

Teenagers don't always follow our instructions

A coworker was halfway between worry and frustration last week when her 16-year-old daughter did not call when she was supposed to. This is one of those things that happens to almost all parents of new drivers.

You tell 'em and tell 'em and tell 'em, and still they don't seem to get it that you worry when they're on the road by themselves.

In this case, the newly licensed driver had permission to visit some friends at a summer camp about three hours from home. She had promised to stop halfway there and call home and again when she arrived. She had promised to do the same on the way back.

The trip to camp was planned, with the promised phone calls, but when she left to head home her mind must have been on getting home and not on calling her (sigh) mother.

So Mom was at work, checking her cell phone every 10 minutes debating on whether to call her errant child or just worry herself silly. She wanted to call so badly, but thought that might distract the young driver, and that would be bad.

By the time her daughter showed up, her mother wasn't sure if she wanted to hug her or strangle her.

A short lecture ensued, and another teenage sigh.

Oh yes, I remember those days. I don't remember too many problems with oldest daughter. She got



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
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her license and we sold her the old company station wagon for a fair-market price. It was about all she could afford, and we knew that, ugly as it was, it had been well maintained.

The second child was a completely different problem.

She learned to drive and bought her first car at 15. She had no license, so she would drive her brother up and down our longish driveway every other day or so.

She went off to summer camp and turned 16 there. The day she returned, she took her test and got her license. She was legal and ready to go in her little red Festiva.

Less than a month later, she got her chance. We moved from Colorado to Kansas — an eight-hour drive. We loaded her car with clothes, a white cat, her pet rabbit and her little brother. Then when we started to load the truck with the rest of what would be the first of several loads, she took off.

Our plan had been to caravan to Kansas. She apparently hadn't

gotten that message, and this was in the days before everyone had a cell phone.

We didn't see or hear from any of them until we got to Oberlin, about two hours behind the speedy Festiva.

I didn't feel too bad the following year when she again loaded her brother into the little red car and headed for camp in Estes Park, Colo.

I don't think she's ever had an accident, but there have been several speeding tickets over the 16 years since then.

But, soon, sooner than we can imagine, we'll get our revenge when baby Taylor gets her license and takes off, much to her parents chagrin, forgetting to call.

My friend at work still has a few years and an 8-year old son to go through before she can breathe a sign of relief, but they'll all make it. I'm just sure of it.

Citizen card should have picture

To the Editor:

Voter fraud? Illegal immigrants?

Kansas had better get involved. If Arizona and the other southern border states are allowed to enforce the law, where will the illegals go? South?

My picture is on my drivers license and was on my passport. Why not on an American Citizen card? I'm proud I'm an American.

Letters to the Editor

Zola B. Branch
Enid, Okla.

EDITOR'S NOTE: America, as a free and open country, has always allowed its citizens to roam without restriction. We have resisted the notion, common in less-free nations,

that a citizen must carry "papers" or identification. No American is required to carry ID.

Do we want to give up another piece of our freedom to solve a problem that does not exist?

— Steve Haynes

No family is exempt from stress

To the Editor:

No family is exempt from stress. It is a fact of life that unexpected crises will arise. Illness, job changes, financial problems, all can occur suddenly, creating stress that often takes its toll on family life.

Research focusing on characteristics of strong families has identified nine traits that supersede racial, ethnic, social and religious background (Krysan, Moore, & Zill 1990).

These nine traits play a large role in handling stresses that can have devastating effects on families.

These traits are caring and appreciation, time together, encouragement, commitment, communication, cope with change, spirituality, community and family ties, and having clear roles.

When family members feel cared about and appreciated, they have the support they need to feel confident when outside pressures threaten their stability. Strong families express that caring and appreciation by encouraging one another, spending

quality time together and communicating openly. In strong families there is a clear communication of commitment to one another. Establishing specific, age-appropriate family roles and responsibilities encourage a sense of family unity.

Parents often try to hide problems from their children to "protect" them. According to the Building Strong Families Program, by University of Missouri Extension:

"It is important for the family unit and each individual within that unit to understand stress and how to deal with it effectively.... If a family is to remain strong, each member needs to recognize stress within the family, its causes, and how to effectively handle it."

Children are very sensitive to the emotional climate around them. They often blame themselves for family problems. Discussing issues help the child feel part of the solution rather than the cause.

Open lines of communication encourage expression of fears and concerns as well as giving reassur-

ance to children. Parents can show empathy to their children during stressful times. Spending time discussing feelings and practicing techniques to reduce stress help all family members grow through a stressful time.

