

## Weather Corner



**Tonight...**Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s. South winds around 10 mph.

**Saturday...**Sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night... Partly cloudy. Lows around 60. South winds around 10 mph.

**Sunday...**Mostly sunny. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. Southwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon. Sunday night...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

**Monday...**Partly sunny. Not as warm. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs around 80. Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

**Tuesday...**Mostly sunny. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 80s. Tuesday night... Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows around 60.

**Wednesday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s. Wednesday night...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

**Thursday ...** Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s.

**Thursday's low, high:** 41, 81.

### Water Use Report

Thursday  
• 2,923,000 gallons  
3 Consecutive Days over 3.5 million will put us in a water watch  
3 Consecutive Days over 4.0 million will put us in a water warning  
3 Consecutive Days over 4.5 million will put us in a water emergency

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-8367.

## Chapman residents return

CHAPMAN (AP) — Residents of this central Kansas town were sorting through debris and their frightening memories of a deadly tornado while areas to the east endured another round of spring storms.

The new storms brought rain and sparked fears that twisters would develop around communities such as Topeka and Emporia. The National Weather Service said several tornados were spotted in Chase County, but it had no reports of damage or injuries.

The twister that touched down Wednesday night in Chapman cut a path six blocks wide through much of the town of about 1,400 about 70 miles west of Topeka. It left one woman dead, reduced some houses and businesses to rubble and snapped utility poles and downed trees.

Officials estimated the damage at more than \$20 million and said the tornado heavily damaged or destroyed 65 buildings or homes, meaning between half to 60 percent of Chapman's buildings were hit.

Debbly Peterson and her husband were caught outside on the edge of the tornado's path. They had left their house without a basement to go to a neighboring home and were standing on the back deck when the detached, two-car garage flew past them and into the back of the house.

"Then we hear this whooshing noise, and the trees are popping and cracking and all kinds of things," said Peterson, office manager for the Chapman & Enterprise News-Times.

# Mammoth tusk found in Norton County

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
c.haynes@nwkansas.com

Great trumpeting woolly mammoths right here in Norton County?

Well, maybe.

County road grader operator Herman Pfannenstiel was trying to repair a washed out road last Tuesday when he noticed something out of place so he called his boss, Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan telling him that he thought he had discovered human remains.

Mr. Brannan immediately contacted Sheriff Troy Thomson.

The call coming in about possible human remains caused quiet a bit of consternation in the office, the sheriff said.

However, when he and Mr. Brannan converged on the spot it was discovered that what looked like bones from the seat of a grader was actually a tusk.

"I got there and I said, 'I know what that is.'" Mr. Brannan said. "It's a mammoth tusk."

The tusk is about four-foot long and slightly curved, Mr. Brannan told the county commissioners on Monday.

The sheriff said that he called Sternberg Museum at Fort Hays State University and Dr. Richard J. Zakrzewski, chief curator of the museum, sent out a couple of graduate students to look at the find.

It took them about five minutes to say, yep, that's a mammoth tusk, the sheriff said.

Both Dr. Zakrzewski and the grad students were out of the office on Monday but the secretary said that the graduate students were excited about the find saying that it appeared to be in good condition.

The museum will excavate the area, the sheriff said, adding that the graduate students thought the entire animal could be found in the area.

The secretary at the paleontology department said that work would probably not begin for a week or so because the process has to be coordinated with the graduate students, a supervising paleontologist and the county.

The tusk is on the county right-of-way, Mr. Brannan said. However, the skeleton could be found on nearby private ground. Therefore, he said, the landowner has



This four-foot long and slightly curved tusk was found by Herman Pfannenstiel, county road grader, while he worked to repair a washed out road last Tuesday. Photo courtesy Tom Brannan

been contacted.

While the tusk was not found in the roadway, Mr. Brannan said, it is possible that once excavation

starts the road will need to be closed. However, he said, it is a farm road and not used very often.

To protect the site, the artifact was reburied and the sheriff has the coordinates to the location.

# Former Oberlin business owner charged in fire

## Oberlin Herald

Arson charges were filed Friday against a co-owner of the Centennial Bowling Alley and the Red Crown Lounge, which burned down three years ago over Memorial Day weekend.

Sheriff Ken Badsky and Deputy Jay Tate arrested Ken Morgan of Oberlin on Friday on a warrant from the attorney general's office. Sheriff Badsky said Mr. Morgan made his first appearance before Judge John Bremer the same day and bond was set at \$100,000.

The defendant requested state-appointed counsel. That afternoon, David O. Baumgartner of Phillipsburg was appointed a Mr. Morgan's attorney.

The charges include two counts of arson, a level 7 nonperson felony.

ony.

The fire at the bowling alley and lounge, owned by Mr. Morgan and Maurice Zodrow, started around 3 a.m. on Monday, May 30, 2005.

After the Oberlin Fire Department extinguished the flames, Undersheriff Randy McHugh started an investigation.

Later that day, the crime scene was turned over to the state's fire marshal's office. Melvin Dale, an investigator sent out by the office from Garden City, went over the scene.

