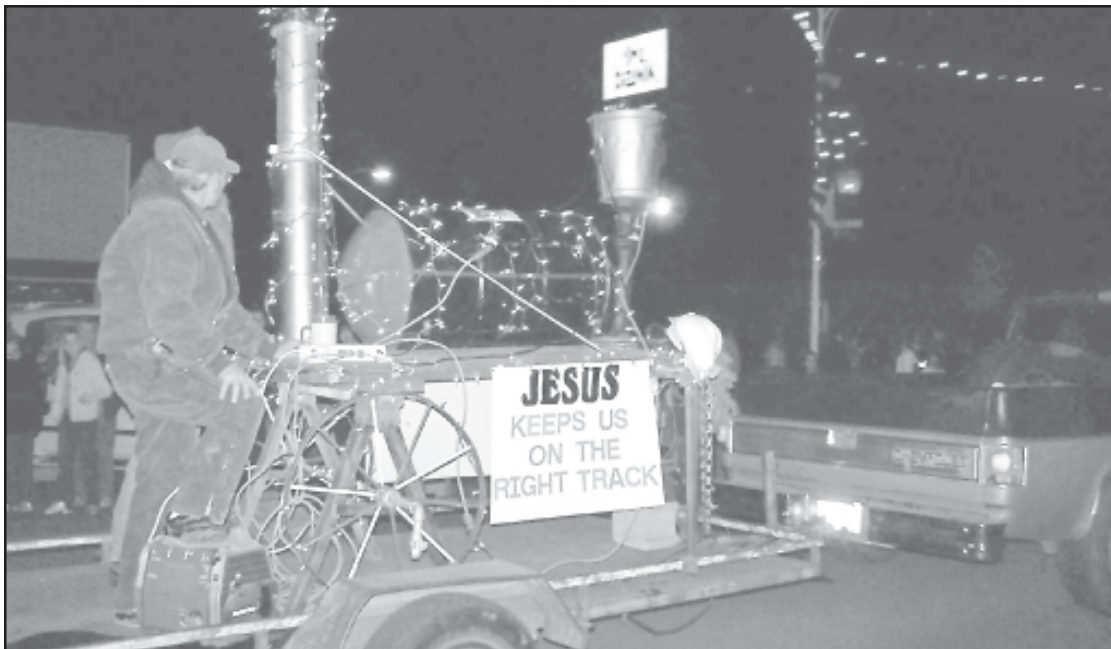


Oakley lights up for the holidays



ABOVE: Several Logan County Hospital staff members and their families road a float during the 16th annual holiday parade in Oakley Friday. **RIGHT:** A float depicting the reason for the season, the Jesus keeps us on the right track float, was one of 33 entries the parade, held in downtown Oakley. The parade is sponsored by the Oakley Chamber of Commerce.



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Couples each need own life in relationship

By Harlan Cohen

Dear Harlan,
Not only am I a freshman in college experiencing all these new experiences, but I'm totally, completely in love with this guy who is six years older than me and who I won't see until September. He's deployed in Kosovo. Don't get me wrong; I am very proud of him, but I know it is going to be hard. I want to wait for him. I want to be here when he comes back because I am in love with him, but I know how hard it's going to be. I've also had a real hard time making friends in college. Luckily, I love my roommate, but I'm having a hard time really fitting in with a group. Any advice?

— A Little Confused

Dear A Little Confused,
Here's the not-sugarcoated side of this: When you're 18 and in love with a 24-year-old, it can be as if your head is in a cloud. It's hard to know if it's a great relationship or a perfect escape from a tough transition. This is why you need to have people in your life (family and old friends) who can pull your head out of the clouds, support you and be honest with you. This is also why you MUST HAVE A LIFE while apart from your boyfriend. All that distance can make an imperfect relationship seem "perfect." Do yourself and your boyfriend a favor and enjoy living life while apart. The happier you can be apart, the happier you can be together (in theory). Blink, and in four years, college will be behind you. Enjoy it all — not just the reunions that bookend time.

Dear Harlan,
My girlfriend of two years and I both just recently went off to college on opposite sides of the coun-

try. Both of us thought that it would be better to try to move on. After the first six months, however, the only real change is the fact that we don't actually get to see each other. The distance is driving us crazy, but not apart. We have both been out on dates, and we've both come to grips with the distance, but nothing feels right without her. I don't know how to pursue this relationship, and neither does she. This "not quite knowing what it is" relationship is starting to become mentally and emotionally taxing. I guess I'm really just looking for any advice you can offer, as this matter has been weighing heavily on my mind. Neither of us wanted to break up, and if we had stayed together, I can honestly say that I'm sure it would have eventually led to marriage. As it is, that is still an eventual possibility, which is part of the reason this situation is so infuriating.

— Torn Apart

Dear Torn Apart,
Breaking it down, there are 32 weeks in a school year. There are 52 weeks in the calendar year. The Internet is free. Cell-to-cell minutes are free. Online video is almost free. Counseling at school is free (or almost free). It costs more to NOT be together than to be together! Why not date for the next seven years? Get married in your 20s. Then look back at the long distance as a brutal time, but the time you realized it would be forever. And if it doesn't work, you'll never regret trying. That said, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A LIFE APART. It will only make life together sweeter and longer lasting.

Editor's note: Write Harlan at harlan(at)helpmeharlan.com or visit online: www.helpmeharlan.com.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Thomas County Insurance
has been serving
NW Kansas for 100 years.

Stop in and experience the friendly service and excellent insurance products we have to offer.

490 N. Franklin • 462-3939

Serving Your Insurance Needs Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

THOMAS
County INSURANCE AGENCY



Jim McLaughlin/Agent

NOW OPEN!

Come see us at our new location!

NTRONIC

LIFE SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGY

1055 Taylor Ave, Colby
785-460-3700

www.ntronic.net
info@ntronic.net

To have your ad placed in the
Business Directory call
Joe, Crystal or Jasmine
today at 462-3963.



1114 Main, Gem (785) 462-3501

Chuck Saddler

Tracey Galli

• Tree Removal & Trimming • Full Insured • Careful & Prompt Service • Late Model Bucket Truck • Free Estimates!



David L. Browne III
550 N Franklin Ave
Colby
(785) 462-3388

Check out our low rates.

Call today for your free, no-obligation quote.



FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES
Auto Home Life Annuities College Retirement
www.fbfs.com

Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA, Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA, Companies of Farm Bureau Financial Services. © 2005 FBL Financial Group, Inc. 419

"Go the Extra Mile"

Now Open:

4:00 - 8:00, Tues - Thurs.

4:00 - 9:00 Fri - Sat.

Same great pizza, calzone, pasta.

DINE IN, CARRY OUT OR DELIVERY!!

1100 W. 4th, Colby • 785-462-9977



"You're Gonna Love It!"

H & H



AUTO RENTALS

Hours:
M-F: 8-5:30;
Sat: 8-4:30

930 S. Range
Colby, Kansas 67701

Phone: 785-460-0828
Fax: 785-460-0829
Cell: 785-443-1082

FAMILY DENTAL CARE

The Latest Technology and Most Complete Care Available!

• Root Canals • Orthodontics
• Implants • Wisdom Tooth Surgery

*New Patients Welcome
No Referral Necessary ~ Financing Avail.*

1690 W. 4th St., Colby ~ 785-460-3999
Toll Free: 1-866-305-3999



SHAWN D. JENSEN, D.D.S.

ROOFMASTERS

Your Local Roofing Contractor

425 East Hill, Colby, KS

Licensed - Bonded - Insured

RESIDENTIAL 1-800-536-6642

Tamko Shingles 1-785-462-6642

GAF Shingles

Wood Shingles

Metal Roofs

FREE ESTIMATES

Elastomeric Rubber Coating For Metal Roofs

COMMERCIAL

Rubber Single Ply

White TPO Single Ply

Built Up Systems

Modified Systems



Kitchen & Bath SHOWROOM
Sales & Service Since 1984

Your One Stop Remodeling Shop!

• Kitchen Cabinets • Vanities • Sinks
• Faucets • Countertops & Much More
• Design & Installation Service

NEW HOURS - M-W-F 10am - 5:30 pm

Saturday Appointments Welcome!

785-460-1100 - Southwind Plaza - Colby, Kansas

WORLDWIDE • Vacation Packages • Cruises • Tours • Groups • Flights • Hotels • Trains • Cars

155 W. 4th, Colby, KS 67701
Phone: 785.462.6999
Fax: 785-460-0852
Toll Free: 1.888.690.7077



CALL IN OR FAX YOUR INTERNET QUOTES AND OTHER ADS! WE CAN BOOK THEM FOR YOU WITH LOCAL, CARING SERVICE!!

VACATION SPECIALS

LAS VEGAS Air & Hotel \$250 4

DISNEY WORLD Park Passes, Air & Hotel \$505 3

MEXICO Air & Hotel \$800 3

CARIBBEAN CRUISE Cruise & Air \$1,050 5

ALASKAN CRUISE Cruise & Air \$1,500 7

HAWAII Air & Hotel \$740 3

LONDON, ENGLAND Air & Hotel \$700 3

AMTRAK EXPLORE AMERICA \$359 7

From

Nights

Max 45

Per Adult

Round Trip Travel

BOOK HOLIDAY TRAVEL NOW!

Call for Bus Tours Schedules.

All specials may be for specific dates and are subject to availability

Murray Roofing & Construction

Residential & Commercial
(785) 462-6908

Residential roofs
Flat & Low-Sloped Roofs
Metal Retro-Fit
Energy Efficient Roofing Solutions

Vinyl & Steel Siding
Decks & Patios
Wood & Vinyl Fencing
Soffit & Fascia

FREE ESTIMATES

Jeff Dreiling - Sales
(785) 443-0819



FREE ESTIMATES

Jim Murray - Owner
(785) 443-1339

NOW OPEN!
HEALTHY HEARTS NURSING SERVICES LLC

Administrator: Larry L. Booth
Supervisor: Brenda Fehrenbach RN
Administrative Assistant: Dawnelle Umberger AIT

Providing: Pediatric Nursing, Private Nursing, Nursing Consultant, Administrator Consultant, Interim D.O.N.'s, RN's, LPN's, CMA's, and CNA's.

Healthy Hearts Foot Clinic

1st & 3rd Friday of Every Month

8 am - 5 pm

In office ~ \$10.00 House Calls ~ \$15.00

CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS!

330 Lake St • Colby, KS • 785-462-2408
healthyheartsnursing@yahoo.com

Chris & Beth Lewon
650 N Grant Ave
Colby, KS 67701 – We Do Windows



New System Professional Window Cleaning
785-462-6995
www.MyWindowCleaner.net
Free estimates!