December 13, 2013

Friday, 13 December 2013 11:05

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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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Lost in the Vicinity of 11th & Prospect Liberal KS

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 architectural firm spent this week bringing local residents and through the options for repairing the district's schools. Thursday night, they gave the school board a report of 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," Representative Jeremy Hoover said. "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 P.M. - 5 P.M. SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 2013
DOWNTOWN LIBERAL

Signup time enter pre-start at the Intersection where you see the 2013 Christmas car, a new 2013 Ford Focus and maybe some extras at Big Lots. 10 Christmas Parade Floats will be decorated with Tinsel & Tread Gift Certificates to wish the our Friends state of Grace. Here is the following schedule of where the car will be on Saturday:

Today:
10 a.m. to noon - Fashion Outsiders
3 to 5 p.m. - Goldfinch

Some Kan. lawmakers to fight wind power incentives

MCPHERSON — Some conservative leaders in the Kansas Legislature say they will try again during the next session to pass a law that would bar efforts to require utilities to provide more wind power.

Opponents of wind power say that would limit an industry that has grown in Kansas since state officials implemented the requirement, with more growth planned. In 2009 law, the Renewable Energy Standards requires 20 percent of their power from wind or other renewable sources by 2020 — a requirement they met.

The law nearly was repealed in the last legislative session, falling a vote short in the House of Representatives. The Wichita Eagle reported.

Wind power last year reached a 2009 wind energy capacity in Kansas but jumped from about 1,000 megawatts to 2,000 megawatts in 2013, with other projects in the planning stages.

Rep. Steve Brunk, R-Wichita, chairman of the House Energy and Environment Committee, supports the requirements. He said the energy sources should be on the same level and the top priority should be providing the lowest cost for consumers.

Brunk said he is partially feeling the pinch and the state limiting the most are those on fixed incomes. In

Kansas Corporation Commission documents show the average residential customer pays for the — Westar, Kansas City Power & Light, Empire District Electric, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Sunflower Energy, Midwest Energy, Mid-Kansas Electric — are on track to meet the 2016

Wichita said last week that he expects to construct a 300 MW wind eliminate the 2020 requirement. Kansas Corporation Commission to waive the 15 percent requirement for 2020 and 20 percent requirement for that current providing wind power is significantly more costly than other renewable sources.

Anything who stands to continue to build can live on, Brunk just not wind power. Brunk said.

Wind proponents contend wind power technology improves and

• See WIND Page 5A

L&T now accepting 'Dear Santa' letters

• Staff report

The staff of the Leader & Times has contacted Santa Claus and he has agreed to let us collect "Dear Santa" letters and forward them to him at the North Pole. Children are encouraged to write to Santa and send them to the Leader & Times, where they will be forwarded to Santa. Letters to Santa Claus, Christmas Wishes and/or a wishlist to santa@leadertimes.com.

The letters must be received by noon Friday, Dec. 20. Letters will be forwarded to Santa Claus by Dec. 21. They will also be published in the Leader & Times — much as written — on Sunday, Dec. 22.

Judge to hear arguments in voter citizenship suit

by SUSAN HELPPIE
• Associated Press

WICHITA — A federal judge will hear arguments Friday in the lawsuit filed by Kansas and Arizona requesting a court order permitting them to make changes to their first-time voters and fully enforce proof-of-citizenship requirements for voters in federal elections ahead 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 changes to its voter registration form to allow Arizona and Kansas officials to provide a birth certificate, passport or other proof of U.S. citizenship when voters 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.

The U.S. Justice Department, which is representing the election commissions in the lawsuit, contends the requirements are the federal form for residents of Kansas and Arizona who have not yet provided proof of their status, although it might encourage every state to seek increased proof of citizenship for voters in state and federal elections. The current federal registration form requires only that someone sign a statement that he or she is a citizen.

The lawsuit, to be heard by U.S. District Judge Sam Sleppy in Wichita, was sparked by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that Arizona officials 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 unless they state-specific requirements for voters in federal elections, they would be forced to maintain a costly and cumbersome "bifurcated" voter registration system, because they have their own stringent registration laws. Under a dual registration system, voters who can't or don't want to comply with the proof-of-citizenship rule could vote in any race on the ballot. But people who use the federal form and who can't provide the proof papers would be eligible to vote only in presidential U.S. Senate and congressional races.

The Justice Department says changing the federal requirements would place an additional burden on the vast of eligible citizens seeking to vote in federal elections and interfere with the federal election system, the Voting Rights Act, the National Voter Registration Act and the balance of power between Congress and the states established in the U.S. Constitution.

Sleppy was a member of the three-judge panel that ruled in a lawsuit filed by Kobach and presided over the U.S. attorney for Kansas were both dismissed by President Barack Obama appointee Thomas E. Perez, now serving as Kansas governor. Sleppy ruled on a legislative standard he formulated in 1991.

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

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