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FRIDAY - SATURDAY: 11:00 AM - 10:45 PM
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SUNDAY - THURSDAY: 11 AM - 10: PM
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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

news@liberalfirst.com

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News L&T

FLL ...

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"Our two top teams have the possibility of moving on this year," she said. "Our top team goes to Houston for the world championship, and our second place team has the chance to go to Boston for an invitational."

Robotics has been a part of the lives of many youth for many years now, and Webber said the activity fits a need for many area children.

"They need an outlet for all of that creativity, and if they're not big into sports or band or music, this gives them a chance to really show where their talents are, show a little bit of their genius," she said. "I think robotics really does fit for a lot of our kids who have more of an engineering mind or a STEM mind."

This was Webber's second year overseeing the local competition, and she said she has learned a few things in her short time heading up the event.

"Last year went really well, but we did have some interesting mistakes that happened," she said. "We needed some more tables and some little things that needed corrected on the spot. This year, I think I did better anticipating what could go wrong."

Webber said a past team from Hugoton who could no longer participate in the event helped her with getting the Seward County Activity Center ready for the day's events.

"They came back and did a huge amount of work for us," she said. "They came and helped build tables, helped get us set. I think delegation and learning to ask those who maybe have more knowledge has really helped a lot this year."

In addition to teams from across Southwest Kansas, the competition likewise saw teams from Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma. Webber said the event averages between 15 and 20 teams per challenge, and one group in particular saw a slight increase this year.

"This year, with our Explorer side, the younger kids, we actually have 18 teams, and that's the most we've ever had," she said.

Webber said the competition, as well as FLL and robotics in general, wakes up children's minds, and if they have a talent and a passion for engineering, for programming, it opens the doors for them to look into computers for programming or to get more into robotics.

"With the way our world's going, this is the future - robotics, programming, anything AI or computer generated," she said. "Our kids are doing that programming and getting into that. This is where they're going to find that first spark that keeps them interested and keeps them going."

Webber said she was pleased with how the recent competition went, particularly with how teams decorated booths, and with youth already practicing in the morning for the afternoon challenges, she felt there was a great show in place for everyone.

As for the rest of 2026, Webber said she has plenty of other activities for robotics at Liberal Recreation.

"I have a boys day, LEGO team day coming up," she said. "There's a girl day coming up next month. We've got May 4 for 'Star Wars,' and with our open LEGO night, we're open 4 to 6 Thursday evenings. For \$2, the kids can play with LEGOs as much as they want. At 6, they leave the mess with me, and they go home."

Gaytan ...

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Kansas.

In the work for her bachelor's degree, Gaytan said she tried to focus on addiction, but as she started working in that area, she started realizing the underlying mental health issues and the lack of people helping the Hispanic community and providing services in Spanish.

"I decided I was going to go ahead and pursue my master's degree and become a therapist," she said. "It was then when I thought I was going to do addictions, but I started falling in love with play therapy and really helping support women. That's what guided me to start pursuing more of that focus."

Gaytan was born and raised in Garden City and proudly embraces her heritage with family roots in Mexico. Her personal and cultural background deeply informs her commitment to advocacy, social justice and increasing access to mental health services for underserved populations.

In addition to her clinical work, Gaytan is actively engaged in community leadership and advocacy. She serves as a member of the Garden City Cultural Relations Advisory Board, the board of directors for Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland and the Garden City Community College Endowment Association. Through these roles, she works to strengthen community engagement, support youth development and promote cultural inclusion.



Visitors to Seward County United Way's International Women's Day event enjoy some food and conversation before hearing from Garden City therapist Vanessa Gaytan. L&T photo/Robert Pierce

Outside of her professional work, Gaytan enjoys spending time with her family, attending local sporting events, volunteering in her community and cheering on the Kansas City Chiefs. Gaytan is passionate about reducing the stigma surrounding mental health and is committed to empowering individuals and families to overcome obstacles, navigate challenges and build meaningful, resilient lives. This is some of what she wanted to bring to the recent United Way event.

"I'm hoping people will at least be able to gain that self-compassion and understanding of it's okay for us to go through struggles," she said. "We just have to be kind to ourselves and understand at the end of the day, we're women. We all struggle, but we can come together. We can get support, and once we start focusing on our needs, we'll be able to have more mental stability."

Likewise, Gaytan said she

hopes events like the one in Liberal make a big impact on those who attend.

"What I've noticed in the past is we miss out on even basic knowledge of mental health," she said. "A lot of times when I do these presentations, I'll have people tell me 'I had no idea some of the things I was dealing with.' I also give people insight on things I've encountered, things I've lived through, and when people are able to relate and connect in that way, it becomes really helpful."

