



## Northwest Kansas college brings prosperity to area

Can you imagine Colby or northwest Kansas without a state-sponsored community college?

Neither can we, which makes it hard to sit back and watch some of the dithering and bickering that's retarded progress in putting Colby Community College on a sound financial footing.

College officials have battled cash-flow problems for years. The college operates "in the black," as required by Kansas law. It spends less than it takes in and always has enough to pay its bills. It's just that, like most any college, it gets its money in big chunks that don't necessarily come when cash is needed.

A big crunch always shows up this time of the year, when expenses continue to pile up while the school waits for three big payments – from the state, county taxes and student tuition – in January.

The county usually helps out with an advance on taxes, which it collects in December but distributes in January. This year, the college's Endowment Foundation has offered to help, too.

That makes sense, because the college, with its payroll and students, is an economic engine which drives a lot of prosperity.

But the college has had a worse time with cash flow than usual. Having a lot of turnover in staff and administration has not helped, but sending out student tuition bills late in the semester (at least partly because of an error by a

federal agency, which sent out corrupted data on student loans) really added to the cash bind.

Through the fall, too, ill-concealed bickering among some members of the governing Board of Trustees and the foundation did nothing to advance the college's cause. If we, meaning everyone in the college's northwest Kansas territory, are to "save" the college and put it on a sound financial foundation, then it will take all of us working together.

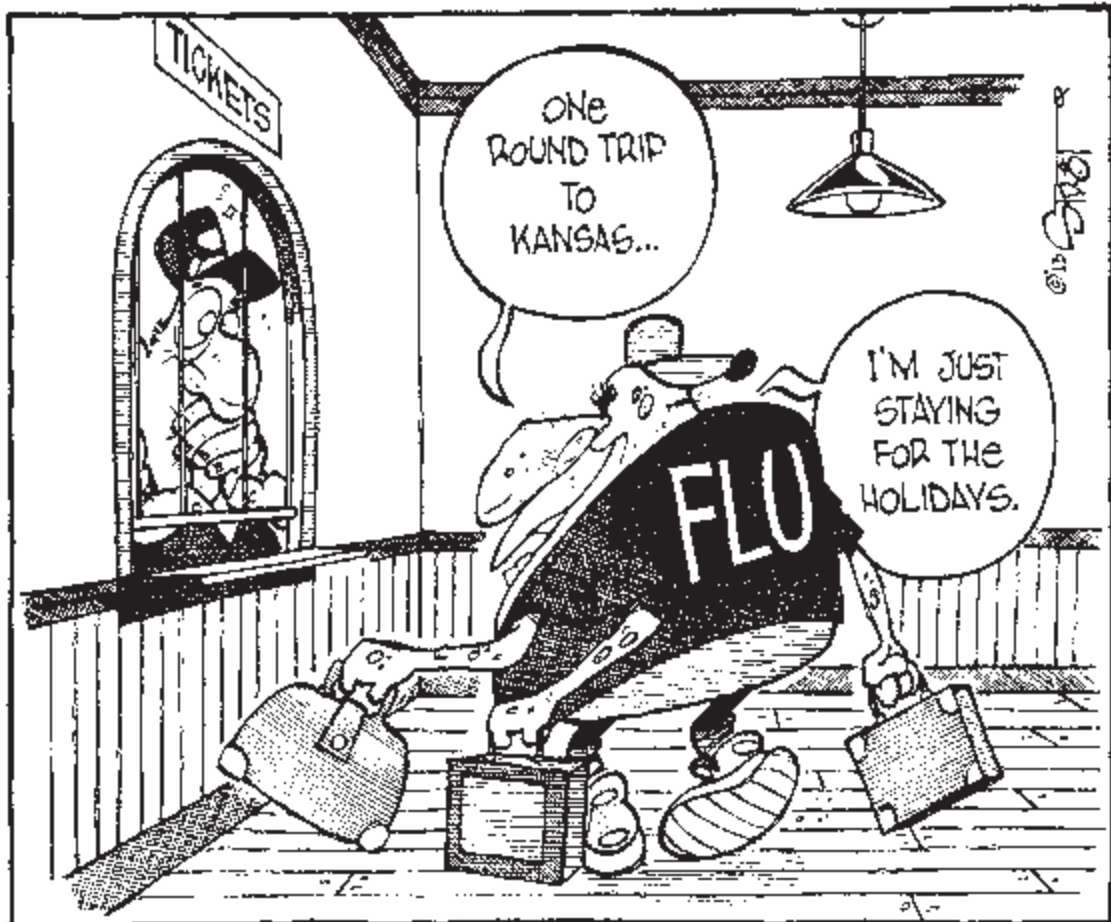
Neither the college nor the region has much room for error. We are losing population here, and with fewer people, there's less money to go around, but also fewer students for the college to recruit from.

The future will require clear thinking, a sound plan and above all, a unified effort. We believe the administration of President Steve Vacik has done much to correct problems it inherited, and that includes bringing in some fresh leadership.

This is not the time to fight over how to get things done. It is the time to get together and work for the common cause. Now, not tomorrow, because tomorrow might be too late.

We – all of us – need the college, the economic activity it generates and the cultural benefits it gives us, and especially the opportunity it provides for our kids.

Let's put our differences aside and get something done. – *Steve Haynes*



## Thank you for the holiday music

### Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

I want to recognize Neala Carmicheal and Debby Fiala for the glorious production of the beautiful holiday music that was shared with a "full

house" of beautiful music. The Community Choir did a wonderful job. It was great to hear and enjoy. This came about with much practice. Thanks to all who participated.

