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Board, VISION team kick off week of 16 public meetings today

By MICHEL COLEMAN
Leader & Times

A second scoping meeting approved into the USD 480 Board of Education calendar was scheduled for noon today in the Central Office conference room. The hourly original meeting, which was the first scoping meeting, but the second, small-group gathering will allow board members to hear from community members before the busy holiday season begins.

The only item of note on the agenda is a review of the district's current facilities condition management form. At its Oct. 7 meeting, the board agreed to form a committee to review facilities management in order to determine the bond issue and bid process.

Without a CMOM, it's difficult for a project to reflect real costs during the decision-making stage, and director of facilities management Jim Wright explained that no project has been defined; no particular plan has been drawn up, and no cost estimates have been put all necessary pieces in place so that when the special election occurs and the board has to make a decision, it knows what the project would be.

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Restrooms

Public water or private well?

By ROBERT PRICE
Leader & Times

At its Nov. 5 meeting, the Seward County Commission heard from Gene Mauch of Mauch Farms, who asked a variety of questions about a water supply requirement for his business in north Liberal.

Mauch said he thought it was determined that the county does not have authority to grant a waiver to the water supply requirement as enforced by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Commissioners then responded to representatives from KDHE, he stated in its port meeting, tonight, along with Carter and Jo Dixon from the Seward County Health Dept. and planning and zoning director Marcia Weatherly to see if a waiver could be granted.

In a debate in Hillcrest Weatherly and state regulations require, locations serving customers an average of at least 14 days out of the year, be served by a public water supply.

"The Mauch station has been open for 14 days, and they have served 25 individuals daily since January 2011 and therefore meets the requirements for a public water supply," Weatherly said.

There are two options to meet this requirement.

"The first is the City of Liberal provides a public supply — meet the state and federal requirements with your own water supply," Weatherly said.

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BOOK SIGNING

Gwen Stevens Hanson book signing event set for Wednesday in Okla. Panhandle

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DOWNTOWN LIBERAL

Sign up your entry or get more info at the business where you see the 2013 Christmas car, a new 2013 Ford Focus, and you could win it! Sign up for the parade and the winning name will be drawn. You must be in attendance to win the car. Parade starts at 6 p.m. Here is the following schedule of when the car will be on display:

Monday:
10 a.m. to noon – Koering Tractor & Equip.
Friday:
10 a.m. to noon – Perkins Furniture
2 to 4 p.m. – Duckdown
Saturday:
10 a.m. to noon – Perkins Furniture
2 to 4 p.m. – Wheatridge Park Care Center

This Oct. 31 photo provided by Robert Dietrich is an bottom, the back lower part of the big bone that she's believed to be a tyrannosaurus rex in Lusk, Wyo. Dietrich, of Wichita, unearthed the fossil dubbed Baby Bob in a bentrock area in nearest Montana. The find is considered significant because of its preliminary data pure and would be among the smallest T. rex specimens ever found. (Associated Press)

Half-grown T. rex fossil could answer questions

By MATCHA HULLINGSWORTH
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A Kansas fossil hunter has unearthed a dinosaur bone that is believed to be a half-grown Tyrannosaurus rex, a find that could answer questions about the extraordinarily rapid growth of the king of the dinosaur kingdom.

Robert Dietrich of Wichita, unearthed the fossil dubbed "Baby Bob" in his ranch in northeastern corner the eastern Montana in 2011. The find is considered significant because its future counterpart about 20 inches and if it is confirmed to be a tyrannosaurus that would make it among the smallest T. rex specimens ever found.

"This is the discovery everyone wishes and longs for," Dietrich said.

Dietrich has been sharing the find with paleontologists around the nation, including the Smithsonian Institution. Scientists are eager to study the bone, which is the hottest, the specimen excavated the bowling ball size of about 40 pounds. It's the only T. rex specimen that likely Bob was about half-feet size.

"We don't know anything about how T. rex grew up," said Thomas Carr, director of the Carthage Institute of Paleontology in Carthage, College in Carthage, Ill. "We know there have a handful of bands of mineralized and juveniles, so you can actually see the growth rings that really end of the growth period is scientifically very important. Unfortunately, it's a delicious if you that we have are from adults."

Bob Bakker, curator of paleontology at the Houston Museum of Nature and Science and the scientist of half-grown T. rex fossils have raised questions about how fast the young T. rex depend in the wild until they were almost full grown.

Trying to study great grandpa baby T. rex, it could tell us about how fast it grew and even as whether it looks like it was designed to visit for years and that's it come back," Bakker said.

Another juvenile fossil also could help settle a debate about whether the T. rex has a smaller cousin or just a smaller version or some for short. Bakker is among those camps there are two species, while Carr is part of

See T. REX Page 4

Woman killed in Topeka church parking lot

TOPEKA (AP) — Topeka police are investigating a Monday morning drive-by shooting and killed her while at a church parking lot.

The crash happened around 9:45 a.m. Sunday at Second Union Lutheran Church. WIBW reports that the driver accidentally hit the gas pedal and changed the vehicle's gear. The car then ran into a church.

A doctor who attended services at the church tried to help the woman, but she was pronounced dead at the scene. The name of the victim wasn't immediately released.

Wife dead, husband wounded in Kansas shooting

VALLEY CENTER (AP) — A woman is dead and her husband is wounded in a shooting near the end of Sedgwick County town of Valley Center.

KAKE reports that the couple was rushed by a Wichita hospital on a dirt road on Sunday night after the husband found suffering from gunshot wounds to their body.

The Sedgwick County Sheriff's office said the woman died shortly after 8:30 p.m. Saturday. She was found in a nearby field, officials said.

There is no word yet on any arrests or a motive for the shooting.

1 dead, arrest made in store shooting

WICHITA (AP) — Wichita police are a suspect in custody after a customer was shot to death at a convenience store.

The shooting occurred Sunday evening in southeast Wichita.

Wichita police spokesman Sgt. Donald Kimball says the victim, a man in his 30s, was happened to be in the store at the time of the shooting.

Kimball says the suspect was found on a neighborhood near the convenience store.

Further details were not immediately released.

Kan. governor seeks school finance dialogue

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas school districts have a long workforce of going to court over funding for public education when their efforts fail in the Statehouse.

Gov. Sam Brownback not to want that to change and is on swinging legislators and superintendents from the state's 286 school districts to open discussions toward ending such litigation.

The Republican governor says recent talks among legislators, school officials and others have been productive in explaining the mission of colleges and universities and how those special state sources.

The Kansas Supreme Court is expected to rule early next year on a 2010 lawsuit by school districts claiming that the state's funding formula for public schools is inadequate. The county's decisions will likely dominate debate during the legislative session.

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