March 28, 2014

Friday, 28 March 2014 09:49

TASTE of CHINA BUFFET & BUFFET
EAT IN and CARRY OUT
CRAB LEGS ALL WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
Lunch $6.29 & Dinner $8.69
Sunday - Crab Legs All Day $9.99 • Wednesday - Crab Night $9.99
Kids Lunch 3-5 $2.99 • Kids 6-9 only $4.95
10% Off Any Order Over $20.00
www.tasteofchina-wsw.com

LHS spotlights 'TALENT'

Dance troupe performs a routine to "Ain't Nobody" in the Liberal High School "Talent" show. The show was comprised of multiple acts including dance, music and a fashion show that was conducted in the Liberal High School Auditorium.

LIT photo by Chris Cooper

Halliburton cementing facility to close

Company offers transfers to 34 employees

Page 3A

SEE MORE PHOTOS IN SUNDAY'S LIVING PAGES

Volunteers ensure success of March for Meals

Page 6A

FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2014
LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 127 years

Wilson Trailer to open new shop in Liberal

By KIT CHENEY
• Leader & Times

Three will need to wear new jobs available thanks to a new business coming to the Liberal area.

The city commission approved Wednesday the sale of 10.9 acres in Liberal Industrial Park to Wilson Trailer for the company to build a sales and service facility.

• See WILSON/Page 3A

LYP endorses bond proposal

The district has committed that no building would be vacant resources like the current old Liberal High School at Seventh and Lincoln

LIT staff report

Liberal Young Professionals, an organization that represents the interests of young community leadership, has endorsed the school bond proposal.

Advanced voting begins Thursday and the general election is April 8. The bond issue is a mail-in ballot, or not the voters will accept a plan to replace aging schools and use $85 million of state matching funds to build new schools. The district will pay $15 million from property owners to fund the upgrades.

The bond proposal was designed by community leaders who formed a committee last fall. The goal is to address the overcrowding as well as the age of the elementary and middle school buildings.

LYP, which has been active in economic development and reaching out to form connections within our community, believes that young people serve as the foundation of the future of Liberal. LYP's vision is to be a vibrant, "A for Best Interests, and family centered – that the LYP board supports a YES vote for the school bond issue on April 8.

The proposal would replace seven Kindergarten-through-fourth grade elementary schools with two new kindergarten-through-eighth grade schools (elementary schools and two sixth through eighth middle schools). Three of the elementary schools would be new buildings. The Liberal Junior High School, Lincoln, Southview and Cottonwood would be converted to K-5 facilities. Sixth and West would be replaced with a new middle school. The new Liberal Junior High School would be located at part of the Liberal High School campus to relieve overcrowding there.

The district has 34 vacant buildings and many other vacant in the district, many of which are currently taking place in portable buildings.

LYP believes that no vacant building would be vacant resources like the current old Liberal High School at Seventh and Lincoln. All buildings will either be converted or demolished.

LYP's support from the Chamber of Commerce, the Joint Economic Development Council, Seward County Health Foundation, Seward County Community Public, Northeast Liberal Leadership, Bright Futures, Liberal Liberal City Commissioner Jack Conley, Liberal Area Arts Council, Arts Center Administrator Lindsay Dudley, and Bob Sax.

EDITOR'S NOTE — *For the full endorsement letter see Friday's Opinion page.*

Feds list lesser prairie chicken as threatened

By MATTHEW DALY
• Associated Press

This March 2007 photo provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department shows a male lesser prairie chicken in Texas. The Fish and Wildlife Service on Thursday, March 27, 2014, announced it is listing the bird as a threatened species, a move that could affect oil and gas drilling, wind farms and other activities in the central and southwestern states. The decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service is a step below "endangered" status and means the bird is not in danger of being wiped out but is vulnerable to extinction in the future. The announcement was expected Thursday. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the listing decision in advance.

AP photo/Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Joe Pickenpaugh

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration said Thursday it is placing a speckled grouse known as the lesser prairie chicken on the list of threatened species, a move that could affect oil and gas drilling, wind farms and other activities in five central and southwestern states.

The decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service is a step below "endangered" status and means the bird is not in danger of being wiped out but is vulnerable to extinction in the future.

The lesser prairie chicken is in dire straits, John said in an interview. "The bird is in trouble, and it is in trouble for more than a decade."

The prairie chicken, a type of grouse with a distinctive mating ritual and a short beak, has lost more than 90 percent of its traditional habitat, John said. Its range has been cut by oil and gas drilling, ranching and construction of power lines and wind farms, he said. The bird, which can weigh from 1.12 to 2 pounds, has also been severely impacted by the drought in recent years.

Drilling rigs a major problem is that prairie chickens lose tall structures, when perches such as fence posts and gas flares. These structures allow predators to hover over drilling rigs on generally flat tallest objects on the plains.

The bird has been in decline in population across the five states, declined to fewer than 18,000 birds — down from a peak of more than 200 population estimates.

A conservation plan adopted by the five states would have increased the population to 67,000 birds. While the birds are not crucial to the economy, John said, the decline is a sign of the health of grasslands and prairies. More than 80 percent of the Great Plains has been lost, he said.

Oil companies have said extended new regulations would impede their operations and would cost them hundreds of millions of dollars in oil and gas development in one of the country's most prolific basins, the Permian Basin in Texas and New Mexico.

Fish and Wildlife officials had released nearly two years ago to list the bird as a threatened species, but in recent months negotiations between conservation opponents and habitat groups, the Interior Department, the oil and gas industry and farm states to increase the prairie chickens' chances.

The listing decision, which will take effect around May 1, includes a special rule that John said will allow officials — including Gov. Sam Brownback — to approve listing the bird under the Endangered Species Act.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback called the decision "a blow to the state by the federal government and said he was looking at possible responses. A spokesman said Thursday afternoon in Kansas Kansas legislators are considering a measure to declare that the state is not bound by federal wildlife laws, regulations and actions within its borders.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, the Republican's Republican, said she was disappointed at the decision.

• See LESSER/Page 3A

Vol. 128 • Iss. 182 • 18 Pages

Welcome to the L&T. When you can't get the printed version, go to www.leadersandtimes.com

Liberal, Kansas