

Work ago at airport

Runway redo reset for 2011

The project to rehabilitate the current runway and apron at the Oberlin city airport is back on the calendar for 2011, although an actual date hasn't yet been set.

Councilman Bill Riedel said federal officials had told the city the work would have to be postponed until 2012, but after members of the city's airport committee clarified some things, the runway work will be done in 2011.

The project includes removing 600 feet from the south end of the existing runway and adding 400 feet to the north end. Mr. Riedel said the pavement will be widened 10 feet and the entire runway will receive a new surface. The project also includes upgrading the apron and taxiway.

The Kansas Department of Transportation hasn't set a date for the bidding process yet. A letter sent to the City Administrator Karen Larson showed the estimated cost for rehabilitation of the runway at \$1,055,071 and for the rehab of the taxiway and apron at \$363,261.

Mr. Riedel said engineer Don Klappmeyer will be here from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan 20, before the regular council meeting, to answer any questions about the airport. The meeting will be open to the public, said Mayor Joe Stanley.

The City Council also heard about a proposed standard lease agreement for people wanting to rent ground at the airport at the meeting Thursday.

The Airport Committee met before the council meeting, said Councilman Riedel. The group has pretty much created a lease for people who want to rent ground or a hangar, he said.

The lease spells out what the hangar is suppose to be used for and specifies that only the city can sell fuel at the airport, he said. Prior to this, said Mr. Riedel, there hadn't been any formal lease documents for hangars. People have paid rent, he said, but it was haphazard on who got charged what.

BWR Engineering has laid out a plat for the airport, he said, including sites of future hangars. Rent would be \$200 a year for each lot, said Mr. Riedel.

Now people pay from \$40 to \$187 a year for a spot.

Are all of the lots the same size? asked Councilwoman Rhonda May. They are reasonably close, said Mr. (See RUNWAY on Page 5A)



MONDAY AFTERNOON, Melvin Martin (above) with the Oberlin city crew helped clean up Penn Avenue while snow continued to sift down. Curtis Richards (below right) and Gaylen Huntley, with the county, cleaned up the sidewalks around the courthouse. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Blowing snow causes slowdowns, school cancellations

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
k.davis@nwkansas.com

The snow seemed to just keep falling and falling, or maybe it was just blowing around.

It started around 10 a.m. Sunday, when tiny little snow balls started to fall from the sky. By afternoon, some highways were snow packed and icy. It was slow going for people trying to get home from church, but the state plows were out starting to get things cleaned up.

While it stopped snowing Sunday afternoon, it started again that evening, and seemed to just continue into Monday. According to the National Weather Service in Goodland 1.6 inches fell Sunday. Around town, people measured six to seven inches of snow as noon Monday.

Neither the Decatur County Sheriff's Department nor the Oberlin Police Department reported any wrecks because of the storm.

While Main Street was fairly slow on Monday, businesses were open and many owners were out scooping the sidewalks.

The forecast from the weather service showed blowing snow Monday afternoon and more snow that night, although less than an inch was expected to accumulate.

The forecast included wind gusts as high as 30 mph and temperatures during the day of 12 degrees Monday, 10 on Tuesday and 12 today. By Thursday, the forecast showed a jump to a high of 31.

Meeting cancelled

With snow and wind which forced officials to cancel school Monday, the Oberlin School Board meeting scheduled for this week has been postponed until Monday.

The meeting was scheduled for Monday night, but with snow, wind and ice, it was put off for a week. Board Clerk Vickie Lippelmann said the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

Board meetings are open to the public.

While the Oberlin School District planned a two-hour-late start Monday, all classes were cancelled about 5:15 a.m.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he talked with the superintendent from Atwood around that time. With the icy highways and the forecast for the wind to pick up Monday afternoon, they decided to cancel school for the day.

Mr. Dorshorst said he didn't want to get kids to school and then have the weather turn, and not be able to get the country kids back to their homes. Temperatures were expected to dip as low as -10 after



dark, with the wind-chill factor around -24.

With the wind, said Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman, the county crew hasn't been out to clear the county roads. The crew was keeping access to the hospital and courthouse open, he said.

While it was still undecided Monday, Mr. Stallman said, the

crew might go out in the afternoon and start cleaning up the county roads and then go back out Tuesday morning.

City crews got equipment ready Sunday afternoon and Monday morning and started cleaning the streets off first thing, said City Administrator Karen Larson.

