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Gov't shutdown enters 2nd week, no end in sight

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New mail system

By ROBERT MERCE
Leader & Times

At its Sept. 30 meeting, the Seward County Commission approved a flat from Unitedd Southern Office Supply for a mailing system.

The system was recommended by Jerry Stewart, Seward County, at a cost of $892 per month for a period of 36 months.

The new system was a replacement for a postage machine as part of the county's lease agreement.

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Seward County

School board tackles long list tonight

By RACHEL COLEMAN
Leader & Times

With a month-long flurry of special meetings and planning sessions bringing them together, Liberal's school board has a lot of business to take care of. Including that to stop meeting like this. Nonetheless, the board will hold a special meeting Monday, Oct. 7, at 6 p.m. at the district Education Service Center (ESC), Cross.

Packed with routine and new matters, the

◆ See BOARD page 4

Best wishes!

Community says farewell to Henry and Sherry Hidalgo

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5-year-old girl, firefighter burned in house blaze

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — A 5-year-old girl and a Kansas City firefighter who tried to save her suffered second-degree burns in the blaze that burned her in Kansas City, Kan.

The Kansas City Star reports the fire started around 3:30 p.m. Sunday and when emergency crews arrived they found heavy flames coming from the rear and center sections of the house.

The girl was found in one of the bedrooms at the back of the house, which had no smoke detectors. A firefighter who tried to rescue her escaped and was taken to an area hospital for evaluation.

Fire officials, neighbors and other occupants weren't released pending notification of relatives. The cause remains under investigation.

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In this Oct. 1 photo, cows are herded into waiting trucks following an auction at the Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City. Ranchers are selling their livestock because of a lack of feed, due to government shutdown. During the shutdown, the USDA won't provide info reports from Oklahoma livestock auctions that are used to help set prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, state Department of Agriculture employee Jodi Carson said. AP photo/Sue Ogrocki

Shutdown spawns vacuum in farm market information

By SCOOTER MCCLURE
Associated Press

WICHITA — When Tom Peterson finished planting his wheat crop last year, he was ready to take his market savvy Kansas farmer perspectivelly found himself struggling to make critical marketing decisions because of a lack of information from government reports, casualties of the federal government shutdown.

"We don't know what is going on in the market," said Peterson, who farms near Hutchinson in southwest Kansas. He typically protects his investment in seed wheat by selling it for a premium to farmers who need soft feed seed fall with a forward contract that double-hedges from market fluctuations by guaranteeing a premium and a price for his crop.

Farmers and livestock producers use the reports put out by the National Agriculture Statistics Service to make decisions — such as how to price crops, which crops to plant and how to hedge against price swings, or how to buy cattle and hogs. Not only has the NASS stopped putting out new reports about demand and supply reports and prices, but all websites with past reports have been shut down.

"It is causing a direct void in information that is impacting us," Peterson said.

Peterson said he is more than his other problems. When will the $20,000 subsidy check from the government, which usually comes in October, arrive? Farm Service Agency offices, which are part of the USDA, are also have been shuttered. Farmers can't apply for new loans, sign up acreage for government programs or get information on farm loan or crop insurance deadlines, already enrolled in, that at a time, when farmers who are seeking new wheat varieties and hybrids, are also in the beginning experimental plots, all would be operated by a farmer.

Kansas Farmers Union president Diane Tasko, a farmer from Ellsworth County, said farmers who have received direct payments have owed for ailing crop insurance/crop disaster land under the Conservation Reserve Program.

Farmers have been forced to that check coming in the mail. Tasko said.

But all of them foresaw any spike in competition to the lack of agriculture reports, because farmers today are more in tune to global marketplaces than government reports.

The reports, for instance, can alert farmers to shortfalls

See ALL INFO Page 5

Attorney hopes to keep lid on client's confession

WICHITA (AP) — A Kansas man who killed a Kansas Sheriff's deputy has asked a judge to suppress statements he gave about murder when he walked into the office of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department and asked to be arrested because he just killed his wife.

Gary Wayne Pabian, 56, is charged with first-degree murder in the Dec. 19 death of his wife, Jennifer Pabian, 37, and with the shooting of Sedgwick County Sheriff's deputy Jeff Wonders. The Wichita Eagle reports.

Pabian's attorney, Quentin Pittman, has asked District Judge Joe Kamer to suppress statements Pabian made to the cop and to have evidence from his home in Sedgwick County, Kansas and his Minneapolis office.

A suppression hearing that began Tuesday and resumed Monday July selection in his trial is scheduled to start Tuesday.

During testimony Friday

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Customer Jerry Arnett, left, congratulates Aaron Kaplan, a bartender in Springfield, Ore., Friday after learning that she indirectly received a $17,500 tip when one of her customers happened to give her a winning Lottery ticket this week. The Oregon Lottery reports that one of Kaplan's regular customers at Conway's Restaurant gave her a coupon Game Estimate on Tuesday and when she checked one was a big winner. AP photo/Oregon Lottery/Scott Strazzo

Oregon bartender gets $17,500 tip

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon bartender just got the tip of a lifetime.

One of Aaron Kaplan's regulars at Conway's Restaurant and Lounge in Springfield often tips her with flares ticket from the Oregon Lottery. On Tuesday night, one of those tickets was a certain anonymous other Kaplan to choose two.

When she checked the numbers, Kaplan's fiancé ticket was $5. The second turned into a $17,500 jackpot.

"They look me but they was incredible," Kaplan, 25, told The

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