



**WE DELIVER.**  
**620-626-4400**

2050 N. Kansas • Ayr Lanes @ Billy's

**SPECIAL DELIVERY**

**From our kitchen to your door.**

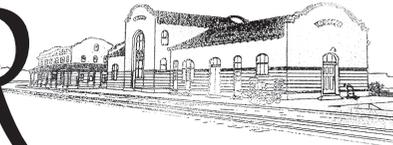
FULL MENU DELIVERY. SEE IT AT [BILLYSBLUEDUCKBBQ.COM](http://BILLYSBLUEDUCKBBQ.COM)

11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday thru Saturday  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday

Convenience delivery fee, tax and gratuity will be included.

WEEKEND, MARCH 29, 2026

# LEADER



# TIMES

Vol. 140 No. 155 | 12 pages | \$1



Chicks dig it when it's **Squeaky Clean!**



### WEATHER

SUNDAY — Hi - 91° Low - 52°

MONDAY — Hi - 91° Low - 54°



### Squeaky Clean Car Wash

1305 N. Western Ave. • Liberal

15 E. Tucker Road • Liberal

Western Tunnel Wash • 8am-9pm Mon - Sat • Closed Sunday  
Tucker location • open 24 hours



## Lawmakers answer questions during legislative update

By ROBERT PIERCE  
• Leader & Times

After tackling the issues of the state's budget and wind energy, four area lawmakers moved on to other concerns from the crowd at the Liberal Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Coffee March 14 at the Depot.

Kathleen Alonso, a leader in the Seward County Democratic Party, asked about Senate Bill 452, which she said would ensure federal law enforcement could not be sued for intentional or negligent harm while engaged in immigration law enforcement activities.

Kansas 39th District Senator Bill Clifford said the bill had a recent hearing, and he said the bill primarily refers to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers being put under the immunity of state and local law enforcement.

"They would be treated like our local law people," he said.

Clifford said while protection of protesters is a high priority, so too is the protection of law enforcement.

"It sets limits on how people can approach or not approach agents who are doing their jobs," he said.

Alonso likewise talked about Senate Bill 254 prohibiting illegal immigrants from receiving state or local public benefit in accordance with applicable federal law. She said her concern was mainly



**Seward County Treasurer Mary Rose, left, discusses the effects of a bill being debated in the Kansas Legislature currently that would potentially give more money to local treasurers offices for issuing license plates and vehicle registration with Kansas 125th House District Representative Shannon Francis at the Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Coffee March 14 at the Depot. L&T photo/Robert Pierce**

due to clauses referring to the removal of in-state tuition for illegals.

Kansas 119th House District Representative Marty Long said the bill first came to the House, where an amendment was put on it to remove the in-state tuition portion.

"That amendment did pass the

House, and the bill went over to the Senate within a few days," he said.

"The very next day after we passed it out of the House, the attorney general came out with a statewide opinion that said we were breaking

◆ See QUESTIONS/Page 4



This artist's rendering is just one of many proposals that have been made for Downtown Liberal in recent years. The City of Liberal has chosen a consultation firm familiar with downtown revitalization for future plans for Downtown Liberal. Courtesy artwork

## City takes step forward assembling master plan

ELLY GRIMM  
• Leader & Times

Plans to help revitalize Downtown Liberal have been discussed for multiple months now, and one of the major aspects of that work is putting together a master plan.

"Activation and redevelopment of Downtown Liberal through investments in public spaces and infrastructure was identified as a key goal in the Launch Liberal 2035 Comprehensive Plan," Chief Communications Officer Keeley Young said. "Working with experts in city planning, engineering, and design to create a redevelopment plan which considers a holistic approach to both the form and function of built public spaces will help provide us with a cost-effective, phased approach to creating a thriving downtown district. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued in December to identify firms interested in conducting research and public engagement activities to draft a Downtown Redevelopment Master Plan which assesses current economic and market data; identifies market opportunities for additional retail, office, civic, and residential uses; and provides visual descriptions for transportation

◆ See DOWNTOWN/Page 3



Now accepting patients!

**620 604-9279**

We Accept **KanCare.**



**LIBERAL**  
23 E. 11th Ave  
Liberal, KS 67901  
(620) 604-9279

FIRSTDENTAL.US