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A PIECE OF THE PIE

Local firms invited to bid on bond projects

By RACHEL C. KEMAN
• Leader & Times

If voters say "yes" to the school bond issue April 8, in theory, of dollars of construction work will kick off in 1 Point. Though the contracts to build five completely new school buildings and renovate others will be large in scope, local firms can still take part in the project. Also was the message at a sunday luncheon last week, sponsored by USD No. 480 and construction manager JC Dunn.

"Our goal was to make contact with those local people and find out their entire "presentation, their work focus, what they would like to do," said JC Dunn vice president Steve Goldfish. "It wasn't an ex-Vicinity, for instance, and you're not large

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WARREN

Commissioners explore ousting Ron Warren

By LARRY PHILLIPS and EARL WATT
• Leader & Times

In an irregularly called special session, the Liberal City Commission conducted an "Executive Session" at 5 p.m. Wednesday in commission chambers to approve exploratory "procedures necessary for ouster proceedings against commissioner Ron Warren."

In the minutes released by the city, Mayor Dave Harrison, vice-mayor Janet Williamon, commissioners Dean Aragon, Joe Dunover and Ron Warren were present with city manager Mark Hall, finance director Chris Ford and city attorney Sheila McQueen initially.

The commission met in privacy claiming "the purpose of consultation with an attorney for the body or agency which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship."

In the minutes, it noted the first "Executive Session" lasted 30 minutes, and two additional sessions were conducted lasting 15 and 10 minutes respectively.

Warren left the chambers before the vote on a move to explore ouster procedures against him.

After the three sessions, the remaining four commissioners approved the move,

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Deputy now fighting battle with cancer

By ROBERT PIERCE
• Leader & Times

In January 2013, Seward County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Keating began to feel ill. He went to a local doctor and was later sent to a kidney specialist in Wichita.

Keating's kidneys had shut down. After tests and dialysis had been performed, he was brought back to Liberal.

"He began to have pains in his hips, so he went back to the doctor, and they did an MRI," said Rob Gant, who works with Keating at the Seward County Sheriff's office.

Doctors then found tumors in Keating's body, and he was diagnosed with Stage III bone cancer in November 2013.

Keating is now at home doing treatments, and family and friends are looking for help with paying medical costs.

As part of the assistance, a benefit dinner and silent auction has been put together.

"We're having a silent auction as well as a live auction

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City adopts ethics code

By ELLY GRIMM
• Leader & Times

A recently passed code of ethics by the Liberal City Commission will soon make doing city business more accessible for the public.

The new code was passed unanimously after its final reading at the Feb. 25 city commission meeting and is already in effect. According to commissioner Dean Aragon, the code has been a long time coming.

"I'm glad it's in place," he said. "It should have been in place a long time ago."

The new code was modeled after similar ethics codes from Dodge City and Garden City along with parts that adhere to state statutes from the League of Kansas Municipalities.

The new code deals with nine

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SUNDAY MARCH 9, 2014
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Olney's countryside charm includes nearby Castle Ashby

By LARRY PHILLIPS
• Leader & Times

If anyone plans a trip to Olney, England, for the Pancake Day events, there is plenty to see and do around the quaint village – from the parish church completed in 1525 to an ancient Roman paved road and the old lace factory.

If one is interested in England's past, such as knights and damsels in distress, then just happens to be a castle near Olney that's very accessible by car.

The attraction is Castle Ashby, which is about 15 miles north of Olney in Northamptonshire. Like all the terrain around Olney, it lies in the gentle, rolling green hills and covers hundreds of acres. It is also surrounded by numerous homes, cottages and warehouses that housed the hundreds of people that maintained the castle, and seemingly still do today.

Henry Crompton began building the Castle Ashby House in 1574, and construction continued until the early 1600s.

The main castle was built in an "E"-shaped design to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth I.

The frontage of today's castle didn't actually gets its present look, though, until around 1694 when the front facade was added by Indigo Jones, one of Britain's foremost designers. Jones (Born July 15, 1573 – died June 21, 1652), was the first significant British architect of the early modern period and the first to employ Vitruvian rules of proportion and symmetry in his buildings.

It's believed he was also responsible for all the wording in Latin, completely around the top of the house in large letters. Translated, it says, "Except the Lord build the house they Labour but in vain that built it. Except the Lord keep the house the watchman waketh but in vain."

In 1695, King William the III, (William of Orange) visited the castle and suggested the Crompton build four great avenues to the house – from the north, east, south and west. He also suggested planting landscaping trees, and they did for 25 years.

Then in 1761, "England's Greatest Gardener" made his appearance at the castle. Lancelot

See CASTLE/Page 3A

This is the east gate of two that are in front of the Castle Ashby near Olney, England. The castle was started in 1574 and continued construction through the early 1600s in Northamptonshire, just a few miles north of Olney. L&T photo/Larry Philips

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Vol. 128 • Iss. 265 • 16 Pages
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