

## St. Francis followers recognized as 'best fans'

Maybe the old year should end on a note of positive thoughts and good words. So often, people, especially those who have lived in the city for a long time, have some negative thoughts about their neighbors, businesses and acquaintances. Maybe they know too much about them or maybe they have known them for so long that they really can't see the good in them. Whatever, sometimes it takes someone or a bunch of someones to point out the good in people, in the town, the businesses and area.

Following the Thanksgiving blizzard, the letters poured in! *The Herald* is still getting calls and letters of how the people of St. Francis befriended 300 stranded people — brought them out of the cold, gave them a warm place to stay with plenty of blankets and pillows, then fed them three meals a day and found entertainment for them, whether it was movies shown on the walls of the cafeteria, an open gym to play basketball in, internet access or a movie downtown. It was amazing, awesome and just great people giving.

But it didn't stop there. Last weekend, a hunter and his son were stranded in St. Francis because of a bolt lodged in the tire of their vehicle. There were no repairmen available. But, a farmer, we don't know who but it could have been any number of farmer in the area,

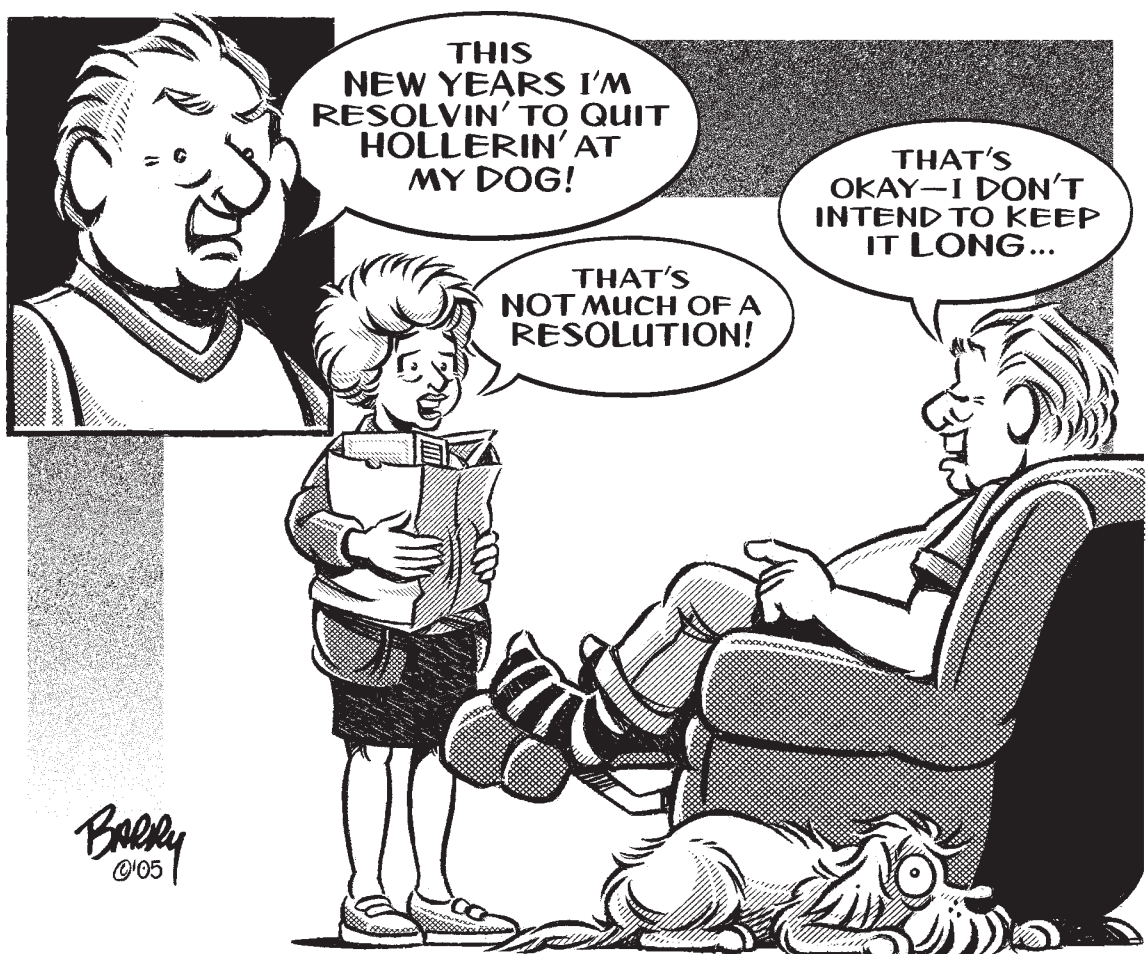
took the hunter to his home, fixed the tire and then told him where he could hunt on his land. And, of course, there was no charge.

