



Weather
Corner

Winter storm warning in effect until 7 pm cdt this evening...

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of light snow in the evening. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds around 10 mph.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 40s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs around 60. West winds 10 to 15 mph. Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Sunday's low, high: 29, 37, 1.7 inches of snow.

Saturday's low, high: 19, 49.

Friday's low, high: 16, 49.

State promises Oberlin airport \$1 million

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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State officials promised the City of Oberlin \$1 million in a matching grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation for a longer runway at the airport here, a project a group of area representatives have been working on.

County Commissioner Doyle Brown said he went to Topeka with City Councilman Jay Anderson and his wife Ann; Doc Franklin, with the Decatur Tomorrow planning group; City Administrator Gary Shike; Councilwoman Rhonda May; Connie Grafel, marketing manager for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.; and Mayor Joe Stanley on Tuesday, Feb. 26, for a meeting of the Kansas Airport Association. While in Topeka, the Oberlin group sponsored a dinner with legislators from the western part of the state to talk about the airport project.

Mr. Shike said the \$1 million will be put toward the new runway in the first part of a three-phase plan. The total cost for the first phase is estimated at \$7 million, he said, including land acquisition, paving a 5,200-foot runway and a

taxiway, lighting, apron expansion and a jet fueling facility.

The city got a request for a 7,000-foot runway from Bus and Coach International out of Jennings. Since then, a committee of council members, county commissioners, economic development representatives and others have worked on the project, lobbying with state and federal officials and applying for grants.

Besides this grant, said Mr. Shike, the city has applied for \$753,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration, but hasn't heard anything back yet.

Some of the project will have to be paid for by the city, said Mr. Shike. He said he isn't sure when the project will get started. It depends on the money, he said, but it could be as soon as 2010.

The letter from the Transportation Department says the money will come from the Kansas Airport Improvement Program whenever the city is ready to build a runway.

"While the request scored within the range of projects eligible to receive funding, we are aware that your project is not in a position to utilize the funds in the fiscal year 2009. Because your project scored

within the eligible for funding category, you will not be required to compete in future years. Your project will be at the top of the list in all future years; however, we will not fund the project until you demonstrate that you will utilize the funding in the next fiscal year."

The letter goes on to say that as long as the airport improvement program continues, the city will receive the money when it is ready.

The city also received a letter about a \$90,000 grant from the department for an automated weather observation system for the airport. Mr. Shike said the city did receive word a few years ago that it had received money for this system, but didn't buy it.

With the weather system, which will help know what the weather is for planes, the city will pay 10 percent. Mr. Shike said most of the systems cost around \$90,000.

Ed Young, chief of the airport program with the state department, said Mr. Shike had talked to him about the grant while the group was in Topeka, but nothing was official until the city got the letter.

Mr. Shike said he is excited

about the letter, which he said might give the city some leverage with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Both the City Council and Decatur County commissioners talked about the recent trip to Topeka last week.

The group went to Topeka for a meeting with the Kansas Airport Association, said Commissioner Brown.

The association, said Mr. Brown, was started back in the early 1990s because boosters wanted every person in Kansas to be within 30 minutes of air ambulance service. Mr. Brown said the meeting had gone well.

The group from Decatur County, said Mr. Brown, was the biggest delegation at the meeting.

That Wednesday, he said, they went to the Statehouse to meet with the legislators. Both houses were in session, he said, so they watched the House members vote on bills.

That night, the airport committee sponsored a dinner for legislators from west of Salina to talk about the runway project.

The dinner went well, said Mr. Brown, and the group came away feeling positive about it.

Mr. Brown said several legislators encouraged the group to come talk to them anytime, even if they weren't the representatives for this area. He said they also encouraged them to talk to members from eastern Kansas, so that they know what's going on, and maybe support the project, too.

It was a nice delegation, said Mr. Shike, and the dinner went well. There were some heavy hitters there and this gave people from Oberlin and Decatur County some one-on-one time with them.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she was a little hesitant at first about the dinner because of the cost, but it worked out well and didn't cost as much as she thought. Mr. Shike said he thought the economic development group would pick up the tab.

The group agreed that Mayor Joe Stanley did a good job giving a little speech about what the city is trying to accomplish with the airport.

Doing a dinner like that once a year, said Ms. May, probably wouldn't be a bad idea. It got the group some face time.

