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BILLY'S BLUE DUCK BBQ VOTED AMERICA'S BEST RESTURANT 5 YEARS STRAIGHT.


## Train hits car, no one hurt

By LARRY PHILLIPS
• Leader & Times

A train hit a stalled vehicle Friday night, and fortunately, there was nobody in the car when it was struck. The reason the auto was on the track was the result of a freak mishap, according to a report from Liberal Police Capt. Patrick McClung.

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## Vocal Trash at the BASH

Page 3A

Leader & Times

## Seeking nominations for High Plains Unsung Hero awards

• L&T staff report

The *Leader & Times* is looking for High Plains Unsung Heroes – people who aren't in the limelight, yet make positive differences in the lives of others or in their community.

If you know someone who should be recognized as a High Plains Unsung Hero, send your nomination to the *Leader & Times* at 16 S. Kansas Ave. or e-mail it to news@hpleader.com. Please try to keep the nominations at 500 words or less, and be sure to include your name and provide a contact number. Anonymous nominations will not be considered.

Once all submissions are received, the department heads at the L&T will vote to narrow it down to five recipients who will be honored at a reception May 1.

The reception will also honor the 2014 Leader & Times Citizen of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award winners.

The deadline for nominations for Unsung Heroes will be at noon Thursday, April 17.

## Let the MADNESS BEGIN!

Can you bust the tourney bracket? Fill yours out today!

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MONDAY MARCH 17, 2014

# Leader & Times

*Your daily news & views for 127 years*


## County to get update on KNRC coalition

By ROBERT PIERCE
• Leader & Times

At the Dec. 16, 2013, Seward County Commission meeting, commissioners Jim Rice and C.J. Wettstein provided the board with an update from the Kansas Natural Resources Coalition meetings and the importance of the county being a part of the coalition.

The cost was anticipated at $2,500 to continue participation at that time.

Rice and Wettstein have attended KNRC meetings, and Rice has been asked to serve as a board member as part of that group's efforts to try to prevent having a species of bird listed as endangered.

In a letter to the commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it had proposed the listing of the lesser prairie chicken for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act on Dec. 11, 2012.

Seward County

"The American Habitat Center proposes to develop a regional, multi-state stakeholder conservation strategy that is intended to provide conservation benefits to the LPC," said assistant regional director of ecological service for USFWS Michelle Shaughnessy in the letter. "The proposed SCS consists of three components: a habitat conservation plan; a habitat exchange agreement; and a habitat quantification

See COUNTY/Page 3

## Baker Arts Center to offer adult glassblowing workshop

• Special to the Leader & Times

Get fired up and learn basic glassblowing techniques to create simple forms such as a paper weight, small bowl or vase.

This workshop will take place at the Liberal High School glass shed and will be taught by Gary Marsh. Class will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The cost is $30 for members and $35 for nonmembers. The class size limited. Call 624-2810 for more information and to enroll. Fee must be prepaid by 5 p.m. Thursday to reserve space in this class.

## Miss Congeniality cited for shoplifting

CENTRALIA, Wash. (AP) — Days before she was named Miss Congeniality at the Miss Lewis County Scholarship Pageant, Chloe Curry was accused of attempting to shoplift cosmetics from the Chehalis Walmart.

Police said the 18-year-old from Adna and another 18-year-old attempted to leave the store March 6 with lip balm, nail polish, fake eyelashes, fake nails and other beauty products worth more than $100 in their purses. Both were cited.

The Chronicle reports pageant judges were unaware of the incident before Saturday's competition because she uses a name different than her legal name.

Curry won a $600 Miss Congeniality scholarship, which cannot be taken away under pageant rules. She had a platform of building a positive self-image. Her talent was rhythmic dance.

## Wichita police and FBI target gang violence

WICHITA (AP) — The FBI has joined with Wichita police in a bid to target the city's most violent gang members.

Under the new partnership, an FBI agent works with a detective and officer from the Wichita Police Department's gang unit to review unsolved homicides and build cases against gang members who have a history of violence. The Wichita Eagle reported. The team also works with the Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"They're targeting the worst of the worst," police Capt. Scott Heimerman said.

