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**WEDNESDAY**

**SAURDAY**

### Sutherland reaches lofty heights



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

By Bob Schmitt  
2nd Lt. Tyler Sutherland, a Liberal resident, has become the second person from the town to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Sutherland, 27, graduated from the academy on July 22, 2013, after four years of study and training. He is the second person from Liberal to graduate from West Point, following the graduation of 1st Lt. Robert J. Sutherland in 1998. Sutherland is a member of the Liberal Fire Department and is currently assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Cavazos, Texas. He is married to Jennifer Sutherland and has two children, a son and a daughter.

### College increases mill levy 1.3 mills

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

By Bob Schmitt  
The Liberal School District has approved a 1.3 mill increase in its property tax rate for the 2013-14 fiscal year. The increase is necessary due to a combination of factors, including a significant reduction in state aid and a decline in property values. The district's board of trustees voted on July 23 to raise the millage rate from 1.3 to 2.6 mills. The increase will result in an additional \$1.3 million in revenue for the district. The board also approved a budget for the coming year that includes a 1.3 percent increase in salaries for all employees. The district's superintendent, Dr. Robert J. Sutherland, stated that the increase is a difficult decision but necessary to ensure the district can continue to provide a high-quality education for its students.

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

By Bob Schmitt  
Kansas Attorney General Steve Marshall has acknowledged that the state's "Hard 50" initiative may not fully work as intended. The initiative, which was implemented in 2011, requires that 50 percent of the state's budget be funded by income taxes. Marshall stated that the initiative has led to a significant increase in income taxes, but it has also resulted in a decrease in state revenue. He noted that the state's budget is still facing a deficit, and that the "Hard 50" initiative may not be the solution to the state's financial problems. Marshall is currently reviewing the initiative and may propose changes to it in the future.

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