

Parent questions video games

Dear "Plain Sense: I hear so many differing opinions about how children are affected by playing video games. My own children play, and I see no harm. Should I be more concerned?

There is a lot of information available about the effects of children playing video games. Magazine articles and books, television news reports, Internet resources and scientific research attempt to cover this topic. And opinions differ, which is why it is important to be a well-informed parent.

A recent report from the Kaiser Family foundation (www.kff.org), which supports children's issues, examines both positive and negative effects on children who play video games.

On the positive side, some games have been found to improve skills such as spatial visualization and visual attention in children. More negatively, some studies indicate that playing violent video games significantly increases aggressive behaviors in preadolescents and adolescents.

Some people believe that video games have a negative effect on healthy child development, even



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feeling that violent video games teach kids to hurt and kill. Then there are others who feel that such video games provide an appropriate outlet for anger and emotions.

As with any type of children's activity, the adults in their lives need to be well-aware and involved, including monitoring the content of video games and time spent in playing.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following:

- Limit children's screen time, that is, television, videos, computer and video games.

- Keep children's bedrooms "media free."
- Keep violent video games out of homes where they may be observed or played by young children.

We do know that children's time on the computer, watching television and playing video games can interfere with completing home-

work, as well as reduce the amount of time spent in social activities with peers.

And children are certainly influenced by the content of the media, a great deal of which is unrealistically portrayed. Parents need to help children understand the differences between media games and real life.

Being a positive role model and teaching children the basic values of caring and respect for human life will help offset the negative messages they receive through video games and other such media.

Contributed by Karen D. Beery, Consultation and Education Department.

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

obituaries

Ally Emery

Alice Emery, 89, of Boulder, Colo., a former Goodland resident, died Wednesday, March 26, 2003, in a Boulder nursing home.

She was born May 3, 1913, in Cheyenne, Wyo., the daughter of Charles William and Mary Katherine (Monnunger) Young. On Oct. 6, 1961, she married Charles Author Emery in Denver. He died May 6, 1988.

Mrs. Emery lived in Goodland for two years, moving to Denver from Wyoming in 1929. She moved to Lafayette, Colo., in 1977 and to Boulder, Colo., in 2001.

She worked in the cafeteria at the University of Colorado all her working life, retiring in her early 70s. She was a member of the South Broadway Christian Church in Denver and the Lafayette Senior Center. She was a big fan of the Denver Broncos and the Colorado State University Rams, and enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Also preceding her in death were her parents, two sisters and a brother.

Survivors include two sons, Gene Emery of the western slope of Colorado and Larry Emery of Polson, Mont.; two daughters, Doris Chapput of Abilene and Rhonda Sieck of Goodland; 15 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in Kansas at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Lion's Club of Denver, 5840 E. Evans Ave., Unit 302, Denver, Colo., 80222.

Darrell Howe Mortuary of Lafayette is in charge of arrangements.

Marjorie Johnson

Marjorie Johnson, 96, a retired Wallace County teacher, died Thursday, March 27, 2003, at a retirement community in Topeka.

She was born July 9, 1906, in Hays, the daughter of William and Myrtle Applebaugh. She attended grade school in Alva, Okla., and high school in Minneapolis, Kan. She received a Bachelor of Music and Education degree from Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina in 1930.

On Aug. 7, 1940, she married Lawrence Johnson in Sharon Springs. He died in 1979.

Mrs. Johnson taught in a country school in Saline County for two years and at a country school in Wallace County for three years. In 1953, she became a grade school teacher in Sharon Springs and continued for 15 years as the music

teacher, also teaching fourth grade and special education.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church both in Sharon Springs and in Topeka.

Survivors include two sons, Lt. Col. (retired) Donald (Ann) Johnson of Mission, Texas, and Robert "Oly" (Linda) Johnson of Goodland; four grandsons; a granddaughter; and five great-grandchildren.

Private family services were held at the church in Topeka. Graveside services will be at 9 a.m. Friday, April 4, 2003, at the Sharon Springs Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the church in Sharon Springs, 520 W. Sixth, Sharon Springs, Kan. 67758, or Heart of America Hospice, 3715 S.W. 29th, Topeka, Kan. 66614.

