

Kids need to 'know the rules' to avoid going missing

With school out, kids have so much time on their hands. They probably have planned, if they haven't gone already, to go swimming, skateboarding, camping, walking, to the park, play ball or just hang out.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children want you and your kids to KNOW THE RULES and live by them:

1. Don't go out alone. There is safety in numbers, and this rule isn't just for little kids — it applies to everyone. We are always safer if we take a friend, sister or brother.

2. Always tell an adult where you're going; letting someone know where you'll be at all times is smart. If you're faced with a risky situation or get into trouble, your family and friends will know where to find you.

3. Say "no" if you feel threatened. If someone, anyone, touches you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable, you have the right to say no. Whether it is peer pressure about



cris lovington

• prevention center

sex, drugs or doing something that you know is wrong, be strong and stand your ground. Don't be afraid to make your feelings known.

Teenagers, 12-19, especially girls, are the most victimized segment of the population in the United States. Everybody thinks it just happens to little kids. Well, it doesn't just happen to them. It happens to you and your friends and kids you know at school. Sometimes it happens and nobody finds out because no one talks about it. WRONG. If it happens to you, talk about it with an adult you trust.

We know, these rules are pretty basic, pretty common sense. Kids probably feel they've heard them a

they mean?

We are going to talk about two girls. You may be thinking, "I know this stuff, but it can't happen to me."

Well, it can happen to you and girls just like you, just like it happened to these two girls. Here are their stories:

Laura Smither, Friendswood, Texas, was a bright, loving 12-year-old who trusted her friends. She was cautious about strangers and new situations. She lived in a small town where everyone felt safe, in a neighborhood where everyone knew each other. Crime is often like that — we always think that it happens somewhere else, but it doesn't.

On April 3, 1997, as her mom was

making breakfast, Laura went out alone for a quick jog in her rural neighborhood

She never returned. A massive local, regional and national search was conducted for her. Laura's remains were found 17 days later about 20 miles from her home.

What can we learn from Laura's story? She was wise and careful, and like her friends, she thought that she was safe in her own hometown. That's the way we all want to grow up, but we have to KNOW THE RULES.

Don't Go Out Alone — THINK ABOUT IT before you go. Remember that if you can avoid situations that put you at risk in the first place, you're already one step ahead.

Maria de Los Angeles Martinez, Phoenix, was 17 years old in 1990 when she decided she wanted to earn some extra money. So, she advertised over a local radio station in Phoenix for a babysitting job.

A man responded to her ad, came to pick her up one morning, and she

has not been seen since.

Always Tell An Adult Where You're Going — Not long after the man picked Maria up, she made a nervous telephone call to her parents asking them to come and get her, but before she could give them an address, the telephone was disconnected.

Again, THINK ABOUT IT. NEVER, EVER go somewhere with someone you don't know. This includes hitching rides. This includes babysitting for anyone without getting information about the family like where they live and even some references about them FIRST. Leave a telephone number and an address with your family BEFORE you go.

Say "No" If You Feel Threatened — Girls face a lot of situations today that put them in uncomfortable spots. You're constantly having to make decisions for yourself and are faced with peer pressure about anything from who your friends are, male or female, to exposure to drugs

and sex.

Listen to your intuition and follow your best judgment. If your friends are making bad decisions, you don't have to. Have the confidence to say "no" if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable about anything.

Now you know the rules. You may have always known them, but now you really get them. They're like bells that go off in your head when you're faced with a risky situation. They can't get you out of every tough spot, but they might keep you from getting into one.

We know you're SMART and STRONG and ready to TAKE ON THE WORLD. Go do it, just use your head FIRST. Know the rules. From now on, these are your rules for life.

Sites for statistical research can be found on www.missingkids.com

Community stunned by horrible accident, three deaths

"My God, My God," was all that came out of my mouth when Gary came over around 7 p.m. to tell me about that horrible accident just a couple of hours before.

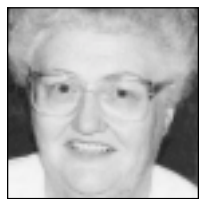
He debated about coming over but finally felt he had to so I wouldn't hear about it in some conversation. To say I was in shock and stunned beyond rational thinking was an understatement.

He so kindly stayed with me until 9 p.m. when Bud and Pat came over. Father Hal stayed until after 10, as did the Perreys. A few phone calls came in, and all said, "She knows; she can't talk and is crying."

The Beynons called me around 10:30 or so, when they got home and saw the recorder was blinking.

The tears were flowing again, and I was just washed out. Sleep didn't come for any length of time; I prowled around the house and just spent a fitful night.

