

Snow dusts area roads, waters crop; problems few

A weekend storm dropped 3 inches of snow on Oberlin late Saturday and early Sunday, adding to the winter cover protecting the area's wheat fields.

The white stuff settled on top of fields and yards that were still covered in snow from the last storm on Jan. 13. For that storm, forecasters said the area would get one to three inches but instead there were eight. Cool temperatures

have kept the snow from melting.

The weekend storm may not be the end of it. Forecasters said the area had a 40 percent chance of snow on Monday and Monday evening, and snow was sifting down by.

They also said that the area had a 40 percent chance of light snow for Tuesday and a 50 percent chance that night. By the end of the week, though, they were saying that it would become

dry, with temperatures as high as 45 degrees.

The snow not only brought city and county crews out on the weekend to clean up the roads and turn electricity back on, but the snow has started to make a dent in a drought that the area suffered last year.

Crop Specialist Johnny Medcalf with Servi-Tech said that the recent moisture has helped to make up the difference in what the area lost

last season, but a little more moisture won't hurt. He said that with the ground frozen, he hasn't been out lately and he would be speculating to say where the wheat is now. What he does know is that the snow cover will help those fields.

This snow will protect the wheat from the wind until the area has good growing conditions again, said Mr. Medcalf. Since some of the plants didn't get a lot of growth before they went

dormant, he said, one concern was that they would be blown over by the wind. The white stuff will help keep them in the ground and provide moisture that they need to grow when they break dormancy in the spring.

Flakes began Monday afternoon in Cedar Bluffs, moving into Oberlin as city crews worked at moving piles of snow out of the middle of the street downtown.

Business Alliance to recruit Members ponder how to grow group

The Oberlin Business Alliance discussed how to get new members to join the group when leaders met at the LandMark Inn.

At the meeting Jan. 10, the alliance welcomed one new member, Laurie Wasson, owner of Prairie Petals.

The conversation started with a question about bills that are sent out to businesses for promotions by the alliance. Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, said that they started to do this so that they would have the money to run promotions to help bring business into town. One problem is that businesses are getting charged different amounts, anywhere from \$10 to \$40. The group decided to devise a better plan on this at their next meeting.

When the group found only one person interested in being a quarter chairperson — Karen Metcalf of the Dresser, outgoing president of the group — Julie Kennedy of KSNK television asked what the organization did to recruit members. Mrs. Metcalf said that in the past they haven't really done anything. Mrs. Wasson said she thought the group should be trying to get new members all the time. Mrs. Metcalf said that she did put an ad in the paper to thank people who were members and have helped in the past, hoping that maybe it would spark some interest, but it hasn't. She also suggested putting a small laminated sign in business windows of people who are members.

Mr. Stanley said that a lot of those who are not members are not on Main Street and think the promotions are mostly for those businesses. Although the alliance has tried to make businesses on the highway and in other areas of town a part of what they do, some still feel that they are not included.

Mrs. Wasson asked if maybe it was the dues that keep members out. Alliance members have to be members of the Chamber of Commerce and pay \$75 to join the alliance, plus \$125 for a business to join the chamber.

