

## Weather



**National Weather Service Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 5. West wind 10 to 15 mph.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 36. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south in the afternoon.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 10. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north after midnight.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 28. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 11.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 43.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 15.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 43.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 18.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 49.

Friday: High, 14; Low -2  
 Saturday: High, 10; Low 3  
 Sunday: High, 13; Low -8  
 Precip: Friday 0.01 inches  
 Saturday None  
 Sunday 0.01 inches  
 Month: 0.02 inches  
 Year: 14.46 inches  
 Normal: 20.86 inches  
 (K-State Experiment Station)  
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
 Tuesday 7:54 a.m. 5:21 p.m.  
 Moon: waxing, 62 percent  
 Wednesday 7:54 a.m. 5:21 p.m.  
 Moon: waxing, 72 percent  
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

# City budget changes passed

From "BUDGET," Page 1

tor, start a secondary emergency dispatch center and raise the amount for contractual services. This money comes from fees charged to telephone customers.

The Law Enforcement fund was increased about \$20,300 for a 2011 Chevy Tahoe to serve as a canine unit for the police department. The money will come from drug seizures.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a resolution to establish a rural housing district covering 17 acres near Colby Community College, the possible future site of a moderate-income housing development. Bainter Construction of Hoxie bought the land from the college in June and the council voted to annex it into the city last month.

The district has to be approved by the state before it can be set up, said City Manager Tyson McCreer, and this can take several months. State law allows any city with a population of less than

60,000 to designate such districts.

- Postponed approving a real estate agreement to put the Embark building on the market so that the agreement could be changed. The council members decided that the building at 455 N. Franklin should be listed with Stock Realty for six months, with an asking price of \$200,000, and that some of the language in the agreement should be changed. Later, McCreer stressed that the council might decide on different terms when they finally approve an agreement.

McCreer said could not think of another practical use the city might have for the building, which was purchased and remodeled for a firm which later failed. The city keeps the building at a constant temperature and pays taxes on the parking lot, he said, but otherwise is not losing money on the building by owning it.

The state is the biggest lien-holder on the property, and had been considering using it as an office. However, McCreer got the OK from the state to sell the building last month.

# Plastic gun ban likely extended

From "GUN," Page 1

struggle in 2014, complicated by internal divisions over what their next step should be.

"The gun lobby still has enormous power in Washington — more, frankly, than I thought they still had," said Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., who represented Newtown last year while in the House.

Illustrating the roadblocks that have thwarted gun control forces, an effort by Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., to make plastic guns more detectable by requiring them to have a permanent metal part seems certain to fail Monday. His plan is opposed by Republicans and the National Rifle Association.

The Senate is then expected to easily approve a 10-year extension of the ban, which would otherwise expire Tuesday.

Schumer and other Democrats, as well as gun-control advocates and law enforcement officials, say there's a problem with current law on plastic guns: It lets gun makers meet its requirements by including a metal part that can be easily detached — thus letting the weapon evade screening devices.

In a statement last week, the NRA expressed no opposition to renewing the law. But the gun lobby said it would fight any

expanded requirements, including Schumer's "or any other proposal that would infringe on our Second Amendment rights" to bear arms.

The prohibition was first enacted in 1988 under President Ronald Reagan and easily renewed twice. The House approved a 10-year extension of the ban last Tuesday.

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, says that with the law's expiration at hand, Congress should quickly enact a long extension and study Schumer's plan later. Other Republicans agree.

Supporters of tightening the rules say the 10-year renewal plays into the NRA's hands because it reduces Democrats' ability to revisit the issue.

If, as expected, Democrats fail Monday to tighten the restrictions, it will be the latest in a series of setbacks this year.

Their biggest defeat came in April, when the Senate blocked an effort to expand required background checks for firearms buyers. The proposal was Obama's top gun-control priority following the elementary school killings.

Background checks, aimed at preventing criminals and the mentally ill from getting weapons, are currently required only for purchases from licensed gun dealers. The rejected bill, by Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., and Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., would have extended the requirement to all guns bought on the Internet and at gun shows.

Also rejected in April were proposals to ban assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines, which have been used in mass shootings.

House Republican leaders never favored any of those proposals, and none came to a vote there.

But with Saturday's Newtown

anniversary drawing attention to the issue, Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Pa., a psychologist, plans to announce legislation Thursday aimed at bolstering federal mental health programs, including treatment, research and training for workers who respond to emergencies.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has gained none of the five new votes he would need to prevail on background checks.

Eager to avoid exposing potentially vulnerable Democrats seeking re-election next year to politically fraught votes, Reid has said he won't revisit the issue until he can win.

That has left gun control groups split over strategy.

Some want to pursue more modest improvements like strengthening mental health programs and broadening the scope of reports that states provide to the federal background check system.

Groups backing this approach include some Newtown families and Americans for Responsible Solutions, formed by former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., seriously wounded by a mass shooter, and her husband, former astronaut Mark Kelly.

