

Weather



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 44. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-west after midnight.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 82. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Breezy.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 51.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54.

Friday: High, 71; Low 38
 Saturday: High, 87; Low 39
 Sunday: High, 76; Low 39
 Precip: Friday None
 Saturday None
 Sunday None
 Month: 0.69 inches
 Year: 11.60 inches
 Normal: 19.29 inches
 (K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
 Tuesday 8:03 a.m. 6:53 p.m.
 Moon: waxing, 67 percent
 Wednesday 8:04 a.m. 6:52 p.m.
 Moon: waxing, 76 percent
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Program ready for applications

From "PROGRAM," Page 1

or expansion phase.

Rocca said the 10-year rebates are set up on a sliding scale with 10 percent increments. After the approved project is complete, she said, 100 percent of the property taxes are returned to the owner for the first year. For the second year, the property owner will get 90 percent rebate.

Finally, in the 11th year, no rebate is given back and the property owner will begin to pay 100 percent of their project's taxes.

Rocca said there are some requirements and limitations people should take into account. "The most important thing people should realize," she said, "is that the county-appraised value of the construction project must be at least \$25,000 for eligibility to receive property-tax rebates in the program."

"That should not be confused with how much is spent on the project."

To apply for participation, she said, property owners should first obtain a building permit before filling out the application,

which can be found in the basement of the courthouse in the appraiser's office.

The application asks for proof of the permit, the property's legal description - property information is kept at the Register of Deeds office on the main level of the courthouse - and estimated start and end dates for construction.

There is a \$50 nonrefundable application fee.

After submitting the application, it can take up to two weeks for the appraiser's office to either give a conditional approval or deny the application. For approval, they'll confirm the property owner is up to date on taxes and will visit the site to ensure that construction has not already begun.

People can begin dirt work, said Rocca. This could include grading the lot, removing debris and other work that does not affect the property's value.

After the date of conditional approval, the property owner must complete the project by the second following January, since the appraiser's office conducts

their annual valuations during this month. Commissioners have considered extending this deadline to 24 months.

Property owners will begin receiving rebates if the project is completed by the deadline and meets all of the stipulations. Rebates are only given based on the "ad valorem tax increase ... directly attributable to the construction and improvement," said Rocca.

People are not given rebates on their property's entire value, just for the increase in valuation attributed to their project.

Also, a small percentage (1 to 3 percent) of the rebate will be retained by the county to cover office time and administration.

Rocca said she met with all 37 taxing entities in the county and was able to include 35 of them into the plan. "The two taxing entities that did not adopt the plan were Sheridan County Rural Fire District No. 1 and United School District 291 in Grinnell," she said. "...No explanation was given as to why they didn't want to participate."

Rocca said property within these districts cannot receive a rebate on their school or fire district, but they are small taxing entities in the county and won't have a major impact on the rebate amount.

Of the seven applications that have already been received, said Rocca, six are for single-family homes and one is for a commercial shed. All are for new construction.

"Which is just what we need," the director said.

Property owners are wasting no time once they get approval.

"We'll break ground next week," said Marla Crumrine of Brewster, who is one of the first to sign up for the program. "We are so excited to start building our new home. This program is one of many blessings that have come our way since we started saving, and we figured that over the 10-year period, it'll save us about \$20,000. The savings have allowed us to invest a little more in the house, and we'll be able to finish our basement sooner than we expected."

City Council agrees to put in stop signs

From "CITY," Page 1

Suggestions made before the council voted included placing stop signs only on certain intersections or using yield signs.

The council put off a decision on whether to add three new street lights on the Eco-Acres development, pending a check of how much they would cost.

Property owner Wayne Horlacher had asked for the lights. He attended the meeting Tuesday to explain that his development - which has sold just three lots since it was begun - had been designed to have street lights on the cul-de-sacs.

Horlacher admitted that he had not done a good job of promoting the development, but said that he could do a better job of selling the lots if there were lights in the subdivision. He thinks that there is a misconception that the requirements for building there are overly stringent.

Assistant Public Utilities Director Gordon Gilbert said that the lights would cost \$900

to \$1,000 each. Old wiring would have to be replaced and new transformers would have to be hung, he said.

In other business, the council:

- Approved an agreement with the state to begin work on a resurfacing project and decided to seek bids for the work. The city, Thomas County and the Kansas Department of Transportation will split the cost of the project to repave Range Avenue (K-25) from 1,200 feet south of Interstate 70 to the city limits, Fourth Street (U.S. 24) from 268 feet to 1,410 feet east of Range, roughly from Grant Avenue to Cleveland Avenue, and Fourth Street from Franklin Avenue to Lake Avenue, about a mile east of the city limits.

