

# commentary

from other pens...

## Balancing reserves and budget problems

**The Emporia Gazette on cash reserves:**  
The Board of Estimators met ... to practice their arcane arts, and the results, as usual, were worse than most legislators had predicted.  
At the outside, pessimists thought the revenue estimates would come in about \$600 million below budget requirements. The board's estimate ... was \$675 million — \$249 million worse than the expectation at the beginning of the session.  
The estimate makes it official. The Legislature will have to tailor its budget to the new figures, and that means painful tax increases and program cuts. ...  
Eliminating the cash-reserve requirement would free about \$300 million for other uses — almost half of the expected shortage — perhaps enough to make the tax increases and budget cuts bearable.  
The problem with eliminating the requirement for an ending balance is that it does nothing to solve the root problem — not enough revenue. Stripping the state of its cash reserve would just commit the state — and the next Legislature and next governor — to a hand-to-mouth existence.  
It may prove necessary to tap into the state's cash reserves this year, but it would be a bad idea to use all of the money. These are uncertain times and cash in the bank gives the ship of state some room to maneuver past the rocks.

**The Newton Kansan on budget crisis:**  
A black hole exists in Topeka, and it threatens to throw the state into chaos in the coming weeks and months.  
Oh, we're not talking about the budget, although that's also a catastrophe waiting to happen.  
No, we're talking about the absolute dearth of leadership coming from the governor's office and from the legislative ranks in the State Capitol.  
The old saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," is the polar opposite to what is happening this year.  
Members of the House of Representatives, all facing re-election this fall, are running scared.  
But why should we be surprised? We are only being shown the true colors of a Legislature that is divided into three distinct camps (conservatives, moderates and Democrats) more interested in politics and embarrassing the others than in doing the people's business in a responsible manner.  
The budget situation is an absolute train wreck, and no one wants to have to shoulder the responsibility for it. ...

### where to write

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774  
**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521  
**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1217 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715  
**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676  
**State Sen. Stan Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 128-S, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7399  
**Kansas Attorney General Carla J. Stovall**, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767



## Be careful signing up for a merchandise club

Dear Attorney General Stovall:  
About a year ago I received an offer in the mail to order a book. I ordered the book and received it a short time later. To my surprise, I recently received another version of the same book with a bill attached. I treated this unordered merchandise as a gift, and I threw away the bill. However, I continued to receive bills, and the company is now threatening to send my account to a collection agency. The company says I joined a book club and that I received notice of my membership before this book was sent. Attorney General Stovall, I do not remember agreeing to join any book club, and I never received any prior notice. What can I do?  
Dear Kansas Consumer:  
My Consumer Protection division contacted the company that administers the book club. The company provided proof that you had joined its book club and claimed that it sent you notification of the next shipment of the book. Since it did not receive a response from you canceling the shipment, it shipped the book. However, the company could not provide any documentation that it sent you the notice. Instead, the club agreed to cancel your membership and remove all charges.  
Many book, music and video clubs offer their services using a "negative option" type plan where shipments of selected products are automatically



carla j. stovall  
● consumer corner

shipped to consumers unless they tell the companies otherwise. However, Kansas law prohibiting negative option tactics does not apply to subscription clubs such as this when you expressly agree in advance to receive the product on a periodic basis. The company's actions in this area are only limited by the agreement that consumers make with it. The agreement generally requires the company to give consumers prior notice of any shipment to allow them the opportunity to decline the shipment.  
Many negative option clubs entice new members by offering special introductory merchandise for a nominal fee. An example of this is a company offering 12 books for \$1. If consumers choose to join one of these clubs, they need to make sure they understand how the membership works. For instance, the negative option club must inform consumers how many selections they must buy at the club's regular price before they can cancel. This can range from no further obligations to several

shipments over a period of years. The club also must tell consumers how to cancel their memberships, which usually must be done in writing. Also, consumers must make sure they know how to notify the seller when they do not want the selection, how postage and handling costs are charged, and how often they will receive announcements and forms.  
If consumers have met all the membership requirements and decide to cancel, it is always wise for them to keep a copy of their letter of cancellation. If consumers continue to receive shipments after they have cancelled, they may keep those shipments as a gift. However, they should send the companies another copy of their original cancellation letter to ensure that the companies do not try to collect payment for the unwanted shipment.  
*Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist and your call will be returned promptly.*