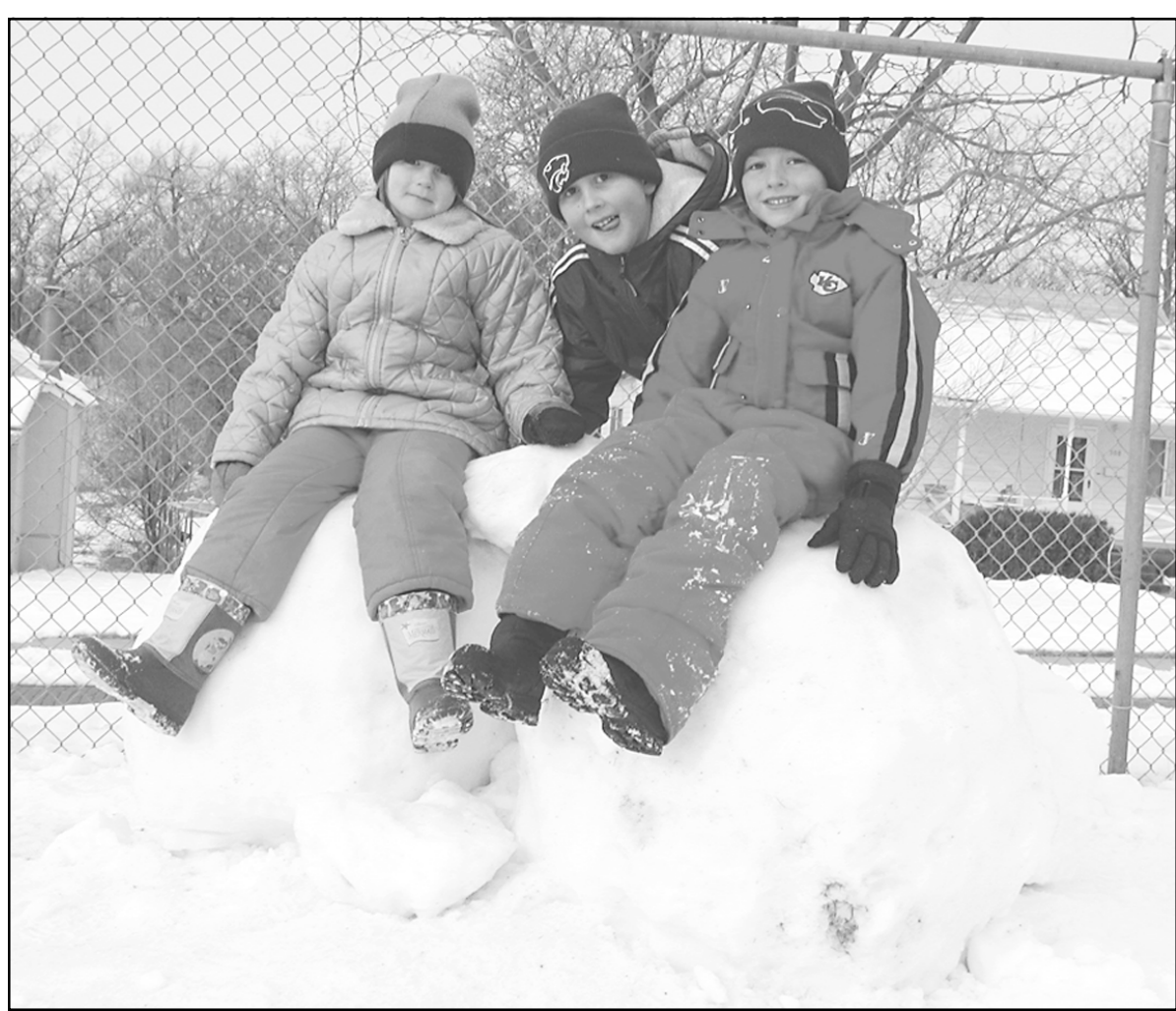
Members said that in the past they had had an agreement with KFNH Radio, known as Eagle Country, where businesses that pay their dues get that same amount in advertising from the radio station. Another idea that was brought up was to let people pay quarterly.

Pharmacist Rusty Addleman said that maybe they should have a pot luck dinner with the chamber and have everyone invite someone. He said there are a lot of good ideas out there that they could use.

Kurt Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug Store, said that he thought there were a lot of people out there who would join if they were just asked. No decision was made.

In other business, alliance members:

- Agreed that Santa Bucks can only be used at alliance and chamber member businesses. They thought that for next year they should print that on them.
- Helen Gee, manager of the chamber, was asked to look at the Santa Bucks deposited in the banks to see how many of them were used at member businesses and how many weren't.
- Elected Mr. Stanley as the president of the group and Mrs. Metcalf as chair for the first quarter.



Who says snow is bad?

PLAYING ON TWO giant snowballs last week at Oberlin Elementary (above) were Keatra Fisher, Mitchell Unger and Zachary May. The kids said the snowballs were made by sixth graders. Sydney Grafel used a big shovel (right) to dig in the sand, but she didn't get very far with the ground being frozen. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt



Conservation awards set for Monday

The Decatur County Conservation District will give out the Goodyear, Windbreak and Kansas Banker awards at 7 p.m. Monday night at The Gateway, the 56th year the district has given the awards.

The Goodyear Award has been given each year since the district started, said District Manager Diana Solko. The winner will receive a plaque.

Her records show that in 1943, the first conservation district board started

to organize. Each of the 105 counties in Kansas has a conservation district, she said.

Mrs. Solko said two Kansas Banker awards and one Windbreak award also will be given. All three are sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association and chosen by people in the county.

The conservation district also sponsors a kids poster contest as part of the event. Oberlin and Jennings school kids draw pictures of conservation practices

like residue management, terraces and water quality issues, said Mrs. Solko.

During the evening, two trophies will be presented in each grade from first to sixth, then several posters may be picked as state entries. She said that in the past posters from kids here have gone to state competition.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. with the DCHS Singers providing entertainment, followed by the awards. There will be election for a board position held now by Ron Bryan for three years. Mrs. Solko said that he is seeking re-election. Other nominees are Richard Anderson and Steve Noren. Eligible to vote are Decatur County residents who are 18.

After the award ceremony, there will be a dessert bar, courtesy of the Decatur County Bankers' Association. Mrs. Solko asked that those who plan to attend to call her at 475-3131.

Council to consider police job

What to do about a vacancy in the police department will occupy the Oberlin City Council when it meets at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday at The Gateway.

Officer Dennis Brown plans to submit his resignation, and council members will start discussion on what will happen with the position. Several members have mentioned a desire to cut the department by one officer, and that might be part of the discussion.

Council members will also talk about how to clean up an area that was contaminated years ago after a fuel tank was removed from the ground at the airport, said City Administrator Gary Shike. He said that when the tank was removed and the city decided to go to above-ground tanks, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment found that the area was contaminated.

The council also will do an overview

of the status of capital improvement projects they have started or discussed.

Jack Benton, with the Sappa Park Restoration Committee, will present a report at the meeting about where the group is on collecting money for the shelter house. Mr. Benton said they need about \$2,000 more for shingles.

