

College gets large donation for nursing department

The Colby Community College Endowment Foundation has received a \$20,000 bequest from the estate of Vesta Shea, a lifelong resident of Sheridan County.

"The gift will be used for nursing scholarships," said Dr. Mikel Ary, president of Colby College.

"There is a great deal of opportunity for graduates of our nursing program. Projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics point to the need for more than one million new nurses by the year 2010.

"We are grateful for the generosity displayed by Mrs. Shea. Many

northwest Kansas nursing students will benefit from her philanthropy," he said. Shea was born May 26, 1917 in rural Sheridan County. She graduated from Selden High School and taught for 10 years in county schools in Sheridan, Decatur and Norton counties. Substitute teach-

ing in the Selden Grade School for the next seven years completed her career in education. On June 18, 1944, she married Flerry Shea. Flerry and Vesta moved to Selden after living on their Sheridan County farm for 49 years.

Shea was a member of the United

Methodist Church where she served as an organist, board member, treasurer, choir member and Sunday school teacher.

She was also involved in 4-H for 31 years, serving as a leader, county advisory board member president, secretary and treasurer.

Couple spends 34 years as foster parents

LAWRENCE (AP) — In her early teens, Pat McPhail found herself with the responsibility of looking after younger siblings. She used the child-care skills she developed later, when she and her husband, Phil, served as foster parents for hundreds of youngsters.

The McPhails, both 65, retired from foster parenting last month after 34 years. They've lost count of how many children have been under their care.

"It's in the hundreds — probably 400 or so," Phil McPhail said. "When you get 10 or 12 at a time it adds up pretty fast."

His wife, originally from Larned, said her mother died when she was 14, leaving her to look after two younger siblings.

"My father couldn't handle it," she said. "He pretty much abandoned us. Every since then, I've never wanted another kid to go without a mother. That thought has never left me."

While the McPhails aren't taking on new foster care children, they still have four children living with them, plus another they've adopted. They had two children of their own, son Brad and daughter Stephanie, both now married and living in Lawrence.

"What they've done is phenomenal," said Judy Culley, executive

“My other placements had given up on me. But Pat and Phil were different; they weren't like the others.”

Linda, a foster child

director at The Shelter, which provides assistance for children in state custody. "And they done it all of their adult lives."

When they moved to Topeka from western Kansas in 1971, the McPhails became live-in house parents at a group home started by The Villages, a residential program co-founded by Dr. Karl Menninger, the renowned psychiatrist, and criminologist E. Kent Hayes of Lawrence.

In 1976, the McPhails moved to Lawrence and took over The Villages' group home there.

The McPhails specialized in children who'd suffered the most abuse and were considered the hardest to handle.

"I don't know what their secret is," said Douglas County Juvenile Court Judge Jean Shepherd. "They must love it, they must be real well-grounded."

One 17-year-old girl now with the McPhails for a year has been in

foster care since she was 2, in seven foster homes and more than a dozen group homes.

"The first thing Pat ever said to me was 'We don't give up on people,'" said the girl, Linda. "My other placements had given up on me."

"But Pat and Phil were different; they weren't like the others."

"The thing that's different here is the rules are the same for everybody," said Lauren, another 17-year-old who has also been with the McPhails for about a year. "They don't treat you like you're a foster kid; they treat you like you're one of their kids."

Pat McPhail said their son and daughter had the same rules as the hundreds of fosters children who've lived with them.

Sheri Williams, a child protection services worker with the De-

partment of Social and Rehabilitation Services, said she was amazed at how organized things were at the McPhails.

"I have two kids of my own, I know how hard it is," she said. "But what impressed me the most was that I never felt like I was in a group home. It always felt like a real home with very loving parents."

For the first time in 34 years, the McPhails are living in a house rather than a group home.

"We're leasing," Phil McPhail said. "We can't afford to buy."

He and his wife saved for retirement, but essentially they're living on their Social Security benefits.

Still, Pat McPhail says she thinks they're "some of the richest people in the world," recalling a recent visit from a former foster child who came by to introduce her husband.

"And while we were talking she joked about how she couldn't get him to fold towels like we taught her to," she said.

