

# Mother 'branches out' with kids

LAWRENCE (AP) — Sarah Faith takes it just a little personally if you ask whether she had a treehouse when she was growing up.

"No, I did not," she says, sounding a bit like a pouting 8-year-old. "And I'm still mad about it."

That's partly why she helped arrange for her kids — 6-year-old Tabettha and 7-year-old Raymond — to have a play-perch in a pin oak that sits in the family's back yard three miles south of Lawrence.

There, Raymond has sword fights and hurls water balloons at friends, and Tabettha pretends to be a princess, though she admits that occasionally even she and her girly friends "pretend we have bad guys" to chase.

Checkers, Hula Hoops and the Slinky may have lost some of their appeal with children, but treehouses are still cool.

During the day, Faith's children use their treehouse's bucket-and-pulley system to hoist toys and impress their friends. On some temperate nights, the treehouse becomes a makeshift bedroom for Faith.

"She loves it," Tabettha says, "A LOT."

The Faiths' treehouse is a basic, classic structure: a floor surrounded by vertical panels, with a window opening facing west.

Ken Waldock, 61, considers his prized treehouse another classic design.

"This," he says, "is your basic little cozy treehouse."

That would depend on your definition.

The house, supported by surrounding walnut trees and posts, is big enough to hold about 10 children. It has a deck on the outside and an air conditioner inside. A loft is designed to look like a treehouse inside the treehouse.

This is Waldock's retirement project on his 40-acre spread north of Eudora. He sounds like an excited boy as he walks between the three treehouses and one tree "stage" on his property, talking about future improvement projects.

He has Scout groups stay at his place five or six times a year. He had someone get married there once, and occasionally families will use it as a place to get away for a weekend.

It's not a business, and it's not a nonprofit foundation of any sort, but Waldock says he offers it as a service to people who might appreciate a good treehouse getaway.

"There's a need for a treehouse park," he says.

In addition to the treehouse with the loft, Waldock has a slightly smaller climate-controlled treehouse and a third just 2 feet off the ground, with a ramp leading up for wheelchair accessibility.

The houses have TVs, clocks, futons and artwork. They started as custom-made sheds and are supported by both beams and 1-inch rods and brackets piercing the trees. Waldock's original treehouse, which he says he built "just for practice," has survived a microburst slamming a tree into its side.

"On the coldest winter night," Waldock says, "just for the heck of it, we go to the treehouse, just to brave it."

Granted, not all treehouses are popular year-round.

The Anderson children — 6-year-old Caden, 5-year-old Makenna and 2-year-old Kyla — tend to shy away from their new tree abode when it's super-hot out.

But it just got completed a month ago, and they're still fans of catching fireflies, using the trap door and pulley system and even sleeping at night 8 feet above their home in west Lawrence.

"The kids enjoy it," Cherise Anderson says. "Even with computer games and PlayStation, treehouses are pretty cool."

Her husband, Jeremy, grew up with a treehouse and took a week off his job as an adviser to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to build one for his children. He says it was only slightly different from building his deck, which attaches to the treehouse via a bridge.

Caden asked his friends to draw potential designs for the treehouse. But most of those looked like snakes, dragons or dinosaurs, so Jeremy chose a more traditional design.

"It was actually pretty easy to build," Jeremy Anderson says. "I had a lot of fun doing it with Caden, and being able to do it with him."

Jeremy Anderson says he likes the idea that the treehouse requires a little imagination.

"It can be whatever you want it to be," he says.

"It can be a car one day, a ship one day, or it can be a house."

Caden has a birthday coming up soon, and he plans to show off the house to his friends.

"I'm mostly up there every day,"

he says. If there's any doubt this structure is indeed a "house": It's complete with an electronic doorbell to signal a guest.

The treehouse at the Dedloff residence is about to undergo a renovation.

Wayne Dedloff built it seven years ago for his children, shortly after the family moved to Riverview Road. It is about 4 feet off the ground and has a ladder leading up to it, a slide leading down and gymnast rings and a climbing net attached to it.

But the boys — Hunter, 10, and Logan, 8 — are old enough to want a treehouse with a little more elevation. So Dedloff is planning to add a second story before the start of school.

The boys have grand plans, including a fireman-style pole down the middle of the structure.

"They're the architects," Wayne Dedloff says. "I'm the contractor."

Logan says the treehouse — even without the addition — is a hit with his friends.

"Whenever I invite a friend over," he says, "I climb up here."

Wayne Dedloff admits there's a bit of catharsis in having a treehouse in his back yard. He was an Army brat who never had a treehouse of his own.

"This is the back yard I never had," he says.

"I have to test everything, to make sure it holds my weight," he adds with a smile. "Whenever they're not around, I climb up here."

