

Neighbors band together for woman

WICHITA (AP) — Before she was severely injured in a bicycle accident in late spring, Jeanne Gordon sowed seeds that are bearing a bumper crop in her garden and beyond.

Friends and family, similarly nurtured, are bringing in the harvest.

"What do you do with this much basil?" Gordon's daughter Genevieve asks while walking through the vegetable garden in the family's oversized College Hill yard. The herb's spicy fragrance hangs in the air, along with birds, bees and butterflies. Genevieve calculates that her mother spent eight hours a day out here, watering, transplanting stray seedlings, laying rock.

"I hope somebody is enjoying the strawberries," Genevieve says.

Somebody probably is. A dozen people are taking turns tending Jeanne Gordon's garden as she works to make progress from the accident June 3 that killed her oldest daughter, Gabriele, and injured her spinal cord. Gordon, who is 50 years old, was taken to Craig Hospital in Denver. It specializes in spinal cord and brain injuries.

"When something like this happens there's just this need to do something," says Clare Vanderpool, a friend and one of the garden volunteers.

Jeanne Gordon taught her to swim when she was a child, Vanderpool says. A couple of weeks before the accident, when Vanderpool's own child made her First Communion, Gordon showed up at their house with a gift of a pink rose floating in water in a clear glass, a silver ribbon encircling it.

"It was so thoughtful," Vanderpool says. "I didn't even know she knew Grace was making her First Communion."

Now Gordon's friends are the ones sending her flowers, and tales of what's going on in her garden back home.

One of those friends, Amy Baxt, walks a few blocks from her house to Gordon's several times a week. She visited Gordon two days after the accident and told her how lovely her bird-feeding areas were.

Gordon's reaction, Baxt says, was immediate.

"The birds!"

A tracheotomy prevented Gordon from talking at the time, but she mouthed words that Baxt understood loud and clear: "The seed for the birds is in a cooler under the back porch."

Baxt immediately took on the task of keeping Gordon's many feeders filled, and soon a meeting was convened of friends and relatives who promised to keep her garden going.

"This was her passion," says Genevieve, 24. "She understands what a massive amount of care it needs."

While Gordon's family — Genevieve and four more children, the youngest of whom is 15, and her husband, Russ — grieve and care for her, the garden volunteers come in pairs every day, keeping track of what's been watered on a dry-erase board that sits on the covered porch.

"It's a comfort to her," Genevieve

says of her mother. "It's peace of mind for her, and knowing it's being taken care of by people who love it, too."

One friend connected a series of soaker hoses to timers so that the vegetable garden, edged in liriope, gets watered no matter what. The volunteers shower whiskey barrels of lavender, sage and thyme.

"They never have had a sprinkler system," says Mary Kay Rott, who lives across the street. "Jeanne is just out there dragging hoses."

Rott has her coffee every morning on her front porch, the ideal vantage point for viewing Gordon's garden.

"She loved to show it to people and share cuttings," Rott says. "When our oldest daughter got a house, she says, 'Oh, Kate, I want to give you some things to put in your yard.'"

Gordon grew up in Wichita, but her grandparents were farmers, and she once called her aunts in Nebraska to walk her through the process of canning over the phone. Jars of jam fill shelves in the house.

"She has always had a kind of bond toward that kind of life," Genevieve says, "having space and being able to grow things."

The Gordons' house sits on a double lot, and Jeanne used it to construct various gardens — while never obstructing the kids' football field, of course.

There's a memory garden where she has planted things from deceased relatives and departed neighbors; the vegetable garden, alternately producing lettuce and onions, turnips and tomatoes, strawberries and cucumbers; a secret garden at the back, where orange lilies run wild and pieces of mirrored glass hang on fishing line from the branches of the trees. In the morning the light reflects off the glass and dances on the flowers.

Gordon's new project this year was designing pots not only to hold plants but religious statuary as well: St. Fiacre, angels, a Pieta. There's a shrine to St. Joseph on the fence.

All the personal and spiritual touches fill the volunteers with a presence when they're in the garden.

"It's like being with Jeanne without being with Jeanne," one of them, Amy Herd, says.

Genevieve says that her family finds the volunteers "amazing." Their help creates a connection between home and hospital.

"It's so nice to be able to tell her, 'This is what's in bloom.' Or show her pictures," Genevieve says.

The connection isn't just one-way. The garden volunteers continue to feel the influence of their friend, who, they say, has not changed since the accident.

"She's pretty amazing in terms of her spirit," Vanderpool says. "Not just coping with this but wondering what's in store, what's God's plan in this."

