

Opinion

Your turn

Grants benefit area

Danielle Freeman
Executive Director
Thomas County Community Foundation

I would like to extend wishes of Happy Holidays from the Thomas County Community Foundation. Instead of an informational article this month, I would like to provide the citizens of Thomas County with the list of our “successes” since the Foundation’s inception in 2001. Without the support of our local citizens, the gifts listed below would not have been possible. If you would like to learn about how you can help your community, please give me a call at the Foundation office.

Organization, Total Grants Given

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Thomas County \$5,500; Boy Scout Troop 140, \$564; CCC Criminal Justice Scholarships, \$12,000; Colby Recreation Department, \$1,375; Colby Trap Club, Inc., \$1,500; Colby United Methodist Church, \$1,500; DSNWK, \$650.00; First National Bank Charitable Trust, \$2,527; Genesis - Thomas County, \$2,459.29; GFWC Beta Club, \$416.17; Health & Safety Planning Committee, \$615; Heartland Christian Schools, \$1,816.17; Heartland Rural Counseling Service, \$1,500; Kansas 4-H, \$700; Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks, \$4,876.49; Kiwanis of Thomas County, \$680.39; Leadership Thomas County Alumni, \$2,265.19; NWKS Council of Substance Abuse, \$600; NWKS Heritage Center Library & Museum, \$150; NWKS SANE/SART, \$4,000; Pheasants Forever, \$155; Pioneer Memorial Library, \$2,390.77; Pride of the Prairie Orchestra, \$410; Rexford Pride, \$1,500; Sacred Heart School, \$2,700; Shepard’s Staff, Inc., \$1,103; Sunflower Girl Scout Council, \$450; Thomas Co. American Red Cross, \$4,473; Thomas Co. Amusement Association, \$4,000; Thomas Co. Extension, \$1,000; Thomas Co. Fair Board, \$1,500; USD314 Brewster Public Schools, \$400; USD315 Colby Public Schools, \$6,998; Western Plains Arts Association, \$2,636.16. +TOTAL GRANTS GIVEN, \$74,994.45

Bottled water, branded kids

Frank Sowers
Benkelman, Neb.

They haul water from Goodland to Garden City, bottle it, bring back to sell. I got some plums, I had mold under sticker. I got some peaches, I had mold under sticker. I got 3-pound sack of apples, \$1.68, no sticker, 56 cents a pound. Those with sticker were 78 cents a pound. Bought five pound oranges \$2.49 (no stickers), 50 cents pound. Those with stickers were 69 cents a pound.

I bought canned beef from Uruguay, another from Brazil. Would it be cheaper to bypass the cheat-off crowd, forget the animal I.D.’s (who can prove which hide the hamburger came from?) Export and import beef at less cost?

Those striving for animal I.D.’s and for kids should be told, “and he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell save he had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred three-score and six.” Rev. 13:16-18.

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail jvannostrand@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com.

COLBY FREE PRESS
155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
Colby, Kan. 67701
freepress@nwkansas.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.

Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

John Van Nostrand - Publisher
jvannostrand@nwkansas.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor
pdecker@nwkansas.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment
tc Cox@nwkansas.com

Jan Katz Ackerman, Area Reporter
ackermanjk@ruraltel.net

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director
crystalr@nwkansas.com

Jasmine Crottinger - Advertising Sales
jasminec@nwkansas.com

Cindy Davis - Advertising Sales
c.davis@nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager
lea@nwkansas.com

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building
japplegate@nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkansas.com

