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Seward County

County to select board chair, vice-chair tonight

By ROBERT PIERCE
Leader & Times

Seward County commissioners are expected to vote on a chairman and vice chairman for 2014 at tonight's regular meeting.

The vote is customary for the board of the first of the year, with Greg LaFlamme serving as the 2013 chair.

Following the conventional reorganization, the board is scheduled to take action on an ordinance from local business X Stone Design.

Business owner Cliff Elliott met with the commission Nov. 19, 2013, to discuss getting a zoning change for property at 1600 Kansas. The installation code requiring a business that serves more than 25 individuals more than 90 days a year to be zoned for that use, Elliott said.

Additionally, the current septic system for the location was not designed or sized for the use and would not be adequate for the business, the Liberal owner said, connection to the public sewer is required.

In other business discussion, Grandmother and county planning and zoning director Marcy Woodard agreed to a temporary solution until

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IN WITH THE NEW AT USD 480

Tonight's meeting addresses buildings, bus fuel, state tests

By MARK CLOPPER
Leader & Times

The USD 480 board of education will meet at 6:30 p.m. for their official start of 2014 after a recessed litany of special meetings in December.

Tonight's agenda is modest, with reports from administrative staff about the August lessen dispatch.

The board will also consider the purchase of a used Ford Lobby without the timeframe for the district's bus replacement program.

A special board meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Jan. 13 to receive a report from the economic presentation from the community Vision Team.

The group is leading a facility improvement effort. That meeting may also include emails from the citizen phone survey conducted during the holiday break.

Bids will be taken for the board next Monday. A regular meeting on Jan. 20 is the target date for approval of a resolution.

Another key item the district faces in the next calendar year is state assessments. After discarding the No Child Left Behind and AYP

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MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2014
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Jim Blakemore talks to a web-writer in 2011 during an exhibition of Inland Food Stores at the Seward County Historical Museum in Liberal. Blakemore's father owned the chain of stores before highlighting the role of his father as a pioneer in the grocery business. AT photo/Jim Weir

Son of historic grocer authors book

Jim Blakemore shares his father's journey in the grocery business that began in Liberal and grew to become a major corporation

By DAN DAVIT
Leader & Times

There was a time when one of the closest relationships a person could have was between a customer and the local grocer.

In the early days of providing groceries to the public, the grocer was the one who came out, walked up and down the aisles and filled the order.

Jim Blakemore's father and namesake changed and Lincoln James Blakemore was one of the innovators who helped transform the industry from the corner story into the supermarket.

His son, also named Jim, has written a book about his father's journey in the grocery business as he grew up watching the transformation. When he was 12 years old, Jim Blakemore Jr. began working with another group and became the 3rd generation of the Lloyd Food Stores chain.

Blakemore's book, "Inland Food Stores: The Southern Grocery Co.: Expansion of the Lloyd Food Stores" will make its debut in Liberal at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Museum with the author at the Coronado Museum.

Blakemore decided to write the book because he wanted to preserve the history, have a good way of splitting the story's photos between them. So, he decided to write a book about his father, his father's father, his grandfather and his lifelong journey through the grocery business. He also wanted to honor the employees who made

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MSNBC reporter host Melissa Harris-Perry showed the photo of the Romneys with their grandchildren in a panel Sunday and joked about the adopted black grandchild on an On Sho showed an apology sometime later that day. Photo courtesy FoxNews.com

Romney accepts apology from MSNBC about grandson

• Substance

Former GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney said Sunday that he accepts the apology from MSNBC host Melissa Harris-Perry for joking about his adopted black grandchild.

"People make mistakes," Romney's 47 "Fox News Sunday." The people at MSNBC made a mistake, and I'm sure they'll look at it and learn from it."

Romney said the apology seemed "heartfelt" and that he hopes that the "political game" doesn't expect public attacks, but going after family seems a line.

"We love this little guy," Romney said of the adopted boy.

During an MSNBC segment, Harris-Perry asked her guests to look at a photo of Romney and his oldest Ronna Romney with his grandparents and third 23 other grandchildren, including Joseph.

One guest on her Sunday show, actress Pia Glenn, sang "one of these things not like the other."

Harris-Perry later said her intention was to celebrate diversity but the segment took "an unexpected and offensive turn."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

'Polar vortex' pushes subzero temps into Midwest

By ASSOCIATED PRESS and DENNY WIEBER
• Associated Press

CHICAGO — A whirlpool of frigid Arctic air known as a "polar vortex" descended Monday into much of the U.S., pummeling parts of the Midwest with subzero temperatures that broke decades-old records with wind chill warnings stretching from Montana to Alabama.

Hundreds of flights were canceled, and airport transportation were moving at a limited speed, some walking more than a foot of snow and ice. Schools closed in several states including Chicago. St. Louis and Milwaukee and tripled the number of city workers and used the frigid cold to dig roads.

The forecast is ominous: 32 below zero in Fargo, N.D., and 30 below in Minneapolis. It's 16 below zero in Minneapolis, 5 below in Chicago. Wind chills — what it feels like outside when high winds are factored into the frigid temperatures — could drop into the minus 50s and 60s. The National Weather Service issued a rare Wind Chill Warning — the first in the Chicago area since 1996 — for overnight Monday and Tuesday.

Meteorologist Tom Skilling of WGN-TV in Chicago said the cold is the result of a "perfect storm" of weather conditions.

"It hasn't been this cold for almost two decades in many parts of the country. Deaths and hypothermia cases are to be expected," Skilling said.

Brittany, a barista that hardly works and the Chicago Bears fan who lives in Chicago's Lincoln Square, Lillian Chase decided had to bolster all sitting in a downtown Chicago doughnut shop. Chase, 23, said she had to walk to work. It's three or two pairs of pants, but a shirt, "at least three jackets," two hats, a pair of gloves, "and I'm still cold," she said. "I'm still cold." And boots, and trudged to the train stop on the South Side neighborhood that took him to within a few blocks of the library where he works.

"I never remember it ever being this cold," said Devin J.D. Van Buskirk.

One after another, people came into the shop, ordering coffee, others like Devin, to just sit and visit.

Giovanni Lucero, a 20-year-old pottery and

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Lee Vasks, 84, takes a break from blowing snow off of his driveway in poor for a personal on Sunday at his home on Miller Road in Flint, Mich. He said he hadn't really noticed the ickles forming in his beard. AT photo/The Flint Journal, Michelle Stone

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