"We see only good coming from passing mental health legislation around which there is broad bipartisan agreement," said a statement from Sandy Hook Promise, a group representing some Newtown families. "If we don't begin to bury at least some of our differences, we will continue to needlessly bury our children."

Others want to continue raising pressure on lawmakers to back strong background check requirements, and oppose settling for less.

These groups include Mayors Against Illegal Guns, led by outgoing New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

## Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the following day, space available. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

### Business After Five Wednesday at Legion

Come to the American Legion from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday for Business After Five. See the improvement, say hello and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

### Big Brothers needs clothing for 'littles'

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County's "Christmas for Kids" project runs through Saturday, Dec. 21. Get your name on a stocking at local businesses, including Dillons, F&M Bank, The Bank, Western State Bank, BankWest, Peoples State Bank and Farmer's Bank and Trust of Brewster. The group's angel tree at Orchn's has angels with the names of "littles" who need clothes. Bring gifts to the Colby United Methodist Church by Wednesday, Dec. 18. For information, call Orvella Romine at 460-9125.

### Seniors plan potluck at Presbyterian Church

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or have a partner in a nursing home at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

### Gem Lions cooking pancakes Wednesday

The Gem Lions Club will have its annual pancake feed from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. Drop in for lots of good food and visiting, with pancakes, sausage, eggs, pie and Lions Candy Day mints. Donations will be accepted for community projects, sight programs and education. Bring used eyeglasses and hearing aids to recycle. For information, call Ken Poland at 462-7809.

### Fourth graders to give musical on Thursday

Join the Colby Grade School fourth graders for "A World of Christmas," a free musical focusing on Christmas carols from around the world, at 2 and 7 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium. For questions, contact music teacher Jennifer Otten at 460-5100.

### Corrections board meets Thursday in Hays

The governing board on Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services and Northwest Kansas Community Corrections will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday at Whiskey Creek, 3203 Vine in Hays. This meeting is open to the public. For information, call Brenda Ulery, (785) 475-8113.

### Hear those bells ring at Trinity on Saturday

"Ring Christmas" will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fifth Street and Country Club Drive. Come for an evening of Christmas music featuring Trinity's JuBellation handbell choir and friends from the Pride of the Prairie Orchestra. An offering will be taken for the Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank. For information, call Linda Pabst at 462-3497.

### Once a Month Lunch coming up this week

Once a Month Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 West Fourth St. This free meal is served to all who come the second Saturday of each month. No reservations. Call the church office with questions at 462-6342.

### Orchestra plans holiday concert Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will present "Many Merry Melodies," conducted by Andrew Salvador, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. The program includes a sing-a-long and gift drawing. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students or patrons. For questions, call Mary Shoaff, 462-2159, or Janet Hopson, 462-5102.

### Foundation for Hope tickets now on sale

Tickets are on sale for the Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope's annual New Year's Eve banquet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, at the City Limits Convention Center. Tickets are \$40 each or \$280 for an eight-person table, including a social hour, dinner, auction and dance. Contact Pat Sloan at 443-3261. Tickets normally sell out, so get yours early.

### Library will take food to pay your fines

The Pioneer Memorial Library will have its annual Christmas "Foods for Fines" campaign through Monday, Dec. 23. Bring canned or packaged food to pay your fines. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

# Commission chair resigns

TOPEKA (AP)—The chairman of the Kansas Corporation Commission has submitted his resignation to Gov. Sam Brownback.

Mark Sievers submitted his resignation today. He will stay on with the commission until Brownback appoints his replacement in early 2014.

Sievers was named to the commission in May 2011 and elected chairman on May 17 of this year. He was serving a four-year term

that was to expire March 15, 2015.

Brownback issued a news release announcing the resignation, saying Sievers wanted to spend more time with his wife and return to private life.

The three-member commission regulates natural gas, electricity, telephone and transportation operations in Kansas, including the setting of rates charged by utilities.