Maintaining physical activity, using breathing techniques and spending time doing something fun are all proven stress-reducing activities that can be used at any age to learn to cope with difficult situations. Families that spend time together in activities everyone enjoys are more likely to come through challenging times stronger.

For more information on strengthening your family, call Smart Start Northwest Kansas at (785) 465-9103 or search the Internet for "strong families."

Karen Merryman
professional development
coordinator

Smart Start Northwest Kansas
Colby

Come express your thanks to Jonna

To the Editor:

Hello, my name is Walt. I'd appreciate a moment of your day to talk about something, an action, an act of kindness that we have often let slip through our fingers. Often, we look back over the years, sadly wishing we had taken the advantage of an opportunity to express our admiration, gratitude or respect to someone who entered our lives, touched us in such a way that changed us for the better and left us before we told them how much they meant.

Some folks, just by living among us, have that effect on us. I've only been in Oberlin for 11 years, and I

could list off at least a dozen people who are gone from us, moved away, or passed away, the result is the same, who we didn't take the time to say thanks for being a valuable part of our lives.

Well, no more. Some great friends and I have an idea that you may wish to take advantage of. On Sunday, Aug. 15, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., you will have the opportunity to stop by the Golden Age Center and tell Jonna Inman just how much her presence has meant to our community. We will provide snacks and coffee or tea.

Jonna and her husband Pat, Zeke

to his friends, will provide that warm feeling to your heart that you get when you know you're doing the right thing.

Furthermore, if we have our way, Jonnas' day will be the first of many such days. Our town has been blessed with many wonderful folks who have affected our lives in a positive manner. If you wish to suggest someone for this type of recognition, or want to participate in upcoming events, you may write to me a Box 313, Oberlin, Kan. 67749. I will answer in kind.

Walt Pennell
Oberlin

Hospice thanks all its volunteers

To the Editor:

The Hospice Services board extends our heartfelt appreciation to the many hospice volunteers for all they do to help people live every moment of life to the fullest. Hospice is about how you live!

Hospice volunteers play an indispensable role in enabling our organization to offer the best care

possible for patients with life-limiting illness, their families and caregivers. By sharing time, energy and expertise, they bring compassion and caring to the lives of those in need.

The historical roots of hospice in the United States involved volunteers wanting to improve end-of-life care. Recent research suggests

volunteers continue to play a vital role in hospice. The involvement of hospice volunteers influences overall satisfaction with hospice.

Thank you to all Hospice volunteers.

Patrick Toth and Jenny Niblock
Hospice Services board
Phillipsburg

New board members elected at tech college

Saturday was a busy for the Area Board of Control Members of the Northwest Kansas Technical College with leadership changes and approval of administrative staff and faculty.

Area Board of Control Chairman Robert Loftin resigned and has accepted a position as electrical technology instructor at Northwest Tech. Loftin served on the Area Board of Control since 1985 and as Chairman for the past seven years.

Area Board of Control officers elected Saturday are Chairman, Frank Otter of Norton; Vice Chairman, Dick Short of Goodland; Secretary, Bruce Buck of Sharon Springs; Treasurer, Tony Bremenkamp of Brewster; Building and Grounds Chair, Clair Legere of Penokee; Curriculum Chair, Carol Laws of Leoti; Faculty Chair, Billi Beckman of Hoxie; Public Relations Chair, Paul Bruggeman of Rexford;

and Student Welfare Chair, Arlie Archer of McDonald.

Other board members are: Chris Schmidt of Oberlin; Giovanni Caasi of Quinter; Tom Button of Oakley; Myra Douthit of St. Francis; Stewart Stabel of Lakin; Belinda Preston of Brewster; Mark Davis of Scott City; Matt Lampe of Syracuse; Randy Balluch of WaKeeney; Bill Miller, Jr. of Colby; George Schmidt of Tribune; Alan Suter of Oakley; Sheila Selensky of Grainfield; and Dan Wasson of Selden.

New faculty members include Dennis Misurell in business technology and Audrey Coumerilh as a helper in computer graphics.

"We are extremely excited about our new faculty members and dynamic staff," said Dr. Ed Mills, college president. "We have some of the most talented and energetic staff around and continue to build a strong team."

Mills said he was pleased to announce the addition of Diane Stiles, director of grants and admissions; Jed Snethen, assistant to the director of technology; Calli McDaniel, administrative assistant and Sylvia Guzman, administrative assistant.

"In spite of economic stress and pressures, we have to continue to look for innovative ways to grow so we can better serve our students and communities," said Dr. Mills. "We have two new programs launching in the fall with other programs currently being developed."

A new two-year business technology program, medical assistant program in Hays in collaboration with North Central Kansas Technical College and Northwest Tech at Norton evening classes are beginning in August, he said.