This, Gaytan said, is the type of impact that can happen to anyone. "If it can happen to me, it can happen to you, and I feel during these events, people come out feeling more motivated and more

understanding," Gaytan said.

Gaytan said the experiences from her youth have served well as therapist.

"I went through some personal issues as well," she said. "I actually dealt with some sexual abuse that made me fall into the juvenile delinquency."

Gaytan said she had a mix of emotions as she prepared to talk to the audience and during the presentation as well.

"It doesn't matter how many times I've done this," she said. "It's very nerve-wracking. At the end of the day, I just hope whatever I do say comes across well and people get a better understanding of themselves and eliminate a little of that stigma that remains with them."

Home show ...

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you through securing your spot. People can also message the KSCB-The Legend Facebook page or the KSCB Home Shows Facebook if they want to participate. Many of our regulars will be around this year, and some of the other businesses we're expecting include Horizon Stone & Cabinet, Renewal by Anderson, Climate Shield, DS Knife Sharpening, Ashley Furniture, and many, many more. There will be a lot for people to look at, and there will be something for everyone. I also have to give some praise to the Seward County Activity Center staff, they are absolutely amazing to work with every year because they help us set everything up, and we have vendors tell us after every show how much they enjoy coming to Liberal because the facility is so nice and so well managed."

The annual event is a great opportunity for shoppers, Collins said.

"Like I say with all of our shows, where else can shoppers go and visit 80-plus businesses at one time in one space? If you're just planning on browsing around, or if you're seriously considering purchases, this show is a great event to look around and see the different possibilities for home improvement and gifts and spring decor," Collins said. "Shoppers will be able to go through so, so many different businesses, and all of them are from around this area, so it's a great way to support smaller businesses. For a lot of people, this event is truly a one-stop shop."

While the event is a busy time for the KSCB-The Legend staff, Collins said there is also a lot of fun to be had.

"We enjoy all the vendors who have become basically family throughout the years, we get to see them every year and it's great to catch up with them," Collins said. "It's also the start of a new season and we get that big chance to bring

businesses and potential customers together, which is always the goal of our shows. Planning for these shows is truly an ongoing process, and we always get calls from people asking if this or that vendor will still be in their usual spot this time around, or whether or not this or that vendor will be back for this show. There are people who plan around this show so they can maximize their time at the show, and it makes us feel good having that much interest."

Collins added she enjoys seeing the contrast between the spring show and the holiday show that happens in the fall.

"The overall setup of both shows is the same in terms of bringing everyone together, but with the fall show, people are thinking more about making their homes pretty and festive for the holiday season and/or getting Christmas gifts," Collins said. "Whereas with the spring show, people are thinking more about what to do outdoors and what improvement projects

they can get done since the weather's getting warmer. There's excitement with both shows, but what the people are excited about is different. The holiday show usually conjures up those Christmas memories and ideas for decorations and presents and all of that, while the spring show makes people think more of being outdoors, so seeing our vendors adjust their booths to reflect the seasons is awesome. Each show has a different feel, and I absolutely love that."

Overall, Collins said, she expects another successful show.

"I think we'll have another big show, and I expect everything will go smoothly and go well. I expect all the vendors will do a lot of good business, they're all excited and ready to show off their respective wares," Collins said. "I also hope the weather that weekend will allow people to come, we always joke we have a better show when the weather's not the best because that means people won't be working outdoors, so they'll want to come to the show and take a look at everything. And as always, I want to say 'Thank you' to the community and surrounding areas for their support, because we would not be able to do

these shows without that support. We would love to have everyone possible come out and if you're a business owner, maybe you'll get inspired to have a booth of your own at a future show. Just come out and see everything, or come out and bring some of your wares, because like always, there will be something for everyone."

All rides are first come, first serve.

\$1

ONE WAY



\$30

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2 MARCH SALES

Auctions

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TRACTORS, COMBINES
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PICKUPS, TRUCKS
TRLRS, LOTS SCRAP IRON

From Booker, TX: 1 mi. N to Fronk Oil, 3 E From Perryton, TX: 2 mi. W Hwy 15 S side. 2 mi W on Spur 192 N Side

GLENDELL MEYER ESTATE & Others - March 21



TERRY SLAUGHTER & OTHERS - Mar. 28



TERMS Cash or check with proper I.D. day of sale. Settlement must be made day of sale. All descriptions of items are believed to be correct, but are in no way a warranty or guarantee. All items sold "As is, Where is" on personal inspection of the purchaser. All announcements made Sale Day are final and have priority. We are not responsible in case of accidents or theft. Buyer will have one month to remove items.

Lunch available both days



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