A state official said the Depart-

ment of Transportation maintenance crew started around 2 p.m. Sunday cleaning up the highways and had trucks out ever since, working through the night to plow and treat the slick surface. Highways were mostly snow packed, with little drifting, but lesser-used country roads had some good-sized drifts.

City wants bids for leased land

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
k.davis@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin City Council decided Thursday to ask for bids for three parcels of pasture and farm land it owns.

The tenants on the property south of town are Mark and Jan Bricker, said Mayor Joe Stanley. They have a year-to-year contract on it. That property includes 86.5 acres of grass and 105.2 acres of crop land.

The council decided to consider the land as two separate parcels.

The other contract is for land at the airport, which is now rented by Greg Lohofener. Mr. Lohofener mows 78 acres of the land at least three times a year as part of his rent, City Administrator Karen Larson said. He also farms 48 usable acres

City Roundup

At a meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Decided to ask for bids for three parcels of pasture and farm land it owns. Story at left.
- Met behind closed doors for over an hour during with the city's auditor, but took no action. Story on Page 3A.
- Heard that work on rebuilding the main runway at the city airport was back on schedule for this year. Story above.

and pays \$100 a year. He has a three year lease, which is expiring.

It could get pricey, said Mayor Joe Stanley, if the city had to start paying someone to mow the land around the airport.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she thinks the council needs to put the leases out to bid. The terms

have not been bad, she said, but there is also some benefit to putting the property up to bid every once in a while.

The airport property was last put up to bid in 1999, said Mayor Stanley. The Brickers farmed the property south of town when the (See CITY on Page 5A)

Ag conference set for Gateway

The annual Cover Your Acres winter conference is scheduled for next week at The Gateway in Oberlin.

The two day-event, which brings together farmers, industry professionals and university experts to talk about no-till farming and other techniques, starts on Tuesday. The same programs will be offered again next Wednesday.

While early registration has already ended, people can pay at the door. The cost is \$50 per day.

This is the eighth year for the conference, said Brian Olson, regional agronomist for Kansas State University Research and Extension in Colby. The event has drawn more than 500 each year.

The event is sponsored by Extension on the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance. "Diamond" sponsors include Pioneer, Hoxie Implement, Lang Diesel, Brothers Equipment, Crop Production Services, Cargill AgHorizons, the National Sunflower

Association and McCook National Bank with Market Data.

While the same programs are offered each day, several of the farmers attend both days so that they can attend more. Some of the sessions are on fertilizing for no-till, alternative crops, technology and hardware solutions, spray application technology, fertilizer and wheat varieties. For a full list of the sessions, see the ad on Page 4B or in *The Country Advocate*.

Mr. Olson said the agencies started the conference eight years ago because he thought they needed a way to bring farmers, industry professionals and university people together to talk about production in this part of the state.

Registration starts at 7:45 a.m., with sessions started at 8:32 a.m. both days.

White-tail deer, taken in Decatur County, found to have wasting disease

Another white-tail buck deer has turned up in Decatur County with a presumptive positive for Chronic Wasting Disease.

In 2007, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks reported that three deer taken in the county tested positive for the disease.

Mike Mitchener, wildlife section chief in Pratt, said the department has receive

2,031 samples from deer to be tested for the disease, which kills deer, but only 90 have been tested so far. The disease affects the brain and is similar to what is known as "mad cow disease" in bovines.

Mr. Mitchener said the lab at Kansas State University had a problem with the machine used to test for the disease, and that is part of the reason it is taking so long

to test the samples. After a presumptive positive is found in a sample at the university, he said, it is then sent to the National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, Iowa, for confirmation.

The lab in Iowa uses another test to check for Chronic Wasting Disease.

Not all hunters send in samples, said Mr. Mitchener. He said the state tries to collect

certain "high-value" samples. For example, they know that the disease is progressive, so it's more likely to be found in older animals. It's unlikely for the disease to be found in a fawn or in a yearling, he said.

The department is looking for presence and prevalence of the infection. Presence, said Mr. Mitchener, means it is in the county and prevalence is what percentage

of the deer population is the disease being seen in.

