

Cell phone use can be accident culprit

Research has found inattention during the three seconds prior to an accident can be to blame in 80 percent of highway crashes and 65 percent of near misses.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute released this analysis last year. Researchers used video and sensor equipment to track driver behavior for more than a year.

Based on 42,300 hours of data on nearly 2 million miles driven, the study's results indicated drowsiness and distracting activities increase the risk of an accident. Among the distracting activities noted were using a cell phone, text messaging, reaching for a moving object, looking for an external object and applying make-up.

Punching in a cell phone number can further increase the risk, according to recent University of Utah research. The Utah study also indicated that using a headset to leave

hands free while driving has little impact on reducing the dangers in operating a cell phone.

Cell phone use requires "cognitive engagement," the study says. University researchers found cell phone users have slower response times than radio-listening drivers.

Just looking at the scenery can be hazardous, too. Trying to predict when it's safe to take your eyes off the road can rob a driver of the response time needed to avoid an accident.

We need to separate driving from causes of inattention—for example, take advantage of an off-road scenic overlook with parking so we can look at the scenery safely.

Just remember that any of the causes mentioned can jeopardize the safety of everyone on the road, so think carefully before using that cell phone as you drive.

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Home Time

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Good Samaritan News

We are so excited! The Garden of Hope, the dementia day room, officially opened this week. We are already seeing awesome responses from the 10 residents who participate. Jolene Bremenkamp and Sue Stoney are the primary caregivers. They were chosen for their patience, compassion, and creativity. They have done a wonderful job working one on one and realizing the approach necessary to make this room a success.

Following is the mission statement for the room:

"The purpose of the Garden of Hope Special Care Unit is to provide a calm, structured, and secure environment which will encourage each resident to function at their highest possible level. Specially trained staff understand and accept the diverse realities of each individual and encourage each person to progress at his or her own pace. The cornerstone of this Special Care Unit is an extensive and individualized program of meaningful activities, organized to reflect as closely as possible the familiar cycle of family life."

The Garden of Hope is a dedicated area within our facility for providing specialized care for our residents with dementia. In addition, the Garden of Hope will be open for day care or respite care for people in the community who are trying to care for a loved one at home.

The Garden of Hope is an activity and dining area for our dementia residents. Residents with dementia do better in an environment that provides a routine, that removes them from too many stimuli, and that creates a calm and peaceful place. These residents will have their meals in the Garden of Hope and will have activities and games tailored to their specific needs.

The Garden of Hope will be open for 8 to 10 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our initial plan is to have the room open from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Garden of Hope has dedicated nursing staff who have received training in caring for the dementia resident. We will have continuing education opportunities specific to meet the changing needs of the dementia residents. This is the only program in the community that offers specialized care for the dementia resident.

The Garden of Hope, by design, is not a "locked unit" which is the typical approach used in treating dementia residents. The residents will not be segregated and will have the freedom to come and go.

The Garden of Hope will be open for day or respite care. The cost of this care is \$8 per hour or a maximum of \$60 per day. This charge is

inclusive of meals and other incidentals.

In addition, we have had a full week of learning, creating, praying and gardening. Monday the ladies made May baskets while learning about the origin of the holiday. These colorful cone-shaped baskets brightened up the halls and the faces of those who made and received them.

Thursday was the National Day of Prayer. We began our day with a special prayer service, specifically praying for our nation, our President, our schools and our military. The singing of patriotic songs interspersed among the prayers made for a poignant, meaningful time together.

On Friday, Janice Shobe gave a devotional message based on Jesus' teaching of building your house upon a rock. The inspiration for this message came from the collapse of Elephant Rock, a well-known Kansas landmark. She stated that nothing on this earth will stand, only the Word of God.

How appropriate that this message came just prior to the devastating news of the Greensburg tornado. One resident has a daughter living in Greensburg. We hope to have some sort of outreach project for that town, as soon as we know the need.

The precious little Head Start kids came next, bringing flowers that they helped Dorothy Hunt, Opal Bryan and Hazel Flaska plant in our front porch flower box. The drizzling weather did not dampen their enthusiasm nor hinder their efforts.

On Saturday, the Royal Neighbors hosted our Social Hour. What a joy to fellowship such nice neighbors. The treats were delicious! Thank you, Lois Lamb, for organizing this event.

Don't forget the Walkway of Flags to be held here on Memorial Day. If you would like us to fly a flag in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Lisa Stacy for more information.

Recent guests: **Robert Urban** - Sylvia Wachendorfer of Selden; **Swede Unger** - Jeanie Unger; **Thelma Spiers** - Joan Grafel of Herndon; **Dorothy Hunt** - Ron Snyder of Colby, Tami Cook of Norcatour, Helen Brooks, Mildred Black and Reva Marshall; **Ethel Nemeth** - Helen Brooks; **Lucy Schissler** - Terry McGuire, Atwood; **Irel Lohoefer** - Merlou Robinson, Gladys Geis, Esther Carlson; **Kathryn Post** - Gladys Geis; **June Saum** - Anne Brown of Indianola, Neb., Sue Baird of Denver; **Bob Henningson** - Nolan Henningson; **Jeanette Conway** - Daisy Rhein; **Dorothy Bryan** - Carol Barrett.

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