Bateman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Ivan 'Deke' Jones

Memorial service for Ivan "Deke" Jones, 82, a former Kanorado farmer, will be at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 5, 2003, at Bateman Funeral Home with Pastor Loren Strait officiating. Burial will follow in the Goodland Cemetery.

Mr. Jones died Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2003, at the Kent Healthcare Center in Kent, Ohio, where he had lived since October.

He was born April 15, 1920, in Kanorado, the youngest son of John C. and Winona (Germann) Jones. He attended school in Kanorado, participating in sports. He and his five brothers were known for their traveling Jones Basketball Team.

After serving in the Army during World War II, Mr. Jones returned to Kanorado, where he and his wife Dorothy farmed and raised their three sons. In 1980, they moved to Goodland.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his wife, five brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include three sons, Richard B. Jones of Shady Grove, Ore., Jonnie M. Jones of Stow, Ohio, and David R. Jones of Aurora,

Ohio; a sister, Evelyn; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the nursing home, 1290 Fairchild Ave., Kent, Ohio 44240.

Violet Shahan

Violet Estelene Shahan, 88, Bird City, a retired teacher, died Friday, March 21, 2003, at the Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte, Neb.

She was born Aug. 4, 1914, in Bird City, the daughter of Earl and Carmen (Foe) Patterson. She attended schools in the Bird City area and graduated from Bird City High School. In 1936, she married Kenneth Shahan in Goodland.

She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Denver in 1961. She taught at both country and town schools in Kansas for about 40 years. She is remembered by former students as an excellent teacher who was firm but kind.

She was active in the Atwood Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses and had many relatives and friends in the area.

Preceding her in death were her husband; her parents; a brother, Darwin; and a baby sister, Gwyla.

Survivors include a son, Don Lee (Polly) Shahan of North Platte; a daughter, Sondra Jean (Jack) Doughty of Austin, Texas; a sister, Daphane P. Rand of San Francisco, Calif.; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 25, 2003, at Knodel Funeral Home in St. Francis, with Don Argabright of the Atwood Congregation officiating.

Burial followed in Bird City.

Lyle Smith

Lyle L. Smith, 73, a longtime Sherman County resident, died Sunday, March 30, 2003, at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Hospital in Denver.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Koons Funeral Home.

club news

The Goodland Federated Music Club sponsored Nicholas Parker's Senior Piano Recital at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

He is a senior at Fort Hays State University and the son of Lauren and Geryl Parker. Geryl is a former music club member.

The recital was at the Goodland Methodist Church and was followed by refreshments of punch and cookies provided and served by the members of the club.

The program consisted of music by Chopin, Brahms, Bartok, Debussy and Khachaturian. Nicholas played "Trois Nocturnes Opus 9, No. 1 in Bb minor," by Frederic Chopin; "Zwei Rhapsodien Op. 79, Molto passionate," by Brahms; "Suite Op. 14, Allegretto," by Bela Bartok; and "Pour le piano, Prelude, Sarabande," by Claude Debussy, concluding with "Toccata," by Aram Khachaturian.

The recital takes the place of one

of the club's regular meetings. Members present were Nancy Shores, president; Birkley Barnes; Martha Gunderson; Carol Jolly; Linda Koons; Marlyn Mangus; Linda Lucas; Joanna Norris Grimshaw; Pat Schiefen; Isabelle Hellerud; and Eva Lou Selby. The hostesses and planning committee were Barnes, Shores and Koons.

The next music club meeting will be Monday, April 7, at the Catholic Church, hosted by Jolly and Koons.

4-H news

The March monthly meeting of the Prairie Dale 4-H Club was held at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, March 10, at the 4-H building. The meeting was called to order by President Chance Schilling.

It was model meeting night. Roll call was "Your Favorite 4-H Activity" and was answered by 27 members and two leaders. After the officer's reports and committee reports, the ceremony committee presented a ceremony.

During the business meeting, Clay brought up unfinished business that the club needs to decide on a fund raiser. Tiffany moved, and Mara seconded that a committee

appointed by the president organize the club's fund raiser. The president appointed the Schilling, Taylor and Miller families to the committee.