NOR’WEST PRESS

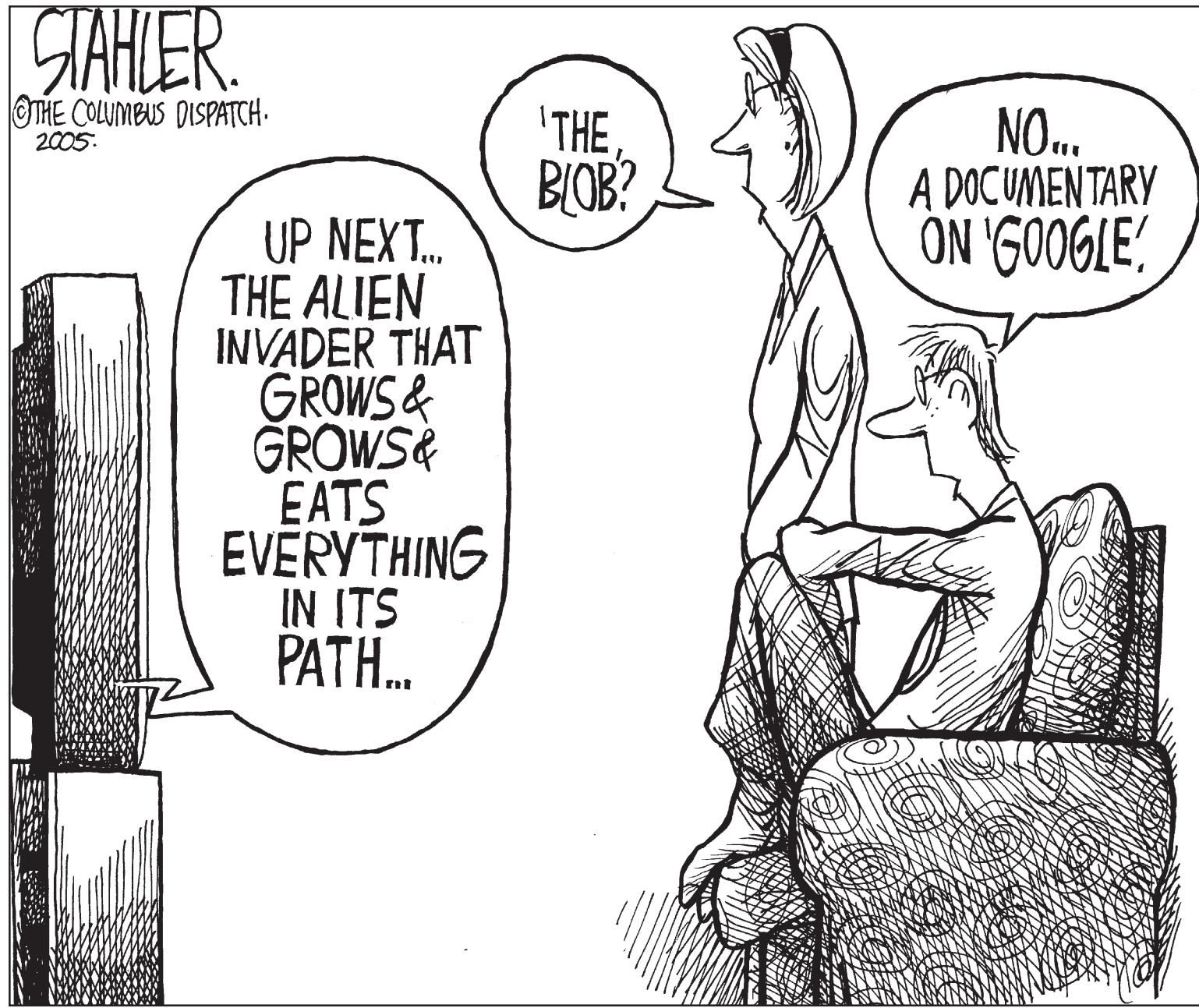
Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the day observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, by Haynes Publishing Co., 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701. THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday. MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news credited to it or not otherwise herein. Member Kansas Press Association, Inland Press Association and National Newspaper Association. **SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$38, 8 months \$53, 12 months \$70. By mail with in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$50, 8 months \$62, 12 months \$78. Other Kansas counties: 4 months \$57, 8 months \$67, 12 months \$81. All other states, \$81, 12 months.

Nor’West Newspapers
Haynes Publishing Company



Refire, not retire



Jan Katz Ackerman

• From Where I stand

I wish I had a dollar for every person I’ve heard ask, “Where has this year gone?” Yes, it’s gone by like a blink of an eye, but I can honestly say it was a much better year than the one before it. And next year will be better than this one was.

