

# Protect children

Surely former District Attorney William Haberstroh doesn't believe that all the children and youth system needs is a "lube job and an oil change."

This system needs shut down. Other counties are having trouble with their Children and Youth Services, too. I have an article from a Crawford County newspaper concerning its agency being investigated. And not too long ago Cambria County's office was to be investigated concerning foster parents.

And these excuses of high turnover, low salaries and inadequate training that Michael McCalpin used are not good enough when children are dead and others are dying from abusive environments.

We need new laws and guidelines along with properly trained investigators as a branch of the local police departments. And if money for salaries is the problem, just take it from the stadium and conference center funds. Entertainment should never be a priority over the lives of our children.

Ashley Decker was one life too many. This waste of lives and revenue has to stop. Set free our children who are captives in this inadequate and ineffective system.

**Diane Beiswenger, Altoona**