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Tuesday Evening December 10, 2013										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	S.H.I.E.L.D.		Goldbergs	Trophy	What Would You Do?	Local		Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline	
KBSL/CBS	NCIS		NCIS: Los Angeles	Fashion Show	Local		Late Show Letterman	Ferguson		
KSNB/CBS	The Biggest Loser		The Voice	Chicago Fire	Local		Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon		
KSAZ/FOX	Country Awards			Local						
<b>Cable Channels</b>										
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Shipping	Shipping	Shipping	Shipping	Storage	Storage
AMC	Home Alone									
ANIM	Frozen Planet	Frozen Planet	Frozen Planet	Frozen Planet	Frozen Planet	Frozen Planet	Frozen Planet	Frozen Planet	Frozen Planet	Frozen Planet
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.	Housewives/Atl.	Shahs of Sunset	Happens	Shahs of Sunset	Atlanta				
CMT	Cheaper by the Dozen									
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Live	AC 360 Later	11th hour	ICYMI	Piers Morgan Live				
COMEDY	Key	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Kroll	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Kroll	
DISC	Moonshiners	Moonshiners	Moonshiners	Amish Mafia	Moonshiners	Amish Mafia				
DISN	Good Luck Jes.	Liv-Mad.	Wander	Good Luck	Jessie	Austin	Dog	Good Luck	Good Luck	
EI	Giuliana & Bill	The Drama Queen	Total Divas	Chelsea	EI News	Chelsea				
ESPN	College Basketball	College Basketball	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter				
ESPN2	College Basketball	College Basketball	Olbermann	Olbermann	Olbermann	Olbermann				
FAM	Dr. Seuss'	Year Without a Santa	Santa Claus, Town	The 700 Club	Snowglobe					
FOOD	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Diners	Diners	Chopped				
FX	Thor	Sons of Anarchy	Sons of Anarchy	Sons of Anarchy	Sons of Anarchy	Sons of Anarchy				
HGTV	Income Property	Income Property	Hunters	Hunt Intl	House Hunters Reno	Income Property				
HIST	Cnt. Cars	Cnt. Cars	Cnt. Cars	Cnt. Cars	Cnt. Cars	American	American	Cnt. Cars	Cnt. Cars	
LIFE	Wife Swap	Dance Moms Holiday	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced				
MTV	Generation Cryo	Awkward.	Awkward.	Snooki	Awkward.	Snooki	Awkward.	Snooki	Awkward.	
NICK	Nick News	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	The Matrix	Haunted Highway	Killer Contact	Haunted Highway	Killer Contact	Killer Contact				
SPIKE	Criss Angel BeLiEve	Criss Angel BeLiEve	Criss Angel BeLiEve	Criss Angel BeLiEve	Criss Angel BeLiEve	Criss Angel BeLiEve				
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Trust Me	Conan	Holmes	Conan		
TCM	Kind Hearts			3:10 to Yuma						
TLC	Little People, World	Little People, World	Couple	Couple	Little People, World	Couple	Couple			
TNT	Castle	Boston's Finest	Marshal Law: Texas	Boston's Finest	Marshal Law: Texas					
TOON	Uncle Gra	Steven	Regular	Adventure	Cleveland	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen
TRAV	Bizarre Foods	Baggage B	Dig Wars	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	The King of Queens	
TV LAND	Griffith	Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	The King of Queens		
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Law & Order: SVU		
VH1	Black Ink Crew	Love & Hip Hop	Mob Wives	Dance Flick						
WGN	The Prestige		How I Met	Rules	Rules	Rules	Rules	Parks		
<b>Premium Channels</b>										
HBO	Stoker		Sarah Silverman: We	Treme	Ja'mie	Battle				
MAX	Gangster Squad		The Campaign	Zane's Sex Chronicles						
SHOW	Masters of Sex	Homeland	Masters of Sex	Homeland	Team America					

CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

Wednesday Evening December 11, 2013										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Middle	Back in	Mod Fam	Super Fun	Nashville	Local	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline		
KBSL/CBS	Survivor	Criminal Minds			CSI: Crime Scene	Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson		
KSNB/CBS	The Sing-Off				Kelly Clarkson's	Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon		
KSAZ/FOX	The X Factor				Local					
<b>Cable Channels</b>										
A & E	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Rodeo Girls	Duck D.	Duck D.		
AMC	Home Alone 2									
ANIM	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
BRAVO	Real Housewives	Top Chef	Top Chef	Happens	Top Chef	OC Choppers	OC Choppers	OC Choppers	OC Choppers	OC Choppers
CMT	Cable Guy's Christmas	Luau	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Live	AC 360 Later	11th hour	ICYMI	Piers Morgan Live				
COMEDY	Key	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	Key	Daily	Colbert	South Pk	Key	
DISC	Naked and Afraid	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud
DISN	Jessie	The Ultimate Christmas Present	Dog	Jessie	Austin	Dog	Sonny	Hannah		
EI	The Break-Up	The Soup	One Direc	Chelsea	EI News	Chelsea				
ESPN	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball				
ESPN2	NFL Live	Pardon	NFL's Greatest Games	SportsCenter	Olbermann					
FAM	Melissa	Daddy	Nat'l-Christmas	The 700 Club	Holiday in Handcuffs					
FOOD	Restaurant: Im.	Restaurant Stakeout	Restaurant: Im.	Diners	Diners	Restaurant Stakeout				
FX	Thor	Amer. Horror	Amer. Horror	Amer. Horror	Amer. Horror	Amer. Horror				
HGTV	Property Brothers	Buying and Selling	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Property Brothers	Buying and Selling				
<b>Historical</b>										
HIST	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers				
LIFE	Bonnie & Clyde	Bonnie & Clyde	Bonnie & Clyde	Bonnie & Clyde	Bonnie & Clyde	Bonnie & Clyde				
MTV	Awkward.	Girl Code	Girl Code	Girl Code	Ke\$ha	Big Tips	Ke\$ha	Girl Code	Girl Code	
NICK	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	Haunted Highway	Killer Contact	Haunted Highway	Killer Contact	Haunted Highway	Killer Contact				
SPIKE	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Jail	Jail	Jail	
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan	Holmes	Conan	