By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

Imperial will host a baseball clinic for umpires this Sunday, March 15.

The clinic will be held at Imperial's Campbell Park on West 7th Street beginning at 1 p.m., and should conclude no later than 4 p.m.

Larry Ross of Scottsbluff, who is liaison for American Legion Baseball's Area D in Nebraska, will conduct the clinic.

Those taking in the clinic do not have to commit to umpiring Legion games. The clinic will be good for anyone wanting to brush up on the umpiring skills for use in any level of baseball.

Ross said the afternoon will be a combined clinic and rules meeting.

New rules will be reviewed, and discussion will be held about problems umpires may encounter on the field. During the clinic, Ross will work with attendees on mechanics, proper positioning for calls and how to avoid conflicts with coaches and players.

He'll address umpiring techniques for both behind the plate and on the bases.

Individuals interested in attending the clinic are asked to contact Marc Mroczek in Imperial so numbers can be determined, or if they have questions. He can be contacted at 308-882-5767, or by email at: mmrocze@esu15.org.

There will be a $15 fee for the clinic/rules meeting. The American Legion umpire test will be administered during the afternoon for those who want to be certified to umpire Legion ball.

In addition, completing Sunday's clinic qualifies the person to be considered for umpiring at area and state Legion tournaments, if they choose, Ross said.

Anyone who is interested in umpiring baseball at any level is invited to take part in the clinic.

Ross said he especially encourages parents and coaches to attend the clinic/rules meeting.

If weather on March 15 prevents meeting at the Campbell ball field, the clinic will be conducted at Chase County Schools on East 9th St.

The city of Imperial pays individuals for umpiring in the summer ball program, and last summer, raised those pay scales.