March 17, 2014

Monday, 17 March 2014 11:47

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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 incident occurred at 9:30 p.m. on the north end of a Hook railroad crossing, according to a report from Liberal Police Capt. Patrick McCabe.

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Vocal Trash at the BASH

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LEADER & TIMES

Seeking nominations for High Plains Unsung Hero awards

• Staff staff report

The Leader & Times is looking for High Plains Unsung Heroes - people who stand in the background, yet make positive differences in the community, region and beyond.

If you know someone who should be recognized as a High Plains Unsung Hero, send your nominations to the Leader & Times at 1831 N. Kansas Ave., Liberal, Kansas, or by e-mail to news@leadertimes.com. Please have the nomination at 500 words or less, and be sure to include your name and phone number. Anonymous nominations will not be considered.

Once all submissions are received, the nominations will be sent to a panel of judges who will be honored at a reception May 1.

Winners will be eligible for the 2014 Leader & Times Citizen of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award winners.

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, commissioner Ben Rice and C.J. Robinson reported on a coalition update from the Kansas Natural Resources Coalition (KNRC) on the importance of the county being a part of the coalition.

"The cost was anticipated at $2,500 to continue membership," Rice said. Rice and Robinson have attended KNRC meetings, and Rice has been asked to be part of a committee to develop a group of interest to try to prevent listing a species of bird listed as endangered.

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

"The American Habitat for Agriculture (AHA) has formed a regional multi-state stakeholder center to develop a plan that is intended to provide conservation benefits to the lesser prairie chicken," the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said in a letter. "The proposed AHA consists of three components: a habitat conservation plan, habitat exchange agreement, and a habitat quantification

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Baker Arts Center to offer adult glassblowing workshop

• Special to the Leader & Times

Get fired up and learn how glassblowing is a unique way 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, Baker Arts Center director and glass artist.

The cost is $20 for participants and $15 for nonmembers. The class size limited. Call 624-2610 for reservations. Deadline for sign up is Tuesday, April 22, 5 p.m. Thursday is tentative space in the class.

Miss Congeniality cited for shoplifting

CONYERS, Ga. (AP) — Days before she was crowned Miss Georgia, a Miss Congeniality runner-up in the Miss Georgia Scholarship Pageant, Clinton County was accused of shoplifting by Douglas counselor from Rue Clothiers Boutique.

Parker said the 20-year-old from Atlanta and another 20-year-old attempted to leave the store March 6 with a bag of clothing and accessories worth $1,000 and beauty products worth more than $100 in their purses. Both were jailed.

Parker, who was recently pageant judge were unaware of the incident before Saturday's competition because she wore a tunnel different than her legal name.

Parker, who is a Miss Georgia Scholarship finalist, which is open to titled, never needed pageant judges. She had a plethora of building a positive self-image. Her talent was clarinet. Amen.

Wichita police and FBI target gang violence

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

Under the new partnership, an FBI agent will be assigned to work full-time from the Wichita Police Department's gang unit to retrace unsolved homicides and other crimes committed by members who have a history of violence. The Wichita Eagle reported. The teams also will include Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"We are targeting the worst of the worst," police Capt. Scott Hinrichsen said.

"If you are a gang member and you get caught with a pistol in the town, you are going to be prosecuted," Hinrichsen said. "If you have a felony conviction, it will be federal prison."

Hinrichsen said the city is victim to not only gang and one connected felons will face prosecution.

"We are trying to send a message," Hinrichsen said. "If you're a gang member and you have a gun and you're a felon, you're going to prison."

Police Chief Norman Williams said the partnership stems from last June, when the FBI's Wichita office was in charge of the FBI's Wichita Search. Realized the idea of forming an FBI squad with police to enhance especially police. Sought was stated FBI Director James Comey's vision of fighting gang violence in our FBI's prioritized.

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

Williams said the FBI for the recent arrest of a 27-year-old gang member accused of trying to run over a Wichita police officer with a vehicle.

FBI, Williams said the FBI's connections and expertise were which finding fugitives, particularly in the Wichita Union, wanted, capture, are outstanding warrants for more than a with His committed "new citizens," according to a Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office spokesman who was arrested in Texas. Dixon, 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 bold move is in position to deal a "tremendous blow to the Wichita criminal gang scenario," Hinrichsen said. "This group will go after the most violent, the most active members and the violence comes."

Jack Daniel's opposes changing Tenn. whiskey law

By BRUCE SCHREINER and JEFF SIEGEL
• Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — If it isn't fermented in Tennessee from mash that is at least 51 percent corn, it can be charred oak barrels, filtered through maple charcoal and bottled at no less than 80 proof to be called Tennessee whiskey. It's quite a tipple of liver that was taken almost to the brink of extinction by Prohibition. Now, Canada, the world's bestselling Tennessee whiskey.

Tennessee whiskey producers 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 move that would put a crimp in the booming American whiskey business.

The Lynchburg-based Jack Daniel's, the biggest of a bigger competitor at work — Diageo PLC, the British-based maker of Johnnie Walker Black and other Tennessee whiskey made about 55 million cases last year.

"It really seems to weaken a title that we've worked very hard to build," said Jeff Cole, a master distiller at the Jack Daniel's distillery in Lynchburg, Tenn. "As a brand, we have a lot of pride and should be laudable about being protective of Tennessee whiskey over our foreheads or scotch or any of the other products that we compete with."

Republican Rep. Bill Dunn introduced a bill last week that would do away with last year's increased length on the labeled of a 10-year-old Tennessee whiskey. Louisville, Ky.-based Brown-Forman Corp. The principal owner of Jack Daniel's, wants Tennessee whiskey makers to cover barrels which he said would increase the amount of whiskey in cases that can cost $100 each.

"There are a lot of ways to make high-quality whiskey even if it isn't done in Tennessee," Dunn said. "Why grant them the right to call their Tennessee whiskey and not others? Tennessee whiskey producers have interfered the measure of Diageo's urging, but said it would also hurt the state's whiskey producers, Dunn pushed up on the same theme.

Rep. Mike Bell Dunn, as all of our Tennessee whiskey is made with new oak," said Dunn sincerely. "Not a single drop of it is not charred. Brown-Forman is trying to stifle competition and this is a pronounced spot of sweet duplicitous."

"We are not sure what they are afraid of, but we have been very proud of what we have created in Tennessee," Bell said.

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In this Nov. 27, 2009, file photo, workers view barrels of aging whiskey while on a tour of the Jack Daniel's distillery in Lynchburg, Tenn. Tennessee whiskey makers are asking 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

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Liberal, Kansas