For more information on Northwest Tech, go to www.nwktc.edu or call (800) 316-4127.

Northwest Tech College plans expansion to Norton

The Northwest Kansas Technical College is partnering with the community to establish a program for the surrounding area at Norton.

This collaboration began in April with a meeting in Norton including Northwest Tech leadership and Norton business and community leaders. Carolyn Applegate, a Norton County commissioner, and Diane Stiles, county economic development director, asked educational and business leaders to come together to assess the needs of the area.

Northwest Tech at Norton will launch on Saturday, Aug. 21, and classes will begin for the fall on Monday, Aug. 23, with seven courses being offered: Accounting I, Blueprint Reading, Developmental Psychology, Entrepreneurship, Intro to Business, Precision Measuring and Statistics. Statistics will be taught at Norton Junior High, precision measuring at the Natoma Corp. and all others at Norton High School.

"We are excited about this partnership" said Dr. Ed Mills, president of Northwest Tech. "The Norton community has been wonderful to work with and their leadership has truly stepped forward to make sure

this project came to fruition."

"We are hopeful we will have a Northwest Tech campus in the years to come," said Mrs. Stiles, "however, this would not be possible without the support of the county commission, businesses, educational leadership and other community members."

The college continues to look for ways to collaborate and provide the needs of students in spite of economically challenging times, Dr. Mills said.

For details, call (785) 874-4816 or (800) 316-4127 or go to www.nwktc.edu.

Oil company wants to lease land

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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A leasing company is offering the City of Oberlin more than \$6,000 for the rights to drill on land the city owns east of town, but that may or may not be a good deal.

Terry Wood, a representative of J. Fred Hambright, an oil and gas leasing company, told the council at its meeting July 15 that he has authority to offer the city \$10 an acre for the right to drill for minerals under 646.6 acres of land east of town for three years with a possible three-year extension. In fact, in a letter to the council dated July 8, he enclosed a bank draft for \$6,466.01.

While the council thought the money was great, members had some concerns about the timing and area that would be leased.

The area that Hambright wants to lease includes the golf course, the sewer lagoons, Sappa Park and the shelter house and the cemetery.

Councilman Bill Riedel asked what rights the lease would give the company. Mr. Wood said it would give them the right to go in and drill for oil or gas.

Councilwoman Rhonda May was concerned about the cemetery.

"We have no interest in the cem-

etry," Mr. Wood said, "only the minerals under the land."

He added that his company could drill anywhere that wasn't specifically excluded.

"We have no interest in disturbing your surface," he said. "About half the oil wells drilled today are horizontal, and that's sort of amazing."

Mr. Riedel asked about the golf course.

"Where we come and go, you can set limits on our activities," Mr. Wood said.

"It seems to me that there are some parts of the Sappa Park acreage that it would be OK to drill and others that it wouldn't," Ms. May said.

City Foreman Dan Castle asked about protecting the city's water well and was told both the contract and state law would protect them.

Mr. Wood said that his job is to acquire leases in the lands east of Oberlin, all with an additional three-year option, because his company would then do directional seismic readings. These are expensive, he said, but they don't disturb the land.

Ms. May, who has a degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Kansas, said that she was

hesitant to tie up the area for six years.

"We will want that three-year option," Mr. Wood said, adding that there is a lot more leased land than there are drilling rigs in Kansas, and sometimes it takes a long time to get one in place.

He noted that the city would get an additional \$6,466 if the company exercised its option for the three years.

Ms. May asked if the land had ever been leased before and Mr. Woods, who had just searched the records, said he didn't think so.

"We've survived for 125 years (without this)," Ms. May said. "It's a nice idea but...."

After Mr. Wood left, Ms. May said that she did not feel comfortable negotiating a contract at a public meeting, but City Attorney Steve Hirsch said that there is no exclusion in the law to allow closed sessions for an oil lease.

Ms. May suggested assigning a person to do the city's negotiating and Mayor Joe Stanley agreed, assigning her, himself and acting City Administrator Karen Larson to the job.

Sappa Park committee receives \$1,300

The Up in Smoke Barbecue committee gave \$1,300 from the event to the Sappa Park Committee last week.

Sherry Bergling with Up in Smoke gave the check for \$1,300

to Gary Anderson with the Sappa Park Committee during a meet at the park last Tuesday.

The park committee is working on plans to put bathrooms into the shelter house, maybe install some

playground equipment, clean up the shelter house and some other work. The donation will be used for those projects, said Kimberly Davis, co-convenor for the park committee.

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Call Tim Davis
at 475-2206
to get your
ad in the
Fall Sports
Section

