



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Taking the time to express some TLC (tender loving care), Dora Gaitor enjoys being with the children at the day home.

## EOB

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brightest when she's talking about the children. She works with toddlers, but every day she stops in at the nursery as well.

"If you're not here, they look for you. Even the babies ... When they see you they put their little arms up for you to pick them up, to give them love. And I just love them, I kiss them. When I go away I say, 'bye-bye' and they look at me forlorn. I know they love me," she said.

Before becoming a foster grandparent, Fedorchak worked for seven years as a baby-sitter for casinos and other corporations.

"It was lonely and dangerous," she said. "You have to go home late at night. I'd rather come into a room with the children where I can sit and be safe. This is such a wonderful place. I've never seen anything like it."

Like Gurry, Fedorchak takes her volunteer work home, in spirit.

"I pray every morning before I come here," she said. "I say, 'Lord, please let me not harm even one hair on their

head. I want to do everything I can for them, to make them happy, to make them not suffer, to help them learn."

Richard Henderson — "Grandpa Richard" to the children — teaches woodworking. His quiet demeanor and patience sways the children's attention every time. When the saw is put away, he helps the children with other hands-on projects. Making paper airplanes teaches them hand-eye coordination.

Marie Alexander teaches the alphabet and numbers to special needs children. Her instructional materials are worksheets and puzzles. The 82-year-old sits calmly in a wheelchair at a semi-circular work table, breezing through the task of keeping a handle on six children who have trouble working in large groups.

"Children love discipline," she said. "You don't yell at them or hit them, but you have to be firm with them. They respect that. They pay attention."

"Grandma, can I sit by Jerrica, 'cause we're getting along and stuff?" asks a child in her care.

"Alright, you sit next to her," she replied, directing the children to quietly move the chairs and change their seating arrangement. Alexander stresses cooperation.

Later, a voice rises, tinged with sadness to make a point, "Grandma, she punched me."

"Who punched you?" Alexander asks. The child points. "Tatiana, Tatiana, come here," Alexander commands. "Tell Jerrica you're sorry you punched her, and give her a hug. Come on, we're peace makers, you know. Give her a hug."

The two girls hug; the conflict is over. "She needs extra attention," Alexander said of Tatiana. "If she were over there with the larger class, she wouldn't get any benefits."

Alexander's rewards are spiritual. She's been involved with Foster Grandparents for seventeen years, eight of them at Variety Day Home.

"It fills my day," she said of volunteering. "It gives me something to do instead of sitting and watching soap operas."

Lily Taylor is also a stickler (See EOB, Page 12)

## Myles

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adding that schools seemed more interested in his basketball skills. "But I decided, at the time, that football would be the best thing for me because I was getting better there."

UNR offered him a scholarship, allowing him to play for a Division I program and, more importantly, stay close to his mother.

Myles meshed with the team, known for its pass-happy offense and porous defense. He earned playing time as a freshman, playing his way up to second string. "The starter was a senior, so I had to just wait my turn in line," he said.

When his turn came, he didn't disappoint. He earned all-conference honors for three years, nabbed Big West Conference defensive player of the year honors as a junior and ended up being UNR's career tackling leader with 528. He figured his credentials would catch the eye of some pro scout.

"I knew I'd get a chance to play, it was just a matter of how high I would go in the draft, or would I be a free agent," he said.

He was right.

"Now, I've just got to do what I have to do to make the team, and hopefully get on the field."

Since the draft, Myles has attended mini-camp in Seattle. He called the camp eye-opening.

"It was a learning experience," he said. "There's a lot of stuff to learn, but I picked it up okay."

"Just like in college, there's big people and there's little people," he continued. "Everyone's fast — the game's a little faster — but I don't think there's anyone that's any faster than me, or who's skills have me saying, 'wow.'"

Myles thinks the Seahawks have talent and hopes he can help resurrect the once-proud franchise.

Next up for Myles is a mandatory three-day orientation for all draftees June 28 in Denver where they will learn about NFL life. Until then, Myles said he is getting prepared for training camp this summer.

"Running, riding the bike and lifting," he said, referring to his regimen. "(I'm) just trying to get back in the scene of working out, especially since now it's my job."

Myles said everyone — from his mother to family to friends and former coaches — are excited and wish him the best.

"They're all happy and they think I'll do well. Their support means a lot," he said.

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