

Family

Moving peonies requires special attention to detail

I suspect that if you were take a poll among flower gardeners in the tri-state area, you would find that the rose is still the most coveted blossom of them all in our flower beds. And I would also venture a guess that the peony would not be far behind.



Kay Melia
• The Gardener

Peonies offer so much pleasure to those who enjoy a beautiful, fragrant and early rush of color in our gardens. And they do it for years and years with very little effort on our part.

But occasionally it becomes necessary to relocate the peonies to a different location in the yard due to new construction or just a desire to move them to an area where there is more sun or for whatever reason. Moving a peony is probably a bit more difficult than you might think. These plants do not like to be disturbed, which might account for their long life in their present location. But when absolutely necessary, they CAN be successfully relocated.

First, dig up the old plant, being careful not to leave any of the roots in the ground. As you dig them, note that there are pink buds on them, sometimes small, but

usually an inch or two long. When you knock the soil off the roots, be careful not to injure those little buds. Break up the roots into pieces that will have three or four of those buds on them. Now comes the most important procedure of all. When you replant them in their new home, make certain that those little pink buds are not planted too deeply. Cover them with no more than an inch of soil. Covering them with too much soil will assure you that they will not bloom the following spring. Just a light covering of soil is all they need. But I would also cover the newly planted root with some straw or leaves to further assure their survival during the cold winter months.

Actually, if I were planting newly acquired peony roots, I would follow the same procedure. The secret is to be sure the pink buds are not planted too deeply.

It is important to plant them in an area where you would not expect to plant other shrubbery or large perennial plant life of any kind.

If you have checked out the prices of peony roots at your local nursery or garden center or in the mail order catalog, sticker shock might be a problem. It is not unusual for a newly introduced peony variety to be priced at \$100 per root or more. The breeding process of peonies is very fragile and it takes years to perfect. Still, you can buy most any of the great peony roots for no more than \$10 per root, which still sounds a bit expensive, but not when compared to a new rose bush. My favorite peony for some reason or other is one called "Kansas" and costs \$9.95 per root. It is an intensely colored fuchsia-red color and is an American Peony Society Gold Medal Winner.

Bulb planting time is here. As you drop a few tulip and daffodil bulbs into the fertile soil of your flower beds this fall, consider planting several peony roots. They'll likely last you a lifetime.

Quinter author focuses book on helping foster children succeed

By Erica Bradley
The Norton Telegram
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Foster children account for over 100,000 of American's children. Many times they are shipped between homes until they turn 18 and are eliminated from the system.

Delbert Harvey recently wrote "It's All About Choice," a book that delves into the nature of foster children, being a parent to these kids and the role society must play to help them succeed.

In Kansas there are an estimated 4,963 children in out-of-care placement. These children may be placed with relatives or eventually returned to their birth parents, but many bounce between foster homes looking for a family to care for them.

"To eliminate the foster care backlog, we need a community focus and an interrelated system that empowers the foster and adoptive parents and gives support and encouragement to the kids," Harvey said.

"Providing structure and support to the parents of these children are of utmost importance. The learning process for the child who has been through the foster system must be a team effort just as it is with any other exceptionality," he said.

Children are taken from their parents for a variety of reasons.

Abuse falls under the categories of physical, mental, emotional, sexual and neglect. Neglect is the most common form of abuse and includes failure to provide food, clothing or shelter, failure to provide adequate supervision, failure to use resources available to treat a diagnosed medical condition if the treatment will make the child more comfortable.

Emotional abuse is defined as a pattern of acts that impairs the child's social, emotional or intellectual functioning.

According to children and family services, abuse can be seen through physical indicators like bruises, welts or burns or through behavioral indicators such as being full of rage, being passive or withdrawn, running away from home or displaying severe depression or anxiety.

Any indicator has to be considered with other evidence and has to be reported to the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services or to local law enforcement.

Harvey argues in his book that removing children from their homes is not the solution, there are many other issues that have to be addressed.

"Every second from the time a child is removed from her biological home should be invested in her welfare by the foster care agencies, the schools, the churches, the foster parents,

adoptive parents, children's or organizational groups, the community. The only way this can happen is through education," he said.

Harvey has established a Fund of Choice to provide financial assistance to individuals who were in foster care, who were adopted or who were from broken homes. He said \$1 from each sale will go to the fund and \$4 will go to a fund for Greg Woolf.

Woolf has non-hodgkin's lymphoma. He resides in Colby.

"It's All About Choice" is on sale in Norton, Colby, Oberlin, Hill City and other locations. It is available for purchase at First Stop, Moffet Drug Store and Pure Prairie Natural Foods in Norton. It is also available at drugstores in Colby, Hoxie and Oberlin.

Harvey resides in Quinter. He and his wife Christie have adopted seven children, including six who were adopted from foster care. The couple went through a private adoption for their youngest who still lives with them. He has one biological son.

The Harveys have fostered over 50 children in the last 20 years.

To purchase a book or donate to the Fund of Choice, visit www.choiceisit.com. To schedule a speaking engagement with Harvey, call (785) 754-2301 or (785) 754-8233.

Tootsie Roll Drive helps disabled

This weekend, Friday through Sunday, has been designated as Helping People with Intellectual Disability Days in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus' annual Tootsie Roll Fund Drive.

