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The L&T Thursday edition will be a morning delivery due to the observance of Independence Day. The L&T offices will be closed Thursday, but will return to normal hours Friday.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Don't miss the traditional fireworks show Thursday evening after the Bee Jays play league rival Dodge City starting at 7 p.m. Immediately after the game, there will be a ceremony honoring area veterans and then the fireworks display.

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Show off that antique tractor during the Seward County 5-State Fair

The Pre-State Fair Board is seeking antique tractors to be placed on display from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday, July 13 at the Fair State Fair. There will be a $10 entry fee, but all proceeds will be paid out to the Top 3 favorites.

Your tractors will get great exposure, as they will be displayed across the street from the Seward County Activity Center and the United Wireless Kansas City BBQ contest. The other events that day include the Kansas City BBQ Society Sanctioned contest, the Fleetwood Game, United Wireless BBQ cook-off awards, exhibits open all day and vendors at the Activity Center. The carnival opens at 6 p.m. followed by the demolition derby at 7.

Come out to the fair, bring your traditions and bring the weekend (or a gorgeous) antique tractor to the fair and enjoy a full day of wonderful activities with the whole family.

For more information, or to reserve a spot, call Larry Phillips at 620-625-9527.

CALL TODAY

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Routine blood test saved baby's life

MCADD a silent killer for many

At the age of 4 months, London Crowne Bartel looks like the frustrating, healthy baby he is. Yet when his parents, Colton and Morgan Bartel, look at their son, they know that only hours after his birth, he was a pinprick away from death.

Born with a condition known as MCADD — medium chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency — London is unable to store energy from the food he consumes.

"Without a blood test," said Morgan, "and that means he has to eat every three hours. Everything he eats, his body burns. He can't store anything for energy. If he doesn't eat, his body goes into crisis."

Luckily for London, a routine pinprick blood test performed at Southwest Medical Center in Liberal, Kan., revealed Morgan Bartel's condition of MCADD.

"Morgan was still in recovery from childbirth, and I was in the nursery when one pediatrician ... I don't remember which one ... came in and told me that they had received the results and there might be a problem," recalled Colton. "When Morgan heard that ..."

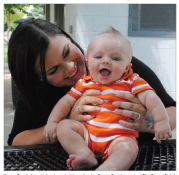
Morgan began to cry. Colton did, too.

The parents' panic at the news quickly turned to gratitude.

"I'm glad they could have died," said Morgan. "If they hadn't ordered and done further testing and we had just gone home, he could have died. Without that test, he would be dead."

Although a simple set of blood tests is conducted for all newborn babies, the neonatal screening does not automatically include tests to expand an additional test, which can be known "about 825," said Colton. That test confirmed what Dr. Hassan suspected: London had inherited a recessive or "faulty" genetic disorder from both parents.

"MCADD is one of those short things that can kill a child without anyone ever realizing what's happening," said Dr. Hassan. "Most children who died from MCAD (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) turn out to have had one of the types of MCADD."



Morgan Bartel plays with her 4-month-old son, London Crowne Bartel, recently at Bee Bonnet Park. It was discovered shortly after his birth that London was born with a condition known as MCADD — medium chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency — and is unable to store energy from the food he consumes.

MCADD's symptoms are difficult to recognize, but the condition can become life-threatening if the body's inability to store energy can result in extreme sleepiness, unstable blood and poor feeding. Symptoms can also appear later in life in adult-being form. But the collection of seemingly innocuous symptoms can set off a chain of events that can lead to death.

MCADD's develops breathing problems, organ failure, seizures, coma and possible death.

"London could have died within a week," said Morgan, "and we wouldn't have even known. We wouldn't have had a clue."

Some children with MCADD avoid death, but the disorder exacts a high price. Repeated episodes of hypoglycemia can lead to brain and heart damage. Children with MCADD also have difficulty learning how food is needed to store and use energy. Continued problems with energy can contribute to learning problems or damage to muscles, known as myositis.

Dr. Hassan said he has seen many times how parents tackled the challenges of life with MCADD with a heavily positive commitment to their children. "They don't let it get in the way and be a thief," Morgan said. "It was not exactly a grieving process, but just asking why this happened to us. Why did it have to happen to our son." Through coordination with specialists at University of Oklahoma, the Bartels learned the details about how best to care for London.

"At first, it was really scary, but then I realized that I can do this," Morgan said. "I like to help other many parents of newborn babies, who hang for a night of uninterrupted rest. the Bartels have had London since birth, they have had only one night adult, waking every three hours to feed her.

See MCADD Page 4A

L&T story and photos by Rachel Coleman

A 'Match' made in heaven

By Victoria Calderon
Leader & Times

Big Brothers Big Sisters is an organization dedicated to changing the lives of children everywhere. In the case of Zenaida, that's exactly what happened when she was put into the program as a child, and found a match.

Her Big Sister, Michele Allen, was assigned to her Big. Michele Scotland. When the Match was first made, Zenaida was only seven years old. Zenaida's parents, then spoke Spanish only.

Despite the language barrier with Zenaida's family, Michele and Zenaida's relationship extended, close to Zenaida. From Friday night movies and pizza to TNT Tumbling, Michele and Zenaida have many memories of fun like.

"It was like an effort to keep it going. We just clicked," Scotland said.

Positively most tangible impact on Zenaida's life has been overcoming the language challenge. Zenaida began the third grade with a first grade reading level. To help her

Michele and Jim Scotland pose with Zenaida Alcala and Matthew Allen and McKenzie as well as Zenaida, who has also been considered part of the Scotland family. They met Zenaida through the Match at Big Brothers Big Sisters in Liberal 7 years ago.

See MATCH Page 5A