

It's not good to be alone, says God

"Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:18).

"It is good." Throughout the creation account as recorded for us by the Holy Spirit-inspired Moses, we hear God commenting that what he created that day was good. But then we come to the sixth day and he says "It is not good."

What! There's something rotten in Paradise. There's something that's not good. It wasn't something that was immoral or unholy; sin hadn't entered the world yet. It's just that God had some major creating left to do, unfinished business to tend to.

Loneliness was not an option for man, not if the whole world was going to be populated and taken care of properly. Adam didn't realize this until he spent the better part of the day naming all the animals. Then it hit him, "I have no one earthly to relate to." Before God rested from creation he did some major surgery and



Robert Alexander

• From the Pulpit

match making.

No one likes to see anyone lonely, that's why there are matchmakers and a whole industry dedicated to matchmaking. No one likes to be lonely, whether they're surrounded by people or not. No one likes to feel like they're the fifth wheel. No one likes to be lonely, so they take matters into their own hands.

Some people fill the emptiness with alcohol, drugs, pornography, affairs or other unholy matters. If we're single we can hit the dating scene, sometimes at the bars, seeking and hoping to find Mr. or Miss Right. If we have friends who like to do such things, we seek their help and do the blind dating game.

All that, of course, can be risky. Nobody likes a broken heart or to get mixed up with an unsavory character who could be a potential stalker.

The Hebrew word for helper, "ezer," has the sense of "ally" or "assistant." Whether we're single – which is not a sin – or we're married, we're to seek to find someone we can call helper.

But first things first: God calls upon all of us, single or married, "to seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33a). We're to seek to do God's will in all our relationships and in life. As far as relationships are concerned, including being partners in business, we're not to be "unequally yoked with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14).

God is our help in time of need or whenever, for he's also our deliverer from sin and death in Christ. He will not break our hearts, promising us, "I am with you ... for I am your God, I will

strengthen you and help you" (Isaiah 41:10) and "never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). It's a risk-free relationship that can only be a blessing.

Whatever state in life we're in, whether we're single or married, we can be lonely. But no matter what our state we have Mr. Right as far as a helper is concerned in God. He did, after all, make us right with him through his son's life, death and resurrection, and there's nothing more right than that.

Prayer: Thank you for being there for me, Lord. It is not good for me to be alone, so you did right by me by being my helper not only in time of need but always. Help me to do right by you, that no matter what happens I would seek to do what pleases you. Amen.

The Rev. Bob Alexander is pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church at Fifth and Country Club in Colby. He may be reached at 462-3497.

Colby students shine as communicators

Two Colby students attending Fort Hays State University were recently announced as award winners in the Kansas Professional Communicators state competition.

The winners were announced at a conference at Bethany College in Lindsborg.

Jenna Johnson, a special student majoring in communication, placed first in Collegiate Public Relations Campaign for a Business and Ethan Stover, a junior majoring in health and human performance, placed third in Collegiate News Writing for newspaper, magazine or special supplement.

"Students who place first at the state level have the opportunity to go on and compete nationally through KPC's parent organization, the National Federation of Press Women," said Linn Ann Huntington, professor of communication studies. "Students must be members of

the NFPW to compete nationally."

National winners will be announced at the National Federation of Press Women's Conference on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 20 and 21, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

"All of the entries were part of service learning projects created in public relations, advertising and journalism classes taught by Dr. Hsin-Yen Yang, assistant professor of communication studies, and Dr. Qingjiang Yao, assistant professor of communication studies, and me," said Huntington. "News, feature and investigative reporting entries were published in *The Hays Daily News* or the *University Leader* campus newspaper."

Every year, four \$500 Kansas Professional Communicators scholarships are given away to outstanding Kansas communication students. This year Kara Hackney, Hays junior,

received one of the four scholarships.

"This scholarship will greatly aid me in continuing my education at Fort Hays State University as I pursue my bachelor's degree in communication studies," said Hackney. "As any present or past college student knows, every little bit of financial aid helps, and I extend my sincere gratitude to KPA and the scholarship committee for making these funds available to me."

Students listed as special students instead of as freshman or sophomores, etc., are students who have already completed a bachelor's degree and are now working on another degree or are taking classes for other reasons.

Sixteen Fort Hays State students earned awards in the state competition.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

	Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.93
Corn (bushel)	\$6.01
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.38
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.56

Woman wins thousands with online bet of only a dime

SUNLAND PARK, N.M. (AP) — A Kentucky woman has won \$63,000 at a New Mexico track after placing an online bet with a dime.

The *El Paso Times* reports (bit.ly/JZg4vu) the 72-year-old Julia Kring, of Frankfort, Ky., won the bet last week when she hit the Solo Pick 6 at Sunland Park Racetrack

and Casino. Kring had placed her bet through TwinSpires.com.

