Always go to other people's funerals, or they won't go to yours.
Billy's Ellis Duck BBQ
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BILLY'S ELLIS DUCK BBQ VOTED AMERICA'S BEST RESTAURANT & TRAVEL STRAIGHT!

Fizz, Boom, Pop, Science Rocks!
Children thrill to magic-like feats while learning science
Page 6A

Saturday Night LYFE
Kicks off June 21 at Light Park
Page 3A

Playing in the park
Wednesday means enjoying Picnic in the Park
Page 3A

(Sand) blast from the past
F-8 gets makeover
Page 4A

THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2014
LEADER & TIMES
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Sign up for Kids College
By VICTORIA CALDERON
Leader & Times
With July approaching, Seward County Community College/Area Technical School is preparing for their annual Kids College.
See KIDS Page 4A

OZsome RACE
High Plains Adventure
Sign up now, don't wait
Staff report
Do you have what it takes to race around Liberal to earn a chance at winning $1,000?
The Liberal Area Chamber of Commerce Leaders & Visions is bringing back the Ozsome Race.
The contest is open to teams of two or more, and one member of the team has to have a valid driver's license and vehicle.
Teams can be couples, youth groups, businesses, friends or family members.
The games begin at 11 a.m. Saturday and should take about an hour or two (unless a competing team gets lost on purpose).
Each week, teams will compete to win a leg of the Ozsome race by deciphering clues to find the right
See RACE Page 5A

Masonic lodge seeking items for garage sale
Special to the Leader & Times
Liberal Masonic Lodge, Forge Lodge No. 300 will be conducting a garage sale at 1501 N. Kansas on Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29, with proceeds going to the lodge. All donations of items to the sale will be accepted.
Public spaces for those wanting to sell items will also be available at the sale.
For more information, call Clint at 910-797-3mp4 or 624-8622.

Toni Smith takes helm at Baker Arts Center

SMITH

By ELLY CRIPPS
Leader & Times
When Dianne Wilbur resigned her post as director of the Baker Arts Center in February, the board of directors knew it had some big decisions to fill that important spot.
On Tuesday, that position was filled by Toni Smith, who has worked with the Baker Arts Center as its bookkeeper for the past two years. Smith will fill the position after Wilbur's departure, and was awarded the job by the board of directors.
"The events here at Baker have always been very important to me, and I feel like I have a unique opening, whether it's a fundraiser, it's important that Baker and the Arts Center are successful," said Smith. "It is a community center, that used. I want and have always had, that it is a center that people feel they have a voice in."
Wilbur, talking about Smith's job, said she thought Smith would be a wonderful addition to the center and was only looking for a part-time job. After talking to staff at Frontier Staffing Services, she was sent to the center and has been there ever since. Smith said she has also enjoyed the wedding coordinating as her quasi-job.
"Brandi and she has learned quite a bit about the arts from her fellow co-workers since she started at the center including the differences between different types of paintings other such information.
"As we grow up we think of art as just pictures on the wall and that's not necessarily the case. It's about everything we do in life and everything we see is in some way a piece of art," said Wilbur. "I think it's the glasses we wear that someone designed. By dollars we have, those types of things. So
See SMITH Page 4A

Big Ta Do at the Zoo
Staff report
Baker Arts appreciation day will be Saturday June 28, at the El Dorado Zoo.
The event is $12 per person with a 50 percent discount for those who have joined between May 1 and June 25 and $10 per person for Baker members.
The event is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with activities including face painting, bounce house, other games, entertainment and food.
The evening event is for Baker Arts members only from 7 p.m. to midnight with food and entertainment.
"It's a great opportunity to support the arts and have a great time," said Baker Arts executive director Toni Smith.
Call Baker Arts at 624-2661 for more information.

In Hill testimony, Hagel defends Bergdahl trade

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel delivered an impassioned defense Thursday of the controversial exchange of five Taliban detainees for a U.S. soldier, telling skeptical lawmakers that it was the right and the smartest way to ensure that the administration is still lawmakers about it.
In a testy three-hour Capitol Hill hearing that was at times contentious, House members accused Hagel and the White House of not notifying them in advance of the deal, and of failing to do the decision to exchange Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for five detainees at the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba.
An equally combative Hagel told the
And yesterday the best possibility that we had to get him out, and we were reassured we might lose it," the Army sergeant. Hagel told lawmakers that Congress got a 72-hour notice of detainee exchange but said the Justice Department had told the White House privately that the constitutional Barack Obama had the constitutional authority to act without telling Congress.
The Justice Department declined to comment on either if it gave the White House that advice.
The Iran-Obama administration official to testify about the proposed swap, Hagel acknowledged to Iran that the number could have been higher, but he said that was a apology for keeping Congress in the dark, insisting that Qatari officials would have killed Bergdahl if word of the Taliban made it clear that Taliban was not on our side.
U.S. officials said last week that intelligence suggested that the captors might have killed Bergdahl if word of the swap got out.
Calling the operation an "artful, risky situation," Hagel said there was no guarantee that Bergdahl was still safe. He lamented the strategic secrecy over efforts to pick up the soldier and said that for a year, officials had been negotiating in brief bursts. He said the daily cause together in the Situation Room to discuss the commander sent to retrieve Bergdahl only knew the exact location an hour before the exchange.
"It's the opportunity to obtain his release, and we were very, very, very, very concerned," Hagel said. "I don't judge or any leaks could derail a deal that was in the best interest of Sergeant Bergdahl." Hagel told the House Armed Services Committee. "We were told by the Qatars that a leak, any kind of leak, would end the negotiation for Bergdahl's release."
Republicans and Democrats questioned the wisdom of releasing the five Taliban members, saying they could pose a threat to the United States. Officials have told Congress that four of the five Taliban officials have ties to al-Qaida.
Opening the hearing, Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., the committee chairman, blasted the administration's decision to release the "deeply troubling" result of "unprecedented negotiations with terrorists."
McKeon, who has launched a congressional investigation into the Bergdahl case, said the exchange of American personnel. And he described White House explanations that he about the
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Vol. 128 • No. 44 • 12 Pages
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