- Heard City Manager Tyson McGreer report that he and Mayor Gary Adrian went to the League of Kansas Municipalities meeting Oct. 6 to 8. The Kansas Municipal Energy Agency will meet Nov. 8 and Nov. 9, he said, and former Manager Carolyn Armstrong will receive the Max Embree Award.

- Heard that Woofter Construction plans to start work on a spill containment project for the power-plant fuel tanks next week.

- Learned from Jones that the city has hired a new police officer, who will begin work at about the first of November.

- Was told by Public Works Director Omar Weber that building a new restroom at the walking trail by the aquatic park with a space for sprinkler controls would probably take at least until spring.

- Heard Councilman Dave Voss ask about work done on the parking lot next to the Community Building. Weber said that a bed of crushed concrete could be laid down for less than \$1,000 to make the parking lot usable until concrete can be poured.

Voss also asked about progress on the water-meter change outs. McGreer said that the change outs should be done by the end of November. Weber added that leaks have been interrupting work on the meter change outs, plus there have been some inventory problems.

Former parks biologist joins nature conservancy

From "BIOLOGIST," Page 1

enough to give them a place to nest, he said. Prairie dogs, another keystone species for the habitat, eat some of the same grasses as cattle.

"If you manage for those two things," he said, "then you kind of manage for all those important prairie species that really ought to be out there."

Prairie dogs are allowed on about 10 percent of the ranch, Bain said, and other animals such as hawks and black-footed

ferrets eat them or live in their holes. Deer, antelope and turkey also live in parts of the ranch.

He said he hopes that the ranch will serve as an example of how conservation-minded land management can work on private ranches as well.

"We hope to be able to demonstrate the profitability of that program," Bain said.

Part of his job will be to encourage landowners to consider similar strategies. He will visit landowners and ask them to consider participating in gov-

ernment programs designed to protect migrating game birds.

"That's what I did for Wildlife and Parks for the last nine years," he said.

Bain was district biologist for the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, overseeing efforts in nine counties in northwest Kansas. He said he has been involved in agriculture his whole life, having grown up on a ranch southwest of Ness County. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Fort Hays State.

"He's an experienced biologist, he's experienced in that part of the world, having worked there," said Bain's supervisor, Lance Hedges, director of conservation for the conservancy. "We're just very fortunate that we were able to find someone with those qualifications."

The conservancy is a worldwide environmental organization which oversees environmental conservation projects. The Kansas chapter owns 46,500 acres of land at six nature preserves, including Smoky Valley Ranch.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Tuesday Evening October 23, 2012										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Dancing/Stars	Happy	Apt. 23	Private Practice	Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live			
KBSL/CBS	NCIS	NCIS: Los Angeles	Vegas		Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson			
KSNK/NBC	The Voice	Go On	Normal	Parenthood	Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon			
KSAS/FOX	The X Factor			Local						
Cable Channels										
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	Halloween 5				Halloween: Res					Hallow 5
ANIM	River Monsters	Life: Reborn	Life: Reborn	Life: Reborn	River Monsters	Life: Reborn				
BRAVO	Housewives/NJ	Flipping Out	Flipping Out	Flipping Out	Happens	Flipping Out	NYC			
CMT	Reba	Reba	RV			Smoke and the Bandit				
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Tonight	Anderson Cooper 360	E. B. OutFront	Piers Morgan Tonight					
COMEDY	Work.	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Brickle.	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Mash Up	
DISC	Last Frontier	Last Frontier	Last Frontier	Gold Rush	Last Frontier	Gold Rush				
DISN	Make Your Mark: Shake It	Make-Mark	Gravity	Phineas	ANT Farm	Vampire	Wizards	Wizards		
E!	Kardash	Kardash	Kardash	Miami	Kourtney	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea		
ESPN	30 for 30		World/Poker	World/Poker		SportsCenter				
ESPN2	College Football			SportCtr	All-Access	Baseball Tonight				
FAM	Pretty Little Liars	Hocus Pocus		The 700 Club	Pretty Little Liars					
FOOD	Cupcake Wars	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped					
FX	Twilight: New Moon		Sons of Anarchy	Sons of Anarchy	Sons of Anarchy					
HGTV	Love It or List It	Property	Property	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Million Dollar Rooms	Property	Property		
HIST	Built America	Built America		Pawn	Pawn	Built America				
LIFE	Abby's Dance	Abby's Dance	Prank Mom	Prank Mom	My Life, Movie	Abby's Dance				
MTV	Jersey Shore	Jersey Shore	Underemployed	Underemployed	Jersey Shore					
NICK	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	The Nanny	The Nanny	Friends	Friends		
SCI	Face Off	Face Off	Face Off	Hot Set	Face Off	Hot Set				
SPIKE	Ink Master	Ink Master	Ink Master	Tattoo	Tattoo	Ink Master				
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan	Office	Office		
TCM	A Child Is Waiting	Mandy		Of Mice and Men						
TLC	Breaking Amish	19 Kids	19 Kids	Extreme	Extreme	19 Kids	19 Kids	Extreme	Extreme	
TNT	The Mentalist	The Mentalist	Rizzoli & Isles	Leverage		The Closer				
TOON	Looney	Adventure	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Family Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	Bizarre Foods	Airport 2	Airport 2	Baggage B	Baggage B	Toy Hntr	Toy Hntr	Airport 2	Airport 2	
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	The King of Queens		
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Covert Affairs	Covert Affairs	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU				
VH1	Planet Rock: Hip Hop	Rehab With Dr. Drew	Basketball Wives LA	T.I.-Tiny	Chrissy					
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine	Funniest Home Videos	Rules	Rules		
Premium Channels										
HBO	Harry Potter	Treme		REAL Sports Gumbel	Boardwalk Empire	The Sitter				
MAX	Due Date	The Hangover Part II		The Matrix Reloaded		Hunted				
SHOW	Loosies	Our Idiot Brother		Homeland	Dexter	Gigolos	Trevino			



