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SWEET SWEEP

Lady Redskins soccer sweeps Great Bend in season-ending matches

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NEW MEMBERS

Hospital swears in 2 new board members

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City seeking volunteers to help with Kansas Sampler Festival

The Kansas Sampler Festival will open for its opening in Liberal from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 19. The Liberal Community Foundation is seeking volunteers from schools already registered to exhibit, sell, entertain and demonstrate at the event. This event is a celebration of the Kansas Sesquicentennial. There is no entry fee, there is no sales tax and there is no Kansas tax. It also offers local residents a chance to show those exhibitors and festival attendees the hospitality offered by our community. Volunteers are needed to help with the festival. Flag 4 and Saturday, May 3, to assist with the event.

Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to call 624-0173 or email lcaccess@pitbbs.com to learn about volunteer opportunities and sign up to help.

CALL NOW

Roy Allen to be guest speaker at Lions Club meeting Monday

The Liberal Lions Club will meet at 12:15 p.m. Monday at the college. The college's Sports Information Director Roy Allen will be the guest speaker.

MONDAY

LHS All Class Reunion plans meeting for Monday

Anyone interested in the Liberal High School All Class Reunion which is planned for July 14 is welcome to attend a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Leader & Times office. For more information, contact Pete Brock at 402-0466.

MONDAY

Kids Inc seeking board members, conducting meeting Sunday

Kids Inc. will be meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at the Liberal Recreation Office at Blue Bonnet Park. Kids Inc. is seeking board members to join in its effort to provide free sports to children.

CALL NOW

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BE Liberal begins grassroots effort to mobilize community

Retreat helps establish community vision statement

By Mary Hiatt
Leader & Times

When a local group of citizens from a variety of backgrounds assembled to begin a reconstruction of the community, it was not a political movement. It was not a political statement but a commitment to becoming a part of the community.

The Community Vision Retreat was called together, and it involved community servers, focus groups, a community conversation and ended with a mass retreat of the Community Vision Retreat at Garden City Community College from Sun-Sat of last week.

The entire process will take four years, but with the support of the community, the group has already established four action areas and developed a vision statement that will help the community create a common vision and develop a plan to achieve the common goals.

Community Impact engages four different sectors of a community — business, government, education and social services — and has been in the process of conducting discussions. By doing so, the group receives a variety of input from citizens they may otherwise never hear.

The four action areas are Education, Quality of Life, Facilities, Housing, mentoring and community/citizen collaboration.

The Community Vision Retreat focused on the results from the community survey and the community conversation to determine the action areas.

The retreat was a time for the exchange of communication throughout the community. April Wasley set us in the action discussions, and she said there just was no way to do it in a two or three day retreat that would fully a full force collection for vision.

"We broke it down into small goals to make it easier," she said. "We wanted to make it easier for people to see the main goal. One of those was a community calendar, how can we reach out and have one location to find out what is happening in the community and what action is optimal. The action teams will be working on that.

The idea was a web site where a variety of different organizations can post their events and activities. Currently, each group has their own calendar, but those trying to explore the community as a whole would have to go to several places to find out what is happening.

"She helps with planning," Hawkins said. "The night we had community conversation there was a political forum and a Valentines banquet. There are many things going on.

The Community Vision Retreat Saturday at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School Garden City Campus. Liberal is a growing community that is embracing its diversity and communicating effectively to educate all residents, which is the vision statement the group developed for Liberal with pride. The group explained the use of the term 'embracing its diversity' to mean that it's a process, and it is not a fact. It is a process that the community has to work together with its citizens make up. (LT photo/Gary Shay)

The community calendar might have been a better way to do it.

Their second goal was to establish a welcome wagon so the community can welcome people who are moving to Liberal to make sure they are made to feel welcome and know that they can become involved. Now the idea is to have a Level 2 welcome wagon to encourage the new arrival of citizens to Liberal. Jeff Chandler, for instance, gave it a try. A friend of the community heard and how to become engaged if you

See BE LIBERAL/Page 5A

Dual-language instruction may come to an end

Board contemplates whether program should continue

By Nicole Cullipher
Leader & Times

The dual-language program at USD 480 has sometimes been touted as a success, sometimes as a failure and an experiment. In the next year or so, however, it faces the possibility of being discontinued.

Administrators and board members discussed the program's future at past USD 480 meetings, planning sessions Monday.

"If we are to continue the dual-language program, we will need to hire an additional teacher," said Jill Dean, director of data and testing. Dean said the program faces two major and several minor challenges. It requires double the teachers needed by other classes, and it will need a substantial sum of additional funds, verbing known plans in both English and Spanish, and maintaining the level of intensity and movement of each teacher is difficult, because it's hard to find instructors who are truly bilingual.

Along with the question of whether the program should continue, Dean said, "the subject of the expansion, is it time to start planning the program [elsewhere]?"

"With the district poised to undergo another population jump, Dean said, "we will need to hire a lot of new needed teacher positions that will cost large sums of money. The dual-language program is a program that has a higher cost per pupil" than other classroom models.

The discussion was led by Democrat Elementary School Principal Kathy

See PROGRAM/Page 5A

Plains takes another step in gaining grocery store

By Robert Price
Leader & Times

A group of Plains residents is moving forward with plans to provide a grocery store to that town and neighboring areas.

The Community Enhancement Foundation of Plains recently hired a grant writer, Kent Stalfelt, from Dodge City. The foundation is working with Community Enhancement Credit Union, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center, Casella, and CEP President Jeanne Roberts and Stalfelt is guiding the group through the application process.

"At this point, we are collecting letters from community

See PLAINS/Page 5A

The City of Plains is one step closer to getting a grocery store that could possibly be placed in the downtown area. The Community Enhancement Foundation recently hired a grant writer to go after Kansas Community Tax Credits to help with the funding for the new business. (LT file photo/Gary Shay)

DINOSAURS INVADING LIBERAL
After a million year absence, dinosaurs are returning to Kansas and can be seen at the Mid-America Air Museum.
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