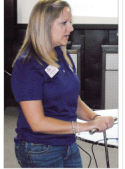


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SO LONG GENE!
Community says goodbye at Gene Austin's retirement reception
PAGE 4A

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Recent Events Director and Vice President, Theresa...

Garden City school district community approach differs from that of Liberal

By Bill Kopp
Garden City school district officials say their approach to budgeting is different from that of Liberal, Kansas, because of the district's smaller size and its focus on providing a high-quality education for all students.

Liberal School District Superintendent Dr. Robert L. Smith said the district's approach is based on a "bottom-up" process, where each department provides a request for funding, and the superintendent and board of education review and approve the requests.

"We have a very transparent process," Smith said. "We want to make sure that every dollar is accounted for and that we are providing the best possible education for our students."

In contrast, Smith said, Liberal's approach is more "top-down," with the superintendent and board of education making the final decisions on budget allocations.

"We have a very different approach," Smith said. "We want to make sure that every dollar is accounted for and that we are providing the best possible education for our students."

Planting tips, when real spring arrives

By Bill Kopp
As the weather warms and the days get longer, it's time to start thinking about planting in your garden. Here are some tips to help you get started.

1. Choose the right plants for your climate zone. Liberal, Kansas is in USDA Hardiness Zone 6, which means you should choose plants that can tolerate a minimum winter temperature of -10 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. Start with native plants. Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, making them a good choice for your garden.

3. Water properly. Most plants need about one inch of water per week, including during the dormant season.

4. Mulch your plants. Mulch helps retain moisture in the soil and keeps the plants cooler during the summer months.

5. Prune your plants. Pruning helps promote healthy growth and can help prevent disease.

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DINOSAURS INVADING LIBERAL
After a multi-year search, Liberator and its community are excited to announce the arrival of the Liberator Dinosaur Exhibit.

APRIL 6 - MAY 6