In 2004, I covered two murders and an assortment of crimes too many to remember. As a reporter, it’s challenging to cover murders because while I am forced to stay objective, my heart cries for the families involved in the case.

Last year was also difficult because I had three bosses. At the newspaper I worked for before joining the Colby Free Press there was my boss of almost six years, an interim boss who replaced him, and the boss who replaced the interim one. Whew!

After I joined the Colby Free Press Jan. 31 things started to mellow out. Besides work, I enjoyed my family, my yard at home and a new yard in Selden. While I know a lot can happen in 11 years, the plan as of now is that once hubby can retire we will undertake a major project God has laid on our hearts.

I’m living proof that God is not only patient, but he has a sense of humor which is out of this world.

When I was 14 years old, God called me to mission work in South America. I checked it out, but surrendered to my fears thinking I needed a husband, a few kids, a house with a picket fence and a dog in the yard (you know the All-American Dream). And I told God, ‘No.’

After a 21-year marriage, two children, and a divorce, I prayed, “Lord, please make me a content single person or lead me where you want me to go.”

He sent me to Hoxie. See why I said God has a sense of humor?

To make a long story short, through Hoxie God has provided me a wonderful life and a wonderful husband to go along with it. It’s amazing what God will do for us if we only get out of His way!

And, some 36 years after the fact, God has again called me into mission work.

While the majority of it won’t take place until after hubby and I retire, we are gearing up to sell almost everything we own, buy a 1-ton pickup and a fifth-wheel and join the host of other senior citizens who do volunteer mission work throughout the country.

While I know a lot can change in 11 years, we are taking steps now to do God’s will. So we’ll have a place to call “home,” we’ve purchased an old trailer court in Selden and plan to use it as a site from which to work. This is the second yard I talked about earlier.

We are in the process of rebuilding the four

water connections and upgrading the eight dump sites at what we are calling Plan B. The site came with several cedar trees and a couple elm trees, but we want to do some landscaping to make it look more home-like and inviting.

While I speak of retirement, something huge I learned during 2005 was not to use the word retire.

Those of us who serve God don’t get to retire. When we stop working at what we call a job or career, it’s at that point we REFIRE. In other words, get fired up and start doing God’s work as our full-time work. While I understand not everyone shares my Christian beliefs, it is my goal to at least offer them the chance. And just think of what the world would be like if every person did his or her job as if they were working with a positive attitude and goal in mind.

It’s time for a major revival in northwest Kansas and God willing it will happen in 2006.

And, using all I’ve learned in 2005, I’m looking forward to 2006 and claiming it as a year of prosperity. Prosperity in all aspects of life – spiritual, emotional, physical and financial. Think what could happen if each of us would grasp on to the attitude that 2006 will be better than 2005 and lunge forward with it.

So, as we change calendars next week, my prayer for each and every one of you is that you strive for prosperity and that your spirit be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Happy New Year!

Put this on the things to do list

From the Parsons Sun

In home ownership one knows that maintenance must be done regularly or it eventually causes major problems that carry expensive price tags. Whether a home, a business or the state’s capitol building, the same applies.

For all of these it’s easy enough to argue that income can’t justify the expense or that there are other demands for the money. ...In the case of the Capitol, the passing century has seen it move from the realm of being the prestigious and imposing seat of government to being a historic

treasure that is also the prestigious and imposing seat of government.

Whether one has ever been to the Capitol or not, all should make a point of going sometime during the coming year. Written reports of the changes refer to the “unburied artistic treasures,” “aesthetic gems” and “historic grandeur” — and indeed they are all of that and more.

Peeling paint has been scraped away to reveal incredible murals that have been restored. Stenciling has been painstakingly reproduced and

plaster moldings, created layer by layer, have been built to replace those that were damaged or altered over the years. In reality the Capitol is a museum that is both beautiful and functional. ...Many Kansans spend a lifetime without visiting their Capitol.

Resolve now to put it on the list of things to do in 2006. Toss in a tour of the incredible Historical Museum and a couple of side trips and the jaunt is guaranteed to rival anything else that can be done within a three-hour drive.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

