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Recreation Dept. to offer Zumba fitness class

The Liberal Recreation Dept. is offering a Zumba fitness class at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class time is 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The classes will be at the Perry Frame Park Building located at 520 S. New York. The classes start on Tuesday and run through May 9. The cost is $15. Participants will do a mixture of Zumba and Zumba and then the other half will be toning. Participants need to bring 3-pound weights. For more information, contact the Recreation Office at 626-0170.

STARTING TUESDAY

VA's mobile office is coming to Liberal

The Kansas Commission of Veterans Affairs mobile office will be coming to Liberal and setting up from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Thursday at the northside Dollar General Store. The office will be able to assist eligible veterans and their dependents in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The office will be staffed by accredited veterans service representatives.
For more information, call 785-220-8900.

THURSDAY

City to offer free 'Franchise Night' for those wanting to open or expand small business

The City of Liberal Economic Development coordinator invites interested persons to 'Franchise Night 2013' to be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Girl Scout Building at Light Park in Liberal. Bankers, realtors, developers, franchise representatives and a consultant from the Kansas Small Business Development Center will be in attendance.
Anyone who is interested in opening a business in Liberal is welcome - don't miss this opportunity.

THURSDAY

Downtown businesses setting the groundwork for organization

Downtown businesses are starting to organize and any businesses interested in being a part can attend the monthly meetings and also share ideas of how to enhance the climate of the downtown district. To get involved, contact Todd Brown by calling 620-629-1600 or e-mail at todbrown@gmail.com.

GET INVOLVED TODAY

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Board plans hearing on $1.76 million budget increase

District's expenditures for the ongoing year exceed the original budget adopted for 2012-13 by $1.76 million

By RACHEL CLEVENGER
• Leader & Times

At their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. today, Liberal USD 480 school board members will hold a public hearing, as business, starting with a public hearing to amend the budget for the school district's expenditures.

The district's expenditures for the ongoing year exceed the original budget adopted for 2012-13 by $1.76 million. An amended budget sheets additional funding to five categories: the general fund, bilingual, at-risk and driver education services and food service.

New business for the evening will include the approval of a contract for technology, specifically iPads, for Caldwell and Washington Elementary Schools, Liberal Middle School and New Middle School, using Title I funds.

iPads will be used for many group activities in reading and math, with the goal of closing the achievement gap and increasing performance. The purchase totals $107,792. Items from funding specifically marked for that purpose.

Assistant superintendent Vivian Hulsted will present information about the Jobs for America's Graduates program, which is designed to dropout rates and improve academic achievement for at-risk students. The board will also discuss the Future Farmers of America High School, and the board must decide whether or not to approve the district's participation in programs about the conference. "Likeable Cause" program.

The board will also attend to routine and-school matters such as employment, resignations and retirements of certified personnel, classes and art students at Liberal High School as well as the Key Club, and staff travel for an training events.

These include the Migrant Parent Advisory Council's trip to Dodge City, USD 1 year advisors' trip to San Antonio, Texas, for the National FFA Convention in California, technical band expenses, as the teacher will absorb for the cost of the Migrant Parent Advisory Committee trip to Wichita, training for the AVID program in Dallas, and a Family and Consumer Science training workshop in Garden City.

Central Office Administration also will present a resolution concerning the 2013-14 school year as a bad agenda item.

The regular Liberal USD board meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Education Service Center, 624 N. Canal Ave.

Open house to celebrate hospital expansion

Southwest Medical Center invites all area residents to attend the grand opening of Liberal's updated hospital facilities on Friday, April 12. After breaking ground in Fall 2011, the building project has resulted in the construction of the Medical Office Building, updated infrastructure, and an expanded emergency department. The project has been completed on time and on budget, at a cost of $27 million dollars. Pending inclement weather, the ribbon cutting will take place outside the hospital at 11:00 a.m. Guided tours through Southwest Medical Center and the Medical Office Building will be available from noon through 2 p.m. Lunch and entertainment will also be provided for visitors starting at 12:00 p.m. Courtesy photo

Dodge City officials grapple with statue display

DODGE CITY (AP) — Dodge City officials are not quite sure just what to put into storage for the winter. But they're glad that Boot Hill Museum's statue of Miss Kitty will be in the city where its namesake was born and raised.

The statue — known as Lo Ladies Man and Mildred Kim — on 26 and 12 feet tall respectively and embody a style that the local administrator says "is a unique blend of the Old West and the glitz of California and Southwestern culture mixed with Hollywood grandeur."

The Dodge City commission unanimously voted to put the statues at the second-street casino, while the city commissioners unanimously voted against the statues at the second-street casino, while the city commissioners unanimously voted against to display them. The statue is expected to remain at another city commission meeting.

Miss Kitty — the fictional character that Dopper — who came out from Miss at the intersection of and Mon — had a rocky relationship with her hometown. Some residents say Miss Kitty was the Dodge Hotel, and she's a bit too much for the museum.

Then in Dodge City, Kansas and brought up the statue that Dodge City officials objected to. A Hollywood-based sculptor commissioned by the museum but some aspects of his finding not only for artistic vision but also for public like. Several said Safety Companies

• See HOTFOR Page 4A

Authorities identify Colorado couple as airplane crash victims

By NANCY HUTTSON
• Garnet Daily Herald

GLENDEN, Okla. — A Colorado couple have been identified as the pilot passengers in a vintage 1946 Beechcraft Bonanza that crashed last week about 5 miles north and 4.5 miles west of Glenden, Oklahoma.

Authorities said it appeared the craft had hit the ground nose-first and that it had been consumed by fire.

The staff took off from an airport in Garnet, Kansas, and was piloted by Jason Todd Ashley, 40, and his wife, Karen Dawnwell, 50, of Monument, Colorado.

Family members say the couple had been visiting family for the Easter holiday and were returning to their home in Monument. Their son called to check up on planned that called for help to look for them.

According to Tom Larson, the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) the family called the Oklahoma Highway Administration (OHA) on Tuesday.

"When the family called and said

Authorities said Todd Ashley, photo here, was the pilot of the vintage 1946 Bonanza single engine aircraft that crashed last week in a pasture near Glenden, Oklahoma. Ashley and his wife, Karen Dawnwell, were the only occupants who died in the crash along with his wife, Karen Dawnwell. The couple were reportedly heading home from a visiting family in Oklahoma for the Easter holiday. Courtesy photo

our friends decided to look for them," Larson said. "Based on the last known, it was some known as the FAA who activated a search and rescue mission."

A missing aircraft alert was initiated by the Oklahoma

Highway Patrol at the request of the Federal Aviation Management Agency about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The plan refused to be Larson,

• See CRASH Page 5A