Some drink at the fountain of knowledge. Others just gargle.
Slow Smokin BBQ Home of the BIG WOODY!
44 Village Plaza • Liberal, KS 620-626-4400 Monday - Saturday
BILLY'S BAR-B-QUE DUCK VOTED AMERICA'S BEST RESTAURANT & TRADE STRAIGHT!

Be sure to watch for one of the holiday season highlights when the L&T publishes area childrens'

Letters to Santa

in Sunday's edition

School board reviews audit, talks election

Tonight's meeting starts at 5:30

BY NICHOL CLEMM
Leader & Times

It's an unfamiliar-sound start time for their meeting tonight when the USD 480 board of education will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Liberal Service Center, 324 N. Grant Ave.

The meeting's agenda includes just two items, both in closed session. Local accounting firm Byrne Turl & Associates will present the 2012-13 audit report.

The 30-page document must be viewed by the public through a link on the district's website. To access the file, click on "school board" on the home page of www.usd480.net. Then, pull down the menu to show "agendas." A small calendar highlighting the date of tonight's board meeting will display. By clicking today's date, then the "agenda" button, the link to the audit can be found and/or seen via audit.

The other item on the agenda includes the item, "Future Facility Needs." On the agenda, it is listed as an executive session to gather public input, but board is expected to firm up details — or possibly even vote on — a plan for a school bond issue. The proposal is expected to be based on the USD 480 facilities study prepared by architectural planning firm Dodge City/Garden City and Lansing.

See BOARD/Page 3A

Union objects to state's school experiment

Page 3A

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 2013
LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 127 years

Lady Saints remain in top 7

Seward remains in NCAA top 10 with a perfect 8-0 record

Page 8A

Dillons grand opening

Celebration set for newly renovated Dillons in Liberal

• Staff and Source

The renovation work a complete change to celebrate. And that's just what the team from Dillons at 1437 N. Kansas Ave. has planned for its grand re-opening on Friday.

The completion of this store-wide project is the latest in a series of Dillons Stores in Kansas with recent remodels in Dodge City, Garden City and Lansing. For us, the anticipation of our grand re-opening has been building for quite some time, and we are excited to now share it with you," said Mandy Weikell, store director. "We look forward to seeing you at the store and to meet as many of our friends and neighbors as possible."

On Saturday, Dillons will feature product sampling throughout the store and a visit from Santa from 2 to 3 p.m. Dillons As an added bonus, customers will also enjoy

See DILLONS/Page 3A

Phil Robertson off 'Duck Dynasty' after gay comments

By LYNN ELBER
• AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — "Duck Dynasty" patriarch Phil Robertson is off the A&E reality show indefinitely after disparaging gays in remarks to celebrities and swindlers, the network announced Wednesday.

A&E announced Wednesday what it called a "hiatus" for Robertson, 67, after he disparaged gays in the January edition of GQ magazine. He also said he doesn't think African-Americans in the Civil Rights movement he knew were mistreated in Blacks.

The network said Wednesday it was extremely disappointed to see Robertson's outspoken remarks, which it said "are based on his personal views and do not reflect those of A&E Networks or the show. A&E called Robertson's comments "deeply offensive and inconsistent with our values and our commitment to diversity."

The channel's move was lauded by the Human Rights Campaign gay group. GLAAD, which had earlier condemned Robertson's comments, also praised A&E's decision. "These outrageous comments are unacceptable, period," GLAAD spokesman Wilson Cruz. Robertson tempered "but now a chance to learn from this controversy and further a Christian not on American value."

Robertson and his extended family became wealthy by manufacturing duck calls and were turned into TV stardom by the A&E show "Duck Dynasty," which has set cable ratings records for a non-fiction series. Several episodes have been taped in the past month in Thanksgiving specials.

In the GQ interview, Robertson was asked to describe sexual sin. He replied: "Start with homosexual behavior and just sample out from there," such as bestiality, he said.

GQ said he then paraphrased a passage from 1 Corinthians that says: Neither the adulterers, the children, the male prostitutes, the homosexual offenders, the thieves, the greedy, the drunkards, the swindlers — they won't inherit the kingdom of God. Robertson and his family had no comment on the hiatus. A&E said on Wednesday that Robertson would not speak about the show's return. It's for its fifth season, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Robertson did respond to initial criticism of his GQ remarks.

"I myself am a product of the 1960s. I indulged in sex and things with different partners before I got into my senior, he said in a statement. Although his manner is to teach from the Bible, I am not a preacher. I meant to be together, Robertson said.

See PHIL/Page 6A

This 2012 photo released by A&E shows, from left, Phil Robertson, Jase Robertson, Si Robertson and Willie Robertson from the A&E series, "Duck Dynasty." The A&E channel says "Duck Dynasty" patriarch Phil Robertson is off the show indefinitely after condemning gays as sinners in a magazine interview. In a statement Wednesday, A&E said it was extremely disappointed to read Robertson's comments in GQ magazine. AP photo/A&E, Zach Dilgard

Woman pleads guilty to stealing from co-workers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Kansas City woman has pleaded guilty to more than $300,000 from three co-workers at a Department of Agriculture office in Kansas City.

Forty-nine-year-old Paula Dyess pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court in Kansas City, Missouri, to one count each of wire fraud and identity theft scheme. Prosecutors say Dyess used her position as a technology specialist for the Farm Service Agency to steal at least about $325,000 from her co-workers.

The Kansas City Star reports Dyess admitted that she used her access to their legally linked files allegedly charged $37,000 on credit accounts belonging to four co-worker. The repeal some of that had took another $40,171 from the same accounts.

As part of her plea bargain, Dyess agreed that she should receive a longer sentence because she took advantage of a vulnerable victim.

Idaho wildlife advocate pleads guilty to poaching

Marv Hoyt, Idaho director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, will serve his job after acknowledging in court that he illegally killed two cow elk

POCATELLO, Idaho (AP) — An outspoken critic of Idaho's ploughin industry and its deadly impact on some animals has pleaded guilty to poaching two elk.

Marv Hoyt, Idaho director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, will leave his job after acknowledging in court that he illegally killed two cow elk during a November hunting trip in Caribou County, the Idaho State Journal reported Tuesday.

Hoyt has criticized running and the resulting predatory pollution that has killed dozens of sheep and cattle that graze in southeastern Idaho's mountains, where the animals sometimes wander into contaminated areas.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game officials said Hoyt killed them elk and left the meat of the to waste in a field. He had only a cow elk tag and killed the animals on Nov. 2 and lied about killing the other two animals. Fish and Game officials said.

Hoyt pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge regarding his knowledge of any additional animals that he may have killed, ultimately admitting that he killed two cow elk on the day he killed his," according to the report.

Hoyt pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor — unlawful taking of game and wasteful destruction of wildlife. Last month, 6th District Magistrate Judge David Evans sentenced Hoyt to 180 days in jail, suspended the sentence, fined him more than $1,200 and ordered that he pay $2,750 in restitution. Hoyt was also placed on suspended probation for four years, ordered to serve 32 hours of community service and had his hunting privileges revoked.

Hoyt, an Idaho Falls resident, couldn't be reached for comment. A statement Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Jeff Welsch, communications director for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, said the ad that Hoyt is on vacation through

See POACHER/Page 6A

Vol. 138 • Iss. 197 • 32 Pages Welcome to the new and improved L&T. When you can't get the printed version, go to www.leaderandtimes.com Liberal, Kansas