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Sutherland reaches lofty heights



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

By Dan O'Connell
A Liberal, Kan., resident has become the second person from the town to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

2nd Lt. Tyler Sutherland, 30, of Liberal, Kan., graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., on July 26, 2013. Sutherland is the second person from Liberal to graduate from West Point, following the graduation of 1st Lt. Ben Shaver in 1992.

Sutherland served in the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan from 2007 to 2010. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his actions in Afghanistan. He is currently assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Cavazos, Texas.

College increases mill levy 1.3 mills

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

The Board of Trustees of the Liberal College District has approved a 1.3 mill increase in the property tax rate for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The increase is necessary to offset a 10 percent reduction in state aid and a 15 percent decrease in county property valuations. The new rate will be \$1.30 per \$100 of assessed value.

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

By Dan O'Connell
The Kansas Department of Agriculture has announced that the state's "Hard 50" program may not be fully effective in protecting the state's agricultural resources.

The program, which requires a 50 percent reduction in water use during drought conditions, has been criticized for being too restrictive and for not providing enough flexibility for farmers.

The department is currently reviewing the program and may make adjustments to make it more effective.

Come to concert, dance with country music star Heath Wright

Country music star Heath Wright will be performing at the Liberal Community Center on Friday, July 26, 2013. The concert will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Wright is a well-known country music artist who has released several albums and has performed at numerous venues. He will be performing a variety of country hits.

After the concert, there will be a dance. Tickets are available for purchase at the door.