Finally, I fell asleep, and when I awoke, I hoped it had been a dream. No such luck. I worked with Mary 16 years with Dr. Beynon, and you



jan zwetzig

• goodland gazette

develop a bond that you really can't define.

Knowing her mother and daughter made it even harder to try and understand why this had to be. Those two little kids had their tidy world smashed to pieces, pieces that will never fit together right again.

All I can say is may the Almighty be with them as they try to put their lives together following this senseless act.

So the start of this week was a painful one, not only these deaths, but my ribs are aching again. I guess all the stress on me was more than the growling ribs could take. I have had to rest more than in the weeks before.

Even as I work on this column, they are really growling, and I will

have to give in and get off my feet for a few minutes. God, will I be ready for a day of not so much pain and discomfort from those ribs.

This column isn't going to be too long, as I'm not in the mood to do anything more than what is absolutely necessary. I talked to the doctor on Monday, and he said to hang tough, as it will get better very shortly.

I got a card from former residents

public notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS FILED PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 60 (Pertains to Real Estate)

Food Services of America, Inc., Plaintiff,

vs.

Tim Heier d/b/a Safari Steak House, Defendants.

Case No. 00 C 24

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

To Whom It May Concern:

Notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court of Sherman County, Kansas, pursuant to a judgment and decree rendered therein under date of May 11, 2000, in an action then and there pending, wherein Food Services of America, Inc., is plaintiff and Tim Heier d/b/a Safari Steak House, defendant the same being case numbered 00-C-24, and to me, the undersigned, Sheriff of said county, directed. I will offer for sale at public auction, and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the front door of the courthouse in the city of Goodland, in said county, on the 13th day of July, 2004, at 10 o'clock a.m. of said day, the fol-

Ray and Clare Marie Fixsen, who now live in Nebraska to be closer to their daughter Lucille. Lucille and her family took them to Texas for their grandson's graduation. They said they had a nice trip and visit. The grandson belongs to their son Lewis. It's always so good to hear from them all, as they were some of our first friends when we came to Goodland.

My friend Lucille told me that Corrine Carlson came from Arizona for the weekend activities at the technical college. They lived across the street from us when we were on

lowing described real estate, situated in the county of Sherman and State of Kansas, to wit:

Lot Two (2), in Block Four (4), in the Eastridge Addition No. 1 to the City of Goodland, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof

Said property is taken as the property of said defendant and will be sold to satisfy the Judgment of said plaintiff, Food Services of America, Inc., against said defendant in the sum of \$23,425.93 plus costs of \$66.50 and interest at the rate of 10% per annum; and that there remains due the sum of \$22,751.70 together with the fees for execution of the writ, and for the costs and accruing costs of said action; and that said real estate will be sold subject to a period of redemption as by law in such case made and provided.

Doug Whitson
Sherman County Sheriff

Perry Warren
1015 Center P.O. Box 718
Goodland, KS 67735
(785) 899-3142
Attorney for Plaintiff

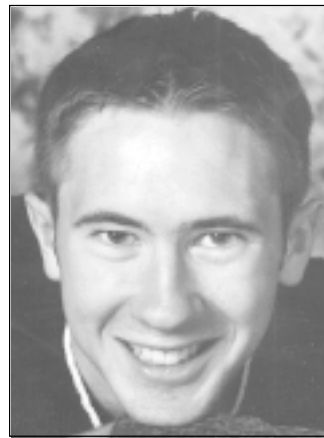
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13th before we moved into our current home.

Her husband Byron is deceased but was an instructor at the college at the time, and she worked with Dr. McCullough at the same time. A lot of water, some very rough, under the bridge since then.

I see nothing else, so I will get this ready for the paper. See you all later. Take care until then.

student of the week



Name: Josef Felver

Parents: Jon and Elaine Felver

Grade: Senior

Age: 18

We've nominated this student because: Josef is a leader in X-Pressos and the past musicals. He is a very good representative of our school and community.

Student Comment: When I think back to my years at Goodland High School I will always remember the short term exchanges through American Field Service, and I don't see how all the incred-

ible times in X-Pressos could ever be overshadowed by the curtains of time.

Activities involved in at school: American Field Service, National Honor Society, X-Pressos, band, fall musicals and track.

My choice of movies, books, and games: My favorite movies are of the horror/mystery type (but too many to mention). I like rock music, my favorite bands are Finch and Switchfoot. My favorite book is Stephen King's "The Stand" and my favorite game is Max Payne.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: Attend Southwestern College and study physics and philosophy.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Happily exploring the meaning of life less ordinary.

Favorite Quote: "Nurture your thoughts with great thoughts; to believe in the heroic makes heroes." Anon

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