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Rep. votes 'no' on bill to freeze Common Core

Risk of returning to No Child Left Behind too high

By MACIE COLEMAN
• Leader & Times

As the Kansas House of Representatives neared the end of the 2013 legislative session, Rep. Ward Penn heard the call to the floor of the Kansas Senate to vote on a bill to freeze the Common Core Standards and Kansas Core Standards.

"The bill was not going to be a mandate to schools, it would still allow the math and reading standards to be adopted," Penn said. "It allowed for expanded fitness standards for a year and would have a legislative oversight committee to be appointed to oversee implementation."

When the final votes were tallied, the bill failed, 59-56. Penn, though sanctioned to see the failure of a measure that he hoped to the Legislature supported, was relieved.

"I don't get the wrong idea — I'm not some big fan of Common Core," Penn said. "I'm not a big fan of the public schools to have to go back to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind act, and no one could vote will

See VOTE/Page 5A

Be Liberal group begins training process

2022 vision for Liberal: "Liberal is a growing community that is proactive, positive and communicating effectively to educate all residents, which will maximize individual and collective potential. Be Liberal with pride!"

Communities either grow or die, says facilitator

By MACIE COLEMAN
• Leader & Times

Listening and sharing are two skills most people hope to bankrupt. For a room full of adults at the Liberal Senior Center, the lessons revealed from Jason Thoroughman about SCCL, but he did not want cues from Liberal and Seward County residents, and he has a message.

"Don't let the Liberal dream, but our biggest expenditures are the Wichita area, the Kansas City Area," he said. "I would say the next

See BE LIBERAL/Page 5A

Technology gives birth to virtual schooling

By ROBERT PRICE
• Leader & Times

The 2013 Kansas Connections Academy graduating class gathers on stage Friday, May 31, in Wichita following commencement. Students from throughout the state attend the virtual school with an office based in Hillsboro. Courtesy photo

Hospital seeking focus group participants

• Details in the Leader & Times

Southwest Medical Center wants to hear from citizens about their concerns as part of a Community Health Needs Assessment. Both Hispanic and non-Hispanic adults and would like to take part in identifying the community health concerns, register to participate in a community member focus group.

For community members 18 and older

- Where: Conference Room No. 2 at Southwest Medical Center
- When: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday

For Hispanic community members 18 and older

- Where: Conference Room No. 2 at Southwest Medical Center
- When: 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday

For those interested in participating, please contact

See GROUP/Page 5A

Trampoline takes off over houses, ends up in tree

By ANDY FIELDS
• Leader & Times

Liberal firefighters clean up a plane of debris to remove, cut a cut, but a large trampoline from a tree Monday evening on Nelson after a storm passed through the area. The trampoline was originally in the back yard of a neighbor but ended up in a tree in Jack Barnes' front yard. No one was injured in the freak incident. Courtesy photo

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