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Foster Care Family of the Year

Project Bokong names Liberal's Bill and Jann Anderson Kansas' 2013 Foster Care Family of the Year

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KDOT Sec. Mike King to visit Liberal

• Special to the Leader & Times

Secretary of Transportation Mike King from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will be in Liberal at 9 a.m. Monday at the Arch Island Depot for a town hall forum on upcoming projects for U.S. Highway 54 and U.S. Highway 83.

State Representative Ken Peck will introduce King at the forum. Peck said he is pleased with the opportunity for citizens to have such a great opportunity to visit with the secretary.

"Secretary King is aware of the needs for four lanes on U.S. 54 and U.S. 83 and I appreciate his help expand our area's upcoming project. I hope there will be a great turnout on Monday morning to give him a full report about those projects and to let him know how much we appreciate his time," Peck said.

King will be joined by Deputy Secretary of KDOT Jerry Younger and Legislative Liaison Jason Bowers.

The town hall will go from 9:30 a.m. on Monday at the Arch Island Depot and will be sponsored by the Liberal Chamber of Commerce and SCAT.

KING

Onward and upward?

Will competency-based grading help LHS — and its graduates — continue on a trajectory of achievement?

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 11, 2013
LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 127 years

Chacon comes home

Cultural understanding key to Dr. Chacon's success treating immigrant population

Page 3A

Dorothy announces OzFest schedule

• Special to the Leader & Times

People will soon have the chance to follow The Yellow Brick Road to Liberal. OzFest, a new festival, is being sponsored by Unruh(s) Homes and Big Lots! (C) Inc. on Saturday. The whole family will find a magical place to spend the day, filled with fun for kids - with controls, entertainment, activities and games.

One of the highlights of the day will be Glenda and Mike Mason, a husband-and-wife team with a unique profession. They combine illusions, ventriloquism and comedy to make their show fun.

The Masons have appeared throughout the United States in state fairs, community festivals, school assemblies, and corporate events, and have been featured in Ghosts in the magazine. She is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and has studied magic since she was a young girl growing up in Oklahoma. G. Glenda presents polished magical routines that speckle gags for attention of adults as well as children.

Mike, the ventriloquist, humorously converses with different puppets. He not only performs comedy routines, but also teaches kids how to use puppets to fashion multilingual conduct lotion interview and a puppet.

The Mason programs are for the entire family. Come and see the additional performers and their shows at the Magic Show will take at 2 p.m. on the big tent on the grounds of Unruh(s) Homes.

Enjoy see the additional performers and their shows.

9 a.m. - Opening ceremonies with Spencer Legion Post No. 80 and Miss Liberal Gateway Days

9:30 a.m. - Grand and Concept Ride

10 a.m. - Parade | Gene Eaton Memorial Baptist

See OZFEST/Page 5A

Corn harvest above expectations due to weather

by DAVE LIVELY
Associated Press

CRAIG MCNEILL, Iowa — Harvest is in full swing across the country and farmers are reporting above-average yields in the abundance of corn they're getting from their fields.

Dairy farmer Dean Stoffer says since he started planting corn about 40 years ago, even with the considerations Nebraska farms at Humboldt, and his first corn field brought in 104 bushels per acre, he's never seen a crop like it.

"I'm surprised that what I'm hearing from my neighbors there are using combines that are 'yield' 'yield' 'yield.' I don't know if I would consider it a record crop of that point, but they're certainly looking are going to be a big crop there.

The best crops in the U.S. are in the Corn Belt, where farmers have benefited with cooler temperatures and the rain cuts pollinated a welcome relief to the drought withering corn, and orchard fields and burning up pastures. Production is also strong in other major states, including Nebraska, Georgia, Indiana and Ohio.

Stoffer, who farms about four miles from Craig, expects after last year's drought-reduced harvest of 10.7 billion bushels, the largest since 2008, said Chad Hart, an agriculture economist at Iowa State University.

"We now know how good it can get and how bad it can get in just two years," Hart said. "Last year was Armageddon. We, and most of farm management and market advisors were predicting that we'd be back to the harvest, when finished, will be the best we've ever had. More than 200 bushels per acre, maybe 210 bushels."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated the 2013 corn harvest at 13.8 billion bushels. Updated, the record of 13.1 billion bushels. Updated harvest estimates may to be released Oct. 11. The last time the federal government underestimated how much the USDA is suspect experts.

Farmers in Illinois, Ted Webster, 35 farms 1,700 acres with a combine. Those fields are producing between 210 and 230 bushels per acre, a signal that experts will be over the average of 154 bushels harvested.

"It's an exceptional crop for most people," said Webster, a farmer for 15 years. His attributes it to a combination of favorable weather and significantly more rainfall than average.

It's a similar story for southern Minnesota farmer Dan Glewwe, who also works with his parents and a brother.

"We had to cut down doing corn silage's hard with because there was nothing to harvest; the hard field different 45 bushels an acre. This year, we're seeing 220 to 270 bushels to the acre," Glewwe said. "It's a big challenge it up to now, keeping refinancing the dry weather better, and we're going to have a very good crop, during collective helping fill the void with kernels."

That's the nation's feeding corn-producing state. Iowa farmers are seeing more inconsistent results from the dry weather that's plagued planting followed by a dry summer.

Shayne Humphries, who raises large numbers of cattle and hogs, expects about 1,000 acres 1.8 miles northeast of Craig. Mounds, and some fields are producing as much as 260 bushels an acre while others with soil types that couldn't hold

Roger Lerner transfers his harvested corn onto a grain truck in Fort Calhoun, Neb., Thursday. Farmers in many corn growing states are surprised at the amount of corn coming in from the fields and record harvests are likely in eastern states including Ohio and Indiana and in Georgia and Alabama in the south. AP photo/Nati Harnik

Report: US combine sales plunge in September

MILWAUKEE (AP) — An industry report shows the sales of combines across the United States plunged 30 percent in September, but farmers are still optimistic that the nation could have a big year.

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers says 1,538 combines were sold last month, down from 1,559 sold for the same month last year.

For the year farm equipment dealers have sold 7,006 combines. That is up more than 10 percent from during the first nine months of 2012.

Sales of tractors continue strong with 15,977 sales reported in September. That is up 29 percent when compared to the same month last year.

The national farmers have bought 153,582 tractors in the first nine months of the year. That is up more than 12 percent.

Farmers on both sides of the Mississippi River around Davenport, Iowa, and Rock Island, Ill., are reporting good results — as many as 200 bushels an acre.

See HARVEST/Page 5A

Vol. 128 • Iss. 127 • 18 Pages Welcome to the new and improved L&T. When you can't get the printed version, go to www.leadertimes.com Liberal, Kansas