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SWEET SWEEP

Lady Redskins soccer sweeps Great Bend in season-ending matches

PAGE 1B

NEW MEMBERS

Hospital swears in 2 new board members

PAGE 3A

hpleader.com High Plains DOWNLOADS

City seeking volunteers to help with Kansas Sampler Festival

The Kansas Sampler Festival will open for vendors at Liberal Memorial Stadium's Kids Kingdom. Community members have already registered to exhibit, sell, entertain and demonstrate at the event. This event is a celebration of the Kansas Sesquicentennial, there is no sale of food, wine, beer and liquor at Kansas Sampler. It also offers local residents a chance to show those exhibitors and festival attendees the hospitality offered by our community. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Flag 4 and Saturday, May 3, to assist with the event.

Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to call 624-0173 or email tourism@liberalks.org to learn about volunteer opportunities and sign up to help.

CALL NOW

Roy Allen to be guest speaker at Lions Club meeting Monday

The Liberal Lions Club will meet at 12:15 p.m. at the college. The college's Sports Information Director Roy Allen will be the guest speaker.

MONDAY

LHS All Class Reunion plans meeting for Monday

Anyone interested in the Liberal High School All Class Reunion which is planned for July 14 is welcome to attend a meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday at the Leader & Times office. For more information, contact Mike Brock at 402-0466.

MONDAY

Kids Inc seeking board members, conducting meeting Sunday

Kids Inc. will be meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at the Liberal Recreation Office at Blue Barnes Park. Kids Inc. is seeking board members to join in its effort to provide free sports to children.

CALL NOW

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BE Liberal begins grassroots effort to mobilize community

Retreat helps establish community vision statement

By Mike Mertz
Leader & Times

When a local group of citizens from a variety of backgrounds assembled to begin a reconstruction of the community, it was not a political movement. It was not a political statement but a commitment to becoming a part of the community.

The Community Vision Retreat was called together, and it involved community servers, focus groups, a community conversation and ended with a mass retreat of the Community Vision Retreat at Garden City Community College from Sun-Sat of last week.

The entire process will take four years, but with the support of the community, the group has already established four action areas and developed a vision statement that will help the community create a common vision and develop a plan to achieve the common goals.

Community Impact engages four different sectors of a community — business, government, education and social services — and has been in the process of conducting discussions. By doing so, the group receives a variety of input from citizens they may otherwise never hear.

The four action areas are Education, Quality of Life, Facilities, Housing, mentoring and community/citizen collaboration.

The Community Vision Retreat focused on the results from the community survey and the community conversation to determine the action areas.

The retreat was a time for the exchange of communication throughout the community. April Wasley set us in the action discussions, and she said there just was no way to do it in a two or three day retreat that would fully a Said Lance affirm for sure.

"We broke it down so it is small goals to meet goals," she said. "We have to have a vision and we have to have a main goal. One of those was a community calendar, how can we reach out and have one location to find out what is going on in the community and what action is optimal. The action teams will be working on that."

The idea was a web site where a variety of different organizations can post their events and activities. Currently, each group has their own calendar, but those trying to explore the community as a whole would have to go to several sites to find out what is going on in the community.

"She helps with planning," Hawkins said. "The night we had community conversation there was a political forum and a Valentines banquet. There are many things going on.

The Community Vision Retreat Saturday at Seward County Community College/Beau Technical School focused on the theme "Liberal is a growing community that is embracing its diversity and communicating effectively to educate all students, which will develop a plan to achieve the common goals of Liberal with pride." The group explained the use of the term 'embracing its diversity' to mean that it's a process, not a goal. It means that the community is working to work together with its ethnic make-up. LT photo/Mike Mertz

The community calendar might have been a better way to do it.

Their second goal was to establish a welcome wagon so the community would be more welcoming to newcomers. Optimal is such, how do we make sure people coming to Liberal feel welcome, and how they can become involved, how they can be a part of Liberal. Liberal is unlikely to be an image because of tall trees. It is a community of Chamber, but realtors gave it a try. A friend of the community friends and how to become engaged if you

See BE LIBERAL/Page 5A

Dual-language instruction may come to an end

Board contemplates whether program should continue

By Nicole Cullipher
Leader & Times

The dual-language program at USD 480 has sometimes been touted as a success, and others have called it an experiment. In the next year or so, however, it faces the possibility of being discontinued.

Administrators and board members discussed the program's future at past board meetings, planning sessions Monday.

"If we are to continue the dual-language program, we will need to hire an additional teacher," said Jill Swan, director of data and testing. Swan said the program faces two major second-stage challenges. It requires double the teachers needed by other classes, and it will need a teacher to meet its additional needs, working known plans in both English and Spanish, and monitoring the progress, interests and movement of each teacher is difficult, because it's hard to find instructors who are truly bilingual.

Along with the question of whether the program should continue, Swan said, "the subject of the expansion, is it time to start planning the program [elsewhere]?"

"With the district poised to undergo another population jump, Swan said, "we will need to hire a lot of new needed center-positions that will cost large sums of money. The dual-language program is a program that has a higher cost per pupil" than other classroom needs.

The discussion was led by Deborah Zinn, Sublette School Principal. Kathy

See PROGRAM/Page 5A

Plains takes another step in gaining grocery store

By Robert Price
Leader & Times

A group of Plains residents is moving forward with plans to provide a grocery store to that town and neighboring areas.

The Community Enhancement Foundation of Plains recently hired a grant writer, Kent Stahlli, from Dodge City. The foundation is working with Community Enhancement Credit Union, Plains Economic Development Corp., Casella, and CEP President Jeanne Roberts said Stahlli is guiding the group through the application process.

"At this point, we are collecting letters from community

See PLAINS/Page 5A

The City of Plains is one step closer to getting a grocery store that could possibly be placed in the downtown area. The Community Enhancement Foundation recently hired a grant writer to go after Kansas Community Tax Credits to help with the funding for the new business. LT file photo/Robert Price

DINOSAURS INVADING LIBERAL
After a million year absence, dinosaurs are returning to Kansas and can be seen at the Mid-America Air Museum.
APRIL 6 - MAY 5