

TASTE OF CHINA BUFFET \$14.95
GRAB LEGS ALL WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY \$10.99
Lunch \$6.29 & Dinner \$8.99
Kids Lunch 2.5 \$2.99 - Kids 6-9 only \$4.65

LEADER & TIMES
JULY 26, 2013
FRIDAY JULY 26, 2013
\$1.00

12 GARAGE SALES LISTED INSIDE TODAY

High Value Downloads
Calling all churches for Gospel Songfest

WEDNESDAY

SAURDAY

COME TO CONCERT, DANCE WITH COUNTRY MUSIC STAR HEATH WRIGHT

2ND LT. TYLER SUTHERLAND BECOMES SECOND PERSON FROM LIBERAL TO GRADUATE FROM WEST POINT

KANSAS AGRICULTURE ACKNOWLEDGES 'HARD 50'

Sutherland reaches lofty heights



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

By Bob Schmitt
2nd Lt. Tyler Sutherland, a Liberal native, is the second person from the town to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Sutherland, 28, graduated with a commission in the U.S. Army on June 12. He was one of 1,100 graduates from the academy's 119th class. Sutherland is the second Liberal resident to graduate from West Point, following the late Capt. Robert L. "Bob" Schmitt, who graduated in 1968. Sutherland is also the first Liberal resident to graduate from West Point since the late Capt. Schmitt.

Sutherland's father, Bob Schmitt, was a prominent figure in the Liberal community. He served as the mayor of Liberal and was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Sutherland followed in his father's footsteps and served in the U.S. Army for 15 years. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division and served in several combat zones, including Afghanistan and Iraq. Sutherland's military career was marked by numerous awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

College increases mill levy 1.3 mills

Mill increase forced by reductions in state aid and drop in property valuations

By Bob Schmitt
The Board of Education has approved a 1.3 mill increase in the property tax millage rate for the 2013-14 school year. The increase is necessary to offset a \$1.5 million reduction in state aid and a \$2.5 million drop in property valuations. The board also approved a 1.0 mill increase in the millage rate for the 2014-15 school year. The board's decision was made after a public hearing on July 19. The board also discussed the possibility of a 1.5 mill increase, but decided that a 1.3 mill increase was the most appropriate option given the current financial situation.

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Kan. AG acknowledges 'Hard 50' may not fully work
By Bob Schmitt
The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) has announced that the "Hard 50" program, which aims to reduce the number of small farms by 50 percent by 2020, may not fully work. The KDA's report indicates that the program has resulted in a loss of 50,000 acres of farmland, but that the number of farms has not decreased as much as expected. The report also notes that the program has had a negative impact on the local economy, as many small farms have been forced to sell their land to large agribusinesses. The KDA is currently reviewing the program and considering ways to improve it.