The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
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Lucky Seven

Board passes bond proposal with 7-0 vote

By MICHEL COLLYNSW
• Leader & Times

In a deliberate show of solidarity the USD 480 board of education voted 7-0 Monday night to approve a resolution calling for a $127 million bond election.

The board's action comes after a year-long effort by the district will move forward with construction projects designed to alleviate overcrowding in the district, which currently has students in temporary classrooms. Some students are required to make no-bus stops from kindergarten to high school graduation.

A small crowd of about 30 people broke into applause as board president Debbie Kinney announced the final tally.

◆ See PROPOSAL/Page 3A

TUESDAY JANUARY 21, 2014
LEADER & TIMES
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Birders reach rarefied Kansas air

By MICHAEL KUBICA
• The Wichita Eagle

One of Pete Dunnock's biggest birds is a long, thrilling, pretty-into-a, common great horned owl near Hugoton. Dunnock, a Wichita resident, saw a Mexican Mikki-crowned sparrow in a strange region of Kansas.

For both Wichitans, these western Kansas birds marked the milestones of birding. 350 species of birds

◆ See BIRDERS/Page 4A

GROUNDHOG SUPPER

• Ground to the Leader & Times

Lone Star Friends Church will host its 29th annual Groundhog Supper from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31.

The event will feature a variety of soups, chili, pies, pastry, salads and homemade pies. There nothing to attend are reminded that, with the following half-hour, the church's annual Groundhog Day will be ground there with no-show to emerge. The supper also only for a fee will donation at the door.

The church is located at 1 Lone Star Road 9 miles north of Liberal on U.S. Hwy. 83 then 3 miles west on Hwy. 32. For photos and more information, visit the Lone Star Friends Church page on Facebook.

Lt. governor's $500K loan to gov. not unusual

SUMMA (AP) — While a $500,000 loan from Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer to the re-election campaign of Republican Gov. Sam Brownback raised a few eyebrows, it wasn't the first time a state official made a loan.

Colyer made the contribution to Brownback's campaign on Dec. 31, the last day of the second quarter of campaign finance reports. Brownback's need for the proceeding 12 months is more than $1.8 million. Before the loan, the campaign had raised funds sought only $1.3 million raised by prominent Democratic nominee Paul Tonko.

The Kansas City Star reported that the practice of loans to candidates has been on the rise in recent years in U.S. politics. The practice is legal.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, candidates have loaned a total of $1.4 million to their bids on campaigns in 2012. The National Institute on Money in State Politics found that in 2010 that the top-ten loans made to state candidates, ranking by total campaign, an average of 65 percent of all the money they were able to raise.

Jeff Colyer's loan contribution are a sign that Brownback is trying to shore Democratic and donors that he is not taking this race lightly.

Colyer is a Brownback campaign position — a Republican question in a Republican state — the perception that a Democrat has pulled even with even in no good and Michael Tomlin, a political science professor at Wichita State University.

Colyer and the advertising that will result from the money will outweigh any negativity attached to it.

The Colyer contribution was an effort on the part of Brownback's campaign to show that the state of Kansas and make sure that it was ahead or even is going to speed the re-election apple cart, said Washburn University professor Bob Beatty. Brownback and his campaign team indicate any notion that his re-election effort was in trouble and Colyer's loan.

"I am committed to Kansas and doing everything I can to serve this state," Brownback told The Star in a statement. "Jeff and I are working together and campaign to continue to serve the state of Kansas."

Kansas campaign finance laws do not restrict how much candidates can loan to their campaigns, said Carol Williams, executive director of the commission, and individuals outside the campaign may make loans. Loans, unlike other contributions, are not limited by the amount a contribution, subject to the $2,000 donation cap, each for the primary and general election.

Jeff Colyer's campaign has raised money for his campaign, collecting contributions from labor organizations and the legal community including Alan Rupe, a Wichita attorney suing the state over school funding.

Law affects those with insurance thru work too

By GREGG JONESLM and
• Associated Press
• Associated Press

The health care evidently stretch far beyond the million of uninsured Americans it is expected to help. It also could touch everything from the drug chain to the doctor's office and even how insurance through work.

