LCC Represented in Statewide Diploma Taskforce

By Curtis Turner

I am going to take a break from my ongoing Careers 101 discussion this month to let you know about the Endorsed Diploma Task Force. I was selected this past summer to serve on this task force. This group is operating under the Colorado Department of Higher Education’s CAP4K initiative. CAP4K (Colorado’s Achievement Plan for Kids) was developed in response to Senate Bill 08-212 for the purpose of aligning education from pre-school through college. CAP4K represents a collaborative effort between the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

The endorsed diploma will be an option for Colorado high schools to offer starting in 2012. This could be awarded to high school seniors instead of a standard diploma. In order to be awarded the endorsed diploma students will have met a certain set of criteria that guarantee they are college or work force ready. If a student received this diploma they would be guaranteed admission into several Colorado institutions of higher education. In addition to this they would be admitted to any institute of higher education without the need for remediation. This is significant as about 30% of students entering colleges in our state require remediation.

The role of the Endorsed Diploma Task Force is to make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding the requirements for the endorsed diploma.

If anyone would like more information regarding this issue feel free to contact me, Curtis Turner at curtis.turner@lamarcc.edu. This information would be of particular interest to superintendents as well as high school administrators and counselors.

 Frontier History Encampment
See photos on Pages 3 and 4
By John Marrin  
LCC President

On September 19th our State Board, System President and other dignitaries visited our campus for their annual tour. This gives us the opportunity to tell the LCC story and to highlight a particular program or department. This year we decided to show off our Wellness Center and the athletic teams associated with Lamar Community College. The teams and coaches represented LCC in a great way and showed the importance athletics can play in acquiring a high quality education. We started with a tour of the Campus Health Center and comments from Jay Brook, executive director of High Plains Medical Health Center, and May Shy, FNP-C, who runs our campus center. Mary shared her experiences in working with students. She commented, “When we have a rodeo weekend there is a line of contestants on Monday morning waiting for her.” The Board members really picked up on that comment, so I thought some good information on rodeos was in order. I thought it was good to share some information about college rodeos that Fred Sherwood, our coach, shared with me. We belong to the Central Rocky Mountain Region with thirteen other colleges from Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. During the year, ten rodeos are scheduled. Fred has scheduled the LCC Antelope Stampede during the fall and usually has those dates locked in a year in advance. By early summer, he is already working on sponsors to help defray the cost of the rodeo, around $17,000.00. This includes advertising, hiring pick-up men, bullfighters (rodeo clowns), announcer, and timers. The livestock used are rented from breeders of rodeo stock. The bulls and bucking horses are bred for that purpose and typically not used for anything else.

Top breeders can make a lot of money in that industry, but because of the increasing popularity of rodeo, the competition is fierce for this specialized stock—unbroken horses and Brahman mixed bulls with sour dispositions.

At the Stampede we had 355 contestants. Imagine trying to coordinate a basketball tournament with that many players; nearly impossible. For those of you that went to the Friday and Saturday performances you saw a limited number of contestants picked at random by a computer program. Before those performances, the rest of the contestants had a chance to participate in what is called “slack.” They are still timed or scored; vying for the top ten spots to compete in the short go-round on Sunday. In the short go-round the top 10 contestants in each event compete for the championship. Their times or scores in the short are averaged with the other time or score that earned them a top ten spot to give them a final time or score. The person with the lowest time or highest score is the rodeo champion in that competition. Each college team also receives points for the placing of team members. The team with the highest score wins the rodeo, and at the end of the season the team with the highest total points qualifies to compete in the College Finals.

Each contestant pays an entry fee of $40.00 which primarily goes to fund the rodeo. They use their own equipment if they are in a scored event which usually means a horse, trailer, feed, water, tack and pickup. If they are riding bulls or bucking horses they don’t need their own horse but can spend up to $4,000.00 on equipment like saddles, rope, chaps and rigging. Next month I will discuss the process of recruiting our rodeo team and the results of our rodeo.

