By VICTORIA CALDERON

• Leader & Times

At Tuesday night's city commission meeting, a report on the 2013 Kansas Sampler Festival was one of the main agenda items.

Sally Fuller, the director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, addressed the commission. She spoke about the success of this year's Sampler.

"We had 4,500 attend. That's about a thousand less than the first year, which is very common in every community," Fuller said. "Everything went really well. I was amazed myself at how well it went and how proud I was of our community."

Surveys were taken by all the vendors that participated in the Sampler. Liberal got plenty of positive reviews from these surverys.

As far as negative comments, “Frankly, couldn’t find any.” Fuller exclaimed.

Although commissioners would like to get the Sampler back, the park and community need a couple years to recover, Fuller said. However, it is seen by commissioners and citizens alike as a great activity that brings the community together.

The Sampler will be an event remembered by many for years to come, vice mayor Janet Willimon said.

“I really feel sorry for Wamego having to follow us,” Fuller proudly concluded. “They have big shoes to fill.”

2013 Kansas Sampler Feedback

• “I thought they (Liberal) did an awesome job! Everything seemed to go smoothly.” Sarah Werner, Winfield

• “Thanks for a wonderful weekend. The crew helping us was great and a lifesaver with heavy bags of popcorn. Marybettie was a fantastic tent helper – was cheerful and willing to do anything to help, including bringing coffee to me. WOW! She needs an award.” Helen Dobbs, St. Francis & Cheyenne County

• “Liberal did a great job of streamlining, unloading and reloading.” Michelle Crisler, Wamego

• “The entire community did a wonderful job of preparing, hosting, and making everyone feel welcome - especially Sally and Cindy and their crew. We were very impressed with the cooperation of the City of Liberal and all their employees to make this the best festival ever.” Cathy Albert, WaKeeney

• “Had a great experience at KSF in Liberal. Long drive, but worth the effort. The Liberal folks did themselves proud in planning, execution, etc. for both years.” Dave Azwell, Osage City

• “Great job! Everything went smoothly and we had no problems. Our tent boss Debbie Giskie was super terrific and always coming around and asking if we needed anything. And with Debbie having extra ice cold water bottls in the cooler was really nice.” Ruben Schuckman, Hays

• “What a wonderful job all of you did to make the Sampler enjoyable. All the help you could ask for was there to lend a helping hand to unpack and pack up. Friendly faces always willing to answer any questions. All in all, a great experience.” Julie Roller, Wamego

• “I was so impressed at how well marked booth space was, and how well organized the unloading and loading process went. The help was simply fabulous.” Holly Lofton, Lindsborg

• “From the pleasant greeting at the gate Friday afternoon and the many minions unloading so fast our heads spun, to the really great food and lodging we had a terrific time in Liberal and look forward to our next trip!” Ann Birney, PhD and Joyce Thierer, PhD

• “Thank you for a great festival. I want especially to shine a spotlight on your army of helpful friendly smiling volunteers. You can be very proud of your community. In the words of the now infamous, ‘I’ll be back.’” Jeff Hanson, Muscotah