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Downtown updates brand as 'The ROCK'

By RACHEL COLEMAN
Leader & Times

The approach of Christmas means it's time for the annual Downtown Liberal holiday festivities and a return of Santa Claus to the forefront of shoppers' minds. Around this time of year, a group called "The Rock," from Liberal, an informal group charged to remind people what started it all.

Traditionally downtown was the heart of local business, until Garden Grove owner Dwight Eisenhower built a grocery store and office city at the south end of downtown proper. Between the high railroad traffic, increasing traffic on the Federal Depot, and the building of the Eisenhower Highway on Kansas Avenue, downtown was the beginning of local business.

"In effect, the focus is moving. Most people, when they're coming to the downtown business connection to and which was instrumental in establishing it," he said.

"We haven't got to really ground floor of the idea," said Tanner. It "has swept Main Street and Kansas Avenue and has been a good thing, but sometimes it's hard to

See THE ROCK Page 3A

the death of Camelot

Nation still questions the assassination of John F. Kennedy 50 years later

Page 5A, 7A, 8A

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WINTER IS HERE
See details as of 9:30 a.m. Today
Page 2A

tinsel & tread

CHRISTMAS PARADE
WITH A BRAND NEW FORD FOCUS
1 P.M.-4 P.M. SATURDAY, DEC. 7, 2013
DOWNTOWN LIBERAL

Sign up 2 pm entry per trial at the business where you live. Then, at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, the names will be made once more at the Dec. 7 Christmas Parade, when the winning name will be drawn. You need be in attendance to win the car. Details expire at 4 p.m. Here is the following schedule of where the car will be on display:

Today:
11 a.m. to noon - Fitzhen Furniture
Noon to 1 p.m. - Dairyland
Saturday:
11 a.m. to noon - Fitzhen Furniture
Noon to 1 p.m. - WhataSpa Tack Care Center
Sunday:
Noon to 6 p.m. - Market Place at Southgate

POWER GRAB IN THE SENATE

Senate Democrats rewrite rules, erasing 225 years of filibuster rights of the minority

By ALAN FANN
• Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats used the way for swift approval of President Barack Obama's current and future nominees on Thursday, employing the nuclear option to change Senate precedent and undermine Republicans' ability to block final votes.

The 52-48 vote to end-to-end votes to filibuster rules to presidential nominees except more than a decade of struggle in which presidents of both parties have complained that the Senate is confirming appointees, particularly to the federal courts.

At the White House, Obama applauded the vote. He said Republicans had used obstructing tactics "as a politics and refused to live by good of business to a halt."

"That's fully not what our founders intended. And it's certainly not what our country needs right now," Obama said.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who launched the effort, accused Republicans of "unprecedented obstruction" in blocking many of Obama's selections to fill court vacancies and other offices.

"It has to change the Senate, before the next leader becomes shoeless," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., speaks to the media on Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday. AP photo/Pascal Sabo Caron

His Republican counterpart, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky accused Democrats of exercising raw power and said they would regret it when political fortunes switched.

"Mr. Majority Leader, I think you probably should have predicted yesterday that America one who has their health care can keep it under 'Obamacare,' noting that Democrats had used the nuclear option in 2010 to change the process for approving appointees. "It's may as well just have said, 'If you like the rules of the Senate, you can keep them,'" McConnell said.

It now was a rule that can require a 60-vote majority to assure a yes-or-no vote on presidential nominees to the courts or to Cabinet departments or other agencies.

Under the parliamentary maneuver adopted in advance, Democrats led by Reid sought to change proceedings so that only a simple majority was required to end debate and vote.

Supreme Court nominations would be exempted from the change and subject to a traditional

See GRAB Page 5A

Groups want into suit over Kan., Ariz., voter laws

TOPEKA (AP) — The national League of Women Voters and other groups have asked a federal judge in Kansas for permission to intervene in a federal lawsuit over proof-of-citizenship laws in the two states.

The motion filed Thursday in Kansas in a federal court case in Kansas. The national advocacy group Common Cause, three Arizona-based Hispanic-rights groups and an Arizona political consultant also filed requests to intervene.

The lawsuit, filed by Washington-based voter registration group, three Arizona-based advocacy groups and an Arizona state senator sought to intervene.

They're trying to force the federal government to modify a national voter registration form to help the state enforce a law that requires Kansas voters to produce citizenship papers when registering.

Kan. killing draws attention to resource 'gap'

By STEPHEN KOEPNICK
Gannon Journal Writer

LAWRENCE — At the center of Lawrence's sacred hospitals of 2121 is the site of the state's concrete era but with ongoing health problems.

Larry J. Hopkins 57, is scheduled to return to Douglas County Courthouse on Monday for a hearing to help determine whether a mental health evaluation will find him competent to stand trial in the Nov. 5 shooting death of his brother, Lawrence.

For years, Hopkins suffered from arthritis, diabetes and nerve damage before have problems further

See KILLING Page 5A

Larry Lee Hopkins waits for a first-appearance teleconference in the Douglas County jail in Lawrence on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Hopkins is charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of his brother, Lawrence D. Hopkins at his home in Lawrence on Tuesday, Nov. 5. AP photo/Jaymes Langrehr/The World/File

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