"If you are a gang member and you get caught with a pistol in this town, you are going to go to prison period," Heimerman said. "If you have a felony conviction, it will be federal prison."

Even crime victims who are found with guns and are convicted felons will face prosecution.

"I don't care if you're a victim or not," Heimerman said. "If you're a gang member and you had a gun and you're a felon, I'm going to charge you."

Police Chief Norman Williams said the partnership stems from last June, when John Sullivan, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Wichita branch, floated the idea of having an FBI agent work with police in whatever capacity police thought was most needed. FBI spokeswoman Bridget Patton said fighting gang violence is an FBI priority.

She said the FBI is also part of joint task forces in other cities, including Kansas City, Mo.

Williams credited the FBI for the recent arrest of a 27-year-old gang member accused of trying to run over a Wichita police officer in November 2012. Williams said the FBI's connections and expertise were vital in finding Marquel Dean in Garland, Texas.

Dean avoided capture on outstanding warrants for more than a year. He committed "new crimes," according to a Sedgwick County District Court document, until he was arrested in Texas. Dean, who spent months on the U.S. marshals' Top 10 most-wanted list, is being held in Sedgwick County Jail on bonds totaling more than $1.1 million.

The task force is in position to deal "a pretty substantial blow to violent criminal gang activity," Heimerman said. "This group will go after the most violent, the most active members until the violence ceases."

## Jack Daniel's opposes changing Tenn. whiskey law

By BRUCE SCHREINER and ERIK SCHELZIG
• Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — If it isn't fermented in Tennessee from mash of at least 51 percent corn, aged in new charred oak barrels, filtered through maple charcoal and bottled at a minimum of 80 proof, it isn't Tennessee whiskey. So says a year-old law that resembles almost to the letter the process used to make Jack Daniel's, the world's best-known Tennessee whiskey.

Now state lawmakers are considering dialing back some of those requirements that they say make it too difficult for craft distilleries to market their spirits as Tennessee whiskey, a distinctive and popular draw in the booming American liquor business.

But the people behind Jack Daniel's see the hand of a bigger competitor at work — Diageo PLC, the British conglomerate that owns George Dickel, another Tennessee whiskey made about 15 miles up the road.

"It's really more to weaken a title on a label that we've worked very hard for," said Jeff Arnett, the master distiller at the Jack Daniel's distillery in Lynchburg, Tenn. "As a state, I don't think Tennessee should be bashful about being protective of Tennessee whiskey over say bourbon or scotch or any of the other products that we compete with."

Republican state Rep. Bill Sanderson emphasized that his bill wouldn't do away with last year's law enacted largely on the behest of Jack Daniel's corporate parent, Louisville, Ky.-based Brown-Forman Corp. The principal change would be to allow Tennessee whiskey makers to reuse barrels, which he said would present considerable savings over new ones that can cost $600 each.

"There are a lot of ways to make high-quality whiskey, even if it's not necessarily the way Jack Daniel's does it," Sanderson said. "What gives them the right to call theirs Tennessee whiskey, and not others?"

Sanderson acknowledged that he introduced the measure at Diageo's urging, but said it would also help micro distilleries opening across the state. Diageo picked up on the same theme.

"This isn't about Diageo, as all of our Tennessee whiskey is made with new oak," said Diageo executive vice president Guy L. Smith IV. "This is about Brown-Forman trying to stifle competition and the entrepreneurial spirit of micro distillers.

"We are not sure what they are afraid of, as we feel new innovative products from a new breed of

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**In this Nov. 27, 2009, file photo, visitors view barrels of aging whiskey while on a tour of the Jack Daniel's distillery in Lynchburg, Tenn. Jack Daniel's is fighting efforts in the state Legislature to dial back the legal definition of Tennessee whiskey, including a provision that requires the spirit to be aged in new oak barrels.** *AP photo/Mark Humphrey*

Vol. 128 • Iss. 271 • 10 Pages

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