How many of you believe in telekinesis? Raise my hand.
Thursday Prime Rib
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March winds ended last night

NOAA forecasts that all the strong March winds ended Monday night.
(But today, the April winds begin — happy April Fool's Day)

No injuries in collision on Pershing
Page 3A

Meade's 1st Trout Derby
Page 6A

Area champs prep for college's Extreme Challenge
Page 8A

Holton man dies in tractor accident in NE Kansas

HOLTON (AP) — A northeast Kansas man died after a tractor accident near Holton.

Jackson County Sheriff Frank Hiebert says a relative found Ora Amy Monday after the tractor he was driving rolled down a ravine and injured him. The accident happened north of Holton.

The man's name has not been released.

TUESDAY APRIL 1, 2014
LEADER & TIMES
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Kansas man accused in guitar string decapitation

LINTON (AP) — A man accused of beheading a Navajo woman with a guitar string three years ago was declared competent to stand trial after he pleaded not guilty to premeditated first-degree murder.

Conner Dael Harris kept the head of 49-year-old Janice Gorny to talk to it after Gorny was killed sometime in March or April of 2010, police said. Gorny's body was found in a shallow grave, but her head was not for June 25. The Topeka Capital-Journal reports.

During a preliminary hearing Monday, 14. Harris' former girlfriend, Debbie Williams, testified that he told her he don't invite to the stomach, tortured him for two days and threw cut off his head. Topeka police

See DECAPITATION Page 3A

Kan. Senate to debate bill voiding local gun rules

TOPEKA (AP) — The Kansas Senate is preparing to debate a proposal to strip cities and counties if they enforce federal gun firearms and void existing local gun ordinances.

The bill on the Senate's debate calendar Tuesday would prohibit the state carrying of firearms is legal to use the entry.

The Kansas State Rifle Association and other gun-rights groups support the measure, saying they argue that a patchwork of local regulations confuses gun owners and endangers sport gun-ownership rights. Opponents say the bill would undermine local control.

Critics of the bill contend that cities and counties have best whether gun restrictions are appropriate for their communities.

A Kansas House committee replaced similar legislation earlier this month, but the House has yet to consider it.

Deadline brings high interest for health insurance

The months ahead will show whether the Affordable Care Act will meet its mandate to provide affordable health care coverage or whether high deductibles, paperwork snags and narrow physician networks make it a bust

By LEVI LUSK
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A Merced, yearned about three and unsuitable solution linked to stop from trying to sign up for health coverage by the midnight Monday deadline for President Barack Obama's signature domestic policy initiative.

Others were still in the throes of a last-minute logjam when Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee received nearly 200,000 visits to its website in the hour after 800 the previous Monday. And in California, where enrollments surged toward the Obama administration's original projection of 13 million, the state's insurance exchange is months off a hot fast burn on its website and encourage people to submit their applications in the days ahead.

Across the nation, the interest in buying insurance through the federal or state exchanges has made clear to interviews with enrollment counselors and others.

"I have not had a shortage in over 25 years," said Deanna Gilbert, a 52-year-old from Merced who has been on the waiting list to become a Wisconsin law to get enrollment assistance. "I told myself, 'You need to do this. Your daughter loves you and needs you.'"

The rush to sign up, though nearly boosted the number of Americans gaining coverage under the new law, also has created a backlog that has frustrated those that the 7 million people had been covered. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the administration's plans before Obama announcement.

The possible ahead will show whether the Affordable Care Act will meet its mandate to provide affordable health care coverage or whether high deductibles, paperwork snags and narrow physician networks make it a bust.

The administration has cast and how many of those who should have signed up closed the deal by getting their last their premiums. Only after someone's coverage is confirmed is how many were previously uninsured — the real test of Obama's health care overhaul. In addition, the free expanded coverage for low-income people through Medicaid in more than half the states have agreed to implement that option.

Even so, the law's supporters already have their sights on Tuesday 2.5 — how for the next open enrollment season commencing Nov. 15.

The advocacy group Families USA, which backs the law, has released data from the inception, phase to release a 4.5 point package of improvements Tuesday that can be implemented administratively without the approval of Congress. Among the recommendations: more money for outreach and assistance to enrollment with troubling reasons to better show the consequences of choosing not to buy insurance, and penalties for smokers or California has done and improving coordination

See DEADLINE Page 3A

Firefighter rescues 6-foot python from blaze

MUSKEGON, Mich. (AP) — A firefighter put his reptile-handling experience to good use when he rescued a 6-foot-long python from a burning home in western Michigan.

Muskegon firefighter Scott Hommeldonck told The Muskegon Chronicle that he reluctantly agreed to enter the two-story, smoke-filled house Sunday night to retrieve the snake. He says he stuffed the "weighty" snake before carrying it to safety.

Hommeldonck found the six coils of his homeless and got out. "Hommeldonck said. "The fire was pushed up in the eaves and trying to get out. There was a lot of smoke. We had to get it out."

The firefighter said he learned how to handle snakes while he was at Grand Haven High School, where he helped electrician Burns.

"I take them around and show them to the kids in the elementary classes," he said. "That didn't bother me at all."

When Hommeldonck reached the python inside the house, he grabbed it behind the head and pulled it out. "I removed the screen off the top and knew to approach it by coming up behind her head. He became very calm, and I was glad because that meant that he was [illegible]."

Two people in the house escaped without injury. Fire officials say the blaze significantly damaged the home, and the cause is under investigation.

"I would do it for any creature," Hommeldonck said. "I'm just glad it had a happy ending."

In this photo provided by Gordon Cole, firefighter Scott Hommeldonck holds a python after rescuing it from a burning home in Muskegon, Mich., on Sunday. Hommeldonck said that he reluctantly agreed to enter the two-story, smoke-filled house Sunday night to retrieve the snake. He says he stabbed the "weighty" snake before carrying it to safety. (Photo/Courtesy Gordon Cole)