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Order those Valentine's Day Balloon Bouquets now

• Special to the Leader & Times

Liberal Parks & Recreation Department is taking orders for Valentine Balloon Bouquets. The bouquets will include a balloon, bag of candy and delivery.

The Valentine Balloon Bouquets are $15 each. Orders must be placed by Jan. 31 and be drafted started for $5 may also be added.

Bouquets will be delivered on Thursday, Feb. 13, and Friday, Feb. 14, with the help of the kids at the Recreation Center.

Orders may be placed at the main office and Southfield Gym. No phone orders will be taken, please come by the office. The Rec Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact the Recreation Office at 626-0125.

What's with propane prices?

Page 3

$372,750 fine for destruction of swallow nests, eggs

• U.S. Attorney's Office, Western Okla. District

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Wilcox Concrete Services, Inc., "Wilcox", a Kansas corporation, has paid $372,750 to the United States after pleading guilty to unlawfully destroying migratory bird nests in connection with the construction of an overpass on Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City, United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma Sanford C. Coats, United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma announced today.

Wilcox pled guilty to one misdemeanor count of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Wilcox was sentenced to pay $372,750 in criminal restitution, including wildlife, to an approved non-profit, that we take very seriously," said Coats. "Companies that are committed to working with our diverse agencies to reach commonsense solutions to protect the habitat of our wildlife is a wonderful thing."

City, Kansas, an employee of Wilcox, pled guilty yesterday to one misdemeanor count of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Wilcox was sentenced to pay $372,750 in criminal restitution, including wildlife, to an approved non-profit, that we take very seriously," said Coats. "Companies that are committed to working with our diverse agencies to reach commonsense solutions to protect the habitat of our wildlife is a wonderful thing."

Talent show prelims set for Sat.

• Special to the Leader & Times

Saturday at Liberal High School Student Auditorium, 25 acts will compete for the 15 final slots in the 2014 Pancake Day Talent Show sponsored by the Liberal News Lions Club and the Woody Band.

The Pancake Day Junior division contestants will take the stage beginning at 9 a.m. and Senior and Adult divisions will compete starting at 1 p.m.

The show will be announced shortly after all acts have performed.

The public is invited to watch the preliminary competition at a cost of $2 per person for the entire day.

Incumbent Randy Malin files for District 3 seat

• Posted by Seward County Clerk's office

Randy Malin, Republican incumbent has filed for re-election to the Seward County Commission District 3 Office. Filings to date include Arlo Leuzinger. Randy Malin, incumbent for the Seward County Commission District 3 Office.

The filing deadline for the following offices is at noon Monday, June 2:

- United States Senator
- United States Representative, 1st District
- Governor/Lt. Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- State Treasurer
- Commissioner of Insurance

See FILINGS Page 3

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2014
LEADER & TIMES
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College to host brunch

• Special to the Leader & Times

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School is inviting the public to a cancer-edge brunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sunday Feb. 9 in the Student Center Ballroom on the SCCC campus in Liberal.

The cost of $7 per person and includes festival entertainment.

News Release

Spring Hill owners get prison time for harboring illegal aliens

• U.S. Attorney's Office

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – The owners of a farming company in Spring Hill were sentenced Wednesday to federal prison for harboring undocumented workers.

Jason Hundord, 47, owner of Advantage Farming Systems, Inc., was sentenced to a year and a day in prison.

Kimberly Hundord, 47, wife of James Hundord and co-owner of company, was sentenced to a year and a day in prison.

Charles Stewart II, 34, brother of Kim Hundord and part-owner of the company, was sentenced to a year and a day in prison.

The company provided local builders and contractors with engineered floor joists[illegible] and roof trusses[illegible]. Along with other farming products, the company's primary product was wheat. The owners of the company to harbor illegal aliens for commercial advantage. In their plea, they admitted:

• On March 9, 2012, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) executed a search warrant at the business and discovered that the owners of company employed foreign citizens who were not lawfully present in the United States.

• To cast undocumented workers who were members of farming crews, the defendants devised a method of paying them in cash[illegible] and not through payroll. The company paid the crew leaders, who were responsible for paying the undocumented workers on their crews.

• The defendants knowingly employed 18 workers on farming crews while the defendants were aware that some of the crew leaders and their crew members were not lawfully present in the United States.

Cannon, commander of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Internal Revenue Service and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jabar Wardlaw for their work on the case.

In other cases:

Former city clerk in Havana pleads guilty to embezzlement

WICHITA – A former city clerk for the city of Havana, Kan., pleaded guilty Wednesday to embezzling funds from the city and from her church, U.S. Attorney

See ATTY Page 4

Rice: City, county can help community grow

By DAN ARNT
• Leader & Times

The Joint Economic Development Organization Council recently conducted a business roundtable discussion to hear from local business owners and operators about how Liberal should approach community growth.

Kansas Rep. Eber Phelps, Seward County Commissioner Jim Hall and representatives from the City of Liberal and Chamber of Commerce were also in attendance leading the discussion.

"Let's consider something I believe could be a very positive thing for prospective developers," Rice said. "Liberal has a lot of positive things going for it, but very little action or attention over the past many years," he said. "The City and County have a lot to offer in the way of service, sewer systems, airport, rail and gather as an example. What if the city and county governments had the foresight in the past to invest in such things to encourage a prospective businesses or new industries would be willing to locate here? We need to figure out what we need to do to attract new business or improve our existing business."

Rice also pointed out that the county recently sold 50 lots that have been developed by the county and that each ownership of the property for unpaid taxes. He said if the city and county had not done that, the lots would not be making much money for the county.

Rice also mentioned that the county has set aside funding for an investment of $800,000 that 10 homes built on the property would have generated $64,000 in property taxes for the county.

"Would those 60 additional families have provided purchasing power and would they have been a benefit to the city?" asked the group. "Would a company looking to expand or build new be interested in a community that has the support of local government, knowing the potential for community expansion would only improve the need for more land, housing and jobs?" he said.

Rice said there is a role for local government to play in expanding the economic base of the community. Until there is a partnership between private and local units of government, there will be no growth, he said. Developers and retail businesses to provide all the options for residents to choose from, Rice said, the economy will continue to stall Liberals growth.

"Today we are considering if the present system is working as it should and if we should be willing to roll the dice for additional community," he said. "Are we willing to continue to do the same things we have been doing or are we willing to try to change the rules? That, my friends, is for you to decide."

Rice, representatives and chairpersons to schedule more roundtables with other aspects of the community including agriculture, energy and others.

LEGO expo puts Liberal 'at the forefront'

Grants fund next event for Feb. 22

By KAYLEE CLEMONS
• Leader & Times

After the NSA America Air Museum hosted its first LEGO expo last weekend, director Jim Rose said he knew the Liberal City Commission would be willing to fund and support funding for the second robotics event.

The city granted $7,000 in grant and donation funds be released to NSAM in order to stage the Feb. 22 tournament for students in grades five to 8.

"We're coming off our most successful First LEGO League expo," Rose said. "I met with some folks in the community who said they would like to see the young robots, and we are at the forefront of technology and engineering education in Southwest Kansas, so it's a natural fit."

The young children, from kindergarten to third grade, were delighted. The expo

See LEGO Page 4

Children from the "Robot Warriors" team cluster around an informal play station Saturday at #NSAmerica Air Museum with plenty of LEGO blocks. Though the LEGO robotics program focuses on computer programming and engineering, Jim Rose, director of NSAM, said the technology, Engineering and Math) education, "I'm excited to expand relaxing and just building," Rose said. Courtesy photos

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