April 9, 2013

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TUESDAY APRIL 9, 2013 VOL 126 ISSUE 105 16 PAGES

GUESSING THE SOUND OF AN INJURED DINOSAURS $1

Board approves budget adjustment, begins strategic planning

Low local mill levy embarrassing, Diepenbrock says

By MICHAEL COGGINS
• Leader & Times

A public hearing to amend the 2012-13 USD 480 budget was held Monday, but no one spoke for or in favor of comment at that night's USD No. 480 school board meeting. After the hearing, the board approved the amended budget and that while the amended budget reflected a $1.75 million increase, it was not a matter of adding new money to the coffers.

"There is no new tax taking money out of the pocket of the taxpayer. It is a budget adjustment," he explained. The additional funds required transfer from the general fund to the capital outlay fund, the number of students enrolled in the district has gone up "and things just have gotten out of hand compared to when we wrote the budget."

Board member Steve Hicks asked if

• See DISTRICT, 2/Page 1A

City to elect mayor, vice mayor tonight

By ROBERT PRICE
• Leader & Times

Last Tuesday, Liberal voters elected two new city commissioners and re-elected two incumbents on the board.

Tonight, the new board will convene on the last of those elected last week, and that means Liberal will soon have a new mayor.

The incumbents, along with the newcomers, will be sworn in at tonight's meeting, and then the five-member commissioners will vote to select a new mayor and vice mayor.

Two of the commissioners, Ron Warren and incumbent Joe Vincent, are seasoned veterans of the city commission, with Vincent currently serving as vice mayor.

The other two, comprising the remaining commissioners Gary Kowalski and Craig will be presented with awards for their time on the board.

Commissioners will also hear from the consulting firm, Retail Attractions, regarding trying to recruit new business to Liberal. Retail Attractions, the consultants, Liberal Economic Development Director Jeff Parsons and city manager Jerry Stevens visited Spring Hill, Olathe, Kansas.

Parsons added staff has been in contact with officials in Spring Hill since December. Early Hines for several months about the possibility of listing Liberal.

Retail Attractions is a firm whose specialty is connecting retail businesses with communities. Parsons said. Their process will be to build a profile of Liberal, which will be used to recruit additional retail and then begin to present Liberal to those national chains of retailers, brokers and developers.

Parsons said if projects are developed, Retail Attractions will work with the city

• See CITY, Page 3A

Former mayor Dale Reed faces 2nd DUI allegation

By LARRY PARKER
• Leader & Times

Former Liberal Mayor Dale Reed has once again been arrested for allegedly driving under the influence for the second time in two years.

Reed, 61, was arrested Friday on three alleged charges.

Investigators work for the Seward County Sheriff's office, and the charges filed in Seward Municipal Court confirmed he faces three counts: Improper turning, Driving Under the Influence, DUI Refusal — transportation of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

The authorities also said an appeals date for a further court hearing has not yet been set.

Reed was arrested Liberal on a half months ago on Nov. 28, 2012, on similar charges - suspicion of

• See REED, Page 5A

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High Plains DOWNLOADS

Students now selling cards for discount photo package for $10

The USD 480 Foundation and the Liberal High School National Honor Society are offering discount photo cards for $10 per card. The card is good at the Photo Pro Portrait Studio at Walmart in Liberal. The card is good for one free 8x10 and one free 5x7 and which includes one $100 and two $50s — a regular $19.98 retail value. To order a card or for more information, call Rana Perkins at (620) 624-0640. Card does not expire until Sept. 1, 2013.

ORDER CARDS NOW

Liberal Lions Club to host semi-annual pancake feed

The Liberal Noon Lions Club will host its semi-annual pancake feed from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday April 23 at the Liberal Senior Citizen Center.

Tickets are $7 for adults and $4 for children ages 10 and younger and are available in advance from any Lions Club member. Proceeds will benefit local projects.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

College to present adult musical 'Assassins'

Tickets are now available for the Seward County Community College/Area Technical School musical production of "Assassins" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"Assassins" is a musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and is based on the book by John Weidman. This murderous carnival game portrays president-killers who attempt to assassinate the president of the United States, some successfully and some unsuccessfully. The musical reflects the music of each era.

The musical is recommended for adult audiences only. Tickets are $10 for general admission and $5 for students and $15 each may be purchased in advance by calling 620-417-1451 or emailing tarl.barnes@sccc.edu. Tickets may also be picked up at the Derek Humanities Building, 1801 N. Kansas, Liberal. Seating may be limited the night of production.

GET TICKETS NOW

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Dinosaurs ROAR to life at MAAM

Students from Washington Elementary look at some eggs and newly hatched dinosaurs Monday in the Dinosaurs of Kansas exhibit at Mid-America Air Museum in Liberal. Students from Liberal, Kismet, Plains, Ashland, Meade, Fowler, Minneola and Ulysses will have their turn at the extinction dinosaur roar throughout the exhibit. For a photo of the ribbon cutting ceremony, see PAGE 1A. | Staff photo/Robert Price