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COMMUNITY

Spying on the Hard Workers Next Door



By Dorothy Rosby

Over the summer I watched the teenager next door build a flowerbed in his family's front yard. Throughout the year I watch him and his three younger siblings mow their lawn, rake the leaves and shovel the snow in their driveway. When they're inside I imagine them dusting, vacuuming and talking about how their nosey neighbor lady is always spying on them.

I'm not nosey. What I am is nostalgic. When I'm watching them I'm thinking back to when I had a child at home to rake and vacuum for me. Those were the days—me delegating, knowing all would be done to my expectations and without complaint. I miss hearing my son say, "Yes Mother. I'd be happy to mop the kitchen floor. Would you like me to clean the bathroom too?"

Maybe it wasn't quite like that. Nor, I imagine, was it like that when my parents were assigning chores to me and my siblings. Nostalgia is, after all, the false sense that things were better when they happened so long ago we can't remember them accurately.

I don't know how it goes next door, but when I'm honest with myself, I know that the busier I was the less inclined I was to even ask my son for help. And the childrearing years were busy. Along with raising him, I was caring for my mother and working full-time. And the busier I got the less vital I considered some chores to be. It was hard to tell him to clean his room when he'd seen what mine looked like.

Plus teaching the skills necessary to complete certain tasks took time neither of us had. When he was in the middle of homework or extracurricular activities, I couldn't very well teach him to cook. I probably couldn't have anyway.

And like many other parents, I often found it easier and more efficient to just do it myself. When my son washed dishes, he needed to mop the floor too. Who had time for both?

Once when he was very young and his newly folded clothes looked more like a heap than a stack, I asked him if he was folding his T-shirts the way I'd taught him to. He said, "Mine are like snowflakes. They're all different." It was a lovely sentiment. Unfortunately, when every shirt was different, his dresser drawer wouldn't close.

Delegating to older children often involves a fight. My son had only me and my husband to argue with. But a mother of two once told me about an argument that broke out between her son and daughter over whose turn it was to load the dishwasher. She intervened when she sensed the dishes were about to start flying across the kitchen.

Eventually the dishwasher was running and the children were in their bedrooms cooling off. All was well—until later that evening. When my friend unloaded the dishwasher she discovered, there among the clean dishes, a broken glass and a couple of really, clean chicken bones.

The kids next door are so well behaved and responsible. I can't believe they ever fight about chores or run chicken bones through the dishwasher. I'm ashamed to admit this, but for some reason I'd be reassured to learn that they do. There's only one way to find out. One of these days I'm going to sneak over and peek in the windows.

OCCK, Inc. Brings Monthly "Tech Time" Event to the Frank Carlson Library in Concordia

OCCK, Inc. Assistive Technology is bringing its assistive technology services to the Concordia Library through Tech Time, a recurring opportunity for community members to get practical support with the technology they use every day.

Tech Time will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Frank Carlson Library, 702 Broadway St. in Concordia.

During each visit, OCCK's Assistive Technology team will be available to answer questions and provide guidance with:

- Computers and internet access
- Phones and tablets
- Televisions and smart-home technology
- Accessibility features and assistive technology
- Other everyday technology questions

"Technology is part of nearly everything we do, but that does not mean it always feels easy or accessible," said Tyler Stoddard, Director of Assistive Technology at OCCK, Inc. "Tech Time gives people a place to bring their device, ask questions and get help without feeling rushed. Sometimes one small setting or a little hands-on guidance can make a big difference."

"The Frank Carlson Library is excited to collaborate with OCCK and their Tech Time program to provide service and assistance to our community," said Lyndsey Kopsa, Director of the Frank Carlson Library. "On a frequent basis, we hear our patrons express their struggles with modern technology. We believe having a knowledgeable professional available to assist with everyday questions will be greatly beneficial to our community."

OCCK's Assistive Technology Mobile Van will also be on site, giving visitors an opportunity to explore technology and equipment that may make everyday tasks easier and support greater independence. The mobile van was created in partnership with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to meet people where they are, bringing technology guidance and hands-on support directly to their homes and communities. OCCK can bring the van to homes, workplaces, schools, organizations and other locations throughout the region for personalized assistance, demonstrations and opportunities to explore equipment.

"Tech Time gives people a welcoming, local place to ask questions and become more comfortable using technology," said Kendra Krier, Vice President of Rural Outreach and Services at OCCK, Inc. "But our support does not stop at the library doors. If someone cannot come to us, the Assistive Technology Mobile Van can bring those resources right to their door."

Community members are encouraged to bring the phone, tablet, laptop or other device they would like assistance with. Tech Time is open to people of all ages and experience levels, whether they need help changing a setting, learning a new feature or finding technology that could make an everyday task easier.

For more information about Tech Time, individualized assistive technology services or having the OCCK Assistive Technology Mobile Van come to your home, workplace, organization or community, call 785-827-9383 or visit www.occk.com.

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on August 13, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS.

In the Matter of the Estate of
Kenedy D. Constable, Deceased. Case No. OT-2026-PR-000026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that on August 3, 2026, a Petition For Issuance Of Letters Of Administration was filed in this Court by Elizabeth C. Hardacre, natural mother of and Conservator for Kohen D. Constable, the sole heir-at-law of Kenedy D. Constable, deceased, and on August 5, 2026, Elizabeth C. Hardacre was appointed Administrator of the Estate of Kenedy D. Constable, deceased.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this notice under K.S.A. 69-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Elizabeth C. Constable, Administrator

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Attorney for Petitioner

STRANGE, BUT TRUE...

While screening around 2 million airline passengers per day, TSA officers are accustomed to confiscating items such as full water bottles and too-large toiletries, but their more astonishing finds include grenades, cannonballs and even a samurai sword.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

David A. Barr, Plaintiff
v. Case No. 26CV22
To whom it concerns and Simeon Russell, Defendants

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO: all persons who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Ottawa County, Kansas, by David Barr, praying for a quiet title on the following personal property:

2008 Subaru Legacy Outback
VIN- 4S3BG6851W7639656
Estimated Value: $1000

And you are hereby required to plead to said Petition on or before Sept 1, 2026 at 10:00am, in the District Court of Ottawa county. If you fail to do so, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

David Barr
311 260th Rd, Solomon, KS
(785) 258-0123

CKMHC
CENTRAL KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
Salina 809 Elmhurst Blvd (Main Office)
Abilene 420 NE 10th St · Ellsworth 1602 Aylward Ave · Lincoln 114 W Court St · Minneapolis 817 A Argyle Ave
CKMHC Crisis Services Available 24/7
785-823-6322 or 800-794-8281
Help whenever you need it.
988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline — If you or someone you know needs support now. Call or text 988. Chat: 988lifeline.org
Crisis Text Line — Serves anyone, in any type of crisis. Text "HOME" to 741741. Chat: crisistextline.org or connect on WhatsApp
Farm Aid Hotline (English or Español) — If you or a loved one in the farming/ag community is struggling please reach out. Call: 1-800-327-6243 or call/text 988
The Trevor Project — Crisis Support Services for LGBTQ youth in need. Text "START" to 678678
Veterans Crisis Line — A free, confidential resource for all service members. Call 988 and press 1
National Domestic Violence Hotline — Text "START" to 88788. Chat: thehotline.org. Call: 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE)