

State treasurer: Use the money for your own financial independence

Lynn Jenkins, CPA
Kansas State Treasurer

Soon retail stores across the country will start advertising great deals on all kinds of different consumer products in an effort to separate you from the check you are to receive as a result of the "Economic Stimulus Package" passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush last month.

The urge to act on the ads will make it even more difficult to decide what to do with the \$600 to \$1,200. My advice - as with all financial matters - is to go in with a plan.

Congress recently passed an "Economic Stimulus Package" which they feel will give the economy a boost. The total package, worth more than \$168 billion, will reach more than 130 million households across the United States.

The vast majority of the federal government expense will go to rebate checks: most individual taxpayers will receive \$600 and married couples will receive \$1,200 plus \$300 for each child. In addition to the rebate - targeted at taxpayers below the incomes of \$75,000 for individuals and

\$150,000 for couples - the package includes some other minor tax breaks for businesses.

Politicians in Washington, D.C. are hoping and the IRS is estimating that this election year giveaway will land in your mailbox starting in May, and that we'll all go on a spending spree buying up televisions, clothes, shoes and household items to stimulate the economy.

Economists disagree on the effectiveness of this measure, but before you go thanking your Congressional leaders for the "free money" make sure you remember where that money comes from and make sure you save enough of it to pay your bills (and taxes) again next year, or even better, invest! Just because consumer spending is more than two-thirds of economic activity in the United States, that doesn't mean that extra spending is the best choice for you and your family.

So even before the check arrives, take a moment and let reality set in. Sit down with your budget, check book and a calculator to decide what should be done with the money. Develop your own stimulus package.

At the beginning of each year,

my husband and I do a master budget review where we look at our goals from last year and evaluate our progress. When receiving an unexpected amount of money like this, it is a good time to revisit your master budget. Ask yourselves, "What can we do with this money that will help us on a long-term basis? Where can we get ahead?"

Use this opportunity to make your future a little more comfortable. Any debt that you can pay down or even pay off with this money will free up more money during the month. Other possible options to consider are paying off the balance on any credit cards, establishing (or putting more money into) an emergency fund, adding money to your retirement accounts, and saving for your children's college educations in a 529 Plan such as Learning Quest.

While thinking about your future financial status, don't forget about factoring the present into the plan. It's okay to take a little bit of money to go on a long-weekend vacation or splurge on a night out on the town. Just don't over-indulge and come home with nothing to show for it but an empty wallet and a mailbox full of bills.

TV LISTINGS

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SATURDAY MARCH 8

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	Good Morning Kansas Saturday		Good Morning America (N) (CC)		Good Morning Kansas Saturday		That's-Raven	That's-Raven	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	Emperor New	Replacements
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	Today (N) (CC)				Paid Program	Paid Program	Jacob Two Two	Dragon (E)	Friend Rabbit	Pen-guins	Veggie-Tales	Jane-Dragon
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	The Early Show (CC)				News (N)				Sushi Pack (E)	Dino Squad	College Basketball	
K15CG (2)	Business	Market-Market	Beren-Bears	Make-Noddy	Bob the Builder	Thomas-Friends	Mama-Movies	Signing Time!	Lassie's Pet Vet	Motor-Week (N)	Wood-wright	Jerry Baker
ESPN (28)	SportsCenter (CC)		SportsCenter (CC)		SportsCenter (CC)		SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		College GameDay (Live) (CC)	College Lacrosse: Virginia at Princeton.		
USA (37)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Becker (CC)	Movie: John Grisham's lawyer goes up against a big insurance company. <i>Matt Damon.</i>						Movie: Daylight
TBS (38)	(5:30) Movie: The Fighting Temptations *** 1/2 (2003, Comedy) Cuba Gooding Jr.				Movie: The Preacher's Wife *** (1996, Fantasy) An angel finds he is drawn to a pastor's dulcet-toned wife.							Movie: It Could Happen to You *** (1994) Nicolas Cage.
WGN (39)	Paid Program	Adelante Chicago	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Even Stevens	Even Stevens
TNT (40)	(5:00) Movie: Anacondas: Hunt		Movie: Anaconda * (1997) A huge snake stalks a film crew in the Brazilian jungle.		Movie: Carillo's Way: Rise to Power ** (2005, Crime Drama) Jay Hernandez. (CC)							Movie: Judge Dredd *** 1/2 (1995)
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Get Ripped	Paid Program	Man vs. Wild Arctic conditions. (CC)			Bone Detectives	MythBusters Speed Cameras (CC)			Dirty Jobs New York tannery. (CC)
A&E (47)	Biography Rob Lowe. Rob Lowe.		Biography Robert Downey Jr. (CC)		Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Flip This House (CC)			Flip This House (CC)
HIST (48)	Liberty's Kids	Liberty's Kids	American Eats Ice Cream Ice cream.		Ice Road Truckers Ready to Roll (CC)			Ice Road Truckers Dash for the Cash	Ice Road Truckers			Ice Road Truckers
NICK (55)	Jimmy Neutron	Jimmy Neutron	OddParents	OddParents	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Barnyard	Tak and Power	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob
DISN (56)	The Wiggles	Johnny-Sprites	Tigger & Pooh	Tigger & Pooh	Movie: Mickey's Great Clubhouse		Einsteins	Handy Manny	Bunnytown	Charlie & Lola	Movie: Lilo & Stitch *** (2002) (CC)	
FAM (58)	Sister, Sister	Sister, Sister	Sabrina-Witch	Sabrina-Witch	Full House	Full House	Ground-ed-Life	Ground-ed-Life	Ground-ed-Life	Ground-ed-Life	Movie: Big Fat Liar ** (2002) (CC)	
HALL (60)	Little House on the Prairie (CC)	Little House on the Prairie (CC)			7th Heaven It's About George (CC)		7th Heaven Say Goodbye (CC)		Movie: Felicity: An American Girl Adventure *** 1/2 (2005) Shalene Woodley.			

Transitioning children to new school

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I have decided to take our children out of the public school that they've been attending and put them in a private school. The public schools in our area aren't the greatest, and we know that our kids will get a better education in private school. This is hard to explain to three elementary-school kids who all love their school and have good friends there. What can we do to make them less scared and get them to embrace the transition?



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

ing them integrated into the new school before the current school year ends. Find extracurricular activities that your kids can participate in with students at the private school, or set up play dates or other events so that your kids will start to get to know kids at their new school. You also should make sure that your kids continue to see their current friends outside of school so it isn't such a shock.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a senior in college, and I recently learned that I have a seizure disorder, which means that I need to keep a very regular sleeping schedule and not drink or do any drugs. I live in a fraternity, and all of my friends are big partiers. Now that I can't do this with them, they don't call me anymore and don't want to spend time with me. I don't want their pity, I just want to be friends with them, but I don't know how to get through to them. Is there anything I can do, or should I just give up because they're not real friends anyway?

Dear S.C.: When it comes down to it, if your friends only like you when you're drinking or doing drugs, they most likely aren't good friends to begin with. That being said, the news that a close friend has a medical

problem, whether it is serious or not, can be hard to deal with. Your friends may be experiencing some initial shock at finding out that not only do you have this condition, but that you have to significantly change your lifestyle in order to be able to deal with it and stay healthy. Give them the benefit of the doubt in this initial period. If you continue to act normally when you're around them, and do things with them that don't involve drinking or drugs, they may realize that you haven't changed from the person they know and like to spend time with.

If you give them time to adjust, though, and they still don't want to hang around with you because you can't party with them, you're probably better off without them. It's clearly healthier for your mind and body if you don't engage in their behaviors, even without your seizure disorder.

You can reach out to new people or reconnect with friends whom you may have been neglecting because of your party-going lifestyle. In the end, you'll realize who your true friends are, and that you have no use for those who would drop you in your time of need.

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SATURDAY MARCH 8

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	NBA Access	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Madness	College Basketball: Regional Coverage -- Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)					Paid Program	ABC News
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	Jeopardy!	Paid Program	Snowboarding		PGA Tour Golf: PODS Championship -- Third Round. Palm Harbor, Fla. (Live) (CC)						Paid Program	NBC News
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	College Basketball		College Basketball: Stanford at USC. (Live) (CC)		College Basketball: Kansas at Texas A&M. (Live) (CC)						Paid Program	CBS News
K15CG (2)	Jerry Baker	Jerry Baker's Year 'Round Rose Care	America's Home Cooking: One Skillet meals include steak pizza. (CC)							Brenda Watson's Detox Strategy (CC)		
ESPN (28)	College Lacrosse: Virginia at Princeton.	College Lacrosse: 2007 Slam Dunk and 3-Point Contest. Atlanta. (CC)			College Basketball: Marquette at Syracuse. (Live) (CC)					SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		
USA (37)	(11:30) Movie: Daylight (1996) Explosion traps New Yorkers in the Holland Tunnel.				Movie: The Game *** (1997) A businessman takes part in an unusual form of recreation. <i>Michael Douglas.</i>					Movie: The Bone Collector *** 1/2 (1999, Suspense) (CC)		
TBS (38)	(10:45) Movie: It Could Happen	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Seinfeld The Fire	Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond	Raymond	King of Queens	King of Queens	Movie: Kicking & Screaming (2005)		
WGN (39)	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	Soul Train Wilson Pickett; Betty Wright.		MLB Preseason Baseball: Arizona Diamondbacks at Chicago Cubs. From Mesa, Ariz. (Live) (CC)					American Idol Rewind Top 9 to 8		
TNT (40)	(11:00) Movie: Judge Dredd (1995)		Movie: The 6th Day (2000) A helicopter pilot is cloned without his consent. (CC)		Movie: Mission: Impossible 2 *** (2000) Ethan Hunt must retrieve a deadly virus from enemy hands.					Movie: AF1		
DSC (42)	Extreme Engineering	Engineering the Impossible (CC)	Engineering the Impossible (CC)		How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made
A&E (47)	Flip This House Design Wars (CC)	TBA	The Sopranos College (CC)		The Sopranos Whitecaps (CC)					Movie: Matchstick Men *** (2003, Comedy) Nicolas Cage.		
HIST (48)	Ice Road Truckers Driving on Thin Ice	Ice Road Truckers	Ice Road Truckers	Ice Road Truckers	Ice Road Truckers Into the Whiteout	Ice Road Truckers The Big Melt (CC)	Ice Road Truckers	Ice Road Truckers	Ice Road Truckers	Ice Road Truckers The Final Run (CC)		
NICK (55)	OddParents	OddParents	iCarly (CC)	iCarly (CC)	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Ned's School	Ned's School	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh
DISN (56)	(11:00) Movie: That's-Raven	That's-Raven	That's-Raven	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Cory in House	Cory in House	Life With Derek	Life With Derek	Wizards-Place	Wizards-Place
FAM (58)	(11:00) Movie: Big Fat Liar ** (2002)		Movie: Sleepover ** (2004) Four teens find adventure on a scavenger hunt. (CC)		Movie: Sixteen Candles *** 1/2 (1984) A teenager's parents forget her birthday. (CC)					Movie: Bring It On *** 1/2 (2000) (CC)		
HALL (60)	Movie: Jane Doe: Ties That Bind (2007, Mystery) Lea Thompson, Joe Penny. (CC)		Movie: Jane Doe: Yes, I Remember It Well (2006, Mystery) Lea Thompson. (CC)		Movie: Jane Doe: The Harder They Fall (2005, Mystery) Lea Thompson. (CC)							

