

## Weather Corner



**Tonight...**Partly cloudy. Lows around 18. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

**Friday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 40s. Light winds. Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

**Saturday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

**Sunday...**Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

**Sunday night and Monday...**Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Highs in the upper 40s.

**Monday night...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light snow. Lows in the lower 20s.

**Tuesday and Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Colder. Highs in the mid 30s. Lows around 13.

**Wednesday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 40s.

Wednesday's low, high: 0, 30  
Tuesday's low, high: 0, 28  
Monday's low, high: 8, 31

## Legislator settles lawsuit

TOPEKA (AP) — A legislator has settled a lawsuit filed against him by the president of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue over a 2006 altercation at the Kansas State Fair.

The case in Shawnee County District Court, which was settled in late December, involved Rep. Vaughn Flora, D-Topeka, and Operation Rescue's Troy Newman. Both parties agreed to keep the terms of the settlement private.

Newman said Wednesday that the lawsuit was necessary to demonstrate that attacking people with different beliefs "is intolerable behavior for anyone, especially a state legislator. That was horrible."

"By his apology and settlement, we are satisfied that his actions were wrong and that he appreciates the First Amendment," Newman said.

Flora did not return messages left Wednesday at his home.

The altercation occurred in September 2006, as Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a Democrat seeking her second term, was debating her Republican opponent at the fair before more than 2,000 spectators. Newman was wearing a cockroach costume to protest Sebelius' abortion policies.

Flora ripped Newman's mask off his face, leaving a 2-inch cut, according to the lawsuit.

"I hope this lawsuit sends a strong message that attacks on peaceful pro-lifers will not be tolerated, and that when attacks do occur, legal remedies will be aggressively pursued," Newman said.

According to Newman, he received a written apology from Flora dated Nov. 13. Flora wrote two sentences in the letter on personal stationery with his home address.

"I have always been a strong believer in the First Amendment and one's right to free speech. I am sorry for my actions and any physical harm I may have caused," he wrote in a copy of the letter released by Operation Rescue.

Previously, Flora refused apologize for his actions but described the incident as unfortunate.

In May, Flora pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor battery charge in Reno County and avoided a 30-day jail sentence by agreeing to pay a \$100 fine and \$128 in court costs by June 29.

Newman wore his cockroach costume to gubernatorial debates to publicize what he viewed as Sebelius' refusal to deal with standard conditions in abortion clinics. Abortion foes have sought regulations targeting abortion clinics, but Sebelius, an abortion-rights supporter, vetoed legislation in 2003 and 2005.

## Northern Valley school considers four-day week

By Tom Dreiling

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Will the Northern Valley School District students go to a four-day week in the 2008-09 term?

That was one of the proposals presented at the three-hour, thirty-five minute December board meeting at the Almena school.

Much of the meeting was spent in executive session.

Superintendent George Griffith presented a proposed calendar for a four-day school week, which would add 45 minutes to the end of the school day.

Griffith will survey the community for input and it was suggested he also have a superintendent from a school using the four-day week

discuss the pros and cons with the board. The board held three executive sessions with no action resulting from two of them.

When the board returned to open meeting following the third session, they approved motions to accept Kevin Largent's resignation as Long Island custodian; transfer Brad Scott to the Long Island custodial position for a 90-day trial period (with performance evaluation after that period); and hire Cynthia Schemper as Almena Elementary custodian at \$9.50 per hour.

The board additionally moved to allow increases for classified employees who work more than 30 hours per week as presented by Superintendent Griffith.

This serves as an adjustment for

the increase in minimum wage. The increase is in effect.

The board also approved a motion to allow certified employees to use sick leave to be compensated for unscheduled school closing days.

In other action, the board:

- Approved non-resident student applications for Jadon Hester, Terry Shrader and Blade Shrader.

- Accepted the bid from Don's Floor Covering for removal and replacement of the tile in the bottom hallway at the high school. The action was taken due to asbestos exposure issues.

- Moved to allow funds for outstanding checks to be returned to bank accounts as suggested by the district's auditors.

## 'Cover Your Acres' conference Jan. 22-23

By Cynthia Haynes

Oberlin Herald  
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Farmers and ranchers can get a little continuing education from Kansas State University and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance at the annual Cover Your Acres conference Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 22-23, at The Gateway.

Registration will be from 7:45 to 8:14 a.m. both days, with a welcome from 8:15 to 8:35 a.m. The first sessions will start at 8:35 a.m., with lunch from 12:40 to 1:40 p.m.

The last session will end at 5:23 each day and there will be refreshments and a chance for attendees to mix and talk from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The conference will feature ideas on how to get the most crop with no or little tillage.