And, last, but not least, Mike Slatterly, former teacher and son-in-law of one of the town's residents, brought in a commentary out of the *Hays Daily News*. Nabil Shaheen told his own "personal best of the year." He named the best revamped uniforms, the best takes-me-back line, the most dominating run and runner up; and then the best game atmosphere and runner up.

When it came to "best fans," he said it was a tough call but he went with St. Francis football fans. He said they were loud but cordial and probably the only place he had been where everyone knows the words to the school fight song and sang it!!!

Ask the Saintry coaches, athletic directors and administrators — when one of the teams eats or stays out-of-town, restaurant owners, motel managers and people along the way, have only good things to say about the St. Francis teams. They are polite and considerate — in fact, they even know how to say "thank you."

Well, it might just be the kids but maybe they come from St. Francis and were raised by the good people who live here. —Karen Krien



## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Did I miss something? What happened to 2005?

I know I was along for the ride, but it sure seemed to go in the blink of an eye.

As I sit at my desk in the newspaper office I'll take a moment to look back and be accurate.

About half way through it my life became whole when I married the amazing Lezlie! I didn't realize how much my son and I were missing.

We had our oldest son, Travis, move to Kansas City to begin his career. Letting go makes for a painful lesson.

Having our next oldest, Trey, in

Colby was much easier. Contact wasn't a problem.

The three kids at home, Trevor, Lexi and Joey, were the typical daily regiment of roller coasters and high drama. We had our share of trying to find something as we hustled out the door to the next dance recital or ball game.

Work is normally a blur anyway. With the newspapers, as soon as one is put together the staff goes on to the next issue. There is always stuff to do and never any closure.

I know we spent some time with other family members, friends, neighbors, community groups, coaching, church, and some televi-

sion and sleeping. Oh, and my waistline tells me I also ate.

That is a simplistic way to describe a year. But as I remember it, 2005 was a good year with more joy and laughs than sorrow and tears.

And as we look forward to next year there is no small amount of wonder in our house. Freckles, the Dalmatian, and Ferguson, the Scotty, are ready to become parents! It should make for an interesting 2006. I'll bet it will go fast!

Happy New Year to you and yours!

## Hangin' With Marge

Truth

By Margaret Bucholtz



Many times in the last three years people have asked, either me or my family, if everything I write about is really true. The answer "pretty much so."

The other day I got to do "this story" in front of all the wrestling fans:

We arrived late to the wrestling and I was doing my usual worrying that I might fall while climbing steps or where is there room to sit when all of a sudden my foot hit something on the step. Out of the corner of my eye I saw it was a baby carrying seat and it had a baby in it. I panicked and grabbed for it when two girls started saying "It's O.K."

When I finally saw what it was I realized that it really was just a doll so the only harm done was to my heart and my self esteem. I glanced around to see how many people, that I knew, had seen it. It appeared none and I proceeded up the stairs.

A few hours later Kurt wanted to go get something to eat and I got up to go with him. The fan next to me was visiting with a friend on the row above, but had left his stadium seat. The next thing I knew was that, somehow, I had my foot caught in the straps of the seat and it was dangling there. No matter how much I tried to shake it off it just remained attached, flop-

ping around in the air. By this time, some around were laughing, some were trying not to get hit by the flopping seat and one man was getting his camera ready. I heard the man who owned the seat say, "Wow, I'm glad I not sitting in my chair."

