

# One in four crashes killing children involves alcohol

The Kansas Drunk Driving Prevention Office is sharing a couple of very important bits of information with every Kansan:

1. Alarming information has recently been released regarding the number of children killed in alcohol-related crashes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that motor-vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children older than one but younger than 18. In addition, one in four crash-related deaths among child passengers, ages 0-14, involves alcohol use.

The CDC analyzed data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System of the National Highway Traffic



## cris lovington

- prevention center

Safety Administration to summarize the occurrence of child passenger deaths involving drinking drivers during 1997-2002.

Of the 2,335 children who died in alcohol-related crashes nationally, 68 percent, or 1,588, were riding with drinking drivers, and the majority of these children were not restrained.

was a range of 0.01 to 0.65. The majority of drivers in these crashes survived.

The report further indicates that for all child-passenger deaths, including those not involving drinking drivers, the use of child-passenger restraint decreased as both the child's age and blood alcohol content of the child's driver increased.

In order to address this issue of alcohol-related crash fatalities among child passengers, communities are encouraged to implement effective strategies to reduce alcohol-impaired driving, especially among drivers who transport children.

Strategies include sobriety checkpoints, lower legal blood alcohol contents, administrative license suspension and mandatory substance-abuse assessment/treatment for persons convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Families and caregivers can reduce the risk to child passengers by adopting a "zero tolerance" policy regarding alcohol consumption when transporting children.

Health-care providers can help care-givers avoid injury risks to children by counseling them against drinking and driving, by screening patients for alcohol-related problems and by providing them with intervention or referral for treatment, as needed.

2. Effective July 1, several changes have taken effect relevant to criminal statutes addressing underage drinking.

A parent or guardian, who knowingly permits consumption of alcoholic or cereal malt beverages by persons under the age of 18 on their property, will be charged with a class B person misdemeanor, for which the minimum fine is \$200.

Young people under the age of 21 who violate Kansas' Minor in Possession Law multiple times will now find themselves with a suspended drivers license for 90 days (second offense) or one year (third and subsequent offenses). The first conviction results in a 30-day suspension.

Driver's licenses issued to individuals under the age of 21 are now produced in a vertical format with color bars under the photo indicating the date at which the bearer turns 18 or 21. Law enforcement; retailers of age-sensitive products, such as tobacco and alcohol; and others will benefit from the new licenses that provide greater security from fraud.

# Alcohol abuse among elderly often masked by common ailments

Alcohol abuse in the elderly is sometimes called a hidden epidemic because its symptoms often mimic or are masked by common physical and mental infirmities of aging, such as lessened alertness, depression, anxiety and diminished physical capacity.

Also, doctors rarely ask their elderly patients when and how much they drink or what effect it has on their lives. Various circumstances common among older people can increase the risk of alcohol abuse, even in someone who has never had a previous alcohol problem.

Retirement may result in a loss of structure, self-esteem and income and an increase in loneliness and boredom. Other losses such as spouses, friends, physical well-being or independence as well as pain or sleep problems may also prompt older people to turn to alcohol.



## high plains mental health

- plain sense

The effects of a given amount of alcohol can be greatly exaggerated in an older person because the physical body that is consuming alcohol at age 65 or older is not the same as the one that drank at age 45.

In addition, as people age, there is a decline in a stomach enzyme that starts to break down alcohol before it reaches the bloodstream. Blood alcohol levels in older people are typically 30 to 40 percent higher than in younger people who consume the same amount of alcohol.

But even at equivalent blood alcohol levels, older people are more

likely than the middle aged to experience intoxication, cognitive difficulties and problems with balance and coordination. In other words,

tolerance for alcohol declines, and the risks of excessive drinking rise with age. In addition, an older person who takes medication for arthritis, depression, hypertension, heart disease and other ailments can also be at increased risk, as even the moderate intake of alcohol can re-

sult in negative interactions with these medications.

Contributed by Cora Lee Pfannenstiel, Consultation and Education Department.

The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replace-

ment for seeking professional help.

Mail questions to: High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, Consultation and Education Department, 208 East Seventh, Hays, Kan. 67601.

Internet site: [www.highplainsmentalhealth.com](http://www.highplainsmentalhealth.com).

## 4-H news

The meeting of the Beaver Valley 4-H Club was called to order at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 13, at Steever Park.

It was a very informal meeting. It was decided what to do for the float and to call and see who all was going to be on it.

