

**Weather Corner**



**Tonight...**Mostly cloudy. Showers and thunderstorms likely in the evening...Then thunderstorms likely after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce heavy rainfall. Locally heavy rainfall possible in the evening. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northeast after midnight. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

**Friday...**Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Friday night...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s.

**Sunday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s.

**Sunday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

**Monday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s.

**Monday night through Wednesday...**Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 60s. Highs in the upper 90s.

**Colby College grad named president of Sunflower Bank**

Sunflower Bank in Colby has promoted Jim Stanley to president replacing Max Mountford who recently resigned.

Stanley joined Sunflower Bank in 1992 as a lender and assistant vice president and until recently was vice president and commercial lender, said Sandy Jacobs, executive vice-president in charge of Sunflower Bank's Western markets.

"We're extremely pleased to name Jim as president of a key Western Kansas location," she

said. "Jim is a dedicated community banker, with an unmatched commitment to Colby and Thomas County. He will help Sunflower Bank continue its strong tradition of community involvement and economic development



Stanley

in Western Kansas."

Stanley has worked in banking in the Thomas County area since 1981.

As president of Sunflower Bank, 500 N. Franklin Ave., Jacobs said he will continue to meet the commercial and consumer lending needs in the community while leading the rest of the Colby team to continue providing extraordinary customer service and constantly improving the quality of life in the Colby area.

A native of Oberlin, Stanley is

a graduate of Colby Community College and Kansas State University, earning his bachelor of science degree in education in 1975.

He taught school in Plainville before returning to Thomas County in 1981 and beginning his banking career.

He and wife, Margaret, have been married for 35 years, with a son, Gabe, and daughter, Mary Beth Flanagan, and four grandchildren residing in Colby.

Sunflower Bank is a full-service financial provider, offering per-

sonal banking, mortgage loans, consumer loans, corporate services, and trust and wealth management services. In Colby, Sunflower Bank is located at 500 North Franklin.

A \$1.6-billion family-owned community bank, Sunflower Bank is based in Salina, Kansas, with other Kansas offices in Dodge City, Ellinwood, Great Bend, Hays, Junction City, Lawrence, Liberal, Manhattan, McPherson, Osborne, Russell, Topeka, Victoria and Wichita, Kansas.

**Oberlin discusses allowing golf carts on public streets**

The Oberlin City Council talked about whether to allow golf carts, which may be legal or illegal to drive on city streets, to be driven inside city limits on the roads Thursday, but put off making any decision

The council has talked about whether to allow the carts on city streets several times at the request of Charles Godwin, owner of Terrace Garden RV Park. Mr. Godwin and his wife came to the meeting Thursday and again asked the council to allow the carts on city streets.

State law, he said, really isn't clear on whether the carts are illegal or not. An attorney general's opinion only said that the city couldn't have a charter ordinance to allow the carts, he said.

Mr. Godwin has been push-

ing the city to allow golf carts on streets since last year, saying it would help guests at his business who don't want to unhitch their trailer or towed car when they stop for the night.

There really isn't a definition of what a golf cart is in the Kansas law, Mr. Godwin said. It would probably fall under the definition of a low-speed vehicle. It's understandable, he said, that the carts would need safety measures, including seat belts, rear view mirrors, windshields and brake lights, to name a few.

The council could allow people to drive these vehicles in the city, said Mr. Godwin, by using another kind of ordinance, not a charter one.

Oberlin could be the leader on how this should be done properly,

he said, adding that all-terrain vehicles and "mini trucks" don't need a registration and could be allowed on city streets.

Mr. Godwin said he talked to a highway patrol officer who said the city can do what it wants as long as the carts don't travel on state highways.

Mr. Godwin said he's been ensured by Rep. John Faber that if the city allowed the golf carts, it wouldn't change the city's eligibility for state road money.

The council could give the idea a 60-day trial, he said. In Atwood, people are running all over in their golf carts. They add an orange "slow-moving vehicle" triangle to the back as a warning, he said.

What about insurance? asked Councilman Jay Anderson. There's a discrepancy on that, said Mr. Godwin; some people say it would be covered under a person's current auto insurance. The trooper did say if a person got in an accident while driving a golf cart, that person would be at fault, especially if the accident was on a highway.

"Then if we endorsed people driving those, we would be liable?" asked Mayor Joe Stanley.

Not from what Rep. Faber said, Mr. Godwin said.

With the high gasoline prices,

said Mr. Godwin, I think this is one way to help some people.

Why not just ride scooters? asked Councilwoman Rhonda May. What's the difference?

