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BILLY'S BLUE BUCK BBQ VOTED AMERICA'S BEST RESTAURANT & TRADE STRAIGHT!

Enter the Pumpkin Pageant

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Building relationships with Bright Futures

Bright Futures aims to connect community schools

by NICOLE CLAPHAM
Leader & Times

It's been less than a year since Bright Futures began in Liberal yet the community-driven, non-profit organization has already helped provide clothing, bicycles and school supplies to students in need, connect people and share material goods and donations dollars.

"Bright Futures is about building relationships," said Executive Director Jill Ellis. "We want to give back to the community, encourage partnerships between individuals and students, businesses and schools. There is so much we can do with our resources — and our resources might be time, they might be talent, they might be financial."

Ellis has just returned from the Bright Futures conference in Joplin, Mo., where she and other local representatives — including USD 480 Board member Chris Lynch — exchanged ideas with other

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HOBGOOD

LARC/DVS welcomes new director

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Hunter Education Course set for Sat., Sun.

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Heather Doyle, director of Reel Re-Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, prides of the 30-foot-long dead gray whale she helped carry to the Santa Monica Beach early Wednesday. Photo by Philip Cornell/The Outlook

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 2013
LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 127 years

Rare whale found dead in S. Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A rare whale that has a dolphin-shaped head and other traits that are unknown to scientists washed up on Southern California's Santa Monica Beach, even though it prefers deep Atlantic waters.

Marine biologists who initially found Wednesday's beached whale washed ashore Tuesday night, the Los Angeles Times reported. A truck hauled away the mammal which was being examined at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum to determine how it died.

Scientists said the beached whale is nearly seven inches wide. The gray-and-pale olive drab is atypical for women to feed on squid and small fish. It is believed to migrate as far south as Northern California, and how the whale ended up on the south will probably remain a

See RARE/Page 5A

Pot tax opponents in Colorado report free weed

DENVER (AP) — As organizations that gave every five marijuana supporters an a year to pursue possible steps in Colorado's first filed an unusual campaign finance report, after a marijuana group and the pot qualified as a campaign contributor.

The group No Over Taxation reported Tuesday that the joint effort with a total of $12,000 and a $2,000 for the latest finding its campaign.

The filing comes in response to a complaint from Colorado Ethics Watch, which said the group violated state law failed to disclose where it got the wood or how it spent it.

No Over Taxation gave over the joint of million in Denver and Boulder this fall to protest a pending 25 percent tax on retail pot, which voters approved last November. The group also gave $2,000 to a Denver attorney Robert Corn.

Colorado Ethics Watch withdrew its complaint.

When the Christmas Parade is over Dec. 7,

Someone will win a brand new car

L&T staff report

For the first time in the storied history of the Liberal Christmas Parade, someone will win a brand new car at the event.

Over the past 12 years, the Leader & Times provided cars as the prize for magazine sales, subscribers, Santa letters, listings, and then attending the parade when the names were drawn.

Over the years, cars have ranged from classic Corvettes, Camaro Mustangs and Jeeps.

This year, the lucky winner will be the original owner of a 2013 Ford Focus.

"We wanted to give back to our one of our biggest community gatherings," Leader & Times publisher Earl Watt said. "We wanted to give back to the people who performance entertaining this crowd. We decided it was time to give someone a brand new car."

Unlike some contests, where there is only a chance to win and no prize is given, the Leader & Times Parade or giveaway will have a winner.

"We will be announcing the sign-up location soon, and anyone who is old enough to drive can register," Watt said. "We will have a drawing at the end of the parade (Dec. 7). After the parade has concluded, we will draw a name. If the person whose name is drawn is present at the parade attendees in the same interior another name will be drawn until the car is given away."

Basically, there are three requirements: register at a sponsorship location, or several, attend the parade, and then pick the amount, know you are there. If your name is drawn, you will receive a brand new car.

"We have seen thousands gather at the location for the drawing over the years, and we think this year will be no different," Watt said.

With the high interest for a brand new car, Watt said the Liberal Christmas Parade and holiday market is slated to be the earliest named Downtown area now called "The Hub."

"Don't forget to thank the sponsors when you register, for making this possible," Watt said. "Sponsorship locations must be located yet our organizers, but visit as many locations as you can to increase your odds of winning."

CHRISTMAS PARADE
WIN A BRAND NEW FORD FOCUS!
2 P.M. - 4 P.M. SATURDAY, DEC. 7, 2013
DOWNTOWN LIBERAL

Government reopens after Congress ends 16-day shutdown

By ANDREW TAYLOR
• Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government reopened for from Tuesday after a battle-weary Congress approved a deal to end a 16-day shutdown and raise the debt ceiling and avert the possibility of an economy-jarring default on U.S. obligations.

Early Thursday, President Barack Obama signed the measure, which the Senate approved Wednesday night, ending a bitter with Republicans who tried to use the must-pass legislation to secure a long-shot list of GOP demands including hundreds of millions of dollars in concessions on the budget.

The White House directed all agencies to reopen promptly and in an orderly fashion. Hundreds of thousands of workers across the country are expected to return to work Thursday.

The Pentagon and shuttered national parks and monuments, and mostly closed down NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Department. Critical functions of government that were not affected by the federal employees were not their particular delayed, but the closure and uncertainty had rippled through the economy and unsettled the financial markets.

Tours were open early Thursday for the National Zoo in Washington, which closed back in 90s. "We're back from the Adventures" the Smithsonian Institution tweeted. Other Smithsonian museums would reopen Thursday and the National Zoo in Washington on Friday.

Standard & Poors estimated the shutdown has taken $24 billion out of the economy. The Fitch ratings agency warned Tuesday that it was reviewing its AAA rating on U.S. debt for a possible downgrade.

Obama and his Democratic allies in Capitol Hill won the decisive measure in the fight which was spelled by two parties. Republicans, who had sought to use the shutdown to extract concessions from Obama, were forced to cave in and accept a nationally routine, short-term deal to fund the government and raise the nation's borrowing limit.

"We fought the good fight. We just didn't win it," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., who conceded in a radio interview the vote gives positive reviews from Republicans for his handling of the crisis. Enough to open support for someone group for conservatives for Incoming House GOP conference.

For Republican Sen. John McCain, a

See SHUTDOWN/Page 5A

President Barack Obama makes a statement in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013. The Senate voted to avert a government default and reopen the government, ending a 16-day partial shutdown. AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais