November 18, 2013

Monday, 18 November 2013 10:36

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Board, VISION team kick off week of 16 public meetings today

By MICHEL COLEMAN
Leader & Times

A second roadfill meeting expected after the USD 480 Board of Education calendar was scheduled for noon today in the Central Office conference room. The hourly original meeting was scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, but the second roadfill/grade patterning will allow board members to attend the regular meeting before the busy holiday season begins.

The only item of note on the agenda is a discussion of the district's new construction management firm. At its Oct. 7 meeting, the board agreed to hire Kansas Construction Management in order to determine the bond issue and bid process.

Without a CMGRR, it's difficult for a project to reflect real costs during the decision-making stage, and director of facilities Jeff Stevenson said. He also explained that no project has been defined; no particular plan has been selected, and no architectural firm has got all necessary pieces in place so that when the special election occurs and voters decide on the bond issue, the extent of what the project would be.

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SCAVENGER HUNT
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Restrooms

Public water or private well?

By ROBERT PRICE
Leader & Times

At its Nov. 5 meeting, the Seward County Commission heard from Jerrod Cook of 4 Seasons Water District 1 regarding the need for a water supply requirement for her business in north Liberal.

Cook said the board was determined that the county does not have authority to grant a waiver to the water supply requirement authorized by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Commissioners then suggested a representative from KDHE be invited to the next meeting, tentatively along with Cook and Jo Ann Stevenson, Seward County director of planning and zoning, director Marcus Weatherly to see if a waiver could be granted.

In a letter to Allison Weatherly and state regulations require, localities setting variances in coverage of at least 50 feet out of the right-of-way be sanctioned by a public water supply.

"The House rather has been upon the Senate and vice versa, and the 25 individuals duly sworn (Senate 2013 and Hamilton meets the requirements of a public water supply)," Weatherly said.

There are two options to meet this requirement.

"The first is the City of Liberal, which is a public water supply, and state and federal requirements with your own water supply," Weatherly said.

See CLOSING Page 5

The Farmer's Daughter
Gwen Stevens Hanson

BOOK SIGNING

Gwen Stevens Hanson book signing event set for Wednesday in Okla. Panhandle

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7 P.M. - 8 P.M. SATURDAY DEC. 7, 2013
DOWNTOWN LIBERAL

Signup only takes place until the first business where you see the 2013 Christmas car, a new 2013 Ford Focus, and the winning name will be drawn. You must be in attendance to win the car. Parade starts at 6 p.m. Here is the following schedule of where the car will be on display:

Thursday:
10 a.m. to noon - Keeling Tractors & Equip.
Friday:
10 a.m. to noon - Perkins Furniture
2 to 4 p.m. - Thunderstore
Saturday:
10 a.m. to noon - Perkins Furniture
2 to 4 p.m. - Wheatridge Park Care Center

Kan. governor seeks school finance dialogue

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas school districts have a long workfront of getting to court over funding for public education when their efforts fail in the Statehouse.

Gov. Sam Brownback wants to change that by encouraging legislators and superintendents from the state's 286 school districts to open discussions toward ending such litigation.

The Republican governor sent recent letter among lawmakers and school officials in which he was particularly explaining the mission of colleges and universities and how they expend state money.

The Kansas Supreme Court is expected to rule next year on a 2010 lawsuit by school districts claiming the state's funding formula underfunds public education. The court's decision will likely dominate debates during the legislative session.

This fin, 20 photo provided by Robert Dietrich is an isolated, the back lower part of the big-bone bone which is believed to be a hadrosaur Tyrannosaurus rex in Lusk, Wyo. Dietrich of Wichita, unearthed the fossil dubbed Baby Bob in a hundred area in nearest Montana. The find is a promising excitement because if all the preliminary data pans out it would be among the smallest T. rex specimens ever found. (Associated Press)

Half-grown T. rex fossil could answer questions

By MATTHEW HALLINGSWORTH
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A Kansas fossil hunter has unearthed a bone believed to be a half-grown Tyrannosaurus rex, a find that could answer questions about the extinction of the king of the dinosaurs.

Robert Dietrich of Wichita unearthed the fossil dubbed "Baby Bob" in July in a hundred-acre area near Lusk, Wyoming, where he and his crew have excavated because the fossil exposures about 25 inches, and if the preliminary data pans out, the find would make it among the smallest T. rex specimens ever found.

"This is the discovery everyone wishes and longs for," Dietrich said.

Dietrich has been sharing the bone with paleontologists, including the Smithsonian Institution. Scientists are eager to see the bone, which is the only bone the amateur excavated by bowling ball size of about 40 pounds. It is the only bone of the estimated dozen that Baby Bob was dug out of.

"We don't know anything about how T. rex grew up," said Thomas Carr, director of the Carthage Institute of Paleontology at Carthage College in Carthage, Mo. "We don't have a handful of rounds of subadult and juveniles, so any specimen that comes in, and the fact that we're talking about a fraction of the growth period is scientifically very important. We don't have a lot of skeletons of rex that we have seen before."

Jack Horner, a professor of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, said the scarcity of half-grown T. rex fossils has raised questions about how fast the T. rex grew young T. rex dined in the sand until they were almost full-grown.

"Giving a small-grown prey to baby T. rex, it could tell us more about the T. rex and tell us whether it looks like it was designed to visit for years and that's it, come back," Bakker said.

Another juvenile fossil also could help settle a debate about whether the T. rex has a smaller cousin, the Nanotyrannus lancensis, or some far short. Bakker is among those experts there are two species, while Carr is part of

See T. REX Page 5

Woman killed in Topeka church parking lot

TOPEKA (AP) — Topeka police are investigating after a 19-year-old woman died and killed her child on a church parking lot.

The crash happened around 9:45 a.m. Sunday at Second Grove Lutheran Church. WIBW reports that the driver accidentally hit the gas pedal and dragged the woman for 50 to 60 feet before she was pinned under a Jeep.

A witness who attended services at the church tried to help the woman, but she was pronounced dead at the scene. The name of the victim wasn't immediately released.

Wife dead, husband wounded in Kansas shooting

VALLEY CENTER (AP) — A woman is dead and her husband is wounded after a shooting at their home near the Sedgwick County town of Valley Center.

KAKE reports that the couple was rushed to a Wichita hospital by a local emergency medical service after the husband suffered from gunshot wounds to their head.

The Sedgwick County Sheriff's office said the incident took place after 8:30 p.m. Saturday. No suspects have been identified in the shooting.

There is no word yet on any arrests or a motive for the shooting.

1 dead, arrest made in store shooting

WICHITA (AP) — Wichita police are a suspect in custody after a customer was shot to death at a convenience store.

The shooting occurred Sunday evening in southeast Wichita.

Wichita police spokesman Sgt. Donald Kimball says the victim, a man in his 30s, had happened to be at the store at the time of the shooting.

The shooting occurred in a residential area of the convenience store.

Further details were not immediately released.

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