

Timing has an awful lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance  
**Thursday Prime Rib**  
at Village Plaza Liberal, KS 620-426-4100 Monday - Saturday  
Make us your go-to for fresh American-style breakfasts in Liberal, Kansas!

**Man pleads guilty in Garden City homicide**  
GARDEN CITY, Kan. — A 30-year-old man pleaded guilty to the slaying of a woman in Garden City on Monday. The man, 30, was charged with first-degree murder and possession of a firearm by a felon. He was arrested on Feb. 13 by Garden City police and is being held in the Garden City Jail. He is scheduled to be arraigned on Feb. 19 in District Court.

**Natural gas offers value as propane prices soar**  
LIBERAL, Kan. — Propane prices have soared in the last few weeks, and many consumers are turning to natural gas as a more affordable alternative. Natural gas is a cleaner-burning fuel that is also less expensive than propane. Many homeowners are switching to natural gas for their heating needs. The switch to natural gas can save homeowners up to 50 percent on their heating bills. Natural gas is also a more environmentally friendly fuel than propane.

**Miss Kansas Theresa Vail will be coming to Liberal**  
See Wednesday's edition  
**LEADER & TIMES**  
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**USD 480 hands present the Liberal Band Festival**  
LIBERAL, Kan. — The Liberal Band Festival, presented by USD 480, is set for Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Liberal High School. The festival will feature performances by the Liberal High School Band, the Liberal Middle School Band, and the Liberal Elementary School Band. The festival is a great opportunity for students to showcase their musical talents and for the community to enjoy a day of music.

**Kan. students lobby against sex education bills**

LIBERAL, Kan. — A group of Liberal students is lobbying against sex education bills in the Kansas Legislature. The students are concerned that the bills will promote an agenda that is not in the best interests of the state. They are asking legislators to support bills that provide accurate and unbiased information about sex education. The students are holding meetings and writing letters to their representatives to express their concerns.

**Five-year anniversary of Obama's stimulus renews partisan fight over jobs, economy**



Feb. 18, 2009. The then vice president Barack Obama speaking at the Rose Garden in Washington, D.C.

The five-year anniversary of President Barack Obama's signing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has renewed a partisan fight over jobs and the economy. Republicans are arguing that the stimulus package was wasteful and did not create enough jobs. Democrats are arguing that the stimulus package was necessary to prevent a recession and that it has helped create jobs. The debate continues as the economy remains in a fragile state.

**Inmate released after more than 4 years in prison**  
LIBERAL, Kan. — An inmate who had been in prison for more than four years has been released. The inmate, who was charged with a crime in 2009, was found to be eligible for parole. The release is a relief for the inmate's family and friends. The inmate is expected to remain in the community under supervision.