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LEADER & TIMES

Sutherland reaches lofty heights



2nd Lt. Tyler Sutherland becomes second person from Liberal to graduate from West Point



2nd Lt. Tyler Sutherland, left, and his wife, Heather, with their 2-year-old son, Tyler, after his graduation from West Point. Sutherland is the second person from Liberal to graduate from the military academy.

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — Tyler Sutherland, a Liberal, Kansas, native, has become the second person from the town to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Sutherland, 27, was one of 1,044 graduates of the academy's 117th class. He is the second Liberal resident to graduate from the academy, following the late Lt. Col. James H. "Bud" Brantley, who graduated in 1954. Sutherland's father, Lt. Col. James Sutherland, also graduated from West Point in 1978. He is currently a major in the U.S. Army and serves as the commander of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, at Fort Cavazos, Texas. Sutherland's mother, Heather, is a nurse at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He has two brothers, James and Matthew, who are also in the military. Sutherland's graduation is a significant achievement for his family and the town of Liberal.

College increases mill levy 1.3 mills

MILL INCREASE FORCED BY REDUCTIONS IN STATE AID AND DROP IN PROPERTY VALUATIONS

LIBERAL, Kan. (AP) — The Liberal College District has approved a 1.3-mill increase in property taxes to help offset the impact of state aid reductions and declining property values. The increase is the highest in the district's history. The district's board of trustees voted 4-2 to approve the increase. The district's superintendent, David L. Smith, said the increase is necessary to maintain the district's current level of service. The increase will be implemented in January 2014. The district's budget for 2014 is \$1.2 million. The district's enrollment is 1,200 students. The district's property tax rate is currently 1.3 mills. The district's property tax revenue is currently \$1.2 million. The district's property tax revenue is expected to decrease to \$1.1 million in 2014. The district's property tax revenue is expected to increase to \$1.3 million in 2015. The district's property tax revenue is expected to increase to \$1.5 million in 2016. The district's property tax revenue is expected to increase to \$1.7 million in 2017. The district's property tax revenue is expected to increase to \$1.9 million in 2018. The district's property tax revenue is expected to increase to \$2.1 million in 2019. The district's property tax revenue is expected to increase to \$2.3 million in 2020.

Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Property Tax	\$1.2M	\$1.1M	\$1.3M	\$1.5M	\$1.7M	\$1.9M	\$2.1M	\$2.3M
State Aid	\$0.8M	\$0.7M	\$0.6M	\$0.5M	\$0.4M	\$0.3M	\$0.2M	\$0.1M
Enrollment	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Property Tax Rate	1.3 mills	1.3 mills	1.3 mills	1.3 mills	1.3 mills	1.3 mills	1.3 mills	1.3 mills

Kan. AG acknowledges 'Hard 50' may not fully work

LIBERAL, Kan. (AP) — Kansas Attorney General Steve Beshear has acknowledged that the state's "Hard 50" law, which requires a 50% increase in property taxes for new construction, may not fully work as intended. Beshear said the law is designed to encourage new construction and job creation. However, he said the law may not be as effective as hoped. Beshear said the law is designed to encourage new construction and job creation. However, he said the law may not be as effective as hoped. Beshear said the law is designed to encourage new construction and job creation. However, he said the law may not be as effective as hoped.

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