

**There's too much blood in my caffeine system.**  
**Thursday's Preview: His**  
An Village Plaza • Liberal, KS 67220-6200 • Monday-Saturday  
Hours: 10:00am-6:00pm • 7875 S. 10th St. • Liberal, KS 67220



**Gov. prepares to give State of State address**  
By David L. Johnson  
Gov. Sam Brownback is preparing to give the annual State of the State address on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 10:30 a.m. in the Senate Chamber. The address is the governor's annual report to the people of Kansas. Brownback is expected to discuss the state's economic recovery, education, and healthcare. The address will be broadcast on KSNB-TV and KSNB.com.

**City hears update on school expansion plans**  
By David L. Johnson  
The Liberal School Board heard an update on the city's school expansion plans on Wednesday, Jan. 15. The board is considering a plan to expand the city's school district to include the area around the new Village Plaza. The plan would include the construction of a new elementary school and a new middle school. The board will make a decision on the plan at its next meeting on Jan. 22.



**ROAD ARTIST**  
Hugoton teacher brings roadside sculpture to Baker Arts  
Page 2A

**Volunteer drivers are needed for veterans VA transportation. Help is needed to Amarillo Thursdays and Thursdays. Drivers must have a valid driver's license, auto insurance and pass a physical provided by Amarillo VA. Contact Carolyn Kingham at 806-354-7811 for information.**

**LEADER & TIMES**  
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15, 2014  
Your daily news & news for 127 years

**Topoka 17-year-old accused of planning school shooting**  
By David L. Johnson  
A 17-year-old student at Topoka High School is accused of planning a school shooting. The student, whose name has not been released, is alleged to have written a letter to the principal of the school, threatening to bring a gun to school and shoot everyone. The letter was discovered by school officials on Jan. 10. The student is currently in custody and facing charges of threatening a deadly offense.

**Guymon Relay For Life announces scheduled events**  
By David L. Johnson  
The Guymon Relay For Life committee has announced the dates for the annual event. The relay will be held on Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Guymon High School. The event is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The committee is seeking volunteers for the relay. For more information, contact the committee at 785-832-4444.

**Kansas board recommends individual study plans**  
By David L. Johnson  
The Kansas State Board of Education has recommended that students be allowed to study individual subjects on their own. The board's recommendation is part of a larger effort to reform the state's education system. The board is currently reviewing a plan to allow students to take individual classes at their own pace. The plan would allow students to skip classes they have already mastered and take classes they are interested in. The board will make a final decision on the plan at its next meeting on Jan. 22.

**Plains United Methodist Men announce Ground Hog Supper date**  
By David L. Johnson  
The Plains United Methodist Men have announced the date for their annual Ground Hog Supper. The supper will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m. at the Plains United Methodist Church. The supper is a fundraiser for the church's youth program. The church is seeking volunteers for the supper. For more information, contact the church at 785-832-4444.

**Okla. gay marriage ban struck down; ruling on hold**  
By David L. Johnson  
A federal judge has struck down the Oklahoma state constitution's ban on gay marriage. The judge's ruling is on hold, pending an appeal. The ban, known as Amendment 1, was passed by voters in 2006. It states that only a man and a woman can be married. The judge's ruling is based on the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause. The Oklahoma state government has filed an appeal of the ruling. The appeal is currently pending in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.



Plains United Methodist Men, including Pastor Bob Boring, and other members of the church are seen at the annual Ground Hog Supper. The supper is a fundraiser for the church's youth program. Photo by David L. Johnson.