## Murray Center handles two-way instruction

My article this month is devoted to the Instructional Two-way Video (ITV) system that is housed within the Murray Center on the NWKTC campus.  
ITV is a fully interactive television that provides opportunities for students, individuals and businesses to connect to the world through audiovisual media. The studio provides a means to communicate interactively and has a capacity for 65 participants. This studio links up with 3 sites simultaneously and can reach any site in Kansas or the world, if so desired.  
This studio is used daily for college classes and some courses are received and transmitted from the Murray Center. It is an excellent tool for training and continuing education, allowing participants to



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● college notes

stay in Goodland and receive their educational needs.  
Several businesses have used the ITV studio in the past to communicate with branch sites, to conduct training sessions and to acquire continuing education credit. Groups and associations that have used this center are the Kansas Bar Association,

medical professionals, National Weather Service, Agriculture agencies, accountants, and real estate associates. Advantages that these businesses have gained from the ITV center are cost savings, by reduced out of town travel, and the convenience of being at home each day without extensive travel.  
The college charges minimally for the ITV center and basically attempts to recoup transmission costs. Also, other instructional equipment needs are available at the college for the convenience of your educational programs.  
If someone is interested in using the ITV center, you are encouraged to contact the college or Donna Kroskey, Murray Center Supervisor at (785) 899-7632.

## Saluting our Hospice Services social workers

To the Editor:  
March is National Social Workers Month. On behalf of Hospice Services, Inc. I would like to commend Diane Frickey, Mindy Greene, and Missy Lamont, all licensed social workers. All three are a valuable assets to Hospice Services, Inc.  
Patients and their families with an incurable illness go through many struggles. One struggle we often hear about is the physical pain of their disease, but they also suffer from emotional and psychological pain. Usually the physical pain associated with a terminal illness can be straightforwardly contained through medications, but emotional pain is easily dismissed or not understood. This emotional pain comes from an inner struggle as they confront the gradual loss of their abilities, roles, and relationships. We have found in our hospice care experience that when a patient complains of pain, it is not always a physical pain.  
This brings to light the role of our social workers in hospice care. They work to help the patient achieve some equilibrium in the face of their decline. Our social workers help them work through their anguish and despair associated with loss. We have seen through the impact of our social workers that once the patient acknowledges the depth of these losses they lose their power. This enables the patient to somehow seem more whole and move into the arms of their family.  
Even though March was designated as a special time to recognize the importance of social workers, we at Hospice Services, Inc. see the significance of social workers with every patient. We thank them for improving our organization and helping our patients and their loved ones face their incurable illness.  
Julia Schemper  
Hospice Services, Inc.  
Serving Northwest and North Central Kansas



from our readers  
● to the editor

To the Editor:  
I cannot let the article appearing in Thursday, March 14, *Goodland Daily News* written by Sharon Corcoran go without comment.  
God's Word is very definite - Sin has separated all of us from Him - The wages of sin is death - He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.  
However, those who have not believed and accepted Christ as their Saviour (the free gift of Christ's blood on the cross as the only sacrifice acceptable to God as payment for our sins (past, present and future) will spend eternity in Hell (a place of eternal burning and suffering).  
Yes Sharon, Hell is very real - just as real as Heaven!  
My suggestion for you would be for you to come

### Letter Policy

The Goodland Daily News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with phone numbers, by e-mail to: <daily@nwkansas.com>.

to Bible Baptist Church at 4th and Broadway where Pastor Don Crutcher teaches and preaches from the undiluted purest form of God's Word (King James version of the Bible). He does not stutter or stammer or tread lightly as to not step on toes - he teaches the Bible as written and Hell with Fire and Brimstone!  
Harriet McGhee  
Goodland

### berry's world



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N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services (nbetz@nwkansas.com)  
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansas.com)

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