Linda Hilt

## Casey's Comments

A few fun gift ideas

By Casey McCormick



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We would probably all agree that Christmas has become overly commercialized. However, I believe the principle behind this action is noble. It still is about giving.

So with the celebration of Christ's birth being first, I took a moment to look at some last minute gift ideas.

If you're having trouble deciding for that "hard-to-buy-for" person on your list, you might con-

sider a membership to a "Month Club."

I'm not talking the jelly or wine clubs, but something more unique. How about the Lobster of the Month Club?

If shell fish don't float their boat here are some others: BBQ sauce, cigar, Bonsai (as in miniature Japanese pine trees,) peanut butter or Gag of the Month Club.

Still not finding the right answer? Here are three more great gift ideas. For the walking dead fan in the family there is a Remote

Control Zombie for \$24.99.

Or, what would the holiday be without a Lucky Yodeling Christmas Pickle Ornament at only \$12.99?

Last, but certainly not least, for \$99.50 who would forget the year they received a Platypus Woven Blanket?

Hope this helps to relieve some of that seasonal stress.

## Children's letters to Santa Claus

Dear Santa,

I've been a really good boy this year. I have been getting better with sharing my toys with my new baby brother. He can crawl now Santa! And he follows me everywhere! I kind of like to wrestle him when mom and dad aren't looking! Our secret! This year I am really into Monster Trucks! I would really like a "big Grave Digger" and a real John Deere Gator to drive! And my brother can't talk yet, so... bring him a monster truck also! Merry Christmas!

Love, Mason Rieger (and my brother Max)

Dear Santa,

This year I have been a good boy! I like cookies. Mommy said she will make you some cookies too and Nina and Avery and we will all eat cookies. I would like a big truck to drive for Christmas. And a football. I love my choochoo trains, can I have more please? I did it and can potty like a big boy! I give you kisses and hugs. I love you Santa!

Love, Caiman Jensen

Dear Santa,

This year I would like a

computer with abc mouse cd and a Lola Loopsy dollhouse to play with. I will fly on a plane to Texas and you can leave it at my new house. Mommy and I will make you cookies and I will leave them for you and some carrots for your reindeer. Or you can bring it to Nina's house. I love you Santa! Sometimes I am shy but I won't be shy if you come see me. Thank you, Santa!

Love, Avery Jensen

Dear Santa,

How have you been? How has Rudolph and the other reindeer been? I am going to leave some milk and cookies for you again this year. Please bring me a new bike and some robots. I love you!!

Love, Brecken Tieg

Dear Santa,

This year I have been a very good girl! I help my Mom and Dad with chores and I also take care of my little brother Taylor. I am very nice and I love to help! This year I would like a Princess Dress, IPAD Mini, Barbie cash register, K-State football, and a K-State flag. If you have some extra time could you please bring my baby brother Taylor some toys

so he will leave mine alone. I do have some questions for you. How haven't you been arrested yet? You break into so many people's homes – what's your secret?

Thanks Santa!

Tristyn Krien

Salina

P.S. Please do not change my list. It is very important that all of this info makes it to Santa!!!!

Dear Santa,

Now I have one question Santa, what are your favorite treats? What do the reindeer like to eat? What do you do in the summer when it's not Christmas? Santa please bring me my own baby Jesus to hang on the tree that is mine. I would also like some legos and my own CD movie

Love, Zane Jensen

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like a camera, iPhone 5s, the new Katy Perry Prism CD. I promise I will leave you cookies, and milk and for the reindeer I will leave carrots. Is that what kids leave you? Do you ever take the reindeer out in the summer for a test ride?

Love, Marlo Jensen



## The Saint Francis Herald

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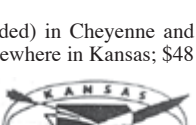
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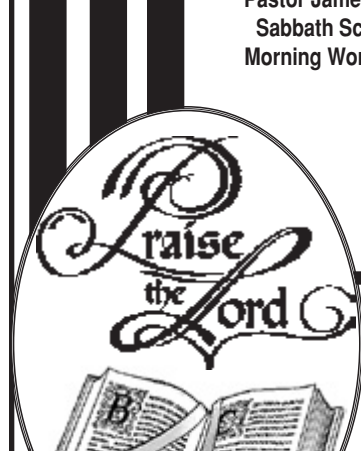
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**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 9 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.

**United Methodist**  
Church Office 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Warren Cico  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Seventh-Day**  
Adventist Church  
423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor James McCurdy  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**St. Francis of Assisi**  
**Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos  
1st Sunday of the month  
Morning Mass 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 3rd Sunday

**Solid Rock**  
**Baptist Church**  
412 S. Denison  
Welcomes You!  
Pastor Allen Coon  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Prayer Meeting, Wed  
7:30 p.m.

**First Christian Church**  
Pastor Jeff Landers  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.  
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
2nd & Scott • 332-3921  
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening  
Service 6:30 p.m.,  
Wed. AWANA Club  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**St. Francis**  
**Community Church**  
332-3150  
204 N. Quincy Street  
www.sfccfamily.com  
Pastor: David Butler  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Potluck & Communion -  
Every 2nd Sunday  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC**  
202 N. College  
Pastor Randy Nelson  
Church 332-2928  
Parsonage 332-2312  
Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Communion 1st Sunday

St. Francis  
Equity

St. Francis  
Herald