The golf carts have four wheels and the scooters two, said Mr. Godwin. Besides, he said, he wouldn't want to ride a scooter, would you?

Ms. May said she actually would. The scooters are legal and get around 80 miles to the gallon, she said.

If the golf cart can't be driven on a highway, said City Administrator Gary Shike, that would mean someone couldn't drive one from Mr. Godwin's park to downtown.

Mr. Godwin said he's purchasing a Gem cart, which has a 17-digit vehicle identification number so it can be tagged. He said he isn't asking for the City Council to allow the carts for him, but for other people.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener said she appreciated his work with Rep. Faber. By the next meeting, she said, the city probably needs to have an answer.

Originally, Mr. Godwin had asked for golf carts to be allowed so people staying at his RV Park on the west side of town could drive a cart to downtown to shop,

eat and see the museum, without having to take their big rig.

Ms. May said she didn't feel comfortable taking a leadership role in this because if the state trooper says the golf cart driver is at fault in an accident, it could be a liability issue.

Someone took a leadership role for bicycles, vehicles and scooters, said Mr. Godwin.

It doesn't have to be done alphabetically, he asked so why do Abilene or Atwood have to be the first ones?

Mr. Godwin said he wanted Oberlin to be the first one to allow the carts the right way.

Mayor Joe Stanley said he has a problem with the fact that no one knows if it is legal or not. He said he doesn't see how the council can side step this law and not the next one. He said he thinks if they wait, the problem will resolve itself.

If Mr. Godwin buys a Gem, asked Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., will he be able to use it? Yes, said Mayor Stanley, because it's legal.

Maybe one of the council members could call Rep. Faber before the next meeting, said Mrs. Lohofener, to ask him what's going on.

**Missouri man seeks new trial for editor's death**

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)- Testimony from a pair of witnesses helped put Ryan Ferguson behind bars for the 2001 murder of Columbia Daily Tribune sports editor Kent Heitholt.

Now, Ferguson hopes that new testimony from a collection of prison inmates, office cleaning crews and a mental health expert will help persuade a judge to grant him a new trial.

Heitholt was strangled and beaten in the newspaper's parking lot early on the morning of Nov. 1, 2001. Ferguson was sentenced in December 2005 to 30 years in prison for second-degree murder plus 10 years for robbery.

Two state appeals courts have already rejected Ferguson's argument that shoddy defense lawyers and a star prosecution witness whose dreams led to his belated confession helped imprison an innocent man.

On Wednesday, Ferguson returned to the Boone County Courthouse for a post-conviction hearing expected to last three days.

Among the 13 witnesses called by Ferguson's new attorney was a state prisoner who said an acquaintance confessed involvement in Heitholt's death.

Ronald Hudson, whose lengthy rap sheet includes at least four convictions over the past 25 years, acknowledged that he came forward with that information in an effort to shave time off a 15-year sentence for robbery.

But when Hudson separately told two Columbia detectives about the statements by Clarence Mabon, the officers dismissed his account because Mabon is black, Hudson said.

Two other witnesses — cleaning crew workers who saw a pair of suspicious men in the newspaper's parking lot the night Heitholt died — had already told police the suspects were white.

"The reason they haven't solved the murder of the sportswriter is because they're looking for the wrong person, and color," Hudson testified, reading from a letter he wrote to his attorney six years ago.

Also testifying was former cleaning crew worker Shawna Ornt.

She said former Boone County prosecutor Kevin Crane ignored her protests that Ferguson and co-defendant Charles Erickson were not the men she saw in the Tribune parking lot.

"He made me feel like I was wrong for what I was saying," Ornt testified. "He didn't believe me."

At the first trial, Ornt's co-worker Jerry Trump identified Ferguson as one of the two men he saw in the parking lot. On the night of the murder, he could only identify the suspects as young white males.

Crane, now a circuit judge for Boone and Callaway counties, is scheduled to testify Thursday or Friday.

**Legislators study new gas prices**

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators aren't sure how much — if anything — they can do about high gasoline prices, but a committee will study the issue later this year to make sure they aren't missing something.

Legislative leaders have assigned the topic to the Special Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy. The committee hasn't set its first meeting, but its review and any recommendations would come before the 2009 Legislature convenes in January.

"We wanted to make sure that there's not some barrier that we've got that we've set up artificially that's hampering prices in Kansas," Senate President Steve Morris, a Hugoton Republican, said Wednesday.

Rep. Joe Patton, a Topeka Republican, requested such a study. He said that with gasoline prices hovering around \$4 a gallon, he's receiving plenty of questions from constituents.

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