ENJOY BILLY'S FAMOUS CUISINE AT HOME OR A SPECIAL EVENT WITH OUR CATERING SERVICE.
We Also Have Rooms You Can Reserve For Your Family Banquet Or Meeting Needs!
BILLY'S BIG BOY 2010 VOTED AMERICA'S BEST BIRTHDAY & PARTY SPOT!
44 Village Plaza • Liberal, KS 620-626-4400

'God's Not Dead' producer is Meade High grad
Page 8A

Principals move on
Adams, Rito headed to Independence, Mo.
By RACHEL COLEMAN
• Leader & Times

Graduates are not the only people who will end their time in the district at the end of the school year. Two principals are leaving at the end of the year, with both moving on when their contracts end the summer.

Liberal High School principal Keith Adams announced to his staff Friday morning that he'll leave the district in June. Rito Elementary principal Jeff Rito told his staff on Thursday that his two children to move. Both men have accepted positions in Independence, Mo., the district

See HEIGHTS Page 8A

ADAMS

Warrant arrest results in 4 more arrests
By AMBER PHILIPS
• Leader & Times

Late enforcement officers received a report Thursday that a man driving a white pickup with a loaded assault rifle and a rifle in a passing vehicle, and a rifle-equipped drop of that vehicle uncovered drugs and cigarettes. Four people were arrested as a result.

Two people stalled out being arrested as a result for investigating officers, according to a statement released Friday by Liberal Police Capt. Tim McCabe.

"On Thursday at about 6:12 p.m., a citizen reported to the Liberal Police Department at 911 Millwood Circle in Liberal, stated, 'Professional getting officer received a detailed description of the white guy.'

See ARRESTS Page 3A

Kansas loses 4,000 farms in 5 years
Page 3A

SUNDAY MARCH 30, 2014
LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 127 years

Prairie chicken listing pushes Kansas into lawsuit
By CHAD HOPKINS
• AP Reporter

TOPEKA — Kansas will join a lawsuit against the federal agency that's listing the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species, the state's attorney general said Friday, saying the designation isn't necessary to rebuild the bird's population.

Attorney General Derek Schmidt said he will file suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, challenging the agency's process in considering the listing. Pavenback said Kansas objects to order the lawsuit said the bird's population is rebounding and that an "overreach" by the federal government that will harm the Kansas economy and property rights of farmers.

Pavenback said state wildlife biologist Robin Jennison said the action isn't

See LAWSUIT Page 3A

Ga. teen accused of spending cash after bank error
A teller inadvertently deposited a check for approximately $81,000 into the wrong account

DANIELSVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Authorities say a Georgia man is under arrest and accused of spending about $25,000 that a bank accidentally deposited into his account.

The Madison County Sheriff's Department says 20-year-old Steven Fields of Hull, in northeastern Georgia, was arrested Thursday.

He faces a charge of theft by taking. A home phone number for Fields could not be located, and it was not immediately known if he has an attorney.

The department says a teller at a bank in Hull inadvertently deposited a check for approximately $81,000 into Fields' account instead of the account of a man who made an installment at a car dealership, various stores and a fast-food restaurant.

Police say Fields knew was an effort to come to an agreement between Fields and the bank and that Fields said he couldn't repay the money.

Holder says feds will recognize Michigan gay marriages despite state decision
• Staff Reports

Attorney General Eric Holder said Friday that the federal government will recognize about 300 same-sex marriages performed in Michigan before a federal appeals court halted them, despite a decision by Michigan's attorney general not to recognize those unions.

The decision means federal benefits will be available to the couples involved, including the ability to file taxes jointly, get Social Security benefits for spouses and sponsor alien immigration status for partners.

The announcement Friday morning comes after a federal judge struck down Michigan's same-sex marriage ban in March. Holder did the same thing in Utah, where more than 1,000 same-sex couples got married before the Supreme Court put those unions on hold in January after a federal judge overturned the conservative state's same-sex marriage ban in December. Michigan's ban was struck down by U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman struck down Michigan's gay marriage ban.

Four months ago, Holder announced that the federal government would recognize the Utah marriages after the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused a temporary halt. But that was extended indefinitely on Michigan.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder expressed concern that the marriages performed before the ban was struck down by Friedman could be voided. But that was extended indefinitely on Michigan.

Snyder, who is a Republican, also expressed concern that the state's ban is legal marriage. The lawsuit of the court's ruling has added, but gay marriage opponents have asked the governor's move should the state of Land for now to sustain state benefits

married adult for married couples. The American Civil Liberties Union has said more than 1,000 Michigan couples have married.

Holder cited Snyder's statement in his view on Friday.

"The attorney general of Michigan has spoken on behalf of the marriages that have taken on behalf, even though Michigan has entered into, although Michigan will not extend new rights and benefits to same-sex couples pending the outcome of legal proceedings," he said. "For purposes of federal law, as I announced in February, the lawful marriages of legally married same-sex couples in Utah, these Michigan couples will not be required to file amended returns or seek the court before they can seek federal benefits to which they are entitled."

Holder announced the decision in Detroit, were because for same-sex marriages. Since December, fines on

In this June 19, 2013, file photo, Attorney General Eric Holder speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. AP photo

Live on Stage presents free bonus concert for new membership
• Special to the Leader & Times

Live on Stage will be presenting a membership bonus concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the James Mardon Auditorium in Liberal. The concert is free to the public and is a free concert for those who sign up for Live on Stage membership of the 2014-2015 season.

In 1957, The Diamonds released their first hit single, "Little Darlin'." The group's original lineup has undoubtedly and has been disbanded for many years, but Ted Kirk and Dell C. Ake Jr. has sold approximately 20 million copies.

Through the years since the release of "Little Darlin'," The Diamonds have had many important hours – the durability of the classic rock and roll music is as much about the future as it is about the past.

As a result, The Diamonds continue to

[illegible] their audience to this performing [illegible] variety of venues and settings worldwide, including performances with the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra in Fundraising Arts Theatres and major concert halls in cruise ships, state fairs and festivals, and tours of England, Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Korea, and Japan, for benefit concerts, corporate conventions and at nightclubs.

We're [illegible] pleased to find a [illegible] group of our groups. Their love [illegible] is [illegible] remember and [illegible] words to today [illegible] treasures or even 25 years ago."

The [illegible] starring [illegible] and reviews engagements on the road [illegible] Kirk and Dell gone to a whole new level. The Dayswork truly are a cut above.

For more information, call 620-462-4986 or 624-6937.

Vol. 128 • No. 245 • 28 Pages — Welcome to the new L&T. When you can't get the printed version, go to www.leadernd times.com — Liberal, Kansas