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Turpin to host pet vaccination clinic Saturday, May 11
There will be a pet vaccination clinic from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the Turpin, Okla., football field, weather permitting.
For more information, call 429-8721.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

SWMC Gift Shop offering 30% discounts in April
The Southwest Medical Center Gift Shop is offering a 30 percent discount on gifts for the month of April.
Also, a drawing will be held each week in April. A $25 gift card. People purchasing a gift in April will be eligible to sign up for the free gift card. The drawing will be on Tuesday.

THROUGH TUESDAY

Dogs! Dogs! Dogs!
Contact K-State Research & Extension Office is offering positive, motivational methods to teach dogs how to learn just about anything. Come to the class with your dog on a leash, ready to learn.
The class is for kids ages 9 to 18 with dogs 16 weeks and older. It will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Fridays starting May 3 at the west end of the Seward County Building at the fairgrounds in Liberal. Call the extension office. Contact K-State Research & Extension Office at 624-0244 for more information and to sign up for this awesome opportunity.
Cost is $40 per dog. Vaccinations for Parvo DHPP, & Rabies also recommended.
Sponsored by: K-State Research & Extension.

STARTING MAY 3

Sheriff's office invites community to Gene Austin's retirement reception Friday
The Seward County Sheriff's Office cordially invites the community to a retirement reception honoring Undersheriff Ernest "Gene" Austin from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday in the Seward County Administration Building – space in the commission chambers – located at 515 N. Washington in Liberal.

FRIDAY

Have your name placed at the top of the Leader & Times
Have your name, a family member's name or a friend placed at the top of the Leader & Times. Look for the Name Game entry blanks at the top of the front page. It is free to enter. Find out on when selecting spots for the entry. Call 626-8890 to reserve a date now.

CALL NOW

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Undersheriff Gene Austin retires

AUSTIN

By RACHEL STOPPKOTTE
• reader & News

"If you want to help your fellow man, you have to keep straight in your mind."

Seward County Undersheriff Gene Austin has seen a little bit of everything in his 44-year career in law enforcement. Strike, thefts, crime, punishment, the growth of Liberal and the changes in the world and behavior in may just about the same no matter how much society changes. One thing will be different after this week, though, as

See AUSTIN Page 7A

Hugoton super.: 'ACLU bullying district'

Civil liberties group responds documents on school assemblies with speaker from Creation Truth Foundation

By CELIA LOWENSTEIN
• Opinion Editor/Journal

Unsatisfied with a Hugoton Unified School District 210 decision to let school creation-espousing a motivational speaker, a civil liberties group is pressing public records from the district.

Hugoton Unified School District 210 hosted Kent Hovind, a Pensacola-based Creationist Truth Foundation to speak at three school assemblies this week on the topic of dinosaurs.

The ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri protested, calling Hovind's presence unconstitutional.

Hugoton superintendent Mark Crawford said the events, which took place Monday and Tuesday, were not sponsored by the district. But ACLU had sought to intimidate the district into canceling them.

Hovind, who is a former teacher of Pensacola Christian College in Florida, founded the Creation Truth Foundation in 1989. He is known for his anti-evolution "how to handle a bully" discussions with Hitler personified as the bully.

"I'm happy Hovind didn't think like a paleontologist — how many are going to be eaten by dinosaurs," Crawford said of the assemblies.

Crawford said the district had nothing to hide, and would fulfill the ACLU's request for records.

"We've had to create any rentals between district staff and employees of the creationist organization," he said. "There's no assemblies, agreements between the two parties, and other documents."

See HUGOTON Page 5A

City to close Light Park Sunday for Sampler Festival prep

• The eLibrary

Due to the large volume of work needed to be done in Light Park leading up to the Kansas Sampler Festival, the portion of Light Park inside the orange fencing will be closed to the public from Sunday through Friday, May 5.

The Light park and the amphitheater will be closed to rentals the hours will be available for use.

"I am aware if the inconvenience the closure of our community fest hopes they will realize it is necessary so we can prepare to host one of the largest traveling festivals in the state for the next week," Seward County Parks Committee and Chairman Ramon Austin retires. Crawshaw and friends have planned a reception to honor his many years of service to Liberal and the county.

"If you want to help your fellow man, you have to keep straight in your mind," he said.

"I grew up in Lemar, Colo., where my dad was part of the volunteer sheriff's reserve. I was 16 years old when I went to work for the sheriff's department. And I'd come by on hours and have coffee with my dad, and I was always at the time I was basically raised that way."

See CLOSED Page 7A

Theatre Camp now enrolling

Actresses having a little run for backstage of the musical "Sound of Music last July. Courtesy photo

Theatre for Lovers of Drama

Broadway has a long tradition of producing musical theatre, and it's definitely not vanishing. The camp is celebrating 20 years, and for fifth at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School. The camp is open to students in grades 1 through 12 and performs a full-scale Broadway musical in just week's time.

This year's one-of-a-kind cast is "Cinderella" will be July 29-31. Campers can attend one or both camps. Each camp will include daily theatre activities, campers, rehearsals and performances in the Showcase Theatre at SCCC/ASTC. Students attending the Theatre Camp will be auditioned with the Seward County Community Theatre production of "Cinderella" on July 29-31.

Directing the camp is Performing Arts Director at SCCC/ASTC.

"Theatre Camp is for those who want to establish a good and get all of their energy into working their good performance and teaching organization to the camp.

"Cinderella" is produced through arrangement with MTI.

See RECOGNITION Page 5A

10th Annual Cinco de Mayo celebration set for May 4

• Cinco de Mayo Committee

"This is a fun-family event that the whole community can enjoy," said Lupe Rodriguez, Liberal Cinco de Mayo Inc. Liberal Cinco de Mayo Celebration committee, which is sponsored by the Liberal Area Chamber of Commerce. "We have a lot of activities planned for the Hispanic event. It's a great way to bring everyone together and just have fun. So please plan to join us on Saturday, May 4."

The Cinco De Mayo Parade will start at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 4 with the theme "Fiesta" from Light Park at 6:30 p.m. The parade will proceed down Kansas Avenue to the Liberal Parish entries are welcome to participate in the parade. Antique vehicles, non-profits and civic organizations are invited to enter their floats or vehicles. Groups may still participate in the parade by paying the entrance fee and entering the parade.

See CINCO Page 5A