

TECH

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the least likely to develop normal social tendencies. This means that they might have difficulty interpreting facial expressions, communicating effectively or determining what behaviors are socially acceptable."

The Stanford study, which involved a voluntary survey of over three thousand 8- to 12-year-old American girls, showed a connection between higher levels of face-to-face communication and increased social success. A critical part of social interaction is understanding others' emotions.

According to Clifford Nass, the Stanford University professor who conducted the study, "Kids have to learn about emotion, and the way they do that, really, is by paying attention to other people. They have to really look them in the eye." Children today spend far more time using technology than their parents did as children, and their social skills are lacking in comparison to their parents'.

The problem, however,

seems to be the substitution of video or textual communication for real-life interaction, not the use of technology itself.

"Kids in the 8-to-12-year-old range who communicate face-to-face very frequently show much better social and emotional development, even if they're using a great deal of media," reported Nass.

It's important to maintain a balance between time spent using technology and time spent creating meaningful connections with other people in real life. It's especially important for the subjects of the study, because the 8-to-12 age range is a critical time for the social and emotional development of girls.

Another implication of modern technology is the rise of the era of instant gratification. We have 24-hour-a-day access to information through the Internet -- gone are the days of encyclopedias, library ready-reference calls and even actual trips to the library for research. Internet search engines have become so popular that "Google" has become a verb in popular vernacular. Do you want to know what the capital of

the Maldives is? Google it. Need a recipe for jam-balaya? Google it. Why should you have to take the time to drive to the library, or even to go find your atlas or cookbook? For that matter, why even cook when you can heat up an "instant" family-size frozen dinner in the microwave?

When instant gratification is the norm, patience is no longer necessary, or even a valued trait. As a result, our society as a whole has become very impatient, and we are angered and frustrated when we have to wait for something. Impatient people are shown to be more dissatisfied, overwhelmed by stress, unmotivated and critical of themselves. They are likely to have angry outbursts at other people and to quit jobs and abandon relationships early because they are unable to see them through. Patience is needed for better decision-making, and to develop understanding, compassion and empathy. Patience is what holds polite society together, and without it we as a culture are headed for disaster.

Some would argue, however, that reducing our use of technology

would be a greater disaster. It's certainly true that technology has allowed us to make incredible advances in the fields of medicine and science. New drugs have been created that allow people with previously untreatable diseases to live normal lives. Mass production technology creates products cheaply, and improved transportation systems get them to us in record time. Space exploration and the development of better telescopes have given us further insight into the depths of the universe. On a more personal scale, technology allows us to share information more easily and to communicate with people thousands of miles away.

Despite these many achievements, technology's negative effects cannot be ignored. In addition to cultivating impatience and hindering social development, digital technology increases laziness and poor time-management and reduces self-reliance and creativity. It is up to each of us as individuals to discern whether modern technology is enriching our lives or harming us, and to adjust our use of it accordingly.

EDUCATION BRIEF

The Madison Southern High School Choirs will present their spring concert on Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m. in the Madison Southern High School Au-

ditorium. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door. The program will feature festival music, songs from different continents and will honor the senior choir members.

DOMESTIC FAMILY CASES

Domestic and Family cases filed in Madison County Circuit Court between April 9 - April 13:

Cases may include divorce, child custody or support.

April 9

Lisa Noe vs. Freddie Noe, Jr.
Amber Roberts vs. Kevin Roberts
Rebekah Adkins vs. Albert Lee Adkins
Cabinet for Health and Family Services on behalf of Lucille Coldiron vs. Philip R. Coldiron

April 10

Raymond Crabtree vs. Brandy Crabtree
Donshay Shepard vs. Megan Shepard
Robert Milto vs. Kevan Elizabeth Delaney

April 12

Amy Silagy vs. Steven Silagy
Teena Lane vs. Randy Lane
Steven A. Burns vs. Dawn R. Burns

April 13

Bradley Smith vs. Ashley Smith
Cabinet for Health and Family Services vs. Melody M. Wiggins

FORECLOSURES

Foreclosure cases filed in Madison County Circuit Court between April 9- April 13:

April 9

Bank of America vs. Amary Coy
Deutsche Bank National Trust Co. vs. John R. Baudenistel

April 11

Citimortgage vs. Herbert Newman

April 12

The First State Bank vs. Darlene D. Waldroup
Wells Fargo Bank vs. Charles Ronad Fouts

April 13

JP Morgan Chase Bank vs. Matthew D. Pickup

FFA

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tu, Joel Harrison received Excellent; in Horse Impromptu, Paige Smith received Good; in Small Animal Impromptu, Courtney Winkler received Good; in Floral Impromptu, Sabrina May received Good; in Crop Impromptu, Brandon

Alexander received Excellent; in Swine Impromptu, Michæ lia Witt received Excellent; in Goat Impromptu, Jess Laws received Excellent; and in Fruit and Vegetable Impromptu, Cody Harrison received Excellent.

In SAE Proficiency Paperwork:

In Vegetable Production, Matt Lake received Superior 1; in Equine Science, Paige Smith received Su-

perior 1; in Diversified Ag Production, Gary Willis received Superior 1; in Poultry Production, Zach Choate received Superior 1; in Beef Production, Will Muncy received Superior; in Wildlife Production, Kelsey Choate received Superior; in Small Animal Production, Michealia Witt received Superior; in Treasurer's book, Joel Harrison received Superior; in Secretary's book, Paige

Smith received Excellent; in Scrapbook, Kelsey Choate and Jess Laws received Excellent; and in Tobacco essay, Matt Lake received Excellent.

Will Muncy was a Regional Star Farmer finalist and Paige Smith was a Regional Star in Placement finalist. In FFA Creed, Cheyenne Amon received Superior.

MULCH SALE

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<p>#12 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 REG. CAB #5804. 4X2. MSRP \$24,725</p> <p>SALE \$22,000</p>	<p>#12 CHEVY COLORADO EXT. CAB #5728. MSRP \$27,160</p> <p>SALE \$24,718</p>
<p>#12 CHEVY MALIBU LZ SEDAN #5834. MSRP \$31,725</p> <p>SALE \$26,429</p>	<p>#12 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 REG. CAB #5808. 4X4, LT. MSRP \$34,330</p> <p>SALE \$32,000</p>
<p>#12 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 EXT. CAB #5791. 4X4, LY. MSRP \$36,235</p> <p>SALE \$34,000</p>	<p>#12 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 QUAD CAB #5787. 4X4, LT. MSRP \$38,575</p> <p>SALE \$36,000</p>

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