank You to all who sent a card, called, or stopped by to help me celebrate my 90th birthday. It was such a treat to visit with or hear from family & friends. You all blessed me and I pray for blessings to all of you.

~Cecillia M. Allen~

Lets Celebrate! Joy Davis is 90

American Legion
Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012
5 - 7 p.m. Meet & Greet
7 - 9 p.m. Dance



THANK YOU

The High Plains Shrine Club would like to thank all the players and the following donors & hole sponsors for making our golf tournament a success!

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