The law only expected to prompt employers to drop coverage for workers was probably overblown, research shows. But overlooked, dispute claims by the Obama administration, is the potential for an Obama impact on certain other ways the law can deep impacts on the benefits of workers who have employer-sponsored coverage through their jobs.

IS MY JOB SAFE?

Republicans have called the overhaul a job-killer because it ties health care perks, paid because of the law's requirement that companies with 50 or more workers offer health insurance or defined as those working 30 hours or more — health coverage.

Many employers responded and they are cutting back hours workers have to keep those below that threshold. Some are cutting back on full-time jobs.

CBS News Radio told a credit union trade publication last month: "We don't want to be in the position of having to take care of people who need to know people need the money."

Yet the vast majority of companies covering employees' hours actually drowing up in the official Nov. employment numbers. In fact, recent government figures show the opposite, with employers adding more workers and about the entire number of hours put in over ago. And the number of part-time workers who would prefer full-time work has been at more than a year ago.

And not every employer is looking to cut back on workers. Walmart, which has 2.2 million workers and up to 80 others during the holiday party season, said it plans to add 10,000 full-time workers since 1994. It believes the law has stimulated what he pays for employee benefits.

Bostic, whose subsidiary Chicago company is too small to fall under the law, said it plans to add more health benefits about good workers. "Good employees aren't a dime a dozen," he said. "I need a cook who doesn't put too much pasta on the vegetable from his sandwich. I need driver who doesn't get lost."

Bostic's long-time yet before larger employers would pay a penalty for not providing health insurance to full-time workers, the heart of the law's coverage requirement, was delayed until 2015. So the law's biggest hitting effects could be ahead.

WILL I PAY MORE?

Many companies already are starting to change benefits to avoid or minimize the impact of the Affordable Care Act's tax, which kicks in in 2018. One way a company can lower the cost is by shifting more employees' cost-of-health expenses.

So, every plan must introduce a bigger share of the cost of the care workers have to pay for care before most coverage starts. It also might require workers to pay more for some care, often in the form of a higher co-payment.

Employers think these moves also will help control rising health care costs, a problem that has been around longer than the overhaul. The idea is that workers will be more careful if they face a $1,000 deductible before insurance coverage starts will dwarfs around for the rest on the bills than doctors ordered.

Overall, the federal law could raise premiums for employer-sponsored health plan from 3 percent to 5 percent, said Tracy Watts, a senior adviser with the human resources consultant Mercer.

Employees pays a portion of that total through paycheck deductions, and whether those grow will depends on how the law affects employer health insurance costs could rise if your coverage has to be adjusted to meet a government requirement. Some of employers would be covering more people.

The standard also requires coverage of 10 of health conditions considered essential, including things like mental health treatments and pediatric dental and vision care. A company's costs could rise if they don't already cover everything on that list. That could than be passed on to workers.

Taxes and fees required by the law also could add to insurance bills.

WILL MY COVERAGE CHANGE?

The law may prompt some companies to drop coverage for their workers and send them to shop for their public health insurance exchanges.

Some businesses also may start offering workers a cash payment to help but most companies have avoided doing that, said Jim Winkler of the Society for Human Resource Management.

And drug plans also may start offering fewer choices for prescriptions to control costs, Watts said, meaning that people can lose. The 2010 law that is restricting companies to adjust their health plans to meet the law's requirements from to ensure the law of

◆ See OBMACARE/Page 4A

In Dec. 31, 2013, photo, a 1-hour-old girl, who declined to be identified, makes a purchase at a vending machine in Austin. Office workers in search of snacks will be coming scarce along with their charge cards now labeling the machines must be equipped to accept payment by plastic or mobile phone. Under a rule issued by the Obama Administration, which is expected to release that rule early next year, cups requiring calorie information to be displayed on roughly 2 million vending machines nationwide will help consumers make healthier choices. AP photo/Eric Gregory

Vol. 128 • Iss. 225 • 12 Pages
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