Logan's ears suddenly perk up, and he asks: "What do you climb on, Dad?"

"Oh, nothing," Wayne replies.

Back at the Faiths' home south of Lawrence, 7-year-old Raymond explains why he wanted a treehouse.

"I really wanted to climb," he says, "but there wasn't a climbing tree."

Now he has a way to get up into that oak, and can climb even higher on the branches leading off of it — especially if his mom isn't looking.

Sarah Faith says she has some rules for the treehouse, including no spitting from the top, and no hanging over the edge.

Generally, she says, she's not worried about her kids up there. Her father commissioned his friend, a home builder, to construct the treehouse.

# Revival



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

A team worked to erect a tent at College Drive Assembly of God Church, 245 W. College Drive, Thursday. The church is holding a tent revival at 6:30 p.m. today and at 6:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Regular Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. will be held under the tent. Everyone is welcome.

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# Firefighters gain from pay glitch

PITTSBURG (AP) — A payroll error caused the city of Pittsburg to overpay its firefighters \$122,260 in a 16-month period, the city has acknowledged, although no evidence of intentional wrongdoing was found, the city said Wednesday.

The errors that led to the overpayments between Jan. 1, 2005, and May 2006 have been corrected, Pittsburg City Manager Allen Gill said in a written statement.

Gill delivered the statement to The Morning Sun in Pittsburg after the newspaper submitted an Open Records request Tuesday asking for pay scales and pay rates of firefighters.

Thirty of the city's 34 firefighters were overpaid an average of \$4,075, which does not include the price of benefits. The \$122,260 overpayment represents about 7.1 percent of the total payroll for the Pittsburg Fire Department.

The problem occurred in overtime payments, Gill's statement said. Federal labor laws allow firefighters to work up to 212 hours in 28 days without being paid overtime.

All overtime hours are to be paid at 1.5 times the regular rate.

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## AUCTION

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**  
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Auction will be held in McAllister, Kansas on Highway 40 between Winona & Wallace, KS

### TOOLS

Craftsman 10" radial arm saw; Craftsman 10" table saw; B&D 10" table saw w/ long table; Rockwell 6" jointer; Rockwell 4 sp. Wood lathe; lathe tools; Rockwell 10" bandsaw; maple show work table; cleaning booth w/ pump; Durojet power washer; Bostic framing gun; Bostic shingling stapler; Milwaukee Sawzall; router & table; Ryobi tri sander; sanders; electric drills; jig saws; hand planes; corner clamps; wood clamps, inside & out callipers; end wrenches; socket sets; water pump pliers; hammers; bars; hand saws; nail pullers; levels; organizers; pickup tool box; shovels; forks; Sears fencer; extension cords; airplane brake hose for air hose; used lumber inc: 2" x 12", 2" x 6"; 6 ga aluminum wire; giger counter; saw blades; fertilizer spreader; pickup ladder rack, 1/2 sack cement mixer no motor; wheel barrow; ladders; basement jack; assortment other tools.

### ANTIQUES

Walnut round parlor table w/ claw feet; Symphony 3 drawer card cabinet; marble top ice cream table w/ 2 chairs; commode; ash serpentine dresser w/ mirror; 2 bases for Hoosier cabinets; 3 sets of 4 oak chairs; set of 4 pattern back chairs; set of 6 bentwood chairs; assortment chairs, 4 round oak tables; 48" square oak table; library table; 3 walnut dressers - 1 has wishbone mirror; mahogany parlor set (needs upholstered); flat top desk; plant stands; 20's night stand; 9 drawer jewelry chest; several dresser bases; mahogany parlor table; mahogany secretary needs back; dish cupboard no bottom doors; wall showcase; flat top trunk; hotel room desk; bookshelf; 20's book table; 20's sofa table; 20's walnut desk; jewelers bench; Warm Morning 520 wood stove; several small tables; 4 porcelain cabinet tops, 22 single shot rifle; 20 ga shotgun; 22 pistol; reverse painted picture; collection state plates; assortment glassware; figurines; rubber dolls; cream cans; chair canning parts; cast iron skillets & pots; side board mirror; assorted oak table leaves; assortment table legs; Coca Cola light; dresser mirrors & yokes; cast iron boilers, lead dippers, trunk parts; furniture stain, screws & parts.

### HOUSEHOLD & OTHER

Lowery electric organ; assortment music; 2 piece bedroom set; triple dresser; pine sewing cabinet; 19" TV; assortment books; entertainment center; NCR cash register; metal base cabinet; 2 drawer file; stainless steam table; pots & pans; kitchen appliances; bedding; Christmas decorations.

Note: Lloyd & Mae refinished furniture, there are several pieces that are ready to finish. There are many tools.

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