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Notice is hereby given that AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., Kansas has filed tariffs to change prices as listed below.

Effective February 1, 2001	Price
Dial Station Basic Schedule X:	Peak - \$.34 per minute Off-Peak - \$.26 per minute Weekend - \$.18 per minute
Dial Station Schedule Y and Z:	Peak - \$.38 per minute Off-Peak - \$.30 per minute Weekend - \$.20 per minute
Weekend Options Plan:	Peak - \$.34 per minute Off-Peak - \$.26 per minute Saturday - Option A \$.15 per minute Saturday - Option B \$.23 per minute Sunday - Option A \$.23 per minute Sunday - Option B \$.15 per minute
Collect Calling Discount Plan:	\$.45 per minute
One Rate (Simplified Calling Plan):	\$.19 per InterLATA minute \$.18 per IntraLATA minute
One Rate Plus (Green Plan):	\$.16 per InterLATA minute \$.15 per IntraLATA minute
Simple Minutes (Yellow Plan) - Card Service Charge:	\$1.25 per call

For more information, please call your AT&T representative at 1 800 222-0300.

Council gives back two pieces of city land

The Oberlin City Council decided to vacate two properties after holding hearings during its regular meeting on Jan. 18.

In both of the hearings, there was no protest from the council or people in the audience.

The first hearing was to vacate an unimproved alley south of Adams Street, between Stevens and Neill, for Mike and Jacque Elwood. There are no utilities that will be disturbed by construction nor has that area ever been a usable alley. The council agreed to it.

The second hearing was to vacate some of the parking near Griffith so that Decatur County Good Samaritan Center can put in a playground. LaVern Burtis, with the center, said that there will be a four-foot fence about four feet back from the curb. The fence will not cause any sight problems for people driving. The center needs the play area for a day care center. The council agreed to this also.

In other business, council members:

- Heard that Kieth Alstrom had sent in a letter asking for a hearing for a zoning violation he was cited for on Jan. 1.
- Signed the letter of intent for the general obligation bonds for the water project. At the last meeting, council members had asked if they should do general obligation or revenue bonds. City Attorney Steve Hirsch talked with the bond counsel and they said with

general obligation bonds, they can still use revenue from water to pay them off and that they may get a lower rate.

- Heard that the city crew needs to have another pickup, especially in the summer. City Administrator Gary Shike said that he knows of one for sale, but it is owned by an employee. At the last council meeting, members said that the men should not use the new bucket truck for every task and should instead use a pickup. The truck Mr. Shike knew about was \$10,000, but Councilman Stan McEvoy said that if they do buy something, they need to look at something cheaper since it wasn't budgeted for. Councilman Marvin Matchett asked for a strategic plan for another truck, including why it is needed.
- Heard that the city crew had done an excellent job cleaning the city and turning the power back on during the recent snow storm.
- Heard from Councilman Fidele, who has gotten questions about dogs in City Park. The city asks that there be no dogs in the park because owners don't clean up after them and kids play in that area.
- Held a 20-minute closed session for attorney/client privileges. The council is trying to work with Kelley Youth Services on how much the city should get for each day a child is at Sappa Youth Ranch.

KLEIN'S SPRING PLANTER SPECIAL

NEW

KINZE 8 Row - 30" 3 Point Planter

KPM II radar monitor, corn meters, no-till coulters

List..... **\$19,621** Cash..... **\$16,500**

KINZE 6 Row - 30" 3 Point Planter

KPM II radar monitor, corn meters, no-till coulters

List..... **\$16,519** Cash..... **\$14,850**

USED

KINZE 6 row - 36" 3 point - 3 yrs old..... \$8,500

KINZE 6 row - 36" 3 point \$6,000

JD 12 row - 30" Model 855, Cultivator..... \$7,500

JD Model 27, 180" Flail Shredder..... \$1,500

Hiniker 6 row Cultivator \$4,000

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NEW EXCLUSIVE LISTING!



108 E. North St. Gracious living on 3 levels of this magnificent 4-bdrm., 2-1/2 bath brick bungalow. The spacious rooms feature high ceilings, big windows, original woodwork and plush carpet for the finest in traditional living, yet also boasts central heat/air, all appliances and brand new water heater for modern comfort. The living room, opening off a formal foyer, spans the width of the house and showcases a marble wood burning fireplace. The lg. formal dining room is adjacent to the kitchen and informal dining nook. Beautiful custom cherry cabinetry is featured throughout the home, providing lots of storage, and imported Dutch Delft tiles form the kitchen back splash. The meticulously finished basement includes a family room w/brick wood burning fireplace, wet bar and pool table. An oversized double-car brick garage is set at the end of a sweeping driveway and is buffered by brick walls and privacy fence which also surrounds the backward patio. This home is truly one of a kind and must be seen to fully appreciate!

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It is not too early to plan and place your TREE AND SHRUB ORDERS

Please call the Decatur County Conservation District Office at (785) 475-3131 OR stop by our office, located on South U.S. Hwy. 83 in Oberlin, Kansas

