July 26, 2013

Friday, 26 July 2013 09:27

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PRAIRIE

Today
7:30 am
• McClure's Motion Hustler, Rodeo Arena
8:00 am
• McClure's Kid's Ranch Rodeo, Rodeo Arena
7:30 pm
• The Rimfire and Dusty Show, Rodeo Arena
7:30 pm
• Kansas Quarterhorse Contestants' Professional Ranch Rodeo, Rodeo Arena

Saturday
6 am-6 pm
• Activity Center Closed/ Ag Building open.
7:30 am
• Seward County 4-H, 5-Mile 4-H/FFA, Hand Pet and Cat Show, Ag Building
• Seward County 4-H, 5-Mile 4-H/FFA, Hand Pet and Cat Show, Ag Building
8:00 am
• Kansas Ice Cog Show, Ag Building
2:00 pm
• Seward County 4-H, 5-Mile 4-H/FFA Dog Show, Ag Building
3:00 pm
• Quarterhorse Open Ice Brock Cat Racer
4:30 pm
• 5-Mile Fun Queens Governing Committee Meeting
6:00 pm
• Brock Cat Racer Start, Gatesbrook
10:30 pm
• Keyshawn Hyeth Wright and the Hangmen Concert/Dance, Arena Opens

15 GARAGE SALES LISTED INSIDE TODAY

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Calling all churches for Gospel Songfest

Organizers for the annual Five State Fair Gospel Songfest are seeking soloists, duets, trios, quartets and instrumentalists for the event, which is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the south end of the Seward County Activity Center. Dress is casual, please no shorts. For more information, call Evelyn Bart at 624-8115.

WEDNESDAY

Come to concert, dance with country music star Heath Wright

Country music star Heath Wright will be performing during the Five State Fair in Liberal. Wright has performed with Lonzo, Kouchee and Reckless Heart. His concert is scheduled for 7:5 p.m. Saturday in the Activity Center at the fair grounds. Dancing will also be allowed at the show.

SATURDAY

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Sutherland reaches lofty heights

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

By ROBERT PRICE
Leader & Times

Before May 25, in the 125-year history of Liberal, only one person from the Seward County community had graduated from the United States Military Academy in New York.

On that date, 2Lt. Tyler Sutherland graduated from West Point and became the second person in the Liberal community of the Army's premier post. In addition, Sutherland is the 2nd person from Liberal to graduate from Liberal High School, was highly ranked academically and athletically.

"There was 1,007 kids, and he graduated 90th - top 9 percent," said Sutherland's mother Kathleen.

As is the case with all graduating cadets, Sutherland became a second lieutenant, and he is now the junior officer of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Regiment of the Army.

"West Point has about 4,400 kids, and they're divided into four regiments," Kathleen said. "Tyler's in the regimental operations officer for the second one.

"He's in charge of, I'm sure there's 1,000 - those cadets had been detailed down, one four-man team, and he's in charge of that," said Kathleen in 2010, making his time rank even better.

"He's probably top 300, out of 10,000," kids, Sutherland's mother said.

But his mother added her son took part in a variety of sports while at the academy.

Tyler was the last man to West Point for one of the wrestling teams, she said. He wrestled the first year. The second year, he was on the boxing team.

"Starting with his third year, Sutherland began concentrating more on the military side of his duty becoming a third sergeant in a Japanese Corps' decision last month to uphold a lower court ruling that raises questions about the law's constitutionality. The statute allows prosecutors to seek life sentences for premeditated murder to die in prison with no chance of parole for 50 years.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt GOP Gov. Sam Brownback on Wednesday to call the Republican-dominated Legislature into special session by mid-September to rewrite the law. Schmidt's office has scheduled oral arguments for Sept. 20 — three days after the high court's ruling — and asked the court to continue upon said hearing.

Schmidt's effort has garnered bipartisan support from Kansas Democrat prosecutors. Johnson county District Attorney double the state can impose "Hard 50" sentences for premeditated murder. There is some still to appeal.

"There is never a guarantee of the criminal justice system," Schmidt said Thursday during a news conference. "We are in a position of uncertainty, and in this period of uncertainty, our first goal is to protect the public. The likelihood of getting the outcome that we want is better if the legislature — in parallel with the change than without it."

Brownback's spokeswoman Eileen Hawley said the governor will make a "ready" decision on a special session. The estimated cost is from $50,000 to $40,000 a day, mostly to cover lawmakers' travel expenses.

But Richard Nye, a Wichita defense attorney is skeptical of the need to fix

See CASE/Page 4A

TOP: The graduation day of 2011 at West Point Military Academy stand during ceremonies in the high desert.

ABOVE: 2nd Lt. Tyler Sutherland gets a hug from his mother Nancy Sutherland Mason after his graduation ceremonies in May at West Point Military Academy in New York. Sutherland became only the second resident from Liberal to graduate from West Point. Courtesy photos

College increases mill levy 1.3 mills

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

• SEE/LIFE

Seward County Community College Board of Trustees Tuesday night voted to approve officers and the publication of the 2013-14 budget and to approve Fall publication of the 2013-14 budget at 38.123 mills. The proposed budget was based on an assumed valuation of $ 1,000,000 for Seward County. The decrease from the previous valuation — the board was appointed a 2.7 mill increase. That would put the mill levy at 38.123 for the fiscal year.

The budget that will be published prior to the Aug. 5 board of trustees meeting was based on a mill levy of 38.123 mills. The increase was in addition to increases in salaries, utilities, needed maintenance and unexpected deferred maintenance needs, according to Dennis Sanchez, then-interim vice president for finance.

The college was able to keep the mill levy increase to a minimum because of the increase in the increase of $47,123 from beginning of the 2013-14 school year. The increase was due to the college holding back on plant upgrades, reducing general operating expenses and receiving approximately $500,000 in payments/claims from the prior year for the Workers Compensation, health insurance and fuel and increased the rate for on-campus housing for the 2013-14 school year as a means of trying to offset

The college has built its budget based on the forecasted drop in state aid revenue by about $500,000. In addition, the college has forecasted a $500,000 loss in Seward County property valuations — the expressed assessment of property years the 2013-14 budget year.

See COLLEGE/Page 4A

Kan. AG acknowledges 'Hard 50' may not fully work

By JOHN MARSH
AP Writer/Wire

TOPEKA — Attorney General Derek Schmidt said Wednesday Thursday that sweeping Kansas' "Hard 50" law will may not preserve the state's ability to impose life sentences, but he said the state will be in a better legal position if legislature approves a fix during a special session instead of waiting.

Schmidt's office is working on a proposal responding to a U.S.

See MARSH/Page 4A