Wednesday Evening October 24, 2012										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Middle	Neighbors	Mod Fam	Suburg.	Nashville		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	Survivor-Phil.	Criminal Minds			CSI: Crime Scene		Local	Late Show Letterman	Ferguson	
KSNK/NBC	Practice	Guys-Kids	Law & Order: SVU	Chicago Fire			Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	J. Fallon	
KSAS/FOX	2012 World Series						Local			
Cable Channels										
A & E	Storage	Storage	Duck D.	Storage	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Storage	Storage
AMC	Halloween 4				Halloween					Halloween 4
ANIM	Savaged		Savaged		Savaged					Savaged
BRAVO	Housewives/NYC	Housewives/NJ	Life After Top Chef	Happens	Life After Top Chef	Flipping				
CMT	Reba	Reba	Extreme Makeover	Kitchen Nightmares	Kitchen Nightmares					
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	Piers Morgan Tonight	Anderson Cooper 360	E. B. OutFront	Piers Morgan Tonight					
COMEDY	Chappelle	Key	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	Key	Daily	Colbert	South Pk	Brickle.
DISC	Sons of Guns	Sons of Guns	Militia Rising		Sons of Guns	Militia Rising				
DISN	Gravity	Wizards-Waver		Phineas	ANT Farm	Vampire	Wizards	Wizards		
E!	A-List	Jonas	Kardashian	The Soup	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea			
ESPN	WNBA Basketball			All-Access	SportsCenter					
ESPN2	NBA Studio Specials	30 for 30		E:60	All-Access	Baseball Tonight				
FAM	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo 2			The 700 Club	Prince	Prince			
FOOD	Restaurant: Im.	Restaurant: Im.	Restaurant Stakeout	Restaurant: Im.	Restaurant: Im.					
FX	Twilight		American- Story	American- Story						
HGTV	Property Brothers	Buying and Selling	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Property Brothers	Buying and Selling				

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life

Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

	American	American	American	American	Cajun Pwn	Cajun Pwn	American Pickers	American	American	
HIST	American	American	American	American	Cajun Pwn	Cajun Pwn	American Pickers	American	American	
LIFE	Houstons Remember	Houstons Remember	Houstons Remember	Houstons Remember	Houstons Remember	Houstons Remember	Houstons Remember	Houstons Remember	Houstons Remember	
MTV	Underemployed	The Challenge	The Challenge	The Challenge	The Challenge	The Challenge	The Challenge	The Challenge	The Challenge	
NICK	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	The Nanny	The Nanny	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Paranormal Witness	Ghost Hunters	Paranormal Witness	Ghost Hunters	Paranormal Witness	Paranormal Witness	
SPIKE	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan	Office	Office	
TCM	The Raven	Murders-Rue			The Black Cat				The Fall	
TLC	Hoard-Buried	Half-Ton Killer	Addicted	Addicted	Half-Ton Killer	Addicted				
TNT	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Perception	Southland				
TOON	Dragons	Johnny T	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen
TRAV	Halloween Crazy	Toy Hntr	Toy Hntr	Toy Hntr	Sausage Paradise		Food Truck Paradise	Toy Hntr	Toy Hntr	
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	Raymond	Raymond	Cleveland	The Exes	King	King	King	King
USA	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	Covert Affairs		NCIS			
VH1	Couples Therapy	Couples Therapy	Couples Therapy	Couples Therapy	Rehab With Dr. Drew		Rehab With Dr. Drew	Couples Therapy	Couples Therapy	
WGN	Rules	Rules	Rules	Rules	WGN News at Nine		Funniest Home Videos	Rules	Rules	
Premium Channels										
HBO	Ethel	The Girl			Boardwalk Empire		Real Time/Bill Maher	Treme		
MAX	Hunted		Anchorman: Legend of Ron		Underworld					