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Asian nations dominate international test

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Asian nations dominated an international test of mathematics and science skills, with South Korea and Singapore leading the pack. The results of the 2012 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) were announced Tuesday by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

South Korea topped the list in both reading and mathematics, while Singapore led in science. The United States ranked 22nd in reading, 20th in mathematics and 17th in science.

The PISA test is designed to assess the ability of 15-year-olds to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world situations. It is the largest and most rigorous international assessment of student achievement in the world.

The OECD said that the results show that Asian countries have made significant gains in education, particularly in mathematics and science. This is largely due to their focus on rigorous learning and high standards.

The United States, while showing improvement in mathematics and science, still lags behind in reading. This is due to a variety of factors, including a curriculum that is less focused on reading and a lack of emphasis on literacy skills.

OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría said that the results are a wake-up call for the United States to improve its education system. He said that the United States needs to focus on improving its reading curriculum and ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education.

The PISA test is administered every three years. The next test will be held in 2015. The OECD said that it will continue to monitor the progress of all countries and provide support to those that need it.

County tables cooling solution for IT department

BYRON CENTER — The Byron Center Board of Education is looking for a way to cool down the IT department's budget. The board is considering a variety of options, including hiring a consultant to review the department's operations and identifying areas for cost savings.

The IT department's budget for the current year is \$1.2 million, which is a significant increase from the previous year. This is due to a variety of factors, including the purchase of new equipment and the hiring of additional staff.

The board is concerned that the budget is unsustainable and is looking for ways to reduce costs. One option is to hire a consultant to review the department's operations and identify areas for cost savings. Another option is to reduce the number of staff members or to outsource some of the department's functions.

The board is also considering a variety of other options, including negotiating better rates with vendors and reducing the number of contracts. The board is expected to make a decision on the best course of action in the coming weeks.



Plains parade cancelled

BYRON CENTER — The annual Plains parade in Byron Center, Kansas, has been cancelled for the second year in a row. The cancellation is due to a combination of factors, including a lack of volunteers and a limited budget.

The parade is a popular event in the community and has been held for many years. However, the organizers are facing significant challenges in the current year. They are looking for ways to raise funds and recruit volunteers to make the parade a reality.

LEADER & TIMES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013
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Reindeer, penguins and moose — oh, my!

BYRON CENTER — The annual Christmas parade in Byron Center, Kansas, has been cancelled for the second year in a row. The cancellation is due to a combination of factors, including a lack of volunteers and a limited budget.

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CHRISTMAS PARADE

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Roofing permits in Hutchinson return to normal

HUTCHINSON — Roofing permits in Hutchinson, Kansas, have returned to normal after a period of delay. The city officials said that the delay was caused by a backlog of applications and a shortage of inspectors.

The city has now received all the necessary permits and the roofing work is proceeding as normal. The city officials are pleased that the situation has been resolved and that the community can continue to enjoy its beautiful homes.

Police: Shooting probe in Topeka leads to 3 bodies

TOPEKA — A police investigation into a shooting in Topeka, Kansas, has led to the discovery of three bodies. The bodies were found in a wooded area near the site of the shooting.

The police are currently identifying the victims and the shooter. The investigation is ongoing and the police are asking for any information that could help them solve the case.

Obama's uncle to appear at new immigration hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Obama's uncle, Stanley Obama, is set to appear at a new immigration hearing. The hearing is being held by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and is focused on the issue of immigration reform.

Stanley Obama is a well-known figure in the community and is expected to provide testimony on the issue. The hearing is a significant event and is being watched by many people.

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Tyone United Methodist Church to host annual fundraiser dinner Saturday

TYONE — The Tyone United Methodist Church is hosting its annual fundraiser dinner on Saturday. The dinner is a popular event in the community and is expected to raise a significant amount of money for the church's programs.

The dinner will be held at the church and will feature a variety of food and entertainment. The church is looking for volunteers to help with the event and is asking for donations to support the church's work.

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