You can do more with a kind word and a gun than with just a kind word.
Slow Smokin BBQ Home of the BIG WOODY!
44 Village Plaza • Liberal, KS 620-626-4400 Monday - Saturday
BILLY'S BIG DUCK BBQ VOTED AMERICA'S BEST RESTAURANT BY TEARS STRAIGHT!

USD 480 presents Alka Seltzer Challenge at SCIENCE FAIR
Page 8A

DUCK!
The Squeaky Clean Car Wash sign lies on the ground, a casualty of high winds Wednesday night. Several signs around Liberal were damaged by the winds. Temperatures also dropped from the mid 70s during the afternoon Wednesday to below freezing.
LT photo/Jon Flint

Hospital gets High 5 for breastfeeding program
Page 3A

americanKids
"A Big League of Little Entertainers"
The non-profit American Kids Inc., has set a free informational open talent search event for 10 a.m. Saturday, March 1, at the Seward County Community College, Chorus Room No. H148, in Liberal.
Page 4A

Wildfire threatens Optima, Okla.
By JAMY PHILIPS
Assistant Fire Chief Grant Wadley "Tuesday afternoon, Corrales [illegible] Tuesday afternoon, Corrales [illegible] Wadley added. "The afternoon" call was escalated by the Garrison Fire
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Sign-up deadline for races is Friday
Page 3A

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2014
LEADER & TIMES
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Obama wants feds in nation's newsrooms

An Obama administration plan that would get researchers into newsrooms across the country is drawing fire from angry congressional Republicans and journalistic groups.
The purpose of the proposed Federal Communications Commission study is to "identify and understand the critical information needs of the American public, and to assess how well these needs are being [illegible] population," according to the agency.
However, one agency commissioner, Ajit Pai said in a [illegible] statement that the study, which the FCC in May 2011 proposed would allow researchers to "poll reporters, editors and station owners about how they make their news decisions."
He also said he feared the study might stifle the freedom of the press.
"For nearly a thousand people for thirty-part, thuggy about what they want to watch," wrote Pai, appointed to the FCC's five-member commission in May 2012 by President Obama. "But everyone should agree on this:
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County chair Linenbroker endorses school bond

LINENBROKER

"This plan will take a huge burden off the property owners and will get some of our tax money back that we have been paying into the state all these years."

LT Staff Report
Seward County chair Alta Linenbroker attended several community meetings discussing the upcoming bond issue. Linenbroker said he has decided to support the issue.
"I have attended over a dozen committee meetings and public meetings," Linenbroker said. "I feel well, have the school board handled this bond issue." Linenbroker said in her letter of support.
"I feel that the [illegible] plan was modified several times as the community had a chance to make comments on it."
"I feel that bond represents what the citizens of Liberal and Seward County have asked for," Linenbroker wrote and this takes tax, and will have it up to the voters from the City and Seward to vote on these issues," she said.
The plan calls for modifying the current Liberal High School into a new institution and four buildings being a student's education to only two buildings instead of four.
In addition the transition, schools will be changed from seven K-6 elementary, two 4-6 intermediates and two 7-8 elementary to the K-5 elementary and two 6-8 middle schools.
There new K-5 buildings will be constructed one in northeast Liberal, MacArthur, and two more in northeast and southeast Liberal.
Current Liberal High School will be converted to 6-8 intermediate school.
Two new middle schools will be constructed one in northeast Liberal and the other in the southeast to accommodate the 6-8 grade level students, and the current West Middle School will become a part of the Liberal High School campus to handle growing student populations there.
Funds for the retired school buildings include the possibility of pre-k centers, alternative schools and other educational uses.
The original plan topped $200 million, but after a [illegible] survey of residents, the plan was scaled back to $127 million in the current plan.
The plan was approved by the school board and later voted [illegible] to support.
At least 40 percent of the plan will be paid with state aid ($83.5 million), but that percentage could increase.
The local share will be $76.5 million or 60 percent of the project ($20 million), leaving 25 percent ($50 million) to be [illegible] revenue sources and over 25 years.
"This plan will take a huge burden off the property owners and will get some of our tax money back that we have been paying into the state all these years," Linenbroker said. "And the take by will be a more fair way of doing business for the state. I think this plan in Liberal whether they are local or people in town, the community will benefit."
The bond will have two questions on the ballot. The first approves the bond issue, which must be approved by at least 60 percent matching funds. The second allows a half-cent sales tax to be collected for 25 years to help pay it. It takes both "yes" votes to pass the issue.
"We are asking the people of Liberal and Seward County to take advantage of this bond and sales tax issue," Linenbroker said [illegible] to vote. Linenbroker said. "And then get out and vote."

Billy's BBQ earns high marks in national restaurant guide, again

The employees at Billy's Bbq Duck BBQ celebrate being ranked again by the "Where The Locals Eat" restaurant guide. This is the fifth year in a row the restaurant has been ranked by the guide. LT photo/Ely Gross

By ELLY GRIPP
Leader & Times
For the fifth year in a row, Liberal's Billy's BBQ Duck BBQ has been ranked by the restaurant guide "Where The Locals Eat" as one of the top restaurants in town.
The restaurant was chosen based on the review of an anonymous customer on the guides website.
"Every year we've known nothing about it, we've never known nothing, anything like that," said employee Kelly Hill. "We've just doing our normal business questions and trying to be the best that we can be and just trying to make sure you a business and keep the customers happy by putting the best food out there that we can."
Previously the restaurant had been ranked, and then the last two years the restaurant has been ranked in the top 2 percent of the guide's rankings, and this year, Billy's was propelled into the Top 2 percent of the Top 2 percent of the guide's ranking for the first time.
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