During new business, Tiffany moved our club look into improving the background in the livestock ring for pictures. After much discussion, Matt moved that we table the motion and refer it to a committee appointed by the president. The president appointed the McClung, Hall and Mosbarger families to look into this project. Chance then gave the gavel over to Vice President Nicole Titus for the program. Hazen Deeds led the club in two rounds of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." John

Mosbarger gave a demonstration on "Beef, What's for Dinner?"

Ryan Taylor presented his project talk, "Heat Up the Ring." Brennen Clouse gave a health and safety presentation on the amount of fat in our diets and the food pyramid.

For music/other, Clay Schilling presented a story entitled "Po Folk." Laine and Jacee Herl then led the club in a game of 4-H Clover Toss for recreation. After announcements, the meeting was adjourned by saying the club motto.

Refreshments were served by the Mosbarger and Herl families. Prairie Dale received the Regional Blue ribbon on our meeting.

matters of record

Goodland Police

The following crimes were reported to the Goodland Police Department:

March 20 — Alex West reported criminal damage to a door handle at 531 W. 17th.

March 21 — Bowladium Lanes reported a burglary, theft of \$2,520 cash and \$100 safe and \$300 worth of promotional tickets and \$550 criminal damage to the door jam and glass in the front door at 509 Caldwell.

March 24 — Goodland Dental Arts Clinic reported the theft of \$470 in services not paid for 504 Main.

Jessica R. Adamson reported a burglary and the theft of 80 CD's worth \$1,200 at 1104 E. 13th.

Anthony L. Dawdy was arrested for criminal trespassing at 204 W. 11th.

March 25 — Lacy Potterf and Marshall Carson reported a burglary, the theft of \$1,892 worth of stuff from a trailer at 516 W. Hwy. 24 and criminal damage. Charlotte Morris and Trevor Trow were ar-

rested.

March 27 — Opal Callahan reported \$75 criminal damage to the gate to a fence at 813 Washington.

Darrel D. Harkins and John C. Harkins reported criminal deprivation of property, a 1989 Ford taken and returned, the theft of a pocket knife and criminal damage at 722 W. 13th.

March 28 — Kevin P. Hatfield was arrested for a third offense of driving while suspended and disobeying a stop sign at Eighth and Caldwell.

Accidents

The following accidents were reported to the Goodland Police Department:

March 19 — An unknown vehicle hit a parked 1998 Dodge owned by Michael R. Gillespie at 1400 Eustis and left the scene.

March 20 — Dale O. Samuelson was backing a 1999 Buick in the parking lot at 509 Caldwell and hit a 1998 Ford owned by Jerry K. Amthor.

Stephanie A. Grecian failed to

yield the right of way in her 2001

Nissan and was hit on the driver's side by a 1986 Ford pickup driven by Garrett L. Smith, who was southbound on Hwy. 27. The accident at Hwy. 27 and 2720 Commerce Rd. caused Grecian's vehicle to roll onto its side.

March 27 — An unknown vehicle hit a telephone box at 25th and Commerce Rd. and left the scene.

March 29 — Harold J. Scheopner was backing a 2000 Honda out of a parking stall at Wal-Mart and didn't see a 1994 Oldsmobile driven by Lane G. Carpenter coming in behind him and hit it.

March 30 — Mikail Jabril Abdel-Khaliq was pulling a 1995 Chevy pulling a U-Haul trailer

away from the gas pumps at Total, 2710 Commerce Rd., and hit a pole by the gas pumps.

Municipal Traffic

The following fines were paid to the municipal court:

March 26 — Caleb L. Conway, 21, of Goodland was fined \$236 for simple battery, \$100 for assault, \$100 for criminal damage to property and \$100 for disorderly conduct. He also had to pay \$220 restitution.

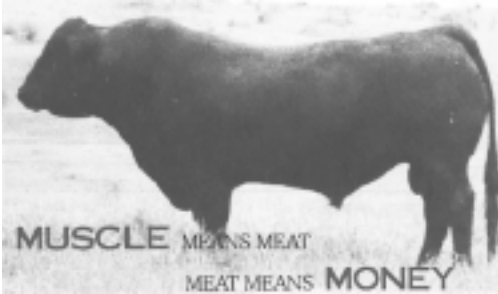
Colleen K. Koehler, 17, of Goodland was fined \$76 for disobeying a stop sign.

Anthony Lee Dawdy, 20, of Goodland was fined \$136 for criminal trespass.

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