Always go to other people's funerals, or they won't go to yours.
Billy's Ellis Duck BBQ
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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
Your daily news & more for 128 years

Sign up for Kids College
By VICTORIA CALDERON
Leader & Times
With July approaching, Seward County Community College/Area Technical School is preparing for third annual Kids College.
See KIDS Page 4A

OZ some 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?
Then you should enter the Leader & Times's Swinging Inch the Chrome 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 anyone else.
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 Chrome race by deciphering clues to find the right
See RACE Page 1A

Masonic lodge seeking items for garage sale
Special to the Leader & Times
Liberal Masonic Lodge, Forge Lodge No. 304 will be conducting a garage sale at 1501 S. 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 910-747-3mp4 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 shoes 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 10 years and will now 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, and to them ... it is a connection center," she said. "I want and have always had a desire to work here and help, and that's how I came full."
When asking the board why they chose Smith, Leslie Lang, president of the board, said she was very happy to have a candidate with a background in accounting.
"Toni and she has learned quite a bit about the arts from her fellow co-workers since she started at the center including the difference between different types of paintings other such information. ... So we grew up we think of art as just pictures on the wall and that's not necessarily true. There's about everything we do at Baker and everything we can to create was a piece of art, and that's what we do. We glasses we wear that someone designed. By-fathers we know. Know 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 10 percent discount for those who have joined between May 1 and June 25 and $15 per person at the door.
The event is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with activities including face painting, bounce house, relay games, ice cream and much more.
The evening event is for Baker Arts members only from 7 p.m. to midnight with food and entertainment.
"It's a great opportunity for members to just can't miss," said administrative arts assistant Toni Smith.
Call Baker Arts at 624-2611 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 Tuesday 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 ascertain that the administration is still lawmakers about Bergdahl.
In a nearly three-hour Capitol Hill hearing that was at times contentious, Hagel repeatedly accused Congress and the White House of just wanting to point fingers and play politics. He refused to cave to the decision to exchange Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for five detainees at the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba.
An equally combative Hagel told the
U.S. officials said last week that intelligence suggested that the captive might have killed Bergdahl if word of the swap leaked.
Calling the operation an "artful, risky strategy," Hagel said there was no other option to get Bergdahl back safely. He lambasted critics who insist Congress must over whom to pick up the soldier and argued that the White House would have negotiating in brief both. He said the deal only came together in the last few days, when the Taliban commander sent to release Bergdahl only knew the exact location an hour before the exchange.
"It's the opportunity to obtain his release, and we seized it," Hagel said. "We grew increasingly concerned that any delay or any leaks could derail a deal that was the only chance to get Sgt. Bergdahl." Hagel told the House Armed Services Committee, "We were told by the Qatarus that a leak, any kind of leak, would end the negotiations for Bergdahl's release."
Hagel and Democratic 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 are not considered high risk.
Chairing the hearing, Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., the committee's chairman, blasted the administration, calling the deal "deeply troubling" result of "unprecedented negotiations with terrorists."
McKeon, who has launched a congressional investigation into the deal, could spark kidnappings if American personnel. And he described White House explanations that far about the
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