Some days you are the bug, some days you are the windshield
Thursday Prime Rib
44 Village Plaza • Liberal, KS 620-626-4400 Monday - Saturday
BLUE BUCK BBQ
RILEY'S BLUE BUCK BBQ VOTED AMERICA'S BEST RESTAURANT & TRAVEL STRAIGHT!

Not too late

Voter registration remains open until 5 p.m. today

By RACHEL COLEMAN
• reader @ Times

Today marks the final deadline for voters to register to cast ballots in person in the April 3 special board election that will affect schools in Seward County and surrounding areas. Yet people who are still scrambling to unearth an official birth certificate or other proof of U.S. citizenship shouldn't

As long as race covers
full seal or registration
card at the clerk's office
before today's deadline.
"They have until the day
before the election to
show us proof of
citizenship."
— Seward County Clerk
Stacia Long

See REGISTER Page 3A

County continues membership in KNRC

KNRC is fighting to keep feds from listing prairie chicken as 'endangered'

By ELI CRIPPS
• reader @ Times

The Seward County Commission took on a busy agenda at its most recent meeting Monday night.

One of the items
during the meeting
was a recent letter
marked of presenting
commercial "sage fee"
checks. Expanded some comments from
Commissioners J.J. Pfannenstiel and Randy
Oden.

See COUNTY Page 3A

Police seek Amish buggy in W. Pa. hit-and-run

Sun Me, Please

Heartland is hotbed of hoops

SPORTS, PAGE 1B

TUESDAY MARCH 18, 2014
LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 127 years

Lawsuit challenges use of endangered species to stop energy boom

By CURAN COOK
• reader @ Times

Oklahoma attorney general has filed a lawsuit in federal court in Oklahoma City against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, arguing the so-called "sue and settle" practice of the agency is abusing the Endangered and Threatened Species Act.

Scott Pruitt filed the complaint late

Monday on behalf of the state of Oklahoma and the Corporation Energy Producers Alliance (CEPA), a national network of oil and gas companies.

The lawsuit targets several changes that "by entering into private settlements with special interest litigants, [the Fish and Wildlife Service] has made to the process," the regulatory and legislative

See LAWSUITS Page 6A

Legal groups fight changes in Kansas evidence rules

Kansas Hospital Association President and CEO Andy Tash Ball, right, and Kansas Trial Lawyers Association executive director Jeff Jacobs testify before the Kansas House committee on judiciary legislation increasing limits on non-economic damages in lawsuits, Monday afternoon in Topeka. The associations are supporting the bill, which also changes rules of evidence. (T photo/Jim Hanna)

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Two lawsuit groups said Monday a previously legislative that proposed changes in evidence rules favored by Republicans would make it more difficult to fight limits on non-economic damages in personal injury lawsuits.

The Kansas Bar Association and the Kansas Association for Justice say state's $250,000 cap on non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering, fooling it would increase insurance premiums for doctors and other health care providers. They're asking pursuant to accept an increase to the limit because of an October 2012 ruling by the Kansas Supreme Court in a medical malpractice case.

The court said the cap on non-economic damages is constitutional but the majority also said it is troubling that the cap hadn't been increased for inflation since it was enacted in 1988. Lobbyists for the Kansas Medical Society and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce argue that they're nervous about a later legal challenge.

The proposed changes in evidence rules strike a balance while preserving the cap, they said.

"There is a unique opportunity that we have

See FIGHTS Page 3A

Live on Stage presents 'Back on Broadway' in concert Thursday

Vol. 128 • Iss. 167 • 16 Pages
When you can't get the printed version, go to www.leadertimes.com
Liberal, Kansas