November 6, 2013

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 & TEXAS STRAIGHOUT.

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 masked armed man, according to a press statement released by Liberal Police Chief Phil McClung.

The robbery happened at about 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of robbery at Dillon's Supermarket, 1417 N. Kansas Avenue. McClung said in a statement.

"Investigators learned that the male suspect entered the store and approached the customer service desk. He produced a firearm and verbally indicated he was armed and demanded cash. After receiving the money the suspect left the store on foot," McClung said.

"No suspect was suspected," McClung noted.

"Witnesses described the suspect as a white male in his 70s to approximately 80s. A hat was worn and a scarf was used to cover the face. Witnesses also described the suspect as being a white male, clothing "The suspect may be driving a red 2000 Chevy Tahoe with Kansas license plate [illegible]."

Any persons that might have information regarding the crime is encouraged to call the Liberal Police Department at 620-624-0100 or Crime Stoppers at 313-8383. Persons providing information leading to the arrest of those responsible for this crime are eligible for a reward.

DAYCARE AS USUAL

New facility provides childcare option

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Get an early start to the holiday shopping season Thursday at the

Holiday Open House

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NATIONAL TENNIS CHAMPS

Seward honors doubles champions

Page 7A

BASEMENT
Music • Drinks • Fun
Open Late on Friday & Saturday

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2013
LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 127 years

WIN A NEW CAR

Sign up to win entry for trail of the footsteps where you see the 2013 Chantilly car, a new 2013 Ford Fiesta. Winner will be drawn at the Dec. 7th Christmas Parade. Sign up at Downtown stores will be drawn. You must be in attendance to win the car. Parade starts at 6 p.m. Follow the following schedule of where the car will be on display:

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

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 Health Care Choice Act of 2013 (Freedom 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 and Americans and provide flexibility for individuals 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 President's repeated promises, the fact is that thousands of individuals and families across the country have received cancellation notices that have had their health plans cancelled because they do not meet the law's requirements, forcing them to pay more for a plan that costs health care and should be free to choose the plans they want. The legislation I introduce today with Senator Johnson and Democrats to live up to the promise they made to Americans, even if they do not want to keep their plan."

The Washington Post's 'Fact Checker' gave President Obama's pledge that "no one will lose the health care plan they like" a Pinocchio rating – its highest classification of falsity.

"An unfortunate reality is many more Americans have lost their health insurance than have enrolled in coverage under Obamacare. Young Americans and middle-income families are experiencing dramatic increases they cannot afford, and workers are seeing their hours reduced and their paychecks cut because of the mandates of the law.

Moran strongly supports Obamacare and believes it is time for the law to be fully dismantled the law and replace it with practical reforms that are workable and will lower health care costs for all.

In July President Obama acknowledged that a significant component of Obamacare – the law's employer mandate – would be suspended indefinitely. 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's Freedom Act is an original cosponsor of the 'Delay Only Fully Functional Act,' legislation introduced by Senator Johnson and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.). After Obamacare's individual mandate and it can be certified that the law's website and all other technical components are working.

It is blatantly unfair for the federal government to punish individuals for not complying with a mandate that it itself has been to delay. But Administration incompetence has made it impossible for the law to be implemented. The law should be repealed and replaced, but until that happens American individuals and families need the protection from the chaos created by Obamacare.

MORAN

National Beef closes temporarily for 'operational issues'

by LARRY PHILLIPS
• Leader & Times

Despite rampant rumors, National Beef's recent shutdowns have nothing to do with disease or contamination, officials say.

National Beef spokesman Keith Nutty was contacted Tuesday and said the company's staff that the closure was due to internal operations.

"Operational issues caused National Beef to temporarily cease operations at its Liberal, Kan., plant," Nutty said. Another alternative, adding "We have resumed production on 20-Bell tender (Thursday)."

National Beef had shut down Saturday thus creating rumors throughout the weekend.

Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper speaks at at an election party Tuesday. Voters in Colorado voted on 10 Amendments to Denver Tuesday, including Amendment 66 that would have created a new tax charges for new Colorado K-12 public education. (Photo/AP)

Colorado's mixed tax votes leave future unclear

By SAM FECHNEY and KRISTEN WYATT
• Associated Press

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

The results suggest the state is in a place for both political parties preparing for bigger issues next year.

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

See VOTING Page 11

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 the purchase of Atmos Energy's distribution of natural gas transmission pipeline from Southwest Pipeline Corp.

The pipeline stretches from Hugoton to Liberal providing access to substantial natural gas reservoirs. 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," said Jim Mavity, Black Hills Energy's interim president, vice president and general manager. "We look forward to strengthening our relationships with our customers to save more as part of this transaction. Our current customers will benefit from a heightened level of reliability and security of supply, and our Southwest Kansas counties now have access to a new supply of natural gas."

Black Hills Energy employees were approximately 100 miles from the pipeline. Black Hills Energy operations throughout southwest Kansas. Employees based in the Liberal office will provide service to customers along the pipeline, including the Black Hills Energy offices in Dodge City and Garden City serving the region.

The transaction follows required approval from the Kansas Corporation Commission. Black Hills Energy is a stable company and we are always open to this strategic opportunities for growth," Mavity said. "We are dedicated to providing uncompromised service to our natural gas customers throughout Kansas and in Colorado, Iowa and Nebraska."

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Liberal, Kansas