

Head Of Child Safety Project For Computers Is From Here

Chris Wilson, a former official of the local District Attorney's Office, now is Assistant U.S. Attorney and Project Coordinator for a computer safety effort called "Project Safe Children" and was the speaker for the Sept. 25 meeting.

Wilson said that 204.3 million people, or over 74 percent of the U.S. population, has "internet."

And although "at any given time" there are an estimated 50,000 sexual predators online, 31 percent of eight to 18 year olds have a computer in their bedrooms, the Justice Department official said.

We wouldn't let our teenager go in and close the door, with some adult they don't know, Chris said. "Yet that is what happens" when teenagers are not cautious in their internet use, he said.

Fifty percent of teens, 13 to 18, often communicate with someone they have not met in person, according to his office. More than 11 million

teens regularly view pornography online, he added, even though they do not intend to.

There are two dangers involved. One is that "sexual predators" may lure them to meet. The other is that they could become a victim of child pornography, he explained.

Pornography is an annual \$3 billion industry, which means it is going to continue.

One in seven teens have been contacted by a stranger, Chris



Chris Wilson

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Rotary Governor Proud Of Slogan And His District, 6110

Rotary District Governor C. Ellis Potter told Club members last week that the new Rotary Slogan "tells in two words what we are about."

He showed the slogan that says, "Rotary Shares," on the podium, during his annual visit.

"Water to the thirsty," he said. "Food to the hungry." And he told where Rotary has provided these.



District Governor C. Ellis Potter

He commended the McAlester club for Rotary Park, for its Scholarship Project, for its "Student Recognition," by having student guests, and for its Student Exchange Project.

"We've done a lot of things in this district, that National should be proud of," he commented.

Rotary made a "huge commitment" to the PolioPlus Project, the top district official said.

Last year there were just 318 cases of Polio in the world, which compares to 1,000 the year before, he stated.

The remaining Polio cases are in India.

And in working with the World Health Organization on the PolioPlus Project, Rotary's stature has grown, he observed.

The "Wall Street Journal" said in an editorial that Rotary should receive the Nobel Prize for its project to eradicate Polio, the District Governor related.

Rotary Clubs around the world had raised \$247,000,000 in 1987. In 2005, the project was 99 percent completed. And over 2 billion children have been spared from the disease.

What is left was called a "Mop-Up Operation," but he urged that it be

completed.

He described a fund-raising plan using the Rotary Foundation, in which he said the Rotary District "will match whatever you give."

"Governor Potter" also showed a prosthesis, made to replace an arm of people live in former war zones, who lost arms in a land mine explosion.

Potter said that a fellow District Governor he met, had received a grant to go to Vietnam for a humanitarian project. His name is Tim Bawley and he is in Rotary District 5110.



He saw so many people there who had lost limbs due to the explosions of land mines and he got an idea for an artificial arm and hand. He got a bio-mechanical engineer to build one.

The artificial arm and hand will write with a pen and hold a cup of coffee. Because of Potter's interest and help, Bawley send him one, which he showed club members.

"All of these things came together," Potter said. He hopes to finance it through Rotary, for people in Vietnam and other countries where the citizens have lost an arm in a land mine explosion.

Despite all the Rotary projects and the projects of other civic organizations, "there are still a lot of people hurting," he reminded.

The District Governor said he had seen figures showing that 90 percent of Rotary members have never asked another man or woman, to join Rotary.

That is something every club member can do, he declared.

"Each of us can make a difference," he said. "Rotary can make a huge difference."

Riding a Horse Has Many Benefits, Says TEAM Official



Darla Ryder

An official of the Therapeutic Equestrian Association of McAlester told us Sept. 18 that riding a horse can have physical, psychological and educational benefits.

Darla Ryder said it was known that the behavioral and emotionally challenged could be helped by riding a horse, but they have found that "riding a horse gently and rhythmically" moves the rider's body so that it helps persons with Cerebral Palsy, MS, MD, ADD, stroke, and

numerous neurological problems.

Darla said her organization has "close to 30" clients, as well as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Peewee Wranglers who ride their horses.

She said the Pittsburg County Cattlemen's Association and the County Expo Board have helped the organization with a 12-week "pilot program" that ends in mid-December. Then the T.E.A.M. group will use the experiences learned in the pilot program to plan "regular sessions" with

more permanent plans.

The organization now has a temporary facility, but a permanent location would allow T.E.A.M. to get volunteers and sponsorships for students who could benefit from the service but may have financial difficulties.

"We will never turn down someone who cannot afford it," she said.

"Lots of kids don't get the opportunity."

Darla told of a man with Autism and a boy and a girl in wheelchairs who were helped by the program.

The man never had an emotion on his face, and didn't talk to people, she related. Seeing these people improve is "very, very rewarding," she stated.

"The arena is the classroom. . .Man has not invented a machine with the movements a horse has," she said.

There are three persons licensed to work with the clients, Ms. Ryder said.



Kerri Selman

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reported.

President Bush has said that anyone who targets teenagers as victims of sex crimes or homicide, would be prosecuted "to the full extent of the law."

Chris said the problem is that there are so many online suspects that hundreds could be arrested, and it still would not make a noticeable change in the danger to teenagers.

The government has come up with a partnership of federal, state and local law enforcement officials.

One of the predators who was arrested and prosecuted, was 22 years old and had over 600 images of child pornography.

The first step is to increase community awareness, which he is working on now, he pointed out.

Next, the officers will try to "get them off the street," and then to keep them behind bars.

The goals of Project Safe Children are to increase arrests, increase the number of investigators, and increase the trained prosecutors.

He showed news clippings from Tahlequah and Oklahoma City, about such cases. So it is not just happening somewhere else, he stated.

Chris urged parents to keep the computer in the den or some room in the house other than the bedroom, where a door can be closed.

He said parents should look at the information which has been posted and the communications with strangers.

Parents should urge their teenagers not to give out personal information, to never meet with anyone they do not know, without permission; and never to open e-mail without knowing whom it is from.

He asked parents to contact the police if any stranger is sending gifts or arranging meetings.

"We are trying to get this message out," he told club members.

Asked about other questionable internet activities, the project chief said there are "all sorts of scams going on."

Asked what is wrong with such people on the internet, Chris said they are "sick" and said pornography is an "addiction."

When such persons are caught, "we try to close down that site," he revealed.

He is starting an effort for internet safety in the schools.

One club member said his company has a cable, but was not aware of the dangers to young people. He talked with Wilson about speaking at a meeting of cable companies.

Attendance, Visitors and Handshakers

Our attendance for the District Governor was down some last week, because of the annual Heritage Week Luncheon. But club officials counted the Rotarians there, to add to our total. However they did not have the figures by mid-morning Monday .

We had three visiting Rotarians, Assistant Governor Tom Cobb; Gordon Conger, a friend of the District Governor; and District Governor C. Ellis Potter.

On Sept. 25 the membership total was 42. Two guests from McAlester High School were present. They are Megan Billos and Alisha Kwal. The

exchange student, Bernardo Becker, also attended. With the speaker, that was 46.

And on Sept. 18 there were 48 present. Ryan Martin was a guest of Yvette.

HANDSHAKERS-On Sept. 18, Banker Evans McBride had the Big Buck. He gave it to Jim Bland.

Betty Talley had the dollar on Sept. 25 and Jim Thompson gave it to Shayne Javersak last week. What Betty did with all that money I can't tell from my notes.