March 20, 2014

Thursday, 20 March 2014 11:33

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MILD'S BABY BACK RIBS VOTED ANGELLO'S BEST RESTAURANT 5 YEARS STRAIGHT!

Free day at Meade Lake

Includes trout derby for kids, adults

• Special to the Leader & Times

On Saturday, March 29, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) will host a free entrance day and open bowman at all state parks. Visitors don't need a park permit to enjoy the variety of events at most parks.

Meade State Park will be offering office tours during the walk-in fishing permits, outdoor gear demos, taking photos with a bear, and answering questions. The park will have a drawing for one lucky two-month Fishing Permit for Meade Lake.

The office will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit www.ksoutdoors.com/parks for the park's 2014 State Park events.

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Water: Lifeblood of the High Plains

By ELLY GIPPS
• Leader & Times

Around the world, there are several old bedtime stories. Stories that have been told for centuries. And National Geographic's March 2014 issue (Water: Lifeblood of the High Plains) reminds us of the bedtime stories to emphasize the importance of one of the most crucial elements on Earth – World Water.

World Water Day, which is Saturday, strives to educate attention to conservation and development of water resources.

The Water: Lifeblood of Liberal doesn't actually celebrate World Water Day, rather it is a very important part of the story human, in fact, Liberal gets its name from a quite interesting water story.

In the 1880s, water was a rare commodity in

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Scrap dealer's bargain turns out to be Faberge egg

By GREG SWANZ
• Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — There is good luck, extravagant good fortune and then there is the story of a scrap metal dealer who found one of the eight existing Fabergé imperial eggs at a flea market in the American Midwest.

A London antique dealer said Wednesday that the scrap metal enthusiast brought the egg for about

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BIG 12 CONFERENCE
Big 12 teams begin national tournament runs today Page 8A
THURSDAY MARCH 20, 2014
LEADER & TIMES
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Voters must live in city limits to participate in sales tax question

By RACHEL COLEMAN
• Leader & Times

Kansas state law limits which voters registered in Seward County can participate in the Special Election set for April 8 to vote on one of the two ballot issues.

"For state law," said Crystal Clements, Seward County Clerk, "the only voters allowed to vote on issues if they actually live in the city that the question affects."

Only residents of Liberal will vote on the sales tax initiative administered by the City of Liberal.

Only people who live within the boundaries of USD 480 will vote on the school bond issue.

"People in the rural areas don't vote on the sales tax," Clements specified, "and

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Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center announces December graduates

• Special to the Leader & Times

TOPEKA – Lt. Col. Alan Brzezicki of the Kansas Highway Patrol announced the graduation of 20 officers during their graduation from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center on Feb. 28.

The graduation ceremony marked the 127th basic training class at the center. Located one mile west and one mile south of Tecumseh Horticulture, the center is a part of the University of Kansas Continuing Education.

The graduates, who began their training Nov. 4, 2013, represent the Kansas Highway Patrol and state law enforcement agencies from across Kansas.

Area graduates are as follows:

Cottonwood Falls, Liberal: Cooley is a patrol officer with the Liberal Police Department.

Garden City, Liberal: Penner is a patrol officer with the Meade Police Department.

Graduates receive certificates of course completion from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and from the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training, the state's law enforcement training agency. Graduates receive the training required for law enforcement training. Graduates do course and hands-on application help train officers to handle the increasingly complex problems they face in the line of duty.

Established by the Kansas Legislature in 1968, the center provides basic training and continuing education for law enforcement officers in Kansas and oversees the training of the remaining officers at seven authorized

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Kansas, Arizona prevail in voter citizenship suit

By JOHN SHIEBLER
• Associated Press

TOPEKA — Federal officials must help Kansas and Arizona officers force registrants to return to document their U.S. citizenship, a federal judge ruled Wednesday in a decision that could encourage other Republican-led states to adopt similar requirements.

U.S. District Judge Eric Melgren in Wichita, Kan., ordered the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to immediately modify a national voter registration form to add special instructions for Kansas and Arizona residents about their states' proof-of-citizenship requirements.

The ruling means new voters in each of the two states, prompted by the U.S. Supreme Court to prove their U.S. citizenship to election officials. The federal registration form requires only that applicants swear under oath to be citizens. Kansas and Arizona asked the court to order the federal government to modify forms, but it rejected "the states and their top elected officials" contention that the U.S. Constitution gives Kansas and Sam Brownback of Arizona, both conservative Republicans — more power than Congress.

Most women in both states register with state forms, but their officials said they need to be able to use the federal form to bolster its enforcement of proof-of-citizenship requirements, which they say are the most effective periodic voter fraud by preventing noncitizens from voting, particularly in Kansas and Arizona.

"This is a really big victory, not just for Kansas and Arizona but for all 50 states," Kobach told The Associated Press. "It does have powerful ripple effects in other states' proof-of-citizenship requirements."

Arizona enacted the proof-of-citizenship requirement by voter initiative in 2004, and Alabama, Georgia and Kansas followed with similar laws. Kansas' rule took effect last year.

Critics of such laws view them as suppressing voter participation. They also said the federal National Voter Registration Act enacted in the 1990s was meant to simplify registration across the country and allowed federal officials to reject a modification of the national form.

Jonathan Backer, legal counsel for the State Sidebboard Freedom Center for Justice, said Melgren's ruling, if it stands, would erode Congress' power to protect voting rights. The center represented the national League of Women Voters and six Arizona and Kansas chapters, which intervened in the lawsuit.

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Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach answers questions from reporters during a news conference about a federal judge's ruling Wednesday ordering the federal government to help Kansas and Arizona enforce their proof-of-citizenship requirements for new voters in Topeka. Kobach and Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett filed a lawsuit last September to force the issue.

Public meeting to discuss bond today

AT LARGE

Citizens for Responsible Growth will host a meeting at 6 p.m. today at the Rock Island Depot to provide information on the proposed Rock Island bond.

The meeting is open to the public.

School district representatives will provide a 20 minute presentation on the bond issue. Members of Citizens for Responsible Growth will discuss how the public directed the plan.

After the presentation, questions will be taken from those who attend.

Brownback: Fully fund aid to poor Kansas schools

By JOHN SHIEBLER
• Associated Press

TOPEKA — Gov. Sam Brownback said Wednesday that Kansas legislators should fully fund aid to poor school districts, which he said is complying with a recent Kansas Supreme Court mandate on public education will require "significant" new spending.

Brownback issued a statement outlining "principles" for lawmakers following the Supreme Court's decision in a lawsuit filed by parents and school districts contending the state's school finance rules fell short of the constitutional requirement that it provide a suitable and adequate education to every Kansas student.

The Republican governor said he wants to see "a real discussion about school funding, the created unfair and unconstitutional gaps in funding between rural and wealthier districts, and gave the Legislature until July 1 to fix the problems.

The Republican-dominated Legislature convened for the sole purpose of discussing school funding. It

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