

# VAUGHAN STILL LEADS

HUTCHINSON GOLFER ALONE AT THE TOP AFTER SECOND DAY AT SENIOR BRITISH OPEN, SPORTS



# THE HUTCHINSON NEWS

COVERING THE BETTER PART OF KANSAS

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2008

★ 50 CENTS



Kathy Hanks/The Hutchinson News

While trains haven't stopped at Liberal's Rock Island Depot since the 1960s, the city believed the historic landmark was worth saving. Today, it's not only used as office space, but also as a meeting center.

## NO STOPPING DEPOTS

Once hubs of activity, historic stations find new purpose through preservation.

By KATHY HANKS

The Hutchinson News  
khanks@hutchnews.com

Window peepers are common at Dodge City's train depot.

When one of them spots Karl Stinemetze inside mopping the floor, they tap on the window and he always lets them in.

The unofficial tour guide and maintenance man has lots of good things to say about the place.

Today, it's home to the Depot Repertory Company, as well as a waiting room for passengers traveling on Amtrak's east- and westbound Southwest Chief.

But long ago across western Kansas, train depots were bustling places. Pioneers didn't have many options for travel. They could hitch the horse to the wagon or they could take the train.

See DEPOTS / A6



Lauren Pond/The Hutchinson News

Today, the Dodge City Depot is home to the Depot Repertory Company and is also a stop on Amtrak's Southwest Chief line.

## Station duty now volunteers' role

Late nights and early mornings, residents are on hand to greet travelers.

By KATHY HANKS

The Hutchinson News  
khanks@hutchnews.com

It could be lonely waiting for the 12:30 a.m. eastbound train on an icy, windy winter night at the Dodge City depot.

In recent years, Amtrak has had no money to staff the depot for the twice-a-day stops.

Passengers boarding the train were forced to wait in their cars or on the cold platform. Those getting off the train had no access to a restroom inside the beautifully restored depot.

A public phone was outside the locked depot door.

See DODGE / A6



Kathy Hanks/The Hutchinson News

Left: The city of Liberal now owns its depot and surrounding acres, and has restored not only the depot, but the adjoining Grier House, a historic restaurant and hotel.

Right: Garden City's depot is totally a transportation venue; however, the city does rent out rooms for meetings and gatherings.



Kathy Hanks/The Hutchinson News

### SEWARD COUNTY

## Oil, gas revenues boon for budget

Extra funds keep tax rate in check, even as county steps up spending by more than \$1M.

By JON RUHLEN

The Hutchinson News  
jruhlen@hutchnews.com

LIBERAL – Newfound revenues from oil and gas exploration have helped Seward County commissioners toe the line on taxes this year while expanding efforts to combat juvenile crime.

### INSIDE

Liberal makes "Right now, in southwest do as new pool Kansas, oil and gas is just boom-takes shape /A5 ing," said Seward County administrator Mary Bloomer.

A public hearing regarding the proposed 2009 Seward County budget has been scheduled for Aug. 4, during which residents can raise objections to

See OIL / A7

### SEWARD COUNTY BUDGET

	2008	2009
Valuation	\$305.6M	\$314.7M
Expenditures	\$11.8M	\$13M
Mill levy	25.197	25.177
*Taxes	\$289.77	\$289.54

\*based on \$100,000 home

## Gov: No intent for big cuts to colleges

By CHRIS GREEN

Harris News Service  
cgreen@dailynews.net

TOPEKA – Gov. Kathleen Sebelius told reporters Friday that she's not asking for the state's colleges and universities to actually reduce their budgets by 7 percent over the next two years.

Earlier this week, higher education officials expressed concern that they were asked to outline significant cuts that could cost classes, jobs, services and programs.

A news release from the University of Kansas on Monday announced universities were being asked to map out how they might reduce their budgets.

However, Sebelius said her administration is simply requesting such information from the state

See CUTS / A7

## Man gets 2 to 5 years in fatal 1988 wreck

By JON RUHLEN

The Hutchinson News  
jruhlen@hutchnews.com

A man who killed his pregnant wife in a car accident 20 years ago and fled to Mexico has been sentenced to two to five years in prison.

Miguel R. Rangel Zubia, 41, of Chihuahua, Mexico, appeared in court Friday morning for the brief sentencing hearing. He pleaded guilty June 20 to aggravated vehicular homicide. In exchange for the plea, Reno County District Attorney Keith Schroeder dismissed a charge of aggravated failure to appear.

See DEATH / A6

INDEX: ADVICE B5 BUSINESS C10 CLASSIFIEDS C1 COMICS C9 LOTTERIES A5 OBITUARIES A11 OPINION A10 CROSSWORD C4 SPORTS D1 TV LISTINGS B5 WEATHER D6

**INTERCEPTED LETTER**  
Southwest Kansas train depots, staying alive via multiple uses

*Dear depots,*  
We're glad your survival hasn't derailed.

*Yours, Hutch*

**RENO COUNTY**  
**2020**  
GROWTH COALITION

**GROWING PAIN**  
Could it be the end for coalition?  
COMING SUNDAY

**A small piece of Italy on the Plains, FAITH**

hutchnews.com  
Check out the online classifieds. Search by category, classification or keyword.

98 74  
Hot

60424 00050 7  
Problems? Call us. 620-694-5700