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Seward County Historical Society will host
Christmas Open House

Hugoton school district applies for 'innovative district' status
Page 5A

HAY RIDES
Part of Parks and Rec's Christmas activities
Page 3A

Who owns shooting range?
According to 1994 deed, county owns gun range
Page 5A

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 13, 2013
LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 127 years

Community speaks loud, clear
No new high school building; keep two middle-school model
by RACHEL COLEMAN
• Leader & Times

Representatives from USD 480's architect firm spent this week bringing local residents and through the options for improving the district's schools. Thursday night, they came to a School Board to report what they learned.

Several things were clear. Chief among them:

"It looks like the majority of people in Liberal do not want to build a new high school," said Representative Jim Kaiser. "And most of the folks like having two middle schools and don't want to go to

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tinsel & tread
CHRISTMAS PARADE
WIN A BRAND NEW FORD F-150
3 PM - 4 PM SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 2013
DOWNTOWN LIBERAL
Signup your entry per truck at the business where you see the 2013 Christmas car, a new 2013 Ford Focus, and maybe now you're at Big Lou, 19 Christmas Parade Day, Saturday, December 14, 2013 to see if you are the attendance to win the car. Thanks state of Lou. Stop at the following schedule of where the car will be on Saturday.
Today:
10 a.m. to noon - Fashion Emporium
1 to 4 p.m. - Goldbrick

Some Kan. lawmakers to fight wind power incentives

See WIND Page 5A

L&T now accepting 'Dear Santa' letters
— Staff report

The staff at the Leader & Times has contacted Santa Claus and he has agreed to be in office "Dear Santa" letters and forward them to him at the North Pole. Children are encouraged to write to Santa and send them to the L&T by Dec. 20. Letters will be delivered to Santa by Dec. 23. Letters should be addressed to "Santa" and can be e-mailed to santa@leadertimes.com.

The letters must be received by noon Friday, Dec. 20. Only letters received by that deadline will be delivered. They will also be published in the Leader & Times — exactly as written — on Sunday, Dec. 22.

Judge to hear arguments in voter citizenship suit
by SUSANNA HEGEMAN
• Associated Press

WICHITA — A federal judge will hear arguments Friday in the lawsuit filed by Kansas and Arizona requesting a court order to compel officials in 17 states to change the chart for two states on a federal notice: proof-of-citizenship requirements for voters in the state and of the 2014 midterm elections.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett want the federal court to order the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to make the states' requirements for voters in federal elections — Kansas and Arizona residents to provide a birth certificate, passport or other proof of U.S. citizenship when they register to vote.

Kobach has pushed the proof-of-citizenship policy as a way to prevent non-citizens — particularly immigrants living in the U.S. without legal permission — from registering and voting in elections.

The U.S. Justice Department, which is representing the election commission, has argued that the change to the chart for two states violates the requirements in the federal form for residents of Kansas and Arizona to vote in federal elections. Justice officials argue the policy is illegal because it might encourage many states to seek increased proof of citizenship from people who want to vote in federal elections. The current federal registration form requires only that someone sign a statement that he or she is a U.S. citizen.

The lawsuit, to be heard by U.S. District Judge Sam Sebelius in Wichita, was sparked by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that states in most cases could not refuse to accept the national voter registration form, even though people who use it aren't required to provide citizenship documents (Arizona instituted its proof-of-citizenship policy in 2004).

Kansas and Arizona contend that states may ask specific requirements of people who want to vote in ways that would be limited to authorize a credit card transaction. Motor-voter rules in other states have allowed registration form stamps designed specifically for Clerks a chief registration system, which would allow people who don't comply with the proof-of-citizenship rule could vote in any race on the ballot. But a court ruling in Kansas last year ordered that provisional ballots cast by people who weren't eligible to vote only in presidential U.S. Senate and congressional elections.

The Justice Department says changing the federal requirements would place an additional obstacle in the way of eligible citizens seeking to vote in federal elections and interfere with the federal election system, the Voter Registration Act of 1993, the Help America Vote Implementation Act and the balance of power between Congress and the states established in the U.S. Constitution.

Michigan was a member of the lawsuit when it was filed in June, but was being appointed to the federal judiciary by President George W. Bush. Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson joined the lawsuit in November, the U.S. attorney for Kansas was both nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by Republicans from serving as Kansas governor. Michigan worked as a legislative assistant for Hutchinson in 1995.

Kobach has been strong criticism from groups who say the law would suppress voter turnout.

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