

Losing control, losing freedom

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Rapist recalls attack that changed several lives

Editor's note: It is the practice of The Hutchinson News not to use pseudonyms in news stories except for compelling reasons. For the following story, in order to protect the identity of a rape victim and still be able to tell the harrowing story of domestic abuse, an exception was made.

By LORI KURTZMAN

The Hutchinson News

When she arrived home that spring night, he was already there.

Waiting.

Drunk and angry, he'd broken in through a basement window on the red-brick apartment building, crept into her dark bedroom and fallen asleep on the floor.

Time passed. Minutes, maybe hours. He woke when she slid her key into the front door. He listened as she tucked her three children into bed upstairs.

Soon she was headed to her own bedroom, to where he waited, to where something happened that changed her life - and his - forever.

By then, he'd worked himself into a rage.

In the dark, as his wife approached, he made a decision:

I'm going to kill her.

Month of awareness

Since the early 1980s, groups that advocate against domestic violence have chosen October as a month to be especially public about their cause. As tree leaves get crisp and jackets come out of closets, groups across the country hold candlelight vigils to remember victims. They hand out purple ribbons and collect old cell phones, which they program to dial 911 and give to those in danger.

This year was no different.

Locally, Hutchinson Mayor Barry Law proclaimed this Domestic

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