

Foster children giving back

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

A young woman is going through nurses' training. As she prepares for a career helping others, it is cause to reflect on a time when she needed help herself. She is "giving back" for the care she received as a child. This is one of the success stories of the foster care provided across Kansas by Associated Youth Services.

Dennis Vanderpool is chief executive officer of Associated Youth Services, called AYS for short. Dennis grew up in Kansas City and went to K-State. He had a long career in social services, working in various mental health centers and helping start drug and alcohol treatment programs. In 1998, he became chief executive officer of Associated Youth Services in Kansas City.

This organization began back in 1912 as the Mennonite Children's Home, an orphanage in the Argentine district of Kansas City, Kansas. The orphanage was originally created to care for orphans from the great flu epidemic of the early 1900s, but the needs have grown and changed through the years.

In 1972, the Mennonite Church closed the orphanage but helped to establish Argentine Youth Services. Associated Youth Services is led by a non-denominational volunteer board. As the organization's client base grew and shifted, AYS changed its name to Associated Youth Services in 1987. In 2006, Associated Youth Services moved its headquarters to downtown Kansas City, Kansas so as to be closer to its core clientele.

Associated Youth Services also opened offices across the state to serve more families and youth. The organization now has offices in Garden City and Hutchinson.

"We serve disadvantaged young people through a variety of programs," Dennis said. These include drug and alcohol treatment, GED preparation, community health, residential care, and foster care. The residential center for temporary housing is located in Kansas City.

"Foster care is the program which provides safe homes for kids across the state," Dennis said. "Our kids have so many challenges. They may come from extreme poverty or have been subject to physical or emotional abuse or neglect. Many do not have the things which we take for granted, such as having caring adults, access to health care, or a positive environment in which to grow up. We try to fill in the gaps."

When Dennis became chief executive officer of Associated Youth Services in 1998, the organization was serving 300 to 400 kids each year. Today, among all its programs, Associated Youth Services is serving some 4,000 to 5,000 kids each year.

The foster homes are located across the state, in urban cities and rural communities as small as the town of Holyrood, population 447 people. Now, that's rural.

"Our foster families do incredible things," Dennis said. "They take these kids who have all these challenges and raise them as their own."

One long-time foster family

invites every single one of their former foster children to their place for Thanksgiving. "They may have 30 or 40 kids at their place on Thanksgiving Day," Dennis said. Better order the turkey by the truckload.

"It is so gratifying when kids come back to us and share how successful they have become," Dennis said.

A person must meet state guidelines and go through training to qualify as a foster parent. Associated Youth Services provides extensive training for prospective foster families, as well as opportunities for peer support.

"It helps to have a group of foster families located close together so they can help each other, with respite care or other needs," Dennis said. Once they become foster parents, the families have access to case managers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We need more foster families," Dennis said. "We have lots more referrals than we can place. Parents who are good communicators, who can build self-esteem in youth, assure health and safety, manage youth behaviors and can work in partnership with agencies should contact us." For more information, go to www.aysusa.org.

A young woman is going through nursing care, preparing to "give back" to society for the care she received in a foster home through Associated Youth Services. We salute Dennis Vanderpool and all those affiliated with Associated Youth Services for literally making a difference in the lives of young people.

How to become a master gardener

Kay Melia

vkmelia@yahoo.com

As I speak today, there are dozens of devoted gardeners in our area and others who are spending valuable time in the classroom. There are housewives, retired businessmen, and maybe a few bachelors, all studying hard to learn more about their favorite hobby or pastime. These people will soon become known as Master Gardeners. They are spending these 45 to 50 hours of intense study, not only to increase their knowledge about the art of growing things, but also to give themselves a "heads up" on ways that they can help other people.

Master Garden trainees learn about lawn care, seed selection, weed control, fertilizer application, and soil building. And that's just a few of the facets of gardening that they learn. The program is available to all individuals whether they are active gardeners or not. All anyone needs is a desire to learn more and to help others. In Kansas, the cost is about \$90 for the entire course.

For less than a hundred bucks, these trainees are getting an ab-

solute wealth of information that is not available elsewhere. The Master Gardener training program is offered and supervised by the various state Research and Extension services. Here in Kansas, it is administered by Kansas State University in Manhattan, and in Colorado by Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Here in Kansas, the Extension Service conducts the training classes in late winter at several alternating locations each year. This year in Kansas, the training is being conducted in Oakley, Liberal, and Salina, among other locations in the east. In Colorado, the training is conducted online at different times. Your Colorado Extension office has details.

Here in the Sunflower State, some of the University's finest talent are conducting the course, including Ward Upham and renowned floriculturist, Dr. Alan Stevens.

One of the most valuable assets of the Master Gardener training program is the handbook that all trainees receive. It is a huge three ring notebook stuffed with every facet of the

good things about learning how to do the right thing in gardening. It is truly the Bible of gardening, and contains just about every subject pertaining to plant life. It is available nowhere else! I took the Master Gardening program 10 or 12 years ago and hardly a day goes by without referring to it. Ward Upham is the man who put it together, and still appears each year at the various sessions of the training program.

After receiving the Master Gardener designation, each graduate must give several hours of their time each year to help others in their effort to become a more efficient gardener. Becoming a Master Gardener is very simply the most significant 40 hours I have ever spent, and it came after the age of 70. I invite you to call your Extension office soon to find out where and when next year's training begins.

Power outage!



