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Invasion stripes help identify D-Day aircraft

ABOVE: The Fairey Swordfish's wing markings of alternating black and white stripes helped identify it as a friendly mission 70 years ago today. Planes were marked with the "invasion stripes" to reduce attacks from friendly fire. The Swordfish was a British biplane that was used in conjunction with the Lend-Lease program. The British red, white and blue circle indicates this was used by the English. The plane was a Fleet Air Arm plane, the British Navy's air force. This plane is one of the many planes donated to the museum by Col. Tom Thomas. *AP photo/File Pool*

Local air museum has D-Day aircraft on display

By Emily Wolfert
• Leader & Times

Seventy-years ago today at 2 in the morning above the French coastline, the sky was full of aircraft, some of which drove the ninth Swordfish that would later tag, roll with the fuselage of Allied soldiers and drop them into the water, in a series of eight to eleven aircraft dropped paratroopers behind the foes lines to secure the area.

Days and weeks before the landing, Allied aircraft destroyed bridges and roads and wreaked havoc on Nazi airfields and bases, all in the hopes of being able to drive out weaker enemy affiliates.

Gaining control of the air was critical to the success of the Allied forces, "Fortress Europe," and to the fact that Kansas General Dwight D. Eisenhower would be able to land troops and equipment onto Normandy's beaches. Initially, 11,590 aircraft would be used in the operation, and the number of flying aircraft was limited but this would not be effective in the massive attack, so Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory had to assess another way for the planes to be as organized to avoid friendly fire. Thus, the idea of striping the wings of Allied aircraft to be used on the wings and fuselages to help that they would be identified as friendly aircraft.

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Officers find 5-year-old

Body of Aiden found in Clear Lake Thursday

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FRIDAY
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LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 128 years

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Serving children in Seward, Haskell and Stevens counties
Page 6A

OZsome RACE
High Plains Adventure

Win $1,000 in the Ozsome Race

LT staff report

Do you have what it takes to race around Liberal to win a chance at winning $1,000?

Learn more about the Leader & Times's bringing back the Ozsome Race.

The contest is open to teams of two or more, and one member of the team has to have a valid driver's license and vehicle.

Teams can be couples, youth groups, businesses, friends or any other combinations.

See RACE/Page 5A

Welcome home, Alina

Fedex elevated a boeing 727 named "Alina" to the Liberal community on Thursday morning They named the jet Alina because Fedex has a tradition of naming their cargo jets after children of their employees. The girl that Alina is named after is the daughter of the customer technology manager in Sierra Coverage.

Liberal Learning Jet arrives at new home, MAAM

A crowd of USD No. 480 and Seward County Community College/Area Technical School employees, students and other members of the community gathered Thursday morning outside the Mid America Air Museum, cranning their necks and covering their ears to down out the loud roar of the Liberal Learning Jet as it landed for a drop after its final flight.

The aviation ceremony kicked off with a brief speech from USD 480 Board President Debbie Kinser, who thanked Fedex and the entire organization of the community who helped contribute to the project. Kinser also thanked the Liberal Learning Jet's Liberal's history as well, acknowledging Fedex and the community for assistance in making that future happen.

The Liberal Learning 727 (also known as Alina) was engaged to land before the speakers came up to the podium, but it was forced to be delayed slightly due to inclement weather.

The Liberal Learning Coming all the way from Newark, NJ, Alina finally landed at the Liberal airport at 9:45 a.m. The flight was a Fedex Express flight, flying from Cedar Rapids, Iowa Dubuque and Second Office Chris Higgins flying her.

The plane may be retiring from the skies, but it will be flying high in service to our community. Kinser said, "For years to come, we expect to see the impact of the Liberal Learning Jet on the children of Liberal and the surrounding communities. Fedex Express, Area Technical Schools and students with a promise of a career that can only be secured with the development of

See ALINA/Page 5A

Story and photos by Victoria Calderon

Man arrested for cursing files free-speech lawsuit

HOUSTON, Pa. (AP) — A western Pennsylvania man arrested for cursing in front of police has filed a lawsuit claiming his right to free speech was violated.

Lawyer Ryan Paytosh said his client, Christopher Alexander Bear, Richard Paytosh was ongoing talk for employees in September 2012 and then called the police officers in Houston, Pa to take statement of Pittsburgh.

A complaint says Paytosh said an obscenity to each officer and was charged with one count of criminal harassment.

He was handcuffed and later found guilty of disorderly conduct. Paytosh's lawyer said the charges and luggage charge were withdrawn when he appealed.

Paytosh wants a declaration the police actions were unconstitutional. He's seeking punitive damages of $250,000.

Canonsburg Police Chief H.T. Bell court he reached for comment.

Kansas joins call for state reviews of VA sites

By Chris Kenyon and Jason Hulbert
• Associated Press

TOPEKA — Gov. Sam Brownback said Thursday that allowing Kansas and other states to inspect Veterans Affairs hospitals and clinics would help the federal government with "credibility issues" it faces over unauthorized waiting lists for health care.

Brownback said the Associated Press that giving veterans who have been waiting for care at VA facilities federal vouchers for health care elsewhere is the best way to deal with patient backlogs. He said he does not anticipate Kansas directing state resources to provide additional health services.

The Republican governor made his comments a day after the VA released a report in Wichita acknowledged it had an unauthorized list of 200 veterans who were waiting for care, some of them for months or years.

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