"And then she turned to me and said 'How'd you get me to do that?' because she knew she was a handful and, years later, she knew we cared enough to stick with her."

"It's moments like that you can't buy."

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This is what they're all talking about!



Wheat test plot looks beyond too

By Tisha Cook

Colby Free Press

This year's harvest hasn't yet begun in this area, but farmers are already thinking ahead. Wheat producers found out what varieties they might want to plant next year during the annual wheat plot tour on Tuesday.

The tour took place at Mike Brown's farm south of Levens, sponsored by the Thomas County Extension Council.

Kansas State University extension wheat specialist Jim Shroyer and Northwest Kansas Child Extension Center multi-county agronomist Brian Osborne were the guest speakers.

Thomas County's extension agent Doug Musick said the tour was better than last year but a little lower (attendance) than year's past.

He also explained why the tour is important.

"It can help producers stay on top of the new varieties," Musick said, "and to help them make better planting choices in September."

He said the newest varieties are available, but if producers wait it they'll need to make an early decision as early as July or August.

Harvest time is expected to start within the next few weeks and Musick said some farmers in the area generally keep back seed from year to year to plant. This year's is doing "OK," and he said some might want to keep it back if it's shown resistant to disease.

"Strip rust has become a big threat," Musick said.

Both types affect the head of the plant, and can cause damage, he said. Damage, however, not affect photosynthesis, which in turn can reduce seed production. In some cases, severe damage can actually kill a plant.

Before going down to the test plots, Shroyer pointed out a stripe rust has become a problem.

He pointed out that stripe rust also known as yellowed streak of the world, is identified by yellow pustules that can be found on the underside of wheat leaves.

The disease "Stink," cool weather and warm is a problem until 2001. Occurrences were low and far between then and during a 30-year span, he said.

That, along with leaf rust, have present problems for the past few years.

Shroyer said companies and universities talk about resistant varieties, but completely avoiding the diseases isn't possible.

"Resistance isn't permanent," he said. "Resistance research is continuing."

What is these resistant Shroyer said more rust is.

Out of it several years ago, he said, several varieties had their rusts. One in the looks developed.

He said last year's wheat from west Kansas probably.

He also the wheat called "Pilot" is a "good" winter wheat he during the future working in the mountains.

What's more, he said, rusts about last year.

"That Shroyer Over who's present of the

businesses recognized at program in C

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Fort Hays State University, were made.

In choosing Horlacher Jewelers, it was noted that the store has been in Colby since 1927 and the owners travel to Belgium yearly to select diamonds for their customers. In addition, the store was congratulated for its sponsorship of Gold and Silver Achievement Awards for the local 4-H group during the last 50 years. The store was also honored for its community efforts in supporting local women's bowling teams, after-prom parties and graduation projects. The other Colby business recognized, J & B Market, established in 2004 and nominated by the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, received praise for its donation of hams to all the Christian concerts held in the area and contributions it made to local schools, organizations and other events. The market has fresh-cut meats, cut to order and a small line of groceries. The store also provides a few tables for customers to enjoy a noon meal of soup and sandwiches from its daily menu, according to information provided on the nomination.

Merit awards for service-type businesses included Howard Johnson Hotel Lincoln L. in Goodland, Crossroads Express, Oberlin, Mapes and Miller Certified Public Accountant, Phillipsburg, Cheyenne County Hospital, Poling Chiropractic and Family Health Center and Zero's, all in St. Francis, Shroyer said.

Other Hays nominees included Regional Ag Services, Inc., Phillipsburg, RANS, Inc., Ellis State Rural Tech/Rural Tech Manufacturers merit awards.

Russell Agri in Norton — Naomata Corp. City, Osborne Construction Construction, Inc., Phillipsburg.

Before the ceremony departed ceremonies in Kristy Druse, Kansas.com

charges not new, Hildyard's attorney says

allegations of over-utilization based on averages of doctors who prescribe," he said.

"Dr. Hildyard is high, due primarily to his ability and ability to

O'Neil also addressed the rescheduling of his client's hearing, which was moved from February to June now from June to October.

"Postponing the hearing was beyond our control," said Stacy Cook, attorney with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts in Topeka. "It was not

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