A power outage on Thursday afternoon affected all of Norton and part of the county for about an hour and a half, according to City Administrator Darla Ellis. (Pictured) Norton Police Officer Michelle Shannon and Police Chief Pat Morel direct traffic at the intersection of U.S. 36 and State Street.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

PUBLIC RECORD

District Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the District Court clerk at the Norton County Courthouse.

Traffic and Wildlife and Parks cases are given to the paper when the fines are paid.

March 13

Jan. 21-Elden Ambrosier, Norton; Charge: Speeding 78 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$159.

March 8-Carol Rose Anderson, Morland; Charge: Speeding 80 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$171.

March 9-Suzanne M. Cahoj, Atwood; Charge: Speeding 76 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$147.

Feb. 26-Nathan Scot Donahay, Norton; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

Feb. 25-Harold Lynn Eichman, Speed; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

Feb. 25-Justin Ray Heikes, Norton; Charge: Driving on right side of roadway required; Found: Guilty; Charge: \$181.

Feb. 25-Justin Ray Heikes, Norton; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$0.

March 3-John H. Huston, Lawrence; Charge: Speeding 78 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$159.

Feb. 6-Michael J. Kats, Prairie View; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

Dec. 14-Patricia Shari Morris, Hutchinson; Charge: Speeding 87 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$219.

Jan. 17-Brandon William Wayne Reed, Norton; Charge:

Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

Feb. 18-Roger L. Scott, McCook, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 75 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$141.

Dec. 27-Daryl Clinton Tavares II, Alma; Charge: Improper number of driving lamps; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$291.

Dec. 27-Daryl Clinton Tavares II, Alma; Charge: Operate a motor vehicle without a valid license; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$0.

March 20

Nov. 23-Tina Marie Gilliland, Plainville; Charge: Speeding 79 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$165.

Feb. 12-Jose Gomez-Zamora, Norton; Charge: Operating a motor vehicle without a valid license; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$196.

Feb. 17-Lauren A. Jermark, Beaver City, Neb.; Charge 79 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$165.

Jan. 20-Elizabeth Ann Kelley, Phillipsburg; Charge: Speeding 80 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$171.

Jan. 24-Natalie A. Preciado, Amarillo, Tex.; Charge: Speeding 79 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$201.

March 6-Kassandra N. Spalding, Rock Port, Mo.; Charge:

Speeding 80 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$171.

July 30-Camacho E. Vicente, Columbus Junction, Iowa; Charge: Operating a motor vehicle without a valid license; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$855.85.

March 27

March 14-Vasantbhai Bhakta, Norton; Charge: Speeding 85 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$201.

March 10-George Robert Dickerson, Oakley; Charge: Speeding 80 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$171.

March 9-Susan Grimes, Bloomington, Del.; Charge: Speeding 84 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$195.

Feb. 21-Gary Hardy, Alma; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

March 5-Michael David Jennings, Greeley, Colo.; Charge: Speeding 76 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$147.

Feb. 18-Everado Jr. Ramirez, Rio Grande City, Texas; Charge: Speeding 75 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$141.

March 8-Shirley Robinson, Hoxie; Charge: Speeding 78 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$159.

Oct. 14-Donald Sander-son, Belmont, Kan.; Charge: Improper stop or turn signal; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$416

Stephanie Grace Whitson
will be at the
Norton City Library Community Room
at 4:00 p.m. on Thurs., April 17
COME TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE BUILDING.
SHE WILL BE SPEAKING ON STORIES AND STONE
The Norton County Genealogy Society

CLUB NEWS

Twelve members of GFWC Mid-Century Club and guests Katelyn and Sue Ann Skrdlant met in the Community Room at the Library for the March meeting. Katelyn read the story, "Kari's Journey" that she had written and entered in the Creative Writing Contest. Her entry was one of four entries that Mid-Century sponsored in the GFWC of Kansas Contest.

For the program the group visited the Frederic Remington statues on the library lawn, then learned of Frederic Remington's life and work as an artist. Cheryl Scott shared stories and illustrations from several books about his work doing sketches, painting and sculptures. The stories told about The Broncho Buster, The Wicked Pony and Mountain Man (the three statues on the lawn at the library), and some of the seven statues that are at The First State Bank.

His story revealed that after the death of his father he

left Yale and came to Kansas where he purchased land in Butler County. He tried sheep ranching, but moved on to Arizona and New York City. Two of his close friends were Theodore Roosevelt and Buffalo Bill Cody.

Margaret Thomas, president, conducted the business meeting. For the Veteran's project members voted to send a monetary donation to the Old Soldiers Home at Dodge City. Committee assignments for the Sixth District Convention were announced. Margaret Thomas and Beverly Kindler were elected delegates to the GFWC of Kansas Convention in early May. Plans for the Spring Dinner were presented by Mary Beth Boyd.

Hostesses for this meeting were Virginia Will and Geraldine Packer.



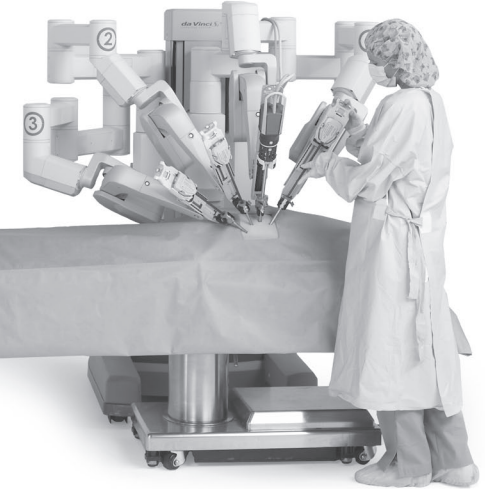
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