It was also decided to have a pot luck and tour at the July 11th meet-

ing. Everyone is to bring one dish and their drinks.

Kyle Stefan brought his dog Bo for everyone to see. There was nothing else, so the meeting was adjourned by saying the 4-H motto, and refreshments were served by Paige Phillips.

Reported by Paige Phillips

## VOTE "WRIGHT" on August 3



Energetic and Experienced Leadership

**CRYSTAL (Linsner) WRIGHT**  
Sherman County Treasurer

Paid for by Patty Eckhardt, treasurer

# Dr Ferris 2x7.5 in back

### Worship warms the heart

**Calvary Gospel Church**  
**Pastor:** Rev. Steve Rains  
Fourth & College • 899-3605  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Morning Service: 10:30 am  
Small Group Ministries  
**Wednesday:** Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.  
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
**Pastor:** Father Norbert Dlabal  
307 W. 13th • 899-7205  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment  
**Mass Schedule:**  
**Saturday:** 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am  
**Spanish Mass:**  
1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

**Sonrise Christian Church**  
Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398  
**Minister:** Tony Kafka  
**Youth Minister:** Doug Bean  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9:30 am  
Sunday School: 10:45 am  
**Wednesday:**  
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm  
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

**Word of Life Foursquare Church**  
10th & Clark • 899-5250  
**Pastor:** John Coumerilh  
**Service Schedule:**  
**Sunday:** Worship Celebration and Kids' Church: 10:30 am  
First Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!  
Grades 1 through 5: 7 p.m.

**Pleasant Home Church**  
**Serving the rural community for over 100 years**  
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70  
**Pastor:** Charlie Busch  
694-2242  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 am  
Sunday School: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm

**Bible Baptist Church**  
**Pastor:** Glenn Hermanson  
Fifth & Broadway  
899-7368  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Morning Service: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO  
(719) 346-7984  
**Sacrament Meeting:** 10 am  
**Sunday School:** 11:15 am  
**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 12 am

**Iglesia Del Dios Vivo**  
La Luz Del Mundo  
Spanish Speaking Church  
**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.  
1601 Texas • 899-5275  
**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

**United Methodist Church Brewster:**  
**Pastor:**  
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST  
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST  
**Winona:**  
**Minister:** Rev. Bob Winters  
Worship Service: 9 am CST  
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**Pastor:** Loren Strait  
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 10:30 am  
**Sunday School:** 9:15 a.m.  
**Activities:** Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship  
**Special Notice:** Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

**Kanorado United Methodist Church**  
**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
399-2468  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Worship Service: 10:15 am

**Church of the Nazarene**  
**Pastor:** Bob Willis  
Third & Caldwell  
899-2080 or 899-3797  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:50 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 pm

**First United Methodist Church**  
1116 Sherman  
899-3631  
**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Hernandez  
**Saturday:** Informal Worship: 5:30 pm  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Worship Service: 10:30 am

**Goodland Bible Church**  
109 Willow Road • 899-6400  
**Pastor:** Chad DeJong  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:30 am  
Morning Worship: 10:45 am  
Evening Worship: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
**Pastor:** John Meckling  
Fifth & Center • 899-3450  
**Sunday:** Sunday School for all ages: 9:15 am (Child care provided)  
Morning Worship: 10:30 am  
**Wednesday:** Bible study 7 p.m.  
Call church for information  
**Thursday:** Bible study 9:30 a.m.  
Wheatridge Center

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
13th & Center  
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969  
**Priest:** Father Hal Lycett  
**Holy Eucharist:** 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
10:00 a.m. Thursday  
**Morning Prayer:** 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.  
For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969  
Sr. Warden for emergencies  
Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

**Grace Fellowship Church**  
104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423  
**Pastor:** Bob Snyder •  
Residence: 890-0134  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am  
Worship Service: 11 am  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 pm  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 7 pm

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
1160 Cattletrail  
**Pastor:** Jim Martin  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 11 am

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
13th & Sherman • 890-6161  
**Pastor:** Scott Grimshaw  
**Sunday:** Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m.  
Worship Service: 9 am  
**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 pm

**Church of Christ**  
401 Caldwell  
899-6185  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 pm

### The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

**Short & Son Trucking**  
Hwy. 24

**Koons Funeral Chapel**  
North Main

**Atens Department Store**  
1103 Main

**Good Samaritan Center**  
208 W. 2nd

**KLOE/KKCS/KWGB**  
3023 W. 31

**Bateman Funeral Home**  
211 E. 11th