## High expectations can lead to procrastination

Their excuse of

is that they have

Webster's Dictionary defines procrastination as "to defer or put off until a later time." All of us procrastinate at some time or the other, and the reasons for doing so are many. One of the most common reasons is the worry that the task will not be completed to the satisfaction of others or, even more so, to our own high standards.

Perfectionists, in particular, will become absorbed in the details, often ignoring the need to move a project along until the very last minute. And there are those who will not even finish a project for fear it is not good enough.

Some people can fantasize the project and describe their ideas very well, but too often find it difficult to turn their ideas into clear plans of action. But their lack of results usually produces disappointment and discouragement from others later on. Sometimes non-completion is associated with fear, particularly when the project involves working with or talking to others who may be in disagreement.

There are people who just can't get started until time becomes critical. They rely on the crisis of needing to get a project completed to get them started, and frequently look like they have accomplished a great deal in the process. Some people do not start a project because they are angry at having been asked to do it,

#### matters of record

#### **District Traffic**

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court. All ages are at the time of

Sept. 23: Gladys L. Jones, 70, Leawood, \$153 for unlawful park-

Tony D. Kennedy, 46, Murphysville, Ill., \$225 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regula-

Sept. 24: William D. Cannon, 51, Greenville, N.C., \$153 for unlawful

Scott Edwards, 28, Watauga, Texas, \$135 for speeding, 85/70.

Joseph Y. Garcia, 51, Colorado Springs, \$153 for speeding, 88/70. Bobby J. Kinder, 73, Westminster, Colo., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations,

not Unified Carrier registration. Sept. 25: Jeremy W. Durr, 36, Lincoln, Neb., \$175, \$100 and \$100 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, no Unified Carrier registration, no medical card

Marie L. Johnson, 49, Goodland, \$111 for speeding, 76/65, and \$30 for not wearing a seat belt.

Jeffrey L. McCall, 46, Denver, \$123 for speeding, 78/65.

Dale B. Ryba, 42, Colorado Springs, \$147 for speeding, 87/70. David P. Sharlow, 40, Winthrop, N.Y., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, no

Gregory W. Thrall, 31, Boulder, Colo., \$165 for speeding, 90/70.

Unified Carrier registration.

Sept. 26: Jose M. Alvarez-Lopez, 24, Carbondale, Colo., \$174 for speeding, 91/70.

Nathan C. Galvan, 18, Apache Junction, Ariz., \$147 for speeding,

Cyanne S. Hamill, 36, Searcy, Ark., \$192 for speeding, 93/70.

Santo D. Jenison, 47, Quakertown, Pa., \$153 for speeding, 88/70, and \$30 for not wearing a seat belt.

Robert J. McCall, 22, Winona, \$183 for speeding, 87/65, and \$27 for driving a motorcycle without a motorcycle endorsement.

Damon W. Rickard, 26, Goodland, \$135 for unlawful acts with vehicles, expired registration.

Dean W. Staubs, 49, Hoxie, \$159 for unlawful parking and \$30 for not

wearing a seat belt. Toney J. Willis, 29, Dallas, N.C.,

\$136 for speeding, 85/70. Sept. 27: Rafael Acosta-Yanez, 28, Fort Worth, Texas, \$375 for not

having liability insurance. Jay P. Cotter, 17, Goodland, \$60 for not wearing a seat belt.

Lorenzo T. Delgado, 16, Goodland, \$60 for not wearing a seat belt

as a passenger. Christopher J. George, 25, Taunton, Mass., \$135 for speeding,

Shane A. Rehm, 31, Vallejo, Calif., \$165 for speeding, 90/70.

Sept. 28: Otilid Gonzalez-Santos, 38, Denver, \$135 for speeding,

Sept. 29: Matthew L. Heiter, 23, Goodland, \$135 for not having a child in safety restraint and \$30 for

not wearing a seat belt. **Sept. 30:** Earl Thomas Boeckermann, 44, International Falls, Minn., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying Unified Carrier registra-

high plains IGH mental health plain sense

completely as a result of their resent- there are too many other fun things

things to do. And then there and are likely to do it wrong or in- are others who delay just because

task by taking project it is usually obvious that "just do it," particularly when the yourself at the end and how good it on other tasks. their best effort was not made.

Putting things off is a habit that why the job is can be changed. Allowing extra time to complete the project well not completed before it is due might be one solutoo many other tion, especially for perfectionists and being realistic about what can be accomplished. Breaking the project down into smaller, more manageable tasks might be benefiment. There are those who avoid the to do. When they finally finish the cial. Sometimes a person needs to finishing, consider a "reward" for

element of fear is present. It usually doesn't turn out as bad as anticipated anyway. Looking at the personal worth, enjoyment and reward in the project may help overcome feelings of anger or resentment. Sometimes saying "no" to all tha busy work and prioritizing what is really important is the only way to get the job started. And for those who prefer fun over *help*.

will feel to have the job done.

Contributed by Karen D. Beery, LCPC, Consultation and Education Department of High Plains Mental Health Center.

The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional

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