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SWEET SWEEP

Lady Redskins soccer sweeps Great Bend in season-ending matches

PAGE 1B

NEW MEMBERS

Hospital swears in 2 new board members

PAGE 3A

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High Plains DOWNLOADS

City seeking volunteers to help with Kansas Sampler Festival

The Kansas Sampler Festival will open its doors to the public at 5 p.m. April 26 in the Lyons Kids Kare Center. Community members have already registered to exhibit, sell, entertain and demonstrate at the event. This event is a celebration of the Kansas Sesquicentennial, and there is no one-day-fees-only-day-out here in Kansas. 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 event. Play Kansas! Saturday, May 3, is a time with the event.

Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to call 620-417-5 or email tourism@ccpublishing.net 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 6:30 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 Sara Smith
Leader & Times

When a local group of citizens from a variety of backgrounds mobilized 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 Liberal Community Group called individuals, and it involved community servers, focus groups, a community conversation and ended with a retreat held at the Community Center at Southwest Kansas Community College/Seiwert Technical School.

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 community's goals.

Community leaders engaged four different sectors of a community — business, government, education and social services — in a series of focus group and community discussions. By doing so, the group receives a variety of input from citizens they may otherwise never hear.

The four sectors were asked to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, housing, mentoring and community connect/collaboration.

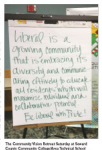
The participants from the four sectors discussed the results before the community survey and the community conversation to determine the action areas.

The survey was conducted by the group of communication throughout the community April Worley set to on the action discussions, and she said they took time to try to make sure they were certain that would help a full force collection for time.

"We broke it down so it is small goals to major goals," she said. "We wanted to make sure we hit the mark on 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 can be optimized. 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 different sites to find out what is happening.

"She helps with planning," Worley 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/Seiwert Technical School was attended by a variety of people from the community that is endeavoring to diversify and communicating effectively to educate all members, which is important to the community's growth and success. Liberal with pride! The group explained the use of the term 'embracing to diversity' to mean that it's a process, and it is a process that will take time and commitment to work together with the citizens make up LP pride/Sara Smith

The community calendar might have been a better way to [illegible]

Their second goal was to establish a welcome wagon so the community would be more welcoming to newcomers. Optimal is such, how do we make sure people coming to feel welcome, and how they can become involved, how do we do that? Worley said the Liberal is influential to encourage the use of Liberal Area Chamber of Commerce, but realizes gaps it is too. It listed of the community friends 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 failed experiment. In the end year or so, however, it faces the possibility of being eliminated.

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 unique challenges. It requires double the teachers needed by other classes, and it would need to hire one more or additional teach, setting lower plans in both English and Spanish, and maintaining the same 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 culture is the question. Is it time to start planning the program out?"

"With the dated ground to undergo another proposition [illegible] Dean said. "We have to be sure we have enough student populations that will cost large sums of money. The dual-language program is not cheap. It costs a lot, a lot more than other classes, and it costs a lot more than other elementary needs."

The discussion was led by Elementary Education Director Michael Kelly

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 towns.

The Community Enhancement Foundation of Plains recently hired a grant writer, Kent Stahlli, from Dodge City. The foundation is working with Community Development Credit Union of Southwest Kansas, Kansas Tax Credits, and CEF President Jeanne Roberts said Stahlli 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. LEFT: file photo/Robert Price

DINOSAURS INVADING LIBERAL
After a million year absence, dinosaurs are returning to Kansas and can be seen at the Mid-America Air Museum. APRIL 6 - MAY 5