Colby Knights will be in front of Dillons, Walmart and Oasis Travel Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, handing out specially marked Tootsie Rolls and asking for donations. They will also be distributing Tootsie Rolls at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

"Our goal this year is around \$3,000," says chairman Jerad Lange, adding that this is a little higher than last year's total.

Of the proceeds, the group says, 80 percent is re-

turned to Kansas councils to be donated to institutions they choose. The remaining 20 percent is used by the State Council to sponsor the Special Olympics basketball tournament at Fort Hays State University and for religious education for people with intellectual disabilities.

Knights have donated many hours to help these people. They ask that you share your generosity when you see them in bright yellow and red aprons.

If a member does not contact you, donations may be sent to the Colby council. Make checks payable to Tootsie Roll Program Fund and send them to Jerad Lange, 445 Field Street, Colby, Kan., 67701. Donations should be tax deductible.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Thursday

12:52 a.m. - Clerk from Holiday Inn Express called about subjects being unruly. Spoke with management, everything OK.

2:07 a.m. - Owner from Twister's called about construction workers leaving in a vehicle who were being rude to customers. Unable to locate vehicle, spoke with the owner, wanted nothing further done.

7:59 a.m. - Accident in 100 block of West Third.

8:17 a.m. - Third-party complaint of rooster in the 500 block of N. Martin. Spoke to owner.

8:56 a.m. - Secretary at high school reported two-vehicle accident in parking lot.

10:06 a.m. - Domestic battery report for last week.

11:29 a.m. - Theft of porch swings two days earlier.

1:38 p.m. - Clerk reported theft

on Tuesday at 24/7 Store.

4 p.m. - Call that someone damaged vehicle at 600 S. Mission Ridge. No report filed, apple fell on car from tree.

4:43 p.m. - Vehicle window broken out at 115 W. Willow. Appears to be wind damage.

5:03 p.m. - Caller reported missing person from 645 N. Mission Ridge; Attempt to locate sent out.

7:01 p.m. - Assistant manager reported associate found a bag of green at 115 W. Willow. Item recovered and disposed of.

7:08 p.m. - Bike stolen from Dennen Field.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Thursday

12:15 p.m. - Served Pawnee County arrest warrant on Garth Lee Kruse.

1:34 p.m. - Assisted ambulance on call at U.S. 83 mile 171.

2:46 p.m. - Lost/stolen tag from vehicle that subject sold to a subject in Oakley. No report; civil matter.

4:58 p.m. - Tailgate stolen off truck at 2131 County Rd. 3.

5:53 p.m. - Received 911 disconnect from 2000 County Rd. 23. Phone is dead, may have misdialed.

9:03 p.m. - Man camping five miles east of Colby on U.S. 24. Everything OK.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

	Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$3.54
Corn (bushel)	\$2.83
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.33
Soybeans (bushel)	\$7.55

Square dance set for Hays

The Shooting Stars Square Dance Club will hold a dance from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Wednesday at Roosevelt Elementary School in Hays.

Fred Trujillo will call the squares. Everyone is welcome.

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

THE CLASSIFIEDS
Where the Deals Are!

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone in the community who expressed support for Ben Hopper's family during the recent loss of Ben's wife Rusti. Many gave cards, flowers, food and donations. During times like this God's family comes together and your expressions of sympathy helped everyone through this very difficult time.

Ben Hopper, Marissa, Kelli & Christian
Leonard and Karen Hopper
Robert and Dawn Beitz,
Alex & Abby
Carol Frice, Elaine Hansen
Tina Cunningham, Dustin & Matthew
Thomas Dodson, Josey, Michael, & Christopher Hopper

The H1N1 Flu - Protect Yourself. Be Informed.

As with any illness or disease, educating yourself about the H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) is one of the best means of protection. There are plans to have the flu vaccine available in mid-October, but meanwhile knowing the symptoms, knowing what to do, and knowing when further medical attention is needed will go far to prevent the spread of the flu virus. Most people will recover from H1N1 flu without needing any medical attention whatsoever. However, treatment is available for those who are seriously ill.

To help you determine if you should seek medical attention, Citizens Medical Center, Colby, and Hays Medical Center have partnered to bring you a toll free information hotline to call before you call your healthcare provider.

Recognize the symptoms

Symptoms of H1N1 flu virus are similar to symptoms of seasonal flu:

- Fever greater than 100°F

usually for 3 days, but may persist for 4 to 8 days. Sometimes fever will go away and return a day later.

- Aching muscles
- Cough
- Headache
- Joint aches
- Eye pain
- Feeling very cold or having shaking chills
- Feeling very tired
- Sore throat, runny or stuffy nose
- Diarrhea and vomiting

The elderly, children under 5, pregnant women, people of any age with chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease) and people who are immunosuppressed are at higher risk of serious complications.

Stay home

If you have some of the above symptoms:

- Stay at home, get plenty of rest, drink fluids and take fever reducers such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.

- Avoid contact with others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- If you must leave the house to seek medical care, wear a facemask.

Know when to seek further medical attention

If you believe you or a family member may need additional medical care, first call this toll free number:

H1N1/Swine Flu Hotline 1-877-261-7140

A service of Citizens Medical Center, Colby, and Hays Medical Center



2220 Canterbury - Hays

More information is also available online: www.flu.haysmed.com



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Contact Kathryn at the Colby Free Press for more information on available routes.