After nine hours checking out the scene, Mr. Dale declared the fire an arson.

The June 1, 2005, edition of *The Oberlin Herald* reported that, "Mr. Dale said he didn't find a source for an explosion (reported by witnesses), but it could simply

have come from the rapid buildup of heat in the fire.

"Flames and smoke were rolling out the west end of the bowling alley roof, over the kitchen, where the fire was most intense. There, the steel roof was warped and buckled. 'At this time, I'm going to call the fire arson,' the investigator said. 'As to how it was set, I'm not going to say at this time. I'll have to wait until tests are back from the lab.'"

At the beginning of 2006, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Zodrow filed a lawsuit against underwriters with Lloyd's of London who insured the building. The men were seeking \$300,000, the amount the building was insured for.

Later that year, court records showed statements from the insurance carrier that its defense

would be that the owners set or had someone set the fire. In April 2007, the lawsuit was dismissed after an out-of-court settlement.

At the time, Mr. Zodrow said the settlement wasn't enough to rebuild.

Original reports showed the damage near \$750,000. Mr. Zodrow said he wasn't allowed to say how much the co-owners received.

The suit was filed against Heritage Managing Agency Ltd., underwriters with Lloyd's of London, which is known for working with movie stars and the like to insure things like an actress's legs.

Mr. Morgan was still in the Decatur County Jail on Monday. Sheriff Badsky said he doesn't know of any other charges com-

ing in the case. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Monday, June 16.

Ashley Anstaett, spokesperson for Attorney General Robert Six, said the office is handling the case is because Decatur County Attorney Steve Hirsch referred it to them.

The reason it took three years to file charges, she said, is because the lawyer who was handling the case ended up leaving the office and it was transferred to another attorney, who had to get caught up.

Mrs. Anstaett said she couldn't comment on the evidence behind the arson charge. The attorney who filed the charges, Barry Disney, was in conference for two days and did not return a call.

## Oberlin, developer continue hotel talks

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

*The Oberlin Herald*  
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The Oberlin City Council talked with a Nebraska man interested in putting a 21-room motel in town at the meeting Thursday, but neither party made an offer.

Dave Winfield of Kearney, Neb., said his chain, Winfield Inn and Suites, focuses on small, rural towns because he likes the people. The motel would have cherry wood furniture and flat screen televisions in the rooms, he said, and the rooms are geared at families and couples in the 45-65 age range. The rates will be affordable, said Mr. Winfield.

The number of rooms can be adjusted, he said, adding that the motel would offer high-speed Internet and a continental breakfast.

The company is based in Kearney, where he owns a strip mall. Mr. Winfield said he is building

a 21-room motel in Curtis and a 10-room motel in Arnold. In the motel plans, he said, he tries to leave some land so he can add on later.

Mr. Winfield said he owns his own construction company and will do all of the work. He told the council he always keeps his word,

so as long as the council does the same and is honest and up front with him, they will have a good working relationship.

Mr. Winfield said if he does end up building a motel here, it will be a nice, new place but he thought there probably won't be enough business for two motels.

## Father's Day Dinner

### Sunday, June 15, 2008

### 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Grainfield American Legion & Auxiliary**  
**Main Street • Grainfield, Kansas**

**Everyone Welcome!**

Colby/Thomas  
County Chamber of  
Commerce welcomes:

**To their new location:  
1970 S. Range  
462-2022**

## Moonlight Gardens

### End-of-the Season **CLOSEOUT!!**

**June 14, 15 & 16th...30% off!**

**June 17, 18, 19...40% off! June 20, 21, 22...50% off!**

**Annuals • Perennials  
Roses • Trees • Shrubs • Baskets • Planters**

Kaus Kids may sell remaining inventory June 23rd-?

**MOONLIGHT GARDENS**  
3 Mi. N. on Hwy. 25, 1/2 mi. W. of Colby

**462-6355**

Open Mon.-Sat.: 9:30-5:30  
Tues. & Thurs. till 8:00 Sun.: 12:00-4:00

## The 8 Wonders of Thomas County!

**Which Would You Choose???**

Local residents know the best spots tourists should visit while in our area. That's why the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press are asking you to help name the 8 Wonders of Thomas County. This unique marketing effort will help direct tourists to the top eight attractions we have to offer.

We need your help to identify the best of the best. Whether it be a building, museum or a place of business, a remote rural location or an in-town hot spot, Thomas Countians are the best source of knowledge.

Voting will take place in two stages. In stage 1, we're asking for you to name your own top 8 list. Either fill out the form below and return it to The Colby Free Press or vote online at 8wonders.hdnnews.net/thomas/. Voting will take place until June 30th.

Stage 2 will feature the top 16 sites voters have selected as finalists. From that list, you will determine the 8 Wonders of Thomas County. Stage 2 also will be conducted with your choice of paper or online ballot starting July 18th.

The 8 Wonders of Thomas County winners will be announced Aug. 29th.

**8 Wonders of Thomas County Ballot:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

No photo copies, please.

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