Most of the sessions will be provided by the university but there will also be a farmer panel discussing the ins and outs of crop rotation, said Brian Olson, northwest Kansas agronomist for K-State Research and Extension.

Continuing-education credit will be available for those who need it for all the K-State programs, he said.

Farmers will be able to choose sessions provided by university and industry speakers and can attend sponsored displays in the exhibit hall.

The university and industry sessions will include general-interest topics, he said, like improving your success in no till; soil quality changes with no till; 10 crop sequences to transition to no till; the outlook for sorghum crops, for bioenergy, food and export; plant-stand management; growing crops for cellulosic ethanol, made from plant residue; avoiding strip-till mistakes; corn amylase, an output trait that pays a premium; and what wheat precision ag can do for you.

Water issues will include water rights and depleting water, the effect of residue on crop water budgets and improving capture and use of water.

Chemical issues will include phosphorus and rate in no till and strip till, nitrogen recommendations for wheat, benefits of chloride on wheat and row crops, the state of fertilizer in 2008, spray application technology and managing acid-base balance, or pH, in no till.

Grain issues will include new corn seed traits for no till, grain marketing and revenue protection, comparing corn and grain sorghum

performances and "no till wheat 101."

Other sessions will include John Deere technology improvement and growth, a session by the National Sunflower Association and the importance of long-term care in estate planning for family farms.

The farmer panel will discuss crop rotations.

The sessions will run concurrently, with up to five going on at one time, but many will be repeated the same day and the schedule will be the same both days so farmers have the chance to attend up to 18 different sessions.

The cost for one day is \$20 and for both \$38 if paid by Wednesday, Jan. 16. Thereafter, the cost will be \$40 and \$80.

For registration contact K-State Research and Extension, Northwest Area Office, Attn: Brian Olson, Box 786, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Olson said that the program will be held regardless of the weather.

For information, call him at (785) 462-6281.

## More complaints filed

TOPEKA (AP) — Operation Rescue has filed two complaints with state agencies, accusing Attorney General Paul Morrison of violating campaign and attorney ethics during his affair with former subordinate Linda Carter.

The anti-abortion group's president, Troy Newman, said Wednesday the complaints were filed with the Government Ethics Commission and the Office of the Disciplinary Administrator. Neither agency would confirm the complaints were filed, citing state law against doing so.

Operation Rescue alleges that Morrison used his relationship with Carter to protect Wichita abortion provider Dr. George Tiller and Planned Parenthood of Mid-Missouri and Kansas.

Newman said the complaints seek to have Morrison disbarred as an attorney.

## Decatur County recycling grows; building needed

### Emptying bins in Colby won't be enough

By Kimberly Davis

Oberlin Herald  
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Decatur County's 3-year-old recycling program has grown to the point where commissioners talked last month about using an old metal building west of the county shop on U.S. 36 for a permanent recycling center.

The county started the program with a used trailer built with hoppers for each material, from newsprint to glass to plastic. Workers have been hauling the trailer to Colby once a week, but soon that won't be enough.

The county started the program to help keep some of those items out of the landfill, extending its life. The county pays \$1 per person in the county each year to Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling, which runs a recycling center in Colby where material is gathered and shipped out.

Gaylen Huntley, county noxious weed director, who helps supervise the recycling program, said the way people have responded to the program, they probably will have to start taking the trailer to Colby twice a week soon.

Sarah Fredrickson, the newest county employee, has started to pick up recyclable items at businesses downtown. Huntley said there is a large amount of cardboard, mostly from stores and the schools, that needs to go, too.

If the county had a recycling center, said County Clerk Marilyn

Horn, then they won't have to take the trailer to Colby. They could haul bigger loads less often.

What about the metal building west of the county shop? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy at a meeting December 18. The county owns it, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, but right now it's used to store the city's Christmas decorations.

Would that building get the county started with a recycling place? asked McEvoy.

It might work, said Huntley, but the baler the county ordered may or may not fit in there. It should be here soon, he added, and they can do some measuring.

Now would be a good time to talk to the city, McEvoy noted, because the Christmas decorations are out. He noted that the city has bought the old car dealership buildings near the city shop on Hall Street, so maybe there would be some more storage options.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said about 50 boxes of original records now being scanned into the county computer will need to be stored somewhere, and the courthouse basement is full.

Horn suggested the county could use a garage near downtown, where all the county vehicles could be parked. If it had an extra room with a lock on it, that would work for storage of the records, too, she said.

The commissioners asked Huntley to talk to the city administrator about the building.

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