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2 vie for Turpin school board

By ROBERT PECK
Staff Writer

On Feb. 11, two seniors will be contending a seat on the Turpin Board of Education. One is an experienced in the classroom, one as a full-time teacher and the other as a substitute.

Kathleen Ellis, a Turpin senior, wants an educator's voice, and she sees that as meaning for a second term to continue dedicating that perspective to the board and to continue shaping the improvements of Turpin. Ellis, a board member for the past three years, has been instrumental in discussions concerning policy issues such as teacher support, training, evaluations, job descriptions, materials to adopt, textbooks, and hiring a cook-supervisor.

See 2 VIE FOR TURPIN Page 5A

KIRKHART

BOERLOW

Talent show entry deadline nears

Entry forms, accompanied by entry fees, must be received by the Leader & Times by noon Friday, Feb. 6, at the Tourist Information Center, 2 Mile Ditch Road. Forms can also be emailed to tourist@wichitaweb.org or faxed to 316-685-2672. Entry fees must be received or postmarked complete until the day fees have paid.

Forms are available at the TIC, Pizza Hut Office or on www.wichitaweb.com.

Contestants can compete in one of four divisions: Kindergarten through 2nd grade, 3rd through 5th grade, Feb. 1, and finals are Monday, March 1. No more than each division contest on the final.

Entry fees are $10 per entry and are payment to enter and are money of the finals. The contest is open to all contestants.

For more information call Sally Fulks at 620-675-7 or email tourist@wichitaweb.org.

FRIDAY
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'Wizard of Oz' Munchkin Ruth Robinson Duccini dies

SAVANNAH, GA. — Ruth Robinson Duccini, the last of the original Munchkins from the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz," died Jan. 10 at 90.

Only four female cast members remain of the original 124 Munchkins in the movie, remains.

Duccini died of natural causes in Select Hospice Care Center in Las Vegas on Thursday.

Ruth Ruth was combined by Stephen Cox, author of "The Munchkins of Oz." He spoke for hundred of 8 to 12.

Duccini, born in Ruth City, Mass., traveled to California with a troupe of 1000 people, and was one of 124 Munchkins starting Judy Garland. Duccini was 19 at the.

Cox provided a recent statement made by Duccini about her time on the set.

See MUNCHKIN Page 5A

NJ's pigskin-picking camel dies before Super Bowl

Page 3A

Gov. seeks increase in oil and gas fund payments

SAVANNAH, GA. — Officials in Kansas counties that need the state oil and gas fund payments from an oil and gas trust fund are pressing Gov. Sam Brownback to increase the payments to counties.

Nearly half of the states 105 counties, including all of the counties in southeast Kansas, need the state fund payment the amount of annual payments that received from the Oil and Gas Depletion Fund. Brownback's administration has proposed a 50 percent increase, stalling between counties and legislators prompted him to propose increasing payments by a total of $7.5 million, to $22.5 million, from the state fund.

"I understand the confusion and frustration by members of the Kansas House and counties in western Kansas," Brownback said. "I am willing to agree to progress increasing the payments to counties."

The trust fund was created in 1939 to offset decreases in property tax revenue from oil and gas production counties. When the value of leases drops 50 percent below a baseline threshold for two consecutive years, counties can use the trust fund payments as a financial cushion.

"I feel it was a mistake, conceived, and thankfully no longer in effect," said Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby. "We appreciate all the efforts of our legislators and the governor's staff for correcting it."

The payments were first distributed in October, based on the previous fiscal year's severance tax collections. Last year, the Legislature reduced the triggered payments to $15 million, to be paid in 2004 and 2005 conditions were when the reduced payments would begin.

The counties argued that should have received the full amount last October with the lower payments not starting until October of this year.

"I appreciate the willingness of the governor and his budget director to discuss and consider our request to increase the payments to counties, and I feel that it is needed to cushion and distribution of funds to an amount significantly less than anticipated by counties," said Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby.

Scott County Commissioner Jim Minton said he's waiting and the money is delayed.

"I'm glad to hear that, but I'm from Tribune, so I'm concerned at the fund the Legislature extended. I'm just blindly waiting for that to happen," Minton said. "I'm cautiously optimistic."

Feds seek to shield evidence in suicide bomb case

By KONAN HEZEMAN
Associated Press

WICHITA — Prosecutors asked a federal judge to shield from the public and the defendant's lawyers details offered for the purpose of prosecuting Wichita man accused of plotting to detonate a suicide bomb at a Kansas airport.

The request for a protective order in the Terry Lee Lawrence case is being sought to the detention of the rather great agents for their own safety in the order to fend discrimination of the case. Prosecutors also asked the court to ensure the government's ability to use these investigative measures in the future, the motion said.

Terry Lee Lawrence, 37, of Wichita, was arrested Dec. 17 after a months-long investigation by the Wichita Police Department to shove a wing carrying what he believed was a bomb onto the terminal building at Wichita Mid-Continent Airport with attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction. Lawrence, who is a Muslim convert, is charged with attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, attempted support to the terrorist group Al-Qaeda.

Prosecutors want to have discovery, [illegible] of materials to witnesses to keep and to prohibit the defense from providing copies to the media.

Prosecutors also asked the judge that [illegible] the extent of some of the evidence already provided to the defense, including the affidavit Terry Lee Lawrence gave to the FBI following his arrest that encompasses five DVDs and 1,000 pages of reports. The substantial amount of pretrial evidence, including 500 pages of reports, 500 pages of DVDs, is being reviewed.

Prosecutors said they have not yet disclosed to the defense what it calls "sensitive" investigative techniques, including a wiretap process that at both labor intensive and time-consuming. The government said it would like to have the court issue a protective order before any of that material is turned over to the defense.

Prosecutors also said the judge that [illegible] the extent of some of the same type of a protective order but did not want one as restrictive as the government's request. The defense has not yet filed a response.

Arpaio demands feds pay costs in profiling case

By JACQUELINE LEAVITT
Associated Press

PHOENIX — An Arizona sheriff [illegible] a federal judge's order [illegible] that the federal government has owed nearly $50 million, saying Washington [illegible] to pay the costs of a lawsuit by deputies with family immigration enforcement ties.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio [illegible] a letter Thursday to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement demanding that Washington pick up nearly $50 million [illegible] the sheriff and [illegible] more than $7 million in legal fees being sought by the lawyers who won the [illegible].

"The federal government's failure [illegible] to shield from the direct consequences," the sheriff [illegible].

In late May, U.S. District Judge Murray Snow ruled deputies' office [illegible] regular traffic and immigration patrols and that sheriff's deputies [illegible] people who were pulled over. Arpaio disputes the finding and has appealed the decision.

The compliance costs include the [illegible] of the agency's current [illegible] additional training to ensure officers aren't violating unconstitutional arrests and being a court-appointed [illegible] to monitor the agency's operations.

In the ruling, the judge wrote that Immigration and Customs Enforcement had banned members of the sheriff's office from participating [illegible] that it was acceptable to consider race.

See ARPAIO Page 5A

In this Jan. 15, 2003, file photo, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio [illegible] to answer a question at a news conference of Maricopa County Sheriff's Office headquarters in Phoenix. Officials [illegible] most populous county have [illegible] more than $7 million in extra legal fees to a former county official and two [illegible] convictions that accused Arpaio of racial profiling. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

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Liberal, Kansas