Rott says, "It was just a huge part of her life," then catches herself and carries on in the next breath: "It will be again. She'll be back. It may not be in the exact same way we were used to. "But she'll be back."

Colby Latter-Day Saints name president

By Maxine Nelson

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Dr. Gary Slavens has been sustained as branch president of Colby Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Rocky Robbins is his first counselor and Tim Wilson of Winona is second counselor. Calvin Haverfield of Monument is branch clerk and executive secretary.

The church believes in a lay ministry and does not employ paid ministers.

Dr. Slavens recently started a private family practice in Colby. Slavens grew up in the small farming community of Blanding, Utah. He served a mission for the church in Indianapolis, Ind.

He and his wife, Jane, have seven children, five of them at home. A son is getting married in August. He says he has served in lots of church callings during the

years. "We want to invite visitors and newcomers to church," he said. "Everyone is always welcome."

For information about the church, contact the missionaries at 465-9187.

The local branch of the church was opened in 1973 as a dependent Sunday School in Oakley, and organized as a branch the following year. The chapel in Colby was built in 1980.

The Colby Branch of the church includes members from Atwood to Winona, from Hoxie to Brewster, as well as Colby. It is part of the Garden City Stake which encompasses the area from the Nebraska to the Kansas borders.

The Church of Jesus Christ of

“

We want to invite visitors and newcomers to church. Everyone is always welcome.”

Dr. Gary Slavens,



Dr. Slavens

Latter-day Saints, headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, is the second-fastest growing church in the United States, according to the 2006 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, published by the National Council of Churches.

The Church was organized with six members in Fayette, N.Y., April 6, 1830, under the leadership of Joseph Smith. By 1930, Church membership in Kansas was 2,060. The first stake (diocese) in Kansas was organized in June 1962. Member-

ship reached 12,560,869 members worldwide at the end of 2005, with 5,690,672 in the United States.

In the spring of 1820, a 14-year-old boy named Joseph Smith went into a grove of trees near his home in Palmyra, N.Y., and prayed to learn which church he should join. In answer to his prayer, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to him, just as heavenly beings had appeared to prophets like Moses and Paul in biblical times.

Joseph learned the church originally organized by Jesus Christ was no longer on the earth.

During the next 10 years, Joseph was visited by other heavenly messengers, translated the Book of Mormon, and received authority to organize the Church.

The church believes in modern day revelation. Gordon B. Hinckley is president and prophet of the church.

SHARE the FAITH

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



COLBY EVANGELISM CENTER, Rev. Robert Cooper, 815 West 3rd - 462-2062, Sunday School 9:45; Sunday service 10:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Power Hour at 7:00 p.m.

Schedule of church services

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867, Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (SBC), Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05

p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. http://www.gbmg-umc.org/colby-umc/

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Apostle W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Center (Bible School), 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

COLBY EVANGELISM CENTER, Rev. Robert Cooper, 815 West 3rd - 462-2062, Sunday School 9:45; Sunday service 10:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Power Hour at 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m.

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Summer Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

This feature is sponsored by these business firms and individuals as a contribution to the religious life of the community.

To become a sponsor, call Crystal Rucker, or Jasmine Crotinger at 462-3963.

We appreciate the businesses and individuals who have been faithful contributors to this space.

COLBY LUMBER
Bud Van Horn and Staff
1760 W. 4th 462-2181

COMMERCIAL SIGNS OF COLBY & HAYS
YOUR SIGN / Our Reputation
1185 Zelfer Ave. • Colby, KS

nwkansas.com
Call 462-3963 or stop by
155 W. 5th St., Colby

COLBY PHOTO
Wednesday is double print day.
Mark & Aradath Beringer
420 N. Franklin, 462-8169

COLBY FREE PRESS
155 W. 5th • Colby
462-3963

Thanks for making our first year a success!

JAMU BOOKS & FAITH GEAR

10% off all merchandise
This Friday & Saturday Only

455 N. Franklin Ave
Colby, KS 67701
(785) 460-BOOK (2665)
www.jamubooks.com

New and used books
We special order!

introducing
Grace

You are Invited To The Introduction Of
Grace Of Antwerp Diamond
"A cut above the rest"

Designed by Jeff Horlacher and Krochmal and Lieber
Antwerp, Belgium ~ October 2005

Thursday, July 27th Through
Saturday, July 29th
9 - 6 daily

HORLACHER JEWELERS
442 N. Franklin
Colby, KS 67701
(785) 462-2241