"Anyway," she said, "we came home with \$1 million and I think that's pretty good stuff."

Farmers in doubt

TRIBUNE (AP) — Farmers here still don't know if they'll see any payments from their extraordinary wheat crop and fall harvest after a bank foreclosed on the now defunct Sunbelt Grain.

Whether it was a volatile wheat market or something else that caused Sunbelt's demise, the legal battle continues for 33 farmers around this far west-central Kansas town who sold their 2007 crop at one of Sunbelt Grain's four locations in Greeley and Wallace counties. The elevator owes them approximately \$2 million in checks that farmers had deferred until 2008, said Terry Criss, a Salina attorney appointed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture as the receiver for the grain inventory.

Meanwhile, it looks as if involuntary Chapter 7 bankruptcy proceedings filed by creditors in an unusual bid to recover their money will proceed in court.

Security State Bank of Scott City foreclosed on Sunbelt Grain, a limited liability corporation owned by James and Kathy Shaffer, on Dec. 14 — tying up millions of dollars in grain.

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Decatur County commissioners received a petition signed by 38 people asking the county not to change rural addresses, but decided to ignore it, saying it had come too late.

The petition says the people prefer the "rural route" address system and don't want to change their addresses.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said at the meeting Feb. 19 that he thought the petition was too late. Yes, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, the county has worked for three years on the new addresses and no one said a word. He said the deal is done.

There is no legal requirement that the county do anything with the petition, said County Attorney

Center expands treatment

WICHITA (AP) — The veterans medical center in Wichita is expanding its mental health department and will be treating more cases of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The \$495,000 addition at the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center is to be completed by June.

Steve Hirsch.

After letters went out to everyone in the county who will receive a new address, the road and bridge department received several phone calls about wrong addresses. Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, said they are making a list of corrections.

The mistakes are disappointing, said Mr. Unger, because some of the same addresses were fixed several times on the maps contractors did for the county, and the addresses were still mailed out wrong.

The commissioners called Marty Bieker with R&S Digital, the contractor that made the maps, and he told them the county should send all of the corrections in at one time.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the Leoville addresses have two different zip codes, which needs to be changed.

Mr. Bieker said the county needs to make a list and send it in so the company can make the changes.

Thomas County ADAC will be offering a twelve (12) week **Anger Management Class**. Classes begin Wednesday, March 25, 2008. They will be from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the ADAC office (1523 W. 4th Street) in Colby. Contact Gail at 462-6111 to enroll.

He said he would appreciate not getting a few changes to the addresses every day, but maybe a batch every three to four weeks.

Can you explain how people are getting mail at their new ad-

resses prior to the letters going out? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy. Maybe the phone company has already updated the addresses, said Mr. Bieker. He said his company just doesn't give out

addresses.

Someone in Commissioner Brown's district got a bill to the new address before the person received the letter with the new address, Mr. Unger said.

AUCTION

FOR ART & CHERYL SCOTT AND VERA MORGAN

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2008

Time: 10:00 am CT (doors open at 8:00 am day of sale)

Auction Location: T-N-T & Jones Auction Facility • 200 N Franklin • Colby, KS

Preview sale items between 5 - 7 pm CT Friday, March 28, 2008

GUNS WILL SELL @ 1:30

50 cal. Michigan Arms Black Powder Rifle
Stevens crack shot 22 LR 1
Winchester 22 LSLR Model 06 Pump Rifle
Whitney Ville Walker .44 cal Black Powder Pistol
A.S. M. Black Powder .44 cal Pistol
Winchester Mod 1897 12 ga Shotgun
Ben Franklin Pump-up BB Pellet .22

MISCELLANEOUS

Coca Cola ali cooler
Coco Cola Official Olympic International Flag
Pin Series Sets
Coco Cola Syrup jugs - pop cases - pop bottles
Cigar boxes
Assorted crocks - bowls, jugs, jars
Fishing reels
Fishing lures
Keen Kutter Knife and Fork set
Winchester Hatchet
Brass shotgun shells – ammo boxes

ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLES

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Books
Baseball cards
Arrow Head Collection
Assorted Paper Money
Assorted Silver Coins
Assorted Silver Dollars
Complete 1890s Hay Scythe

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6 person Toboggan
Large wooden barrel
Double tub wash stand
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1930s Chiffrobe

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