April 14, 2013

Saturday, 13 April 2013 10:42

Billy's BLUE DUCK BBQ
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 Business Event
BILLY'S BLUE DUCK BBQ VOTED 8 TIMES BEST
SEDGEWICK VOTED AS ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST RESTAURANTS
44 Village Plaza • Liberal, KS 620-626-4400

$1 VOL. 126 • 155, 309 • 44 PAGES SUNDAY APRIL 14, 2013

DROP 2

Redskins baseball drops 2 games to Great Bend

PAGE 10A

LEADER & TIMES

Your daily news & views for 126 years

GAS COMPRESSOR

INSIDE

DOWNLOAD THE FREE LEADER & TIMES APP TO YOUR SMART PHONE

SERVING THE HOME OF STEVE BROOKS, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Crime rates drop in last decade

In 2012, 31 personal crimes were reported in Liberal, down nearly 4 percent from 2011 and more than half from 2006. In 2006, more than 1,200 property crimes were reported to the LPD, and despite a slight rise in 2012 with 657 last year, that number has also been reduced by half in the last six years.

By MORRY PRICE
• Leader & Times

In the middle part of the last decade, Liberal's crime rate was high, so much so by the 5th half the distinction of having the 2nd highest level of per capita crime in the state per capita.

"Through no one's own fault, we had a reputation of attracting some pretty chaotic stuff," LPD Sergeant Steve Hunter said. "We've come out the cesspool of that."

The Liberal Police Department has been reorganized to extend reach and while the report shows a drop in crime statistics, one thing it does not compute is one of the biggest concerns of the community: the robbery statistics. For number of robberies reported to police around the LPD.

"We have, over the years, tried to put in some programs aimed towards traffic violations," Hill said. "We have written a lot. We generally give quite a number of traffic violations."

Hunter said the LPD has worked to make sure all Liberal officers have equipment such as traffic signals and signs to ticket and questioned.

Over the last 10 years, accident statistics were reported in Liberal in 2012 with 58 injury accidents. Compared to 2003, non-injury accidents were down nearly 12 percent, and injury accidents were down nearly 20 percent.

Injury accidents did rise a little, with 4.5 percent increase from 2011, but overall, those numbers have decreased from the 10 year average. Hunter said the LPD is going to eliminate as many accidents as possible.

See CRIME/Page 5A

Casandra Norin moves halfway around the world to take position as children's librarian

from China to Oz

By MICHAEL COLEMAN
• Leader & Times

Casandra Norin is all about fun. Eight and a half years of teaching English to Chinese school children in Shanghai, China, has taught her how and outdoor activities. Living halfway around the world from her husband and 10-year-old daughter hasn't stopped the smile from her face.

Norin arrived in Liberal less than a month ago to take on duties as the children's librarian at Liberal Memorial Library's Children's Room and training. The new Thursday-night program for parents and children, "Family Time Library," is her brainchild. Norin said the program is for one more time, 27 children come with their parents. The group spent an hour playing with educational toys.

"I don't think learning even has to be learning," Norin said. "We took all the furniture out of the room and we had a blast. We had a lot of fun and got down on the floor to play with the kids."

Having spent most of the last decade visiting and teaching in China, Norin said she learned about Americans. Norin said the region is the best

See NORIN/Page 5A

McElroy takes over long-time local mortuary

By MORRY PRICE
• Leader & Times

In 1937, L.A. Miller owned a funeral home in Liberal and until 1992 the mortuary continued to operate under the name Miller Mortuary.

That year Miller's grandson, Homer Miller, resold all the business to Jim Kauffman. Kauffman continued to serve the community as the owner of Miller Mortuary until he died in 2011.

Kauffman's widow, Nola, kept the business open but sold it in 2012 to Mike McElroy of Liberal and Scott Miller of Garden City.

Scott Miller graduated from Liberal High School and would intern/work in Dallas, where he would receive an associate of science degree in mortuary arts from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service.

While in mortuary school, McElroy was a director/assistant at Rainbow Funeral Home in Dallas. He said he was a director of funeral services, serving about 5000 families a year.

McElroy would have seen the opportunity to buy Miller Mortuary in Liberal, which is 20 miles from the family mortuary in Garden City, Scott Miller.

McElroy said serving at the larger funeral home in Dallas was a great experience, but he would rather funeral direction lands get in your blood.

"For the most part, it can be a lot darker, more stuff, and it can be a lot more impersonal in a metropolitan area," McElroy said. "With a small operation, we do it all. I'll do anything from embalming to the dressing of the suit and to meeting with the family to discuss the order of service.

See McELROY/Page 5A

Steve McElroy stands near the sign in front of Miller Mortuary at 904 N. Lincoln in Liberal. McElroy recently purchased the funeral home from the Kauffman family. He also runs a Shelter Insurance agency in town, and he said he will remain active in both businesses. | staff photo/Morry Price

© 2013 SOURCE COUNTY PUBLISHING LLC

DINOSAURS INVADING LIBERAL
After a million year absence, dinosaurs are returning to Liberal and will remain
APRIL 6 - MAY 5