I sat down, untangled my foot from the seat and went on to the concession stand and ate to help sooth my nerves.

From then on, when I got up everyone grabbed a hold of their seats and stood up until I got by.

So now you know my stories are really true!

## Reader shares thoughts of Bob

### Letters to the Editor

Thoughts of Bob Hankins  
I received the call about the passing of Bob Hankins last week, and I started thinking about Bob and everything that I had experienced while I knew him.

I moved to St. Francis in March of 1989. Bob was the first person that I met at the power plant on my first day of work. He greeted me with kindness and offered me a place sit until the rest of the city crew showed up for the day. He made me feel welcome and helped me through a very nervous moment with my new employment with the city.

While working with Bob as another city employee, I realized that he was very knowledgeable about the daily operations of the city, and that he always seemed to know when something was going to happen before it actually did. I have no doubt that his many years of working in his chosen profession had taught him to expect the unexpected.

Bob treated people with a great deal of respect and always did his best to help someone if he could. While working on city services, he was always aware of the hidden dangers that could be associated with the job and was very quick to notify other workers before an accident could occur.

I remember the day that we had a

water leak on the access road by the Dairy King. I was down in the hole that we had dug to repair the leaking line. I was down a little over 12-foot deep, in water and sand, while the line was still leaking water. The side of the bank gave away and rushed in on top of me, covering me with sand and water up to my chest. Bob was the first person to jump in the hole and start digging me out. I was scared to death, but Bob reacted in such a manner that I was calmed by his presence, and was freed from the sand safely. I thought to myself, that took a lot of courage to jump down into a situation like I was in, and offer a hand to save me from getting hurt and possibly killed.

A few years later I was promoted to the city superintendent. I always knew that I could depend on Bob to be there when I needed him. Whenever I called on him during an emergency, he was always ready to help in any way that he could, regardless of what he might have had planned to do on his own time. He came to work prepared to do anything that was asked of him, and he did it with little or no complaint.

Bob was very proud of his accomplishments in life, and would often talk about them at work. His wife was very dear to him and to-

gether they shared a wonderful life. His kids, David and Angie, were the apples of his eyes. When he spoke of his kids and what they had accomplished, his chest would swell up, a smile crossed his face, and his eyes would light up and sparkle.

His family was his biggest asset, and he made sure everyone knew it. I have never seen two brothers, Bob and Earl, get along as good as they did. I can't think of one time that they ever had an argument or disagreement.

Bob worked for the city of St. Francis for many years. He helped a lot of people with their problems and worked hard to achieve his goals at work and in his life. I think he did a pretty good job at both.

The citizens of St. Francis will no doubt feel his loss for a long time to come. Bob was a very good person, and I am proud to say that I knew him, and that I was fortunate to have had the pleasure of working with him for 13 years. He will be sadly missed.

Rob Lawson  
Former city superintendent  
Norton



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## Worship Warms the Heart

**First Christian Church**  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Pastor Tony Christians  
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

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

**Wesleyan Church**  
Hwy 36 • 734-2727  
Pastor Dan Carson  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.

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

**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 11 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Beryl Gibson  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**Grace Assembly of God**  
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899  
208 E. 2nd  
Rev. Rob Meyer  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

**Living Water Fellowship Ministry**  
Pastor Terry & Tiffany Glasco  
Downtown Bird City  
785-734-2363  
Sunday: Prayer 9:00 a.m.  
Worship & Word 10 a.m.  
Last Sunday evening of Month: Revival Service 7 p.m.

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

**St. Francis Community Church**  
332-3150 • 204 N. Quincy Street  
Pastor: Richard Garcia  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
202 N. College  
332-2928 Pars. 332-2308  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Fellowship following

**Clough Valley Church of Hope**  
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF  
Pastor Jason Howard  
332-3152  
Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT

**St. Francis Equity**

**Knodel Funeral Home**  
202 S. Benton • St. Francis  
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