

Give wisely during the holiday season

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will often target people by telephone solicitation. They may use a name or title that sounds similar to a legitimate organization and ask for the donation to be made on the phone by giving them your bank or credit card number.

Think in advance about what charities you want to support this holiday season. This allows you to initiate the contact, and it keeps you in control of your contribution. You should plan and budget your charitable giving just like you budget for other expenses. Do not allow yourself to be swayed by strangers who may choose to solicit you for your donations.

If you do run into a scam or are concerned about whether an organization is operating lawfully in Kansas, our office is here to help. Please file a report with us by visiting www.ag.ks.gov or call our Consumer Protection Division at (800) 432-2310. You can also find tips for charitable giving in the Consumer Protection section of our website.

Even when the charity soliciting you to contribute is legitimate, you would be wise to do some checking before giving to ensure that you know exactly who you're giving to and also what will be done with your

donation. Here are a few tips:

First, you should check to make sure the charity you are giving to is registered with the Kansas Secretary of State's Office by visiting www.kscharitycheck.org. Most charities that solicit donations in the State of Kansas are required to register. The most common exceptions from registration are certain educational and religious institutions.

Second, pay particular attention to how much of each dollar you give will actually support the cause rather than just funding "overhead" and administrative expenses. If an organization is registered, the www.kscharitycheck.org site also will let you know what percentage of the funds raised by the organization goes to support the charitable purpose and what percentage is used for fundraising expenses.

Third, if you are planning to claim a tax deduction from your donation, you also should make sure the organization is in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service. You can check to see if an organization is eligible for tax-deductible contributions at www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/. Once you have made your contribution, be sure to save a receipt or acknowledgement from the organization so you can properly claim your tax deduction.

Colleges must expand says Fort Hays president

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ing virtual programs. These virtual students are primarily transfers, who have already obtained a two-year degree through schools like Northwest Kansas Technical College or Colby Community College.

"A lot of these new jobs will be filled by people who are not geographically mobile," he said.

Colleges are having to rethink the model for education, Hammond said.

"Traditionally we think of our responsibility to provide a good primary education, good secondary education and good post-secondary education and that's it," he said. "That's just not the case. We're finding that we have to provide that post-secondary education three, maybe four times."

For the traditional 17- to 19-year-old freshman, the college campus experience is still important, he said.

"They want to get away from home," he said. "Even the students we get from Ellis County want to live on campus."

However, for people coming back for their second or third degrees may not be able to leave home. The average age of students in the virtual school is 37, he said, compared to 22 on campus. Businesses or governments in rural areas can't afford to

give up employees to go back to school. Sometimes students already have a job lined up when they consider getting the education needed for it. That's why the university's virtual programs have taken off.

One example, Hammond said, is the Transition to Teaching Program. This program allows school districts to hire people to teach while they get their certification online through Fort Hays or Wichita State University. The program has been particularly popular among western Kansas school districts, he said.

Hammond's goal is to reach 20,000 students by 2020, and the college is already ahead of that goal. Fort Hays had an enrollment of 13,310 this year, with about 5,000 virtual students and about 3,500 in the China outreach program. That international program saw its first enrollment decline this year, he said, because of economic downturn in China, but the college has made up for it with growth in other areas.

Fort Hays remains the fastest-growing university in the state, which Hammond puts down to both low cost of tuition and quality of the education received by students. Many come from eastern Kansas, he said, with Sedgwick County now the second-largest feeder county after Ellis. About 10 percent of this year's freshman class came from Colorado.

Setting the scene



Students from the carpentry class at Northwest Kansas Technical College worked on erecting the Nativity Scene that is put up around Goodland Regional Medical Center. The three artists who created it were Connie Hatcher, Jeanette Foust and the late Max-

ine Rauscher, all of Goodland. The Sherman County Community Foundation handles the finances to maintain the scene.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

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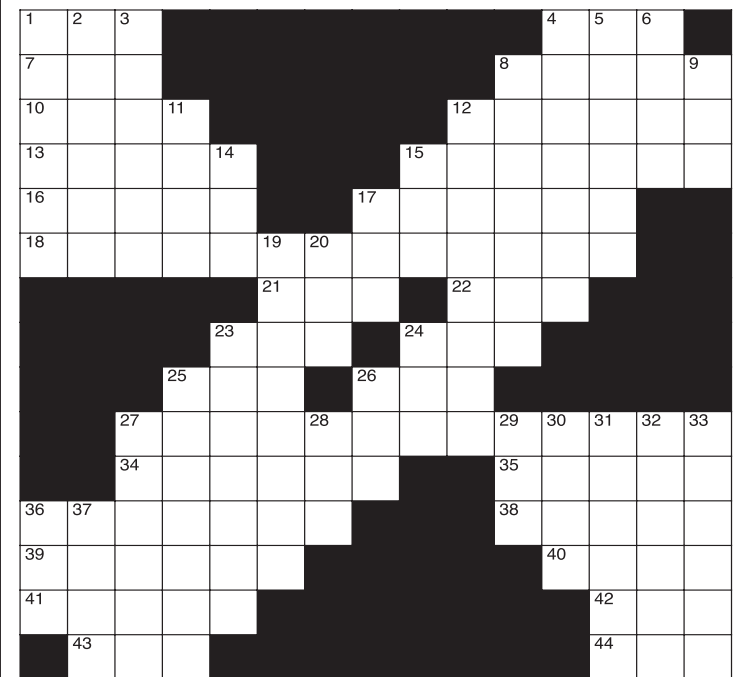
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. German rapper
4. Aries sign
7. Atmosphere
8. Send payment for
10. Digs
12. Pathetically weak
13. Give a thrashing to
15. How a witch laughed
16. Being of use or service
17. Lassie's breed
18. XXX Olympic site
21. Tax collector
22. Above average in size
23. It carries genetic information
24. E. central English river
25. Baked pastry-lined dish
26. Basics
27. Manson murder book
34. Actress May
35. Dry white Italian wine from Verona
36. Easily conversed
38. Java pepper vine
39. Eagle nests
40. Irish mother of gods
41. Belongs to St. Paul's architect
42. Soak flax
43. CGS work unit
44. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

1. Common detergent
2. Island in Venice
3. Establish by law or with authority
4. Exuding a strong odor
5. Walked leisurely
6. A unit of length equal to 1760 yards
8. Return to a useful condition
9. CNN's Turner
11. Young herring in Norway
12. Disengagement
14. The lion zodiac sign
15. Mt. Washington railroad
17. The brain and spinal cord (abbr.)
19. Last decade of the 20th cent.
20. A major division of geological time
23. Causes to expand
24. Ed Murrow's network
25. Happening in quick succession
26. They ___
27. Perceiver of sound
28. The last part of anything
29. Top left corner key
30. Opposite of quiet
31. Knights' outer tunic
32. Made level
33. Refutes in a legal case
36. Sound of a crow
37. In this place

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Monthly

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