November 6, 2013

Written by Larry Phillips
Wednesday, 06 November 2013 11:18 -

If you choke a smurf, what color does it turn?
Thursday Prime Rib
44 Village Plaza • Liberal, KS • 620-626-4400 Monday - Saturday
BILLY'S BLUE DUCK BBQ, VOTED AMERICA'S BEST RESTAURANT & TRADE STRAIGHT.

Dillon's robbed
Robber claimed he was armed, fled with cash
By LARRY PHILLIPS
Leader & Times

Authorities were working a robbery Tuesday morning and looking for the perpetrator throughout the remainder of the day.

Dillon's was robbed by a male who had armed man, according to a press statement released by Liberal Police Capt. Phil McCullough.

The robbery occurred at about 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of robbery at Dillon's Supermarket (at1 1027 N. Kansas Avenue) McCullough said.

"Investigators learned that the male suspect entered the store and approached the customer service desk. The suspect produced a firearm and indicated he was armed and demanded cash. After receiving the money the suspect left the store in an unknown direction.

"No injuries were reported," McCullough added.

"Witnesses described the suspect as a white male in his 70s to approximately 5feet, 6 inches tall and weighing 160. He was clean shaven and wore a dark hat, dark jacket and dark pants," McCullough stated. "The suspect may be driving a red 2000 Chevy Tahoe with Kansas license plate 126AFF.

Any person that might have information regarding the crime is encouraged to call the Liberal Police Department at 620-626-0160 or Crime Stoppers at 624-8001. Crimestop provides information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the crime, see eligible for a reward.

DAYCARE AS USUAL
New facility provides childcare option
Page 3A

Get an early start to the holiday shopping season Thursday at the
Holiday Open House
Page 6A

NATIONAL TENNIS CHAMPS
Seward honors doubles champions
Page 7A

tinsel & treat
WIN A NEW CAR
Sign up to be entered to win the Santa's Christmas car, a new 2013 Ford Focus SE Sedan, to be raffled at the Dec. 7 Christmas Parade in Liberal. Drawing winner will be drawn. You must be in attendance to win the car. Parade starts at 6 p.m. Dec. 7. The following schedule of where the car will be on display:
CHRISTMAS PARADE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 • 6 P.M.
DOWNTOWN LIBERAL
Thursday:
4:30 to 9 p.m. – Downtown Open House – at Fashion Tree, Yippee Yi Yea, Girlfriends, Flower Basket, Scout & Outdoor Shop, Downtown Brown's and Spalon.
Saturday:
1 to 5 p.m. – Squeaky Clean Car Wash

BASEMENT
Music • Drinks • Fun
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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2013
LEADER & TIMES
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Sen. Moran sponsors bill to allow Kansans to keep their health care plans

• Special to the Leader & Times

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) joined Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) in introducing S. 1657, the "Keep Your Health Plan Act of 2013" (S. 1657 or H. Act – legislation to follow through on President Obama's broken promise "If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan. Period.

The bill would make the grandfathered health care plans of Kansans with pre-existing and genuine disability the potentials to keep the plans they already have.

"At least 20 times, President Obama promised Americans that if you like the insurance you have, you could keep it under Obamacare," Moran said. Despite the Presidential unprofed promises, the fact is that thousands of individuals and families across the country have received letters from their insurers who have had their health plans cancelled because they do not meet the law's requirements. Unfortunately, many of these folks like their own health care and should be able to choose the plans they want. The legislation would allow those individuals who wish to keep Democrats to the up to the promise they made to Americans, even if they do not want Obamacare.

The Washington Post's 'Fact Checker' gave President Obama's pledge that "no one will be forced to change their health care in Obamacare" rating, its highest classification, of (plus.)

"Sen. and attorney stated in every more Americans have lost their health insurance than have enrolled in coverage under Obamacare. Young Americans and middle-income families are experiencing premium increases they cannot afford, and workers are seeing their hours reduced and their wages cut because of the mandates of this law.

Moran strongly opposes Obamacare and believes it is time to repeal the law in its demonstrable flaw and replace it with practical reforms that are workable and will lower the cost of health care.

In July President Obama acknowledged that a significant component of Obamacare – the employer mandate – would be delayed for employer-providers. The following week, Sen. Moran offered amendments to the Senate Appropriations Committee to delay both the employer mandate and individual mandate. Unfortunately, both amendments were defeated on party-line votes.

Moran also is a co-sponsor of the "Delay Cadillac Tax Protection Act," legislation introduced by Senator Johnson (R-Wis.) to delay the tax on Obamacare's individual mandate and it can be certified that the law's website and its exchanges are operational and secure.

It is blatantly unfair for the federal government to punish individuals for not purchasing a product government mandates them to do when the Administration's incompetence has made it impossible for people to do so. Obamacare is a law that should be repealed and replaced, but until that happens American individuals and families need to be protected from the damage created by Obamacare.

National Beef closes temporarily for 'operational issues'
By LARRY PHILLIPS
Leader & Times

Despite company rumors, National Beef's recent shutdowns had nothing to do with disease or contamination of cattle.

National Beef spokesman Keith Nelly was contacted Tuesday morning and stated that the closure was due to internal operations.

"Operational issues caused National Beef to temporarily suspend production at our Liberal, Kansas facility," Nelly stated. Another allusion, adding "We have resumed production on 20 shift (today) (Tuesday).

National Beef had shut down Saturday than cooling rumors throughout the weekend.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper speaks at an election party Tuesday in Denver. Voters in Colorado voted on Amendment 66 to finance a tax hike that would have created changes for how Colorado spends its education. (Photo by Kristen Wyatt)

Colorado's mixed tax votes leave future unclear
By MAUREEN O and KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER – Colorado's contested political scenery was on full display Tuesday with voters overwhelmingly approving taxes on marijuana sales but rejecting an income tax hike for schools.

The results suggest this state is a place for both political parties preparing for bigger races next year.

Democrats pushing a $1 billion income tax increase to overhaul the state's funding system for schools were the clear losers in the election.

See VOTING Page 13

SW Kansas Black Hills customers to benefit from pipeline purchase

• Provided by Black Hills Energy

Black Hills Energy natural gas customers in Kansas will benefit from a recent purchase of a 30-mile segment of natural gas transmission pipeline from Southside Pipelines Corp.

The pipeline stretches from Hugoton to Liberal providing access to industrial and irrigation customers. The pipeline will also provide alternate supplies of natural gas to Black Hills Energy customers in Southwest Kansas.

"This purchase will streamline processes for maintaining safe, reliable natural gas service to our customers along this pipeline and into the Black Hills Energy system," said Scott Doyle, President, Kansas Gas Service. "Our employees are excited about building relationships with new customers we now serve as part of this transaction. Our current customers will benefit from a heightened level of service and we look forward to serving our new customers over time access to a new supply of natural gas."

Black Hills Energy employees were approximately 1,000 customers in Kansas. Black Hills Energy operates throughout southwest Kansas. Hugoton based in the Liberal office will provide service to customers along the pipeline and Black Hills Energy operations offices in Dodge City and Garden City serving the region.

The transaction follows regulatory approval from the Kansas Corporation Commission. "Black Hills Energy is a stable company and we are always open to this sort of opportunities for growth," Meyer said. "We are dedicated to providing exceptional value to our natural gas customers throughout Kansas and in Colorado, Iowa and Nebraska."

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