

Opinion

Northwest Kansas college brings prosperity to area

without a state-sponsored community college?

Neither can we, which makes it hard to sit Community College on a sound financial foot-

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 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

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.

cash flow than usual. Having a lot of turnover it provides for our kids. in staff and administration has not helped, but sending out student tuition bills late in the se- thing done. – Steve Haynes mester (at least partly because of an error by a

Can you imagine Colby or northwest Kansas federal agency, which sent out corrupted data on student loans) really added to the cash bind.

Through the fall, too, ill-concealed bickering back and watch some of the dithering and bick- among some members of the governing Board ering that's retarded progress in putting Colby 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.

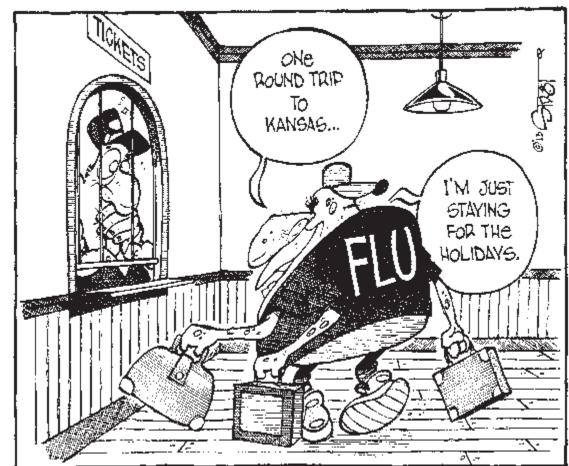
Neither the college nor the region has much bills. It's just that, like most any college, it gets room for error. We are losing population here, and with fewer people, there's less money to go around, but also fewer students for the college to recruit from.

> 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 ben-But the college has had a worse time with efits it gives us, and especially the opportunity

Let's put our differences aside and get some-



Thank you for the holiday music

To the Editor,

I want to recognize Neala

Carmicheal and Debby Fiala house" of beautiful music. with much practice. Thanks to for the glorious production of The Community Choir did a all who participated. the beautiful holiday music wonderful job. It was great to

that was shared with a "full hear and enjoy. This came about Open Season

Spending time with family

Cynthia

Letter to the Editor

Bv

It's interesting to visit our daughters in Georgia and see the difference in climate and weather

Of course, the best part of the visit is the grandchildren, but we try to stay with both daughters about the same amount of time. This allows us to visit each and have personal time with each family and still not have the problem of overstaying our welcome.

While the temperatures ranged from 15 to minus 3 degrees in Kansas, we were having 50- to 60-degree weather. However, it wasn't a whole lot more fun. since it was raining down in Georgia all that much fun.

drought down south, and they were really suffering. The reservoirs were drying up and the vegetation and crops were dying. Of course, during the drought they were getting more moisture than we normally get in a year. But what they grow needs more water than our crops.

The rain this year is normal. Oldest daughter was fighting mold on her shower curtain and

youngest daughter's back yard

was a swamp as the cold rain just

kept falling.

Now, I occasionally have to worry about mildew, but the bugs in the South are something. My daughters fight a never-ending battle. Both get their homes sprayed several times a year for roaches, termites and a dozen other crawly things.

And their bugs are not little things like our lady bugs and beetles. Some of those bugs are about the size of Volkswagens, which, come to think of it, might be where the VW Beetle got its name.

out here in western Kansas compared to the eastern part of the while it was cold and snowy in state, but it's lush here compared Kansas, and cold, drizzly rain isn't to our old home in southern Colo- live, the grass always looks greenrado, where we got very little rain er on the other side of the fence. Several years ago. they had a or snow. If the storms hadn't hit Sometimes, however, that's just

loads for us to use for irrigation and household use, we would have blown away. As it was, the furniture got so

dry, the wood on our antique chairs would shrink and crack. Our son had to re-glue every leg on six kitchen chairs we gave him that had been in Colorado for about 10 years. The first time he sat on one, it fell down and he hit the floor like Humpty Dumpty.

I guess if I have to pick wet or dry, I'd pick eastern Kansas. where they have a little more va-We don't get a lot of moisture riety of trees but not so much rain that they have to fight off alliga-

I guess no matter where you the mountains and dumped their where the septic tank drains.

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in 🕻 and out, and find pasture.

John 10: 7, 9

Casey's Comments-

A few fun gift ideas

sider a membership to a "Month mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com Club."

> 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, So with the celebration of cigar, Bonsai (as in miniature Jap-Christ's birth being first, I took a anese pine trees,) peanut butter or moment to look at some last min-Gag of the Month Club.

Still not finding the right an-If you're having trouble decid-swer? Here are three more great of that seasonal stress. ing for that "hard-to-buy-for" per- gift ideas. For the walking dead son on your list, you might con- fan in the family there is a Remote

I'm not talking the jelly or wine Control Zombie for \$24.99.

Casey

McCormick

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

mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

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

Children's letters to Santa Claus

ute gift ideas.

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

By Casey McCormick

We would probably all agree

that Christmas has become overly

commercialized. However, I be-

lieve the principle behind this ac-

tion is noble. It still is about giv-

brother Max)

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,

I've been a really good boy this a Lola Loopsy dollhouse to play have some questions for you. How year. I have been getting better with. I will fly on a plane to Texas haven't you been arrested yet? with sharing my toys with my and you can leave it at my new You break into so many people's house. Mommy and I will make homes - what's your secret? 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 this info makes it to Santa!!!! you, Santa! Love, Avery Jensen

Dear Santa,

How have you been? How has Rudolph and the other reindeer milk and cookies for you again this year. Please bring me a new Love, Brecken Tiegs

This year I have been a very good girl! I help my Mom and Dad with chores and I also take like a camera, iPhone 5s, the new care of my little brother Taylor. I Katy Perry Prism CD. I promise am very nice and I love to help! I will leave you cookies, and This year I would like a Princess milk and for the raindeer I will Dress, IPAD Mini, Barbie cash leave carrots. Is that what kids register, K-State football, and a leave you? Do you ever take the K-State flag. If you have some raindeer out in the summer for a extra time could you please bring test ride? This year I would like a my baby brother Taylor some toys

computer with abc mouse cd and so he will leave mine alone. I do Thanks Santa!

Salina P.S. Please do not change my

Tristyn Krien

list. It is very important that all of

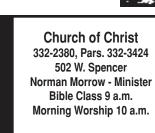
Dear Santa,

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 been? I am going to leave some when it's not Christmas? Santa please bring me my own baby Jesus to hang on the tree that is bike and some robots. I love you!! mine. I would also like some legos and my own CD movie

Love, Zane Jensen

Dear Santa, This year for Christmas I would

Love, Marlo Jensen



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

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