Kring said she saw an ad for the Sunland Pick 6 and decided to take a chance on that racetrack that day.

Kring said she initially thought that she won \$32,000 for the 10-cent wager. But it doubled when one of her three horse picks in

the first leg of the bet scratched, coupled with the favorite winning

Red Barn, Rexford

Activities: **Sunday:** Father's Day. **Monday:** 2 p.m. Barnswallows. **Wednesday:** 10 a.m. ladies' Bible study; summer begins. **Thursday:** 2 p.m. "Come On Down;" 6:30 p.m. Spuds 'n Splits.

the same leg, gave her the winning combination.

Deaths

Marlin Arendt

Marlin Arendt, 66, Colby, died Thursday, June 14, 2012, at his home.

Arrangements are being made by Bateman Funeral Home in Goodland, (785) 890-6600.

Deanna L. Oesterreich

Deanna L. Oesterreich, 57, a Colby homemaker, died Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at her home.

She was born July 17, 1954, in Beatrice, Neb., the daughter of Jack and Donna (Shoff) Heaton. Her parents preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, James Oesterreich, of the home; five sons, Phillip C. Oesterreich and Timothy D. Oesterreich, both of Littleton, Colo.; Samuel P. Oesterreich, Springfield, Mo.; Jedediah J. Oesterreich, Colby; and Matthew D. Oesterreich, Topeka; two daughters, Heather M. Selby, Arizona City, Ariz.; and Sarah

E. Oesterreich, Colby; a brother, Gary D. Heaton, Joyce, Wash.; a sister, Leslie A. Heaton, Oakridge, Ore.; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at the College Drive Assembly of God Church in Colby, with Pastor Steve Todd officiating. Inurnment will be in the Woodbine Cemetery.

No visitation. The family suggests memorials to benefit in-state missions in care of the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met at Colby Community College Tuesday with 26 members and guests Liz Erickson and Christy Rocca.

Seventeen teams participated in the June 8 Rotary-Chamber Golf Tournament and the tournament was deemed a success.

President Connie Renner reported \$3,400 has been donated to date for the Walking Trail Entrance Sign that the club is undertaking.

The club extended best wishes to Carolyn Armstrong on her retirement as city manager.

Marla Crumrine had the program. Her guest was Erickson, who shared her experiences of traveling through South America. She spent 10 months in South America, the majority of the time in Ecuador volunteering at a Forest Preservation Center. She

lived in a mud shack and traveled throughout South America by public transportation.

Other countries she spent time in were Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile. Erickson said she liked Peru best. Highlights of her time in South America included visiting the equator, biking on "Death Road," trekking in the Andes Mountains and seeing the ruins of Machu Picchu.

As a geology major, another highlight of Erickson's trip included seeing the world's largest wetland area in Argentina. The language spoken in each country was Spanish, which she speaks. Her future plans include a return trip to South America and she also hopes to travel to Asia.

Sandy Wilks won Roto-Lotto. Rotary meets Tuesdays in Room 106 of the Student Union.

Stop and Take a Moment

DREAM LARGE...

How, often do you think about your dreams? I know Jim Oliver (my husband) is always telling our three grandsons to not only dream but, "Dream Large". I think this is good advice. How often do we limit ourselves because we dare not to believe our dreams can come true? I have lots of stories about dreams coming true for home buyers. I have learned one of the best, payoffs in doing what I do, is the experience of helping another person obtain a dream, they thought impossible. One short story. I was working with a young man who really wanted to help his mother obtain her own home. He had limited income and she had even less. I was very impressed with his commitment to have her in a home, she could call her own. Now this young man at the time was only 21 years old. I remember telling him "Never give up and I won't eitherwe will find a way." Guess what his dream came true, it took several long months but we were able to obtain a low income Rural Development loan for his mother. She didn't have to have a down payment; her interest was reduced so her payment could work into her budget. She moved into her own home....and the smile on her face was even larger than the one on her son's face. That story and several others along the way, have allowed me to take the focus off of the commission earned and put more focus on the part I play helping others obtain the "American Dream"... home ownership. So as Jim would say... don't just dream...DREAM LARGE...IT IS TAKES THE SAME AMOUNT OF EFFORT..SO WHY NOT!

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Serices Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

FAITH FELOWSHIP CHURCH, Pastor Dan Keel. 815 W. 3rd. Sundays at 2 p.m. 337-401-7207 (temp)

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby High School Auditorium. Pastor Dave Funk. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. www.celebratejesus.org

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten- 5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Youth Pastor Ben Phillips. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

To become a sponsor call Sharon or Kathryn today at 462-3963.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. James Bridges, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypres.org.

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

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