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Redskins baseball splits with Scott City

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Saints Booster Club final 2012-13 meeting features special guest

Please join the Saints Booster Club on next Wednesday in room 2290 for the final Saints Booster Club meeting of the 2013 school year. Before the Booster Club Meeting gets underway, we will have a special guest presentation by veterinary hosts one of our Seward County student-athletes who will be attending the United State Military Academy and playing for the Army Black Knights next season. There will be treats for pictures with our guest and a short meeting to follow. Any staff planning attending the awards Program who would like to attend the signing but not the meeting are welcome to leave after the signing ceremony or are more than welcome to stick around for the meeting if they would like to.

WEDNESDAY

College to host Allied Health Careers Camp

The Allied Health Division at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School will host a Allied Health Careers Camp on Tuesday, June 3 and Wednesday, June 4 in the Seward Allied Health Education Center.6th and Washington in Liberal. Students entering grades 9 through 12 will learn about: Medical Assistant, Respiratory Therapy, Surgical Technology, Medical Laboratory Technician, Sports Performance and Nursing.

The cost is $10 and students will receive a T-shirt and lunch.

Call 620-417-1451 to get signed up.

SIGN UP TODAY

Santa Day will be on Saturday, May 11

The United Carbon Company group will meet between 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the Seward Senior Center on Main Street. Everyone is invited to bring photos and stories to share. Please inform relatives and friends.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

College's music dept. at college to present spring concert

The Music Department at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School will present its spring concert on 7 p.m. Thursday in the SCCC/ATS Fleischaur Theater, featuring Concert Band, Sound Express Show Choir and Singing Saints Show Choir.

Tickets are $5 and are available by calling 620-417-1451 or coming by the office in the Shank Humanities Building, 1801 N. Kansas, Liberal. Courtesy card holders and students are free with a ID. However, due to limited seating, tickets must be picked up in advance.

Money raised will go the SCCC/ATS Foundation for scholarships.

THURSDAY

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Policy change coming for prom escorts

By ERIN HATT
Leader & Times

A policy that prevented a number of the military from escorting her younger sister to prom will be changed by the end of April. It may be changing soon.

A YouTube video showing Courtney Watson, 19, Liberal, escorting her sister to the end of the red carpet while his dress tuxedo lost way to the entryway without him, and a letter to the editor from Watson's father, Wes, about the incident set off a national firestorm on social media. Fox News, CNN, Wichita television stations and a barrage of comments on Facebook followed.

Both sides came together Monday afternoon to try to bring an end to the controversy. Watson, Courtney and her brother Connor Watson from USD Principal Keith Adams.

Courtney and Connor Watson was offended or embarrassed in any way, Adams said. "That was not our intent."

Adams also received criticism from around the nation.

"There's one from New York," Adams said. "I don't know why they're on Prom. While meeting with Watsons, his parents, Superintendent Larry Shirley and Assistant Superintendent Jeff Lubbe. The meeting was requested by Courtney and was facilitated by local attorney Mike Stucky, a friend of the family.

Watsons said was productive. They discussed the video and Courtney wanted to meet with her principal to bring an end to the criticism of him, the school and the school administration.

Adams agreed, and the discussion became a two-hour meeting that involved other parties including a

Former Liberal High School grad Casey Watson, left, stands at the end of the red carpet as an active duty airman in the U.S. Air Force. Watson's sister, Courtney Watson, purple dress, walks the red carpet with her date at the end door of USD for prom night. Courtney was escorted by Watson's two 12-year-old brother who had just returned here from Afghanistan. Courtney's two door, like red carpet in the doors, like request was denied because the school established a dress code. Courtney Watson

Principal Keith Adams interpreted that to include a tuxedo jacket. A video walk in the door a evening Monday afternoon with Courtney's father and school officials has brought a consensus the policy may be changed. Erin Hatt/Leader & Times file photo

See PROM/Page 3A

PERFECT WEATHER FOR SINGIN' AND EATIN'

After enjoying some barbecue, children take to the swing sets and slides in the back of Stepping Stone Shelter Sunday afternoon at the Spring Fling Barbecue Thing fundraiser. For more photos of the event, see PAGE 5A. Courtney photo

Dodge City gang member sentenced for attempted murder

©GTNewsOffice

WICHITA – A member of a Dodge City street gang targeted in a federal racketeering case has been sentenced to 33 years in federal prison for attempting to murder a U.S. Marshal Deputy Gustavo said today.

Jason Najera, 29, Dodge City, pleaded guilty in January to one count of attempted murder in furtherance of racketeering. In his plea, Najera admitted that on Feb. 14, 2010, he used a knife to stab two men he mistakenly believed were members of a rival gang.

In that days, Najera accompanied Ruben Hernandez to the Dodge City Only went to a residence at 703 Nevada in Dodge City. Ortiz and Hernandez were looking for a man they suspected of being members of the Norteno street gang. Ortiz was a member of the Dodge City Vatos, and Najera was a member of Dodge Vatos, both of which were associated with the Sureno gang, which is considered Norteno rival common enemies.

When a fight started, Najera used a knife to stab Enrique Gabriel Flores and Jesse Valadez. During the fight, both Flores and Hernandez were stabbed, with Flores's injuries requiring a helicopter to transport him to a hospital.

In his plea, Najera admitted that as a member of the Dodge Vatos he was part of a criminal enterprise engaged in racketeering activity. Norteno street gang, whose members used murder, robbery, drug trafficking and violence to protect and expand their operations.

In January co-defendant Humberto Ortiz was sentenced to 46 months in federal prison.

Hernandez and Ortiz were among 25 defendants indicted in 2012 who were charged under the federal RICO Act (Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act). The indictment marked only the second time federal prosecutors in Kansas have filed charges under RICO and VICAR (violent crimes in Aid of Racketeering).