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Lamar CC Rodeo

The Lamar Community College Rodeo Team hosted the Antelope Stampede last weekend with 355 contestants representing 17 colleges and universities from the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Freshman Bailey Spitz led the LCC team with a third place finish in Tie-down Roping which moved him into sixth place in the region. Brother/sister combination freshman Kelly Hanley finished fifth in Breakaway Roping, while sophomore Conner Hanley was 11th in Steer Wrestling. The team completes the fall season on October 14-16 at the Laramie County Community College Rodeo in Cheyenne, WY.

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Always a Part of Us...

Reconnect with LCC as we prepare to celebrate our 75th year of being a part of our students’ and communities’ lives.

If you are a former student, please register at www.lamarcc.edu/alumni or call 719.336.1511 to be a part of upcoming activities.
Frontier History Encampment

Photos by Mike Bowen

Lamar Community College hosted the Frontier History Encampment the weekend of Friday, Sept. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 1 on the LCC campus.

The event is held every two years and began in 2005.

On Friday, the event welcomed elementary school students from around the Lamar area, and the students were treated to seeing buffalo, cannons firing, got to hone their skills at making straw dolls and learn about early settler history.
Carrizo Canyon, one of the secret canyons located in Baca County. All my life I have enjoyed exploring the canyon area taking in the beauty of nature. Fall is a great time to explore the area as it provides a place to experience the magnificent colors of the changing season.

Before you start the journey I suggest you stop at the Forest Service Office south of Springfield for information and brochures to help guide you on your exploration of the site. Directions to Carrizo Canyon: travel 18 miles south from Springfield on HWY 287 to County Road M. On County Rd M go west about 20 miles to the Forest Service sign indicating the entrance to Carrizo Canyon. The campground / parking area is 2 miles south down the road.

Carrizo Canyon, one of the secret canyons of the prairie, is a beautiful site to explore petroglyphs, watch wildlife, and take in bird watching. The canyon has live water year round and provides great protection from the elements. As you explore the canyon you will see why this was a great place for the early Indian to inhabit. As you climb and crawl on the canyon walls you will find prehistoric Indian rock art including images of mountain sheep, elk and deer.

The Canyon is filled with vegetation including willows, cattails, cottonwoods and junipers. Wild grapevines, calabaza plants and fields of wild tomatillo can also be found. In the fall this vegetation provides an array of colors in yellow, orange, red and purple.

For the birdwatcher you will find many different bird species to view. Several birds migrate through the area during the year. Birds you might see are Black-chinned Hummingbird, Ladder-Backed and Lewis’s Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Cassin’s Kingbird, Greater Roadrunner, Ask-throated Flycatchers, Mississippi Kite, Western Screech Owl, and Canyon wren and Bewick’s Wren (www.fs.usda.gov).

Wildlife is plentiful for your viewing pleasure. In the water holes you might find a snapping or soft-shell turtle, bullfrog or channel catfish. Along the trails you may find a bull snake (my least favorite), collared lizard or a horned lizard. Larger animals may include coyote, fox, deer, elk, mountain goat, rabbit, mountain lion and an occasional bear.

I hope you enjoy this exploration which will provide you with something to do and a wonderful experience close to home. As you explore, reflect on the secret canyon area and the resources made available to the early Indians and explorers. Enjoy the wonderful fall foliage and the wonders of the changing season. Don’t forget your camera, drinking water, picnic, hiking shoes, and a full tank of gas!
Lamar CC
Sports

Runnin’ Lopes Softball

FRONT ROW: Left to right: Samantha Bump, Hillary Dwyer, Kelsey Plowman, Tayler Beasley, Yolanda Herrera, Savannah Miller, Emily Hager, Ryan Cook, Bryanna Rosales.

LCC Sports Home Schedules

Softball Schedule
Oct. 12 - Round Robin Tourney at Colby CC

Volleyball
Oct. 8 - LCC vs. Western Nebraska CC - 1 p.m.
Oct. 22 - LCC vs. Trinidad State JC - 5 p.m.
Oct. 27 - LCC vs. Otero Junior College - 7 p.m.

Men’s Soccer
Oct. 16 - LCC vs. Otero Junior College - 1 p.m.

Men’s Soccer