FRIDAY MARCH 7

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	News (N) (CC)	Entertainment	Grey's Anatomy Crash Into Me (CC)		Billy Graham Special (CC)		20/20 (CC)		News (N) (CC)	Nightline (N) (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live! Camilla Belle. (CC)	
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	News (N) (CC)	Wheel of Fortune	AnnaSia (N) (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N) (CC)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)	Late Night	
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News (N) (CC)	Inside Edition	Price Is Right Spectacular		Ghost Whisperer Bad Blood (CC)		NUMB3RS Tabu		News (N) (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman	Late Late	
K15CG (2)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Wash. Week	Kansas Week		Market-Market		My Music: Country Pop Legends (CC)		New Red Green (CC)	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		
ESPN (28)	SportsCenter	NBA	NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at Boston Celtics. TD Banknorth Garden. (Live) (CC)				NBA Basketball: San Antonio Spurs at Denver Nuggets. Pepsi Center. (Live) (CC)					
USA (37)	Monk Monk suspects a dentist.	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Monk A rap star is accused of murder.		Law & Order: SVU		House Honeymoon (CC)		Movie: John Grisham	
TBS (38)	Raymond	Raymond	Movie: Kicking & Screaming *** 1/2 (2005, Comedy) Will Ferrell, Robert Duvall. (CC)		Funnest Commercials: 2007				Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and the City	Sex and the City
WGN (39)	Home Videos	Movie: Twister *** (1996) Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device. <i>Helen Hunt.</i>			WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)				Scrubs (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Chappelle's	Chappelle's
TNT (40)	Law & Order: Refuge (Part 2 of 2)	Movie: Hitch *** (2005) A smooth-talker helps a shy accountant woo an heiress. <i>Will Smith.</i> (CC)			Movie: The Perfect Man *** (2005) A teen invents a secret admirer for her mother.						Movie: Carillo	
DSC (42)	How It's Made	Man vs. Wild Mexico (CC)	Man vs. Wild Mexico (CC)		Fight Quest China Kung fu in China.				Fight Quest USA		Man vs. Wild Mexico (CC)	
A&E (47)	CSI: Miami The Best Defense (CC)	CSI: Miami Deviant (CC)	CSI: Miami Deviant (CC)		CSI: Miami Collision (CC)		CSI: Miami Double Jeopardy (CC)		CSI: Miami Kill Switch (CC)		CSI: Miami Deviant (CC)	
HIST (48)	Modern Marvels NASCAR Tech (CC)	Modern Marvels Saws (CC)	Modern Marvels Saws (CC)		Battle 360 Call to Duty (CC)		Battle 360 (N) (CC)		Dogfights Death of the Luftwaffe (CC)		Modern Marvels Saws (CC)	
NICK (55)	Zoey 101 (CC)	Ned's School	Barnyard	Avatar-Last Air	Tigre: Rivera	Tak and Power	George Lopez	George Lopez	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
DISN (56)	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	Movie: Lilo & Stitch *** (2002, Comedy) (CC)		Movie: Bring It On (2000) High-school cheerleaders vie for a coveted national title.		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		The 700 Club (CC)		Whose Line? Whose Line?	Whose Line? Whose Line?
FAM (58)	Ground-ed-Life	Ground-ed-Life										
HALL (60)	(4:00) Movie: M*A*S*H Farewell	Walker, Texas Ranger Devil's Turf			Movie: Mystery Woman: Redemption (2005, Mystery) Kellie Martin. (CC)				Murder, She Wrote (CC)		Murder, She Wrote Jack and Bill (CC)	

Sherman County revises burn permit

By Tom Betz
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Federal demands for farmers to burn about 7,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program farmland have the Sherman County commissioners revising their burn permit resolution to include burn plans.

The resolution said that anyone who wanted to burn trash, trees or fields has to get a permit from the rural fire chief beforehand, and has to call dispatch when they want to start.

With the addition of the conservation reserve land, the commissioners had changed the policy to say that any area larger than one acre must have a burn plan approved by the rural fire chief.

Dennis Mote, county director

of the U.S. Farm Service Agency, told commissioners his office or the Natural Resources Conservation Service could provide color aerial maps of the areas to be burned and help the farmers develop a plan.

Friday, the commissioners were reviewing a draft of the resolution, but Steve Duell, a Ruletan farmer, asked them to revise a paragraph to make it clearer.

The draft said the burn plan had to be turned into the fire chief 10 days prior to burning. Duell said it seemed to be a long waiting period, and asked that the time be shortened.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he wanted to give the fire chief adequate time to review and approve the plans, but agreed the limit needed to be changed.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure suggested changing the resolution to say once the burn plan is turned in, the fire chief has up to 10 days to approve or deny the permit.

Duell said that would be better, and Tiede agreed to the change.

Before the resolution was approved, Rasure asked how long the burn plans would be good. He said if a burn plan was approved, but the weather keeps the land from being burned, it would be good to have some time limit on the plan.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said it should be good for the calendar year. Duell agreed that made sense. He asked about adding the term "authorized tenant" to the wording to make it apply to both a landowner and tenant. Rasure said that would be a good change.

Oklahoma high school coach assaulted by parent

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — After a blowout win in the opening round of the state high school girls' basketball tournament, Preston coach Mickey Duncan just wanted to return to his hotel room and watch tape of his next opponent.

Instead, he ended up in the emergency room and the father of one of his players ended up in jail, accused of assaulting the

coach because his daughter had not started.

Duncan was left with a dislocated elbow, the latest in a string of violent outbursts in several states involving parents and youth coaches.

Duncan was in the gym lobby following Preston's 76-46 win against Crowder on Thursday night when 42-year-old Jeffrey Abbott allegedly hit him.

Duncan said Abbott threw him into a wall about 15 feet away, and the coach's elbow hit the corner of a picture frame.

"I think I said to him, 'What is wrong with you?'"

He had me against the wall by the throat. ... I was just shocked, more than anything," Duncan said.

The men were quickly pulled apart.

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