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Freelance writer Susan Volenweider ponders an occasional wallow in crankiness.

Freelance writer Jim Bradford examines the need of youngsters to check on their parents and stuffed animals, just in case. | **PAGE 6**



KEITH MYERS | STAFF

Bill Pikus grilled out on his back deck for family including Paige, 6, and Tyler, 2, on Monday at his home in Overland Park.

Taking his grill skills to television

By **KIMBERLY WINTER STERN**
Special to The Olathe News

Bill Pikus is a good sport. The Overland Park man appeared on Monday's episode of LiveWell Network's "Home Chef Showdown" and graciously accepted a

black bass — head intact — from a fellow contestant who rejected the fish-grilling challenge.

"A whole fish was definitely one thing I didn't want to encounter," Pikus said. "But there it was, underneath a basket, and when Carie Kell-

er gave it to me, well, it became my problem."

Pikus stumbled across an online casting call for "Home Chef Showdown" last February and submitted a demonstration video to the reality cooking show.

Weeks later he received a

call from the LiveWell Network, a broadcast, online and wireless service for digital TV channels in the U.S., with the news: He was one of three home chefs being considered for a slot on a

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Group takes aim at gun violence

By **LUKE RANKER**
Special to The Olathe News

Paul Temme has a reason to end gun violence: In just four months he witnessed two shootings in the Kansas City area.

Temme saw the shooting at the Overland Park Jewish Community Center in April. After watching the attacker shoot two people, Temme chased after him. The shooter then fired at him, but missed.

"It's difficult, very difficult," Temme said. "No one should have to witness that."

Before that, Temme, who is from Prairie Village, was at a dance studio in Mission for a New Year's Eve party when someone shot out plate glass windows in the front of the building.

"For the first time in my life, in the matter of a few months, I was involved in two shootings," he said.

The two incidents sparked Temme's interest in local advocacy against gun violence. He said the amount of community support that followed the Overland Park shooting showed him that there is support for ending gun violence, so he looked for a way to get involved. Now Temme is a founding member of a new advocacy group that hopes to curb vi-

olence in the area.

The northeast Kansas chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence aims to end gun violence through education and better background checks, lead member Loren Stanton said. According to the organization's website, the Brady Campaign is the nation's largest nonpartisan, grassroots organization promoting and end to gun violence.

This is the first chapter of its kind in Kansas, but there are about 90 chapters spread around the country. The local group has just seven members, but Stanton is hopeful interest will grow.

"The earlier people get involved, the more impact they can have on what we do tackle," he said.

The local Brady Campaign chapter has set two main goals, which Stanton said are the primary goals of the national organization. First, the Brady Campaign will work toward universal background checks for gun buyers in Kansas. Currently background checks are required only when purchasing guns from a dealer, meaning individual sales and sales at gun shows are

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