Since Chronic Wasting Disease was first found in Decatur County four years ago (See WASTING on Page 5A)



Crew burying fiber-optic cable



BEHIND FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH last week, Marty Edgar (left) and Andrew Richards watched as Stan Durrant worked in a hole putting in the inter duct for fiber optic lines for Nex-Tech Communications, an affiliate of Rural Telephone. The men work for Johnson Construction of Weyauwega, Wis. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* City to get bids for use of lands now leased out

(Continued from Page 1A) city bought it.

Councilman Ray Ward said he thought the council should bid the crop land at the airport and mowing together. The catch will be finding someone willing to do that much mowing at least three times a year.

In that case, the city won't get any bids on the property, said Ms. May, and then will know.

Next year, said Mayor Stanley, some of the land on the south property will be used for construction for the new water treatment plant.

While no one could say for sure how much of the land will be used for the plant, Ms. May said she

would be surprised if it took more than 10 acres.

The council isn't sure where the work will need to be done, Councilman Rob McFee noted.

Does the council have to do a three-year lease on the airport land or can it be year by year? asked Councilman Bill Riedel.

Has the payment been the same since 1999? asked Mr. Riedel.

Yes, said Mr. Hirsch, who had a map of the new water treatment plant. Looking at the map, if it's accurate, he said, then 10 acres is a pretty strong number.

The council approved putting the three parcels up for bid.

* Wasting disease found in deer here

(Continued from Page 1A) and in Cheyenne County in 2005, the department has come out twice and taken deer to be tested. Neither time produced more cases of the disease, however.

In this case, said Mr. Mitchener, the presumptive positive was found in a 3 1/2-year old white tail buck taken along the Sappa Creek during archery season.

Information about the disease says that the animal may or may not show signs. Symptoms might

include behavioral changes including decreased interactions with other animals, listlessness, lowering of the head, weight loss, repetitive walking in set patterns and a lack of response to people.

According to a release from the department, "There is no vaccine or other biological method that prevents the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease. However, there is no evidence that Chronic Wasting Disease in the natural environment poses a risk to humans or livestock."

* Runway set for work

(Continued from Page 1A)

Riedel. The committee wants to get some consistency in the fees. All of the lots are on the apron, he added.

He said one new hangar is being built. On Thursday, the siding was being put on. One of the old hangars

was taken down, said Mr. Riedel.

He added that another hangar is being sold and there is some preliminary talk about running an aerial spraying business out of the airport.

County might re-draw districts to even out population in each

Decatur County commissioners briefly discussed the possibility of re-drawing district lines to move some townships from one commissioner district to another to even out the population for each district.

Commissioner Ralph Unger has the biggest district and would need to drop around 100 people. The commissioners, Clerk Colleen Geihlsler and County Attorney Steve Hirsch looked at the numbers and talked about changing the districts, but didn't make any decisions.

Right now, the 1st District, represented by Commissioner Stan McEvoy has 943 people in it and

includes the east side of the city.

The 2nd District, represented by Commissioner Ralph Unger has 1,032 people and included Bassettville, Finley, Logan, Liberty and Sappa townships and Oberlin City 1.

The 3rd District, represented by Commissioner Gene Gallentine has 946 people and covers Beaver, Sherman, Harlan, Grant, Olive, Roosevelt, Lincoln, Oberlin, Center, Altory, Garfield, Summit, Custer, Jennings, Pleasant Valley, Cook, Prairie Dog, Dresden, Lyon and Allison townships.

The suggestion was to give Bassettville and Finley townships to the 3rd District. That would

give all of the commissioners around 900 to 1,000 voters, said Mr. Hirsch.

During the meeting, a bill was received from Oberlin Concrete for \$2,040 for work on the steps outside the Golden Age Center. The bill just says concrete, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, not labor.

Mr. Unger suggested seeing what money the senior center has for the project. The county wasn't contacted ahead of time and this expense isn't in the budget, he said. The bill was mailed in, so the commissioners suggested Ms. Geihlsler call the senior center and let them know it had arrived.

Show ball team to play in Colby

The Harlem Ambassadors Professional Show basketball team is coming to Colby next week to take on a town team that includes a former Oberlin Red Devil.

The game, which starts at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Community Building, is a fund raiser for the Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets, which cost \$6 for adults or \$4 students, are available at the Chamber office and at the door before the game. The Thomas County Chamber Challengers include:

- Andy Heintz, sports editor of the *Colby Free Press*.
- Brian Williams, night manager

and officer at the B-Hive

- Cory Swartz, financial manager for Cornerstone Ag.

- Jason Siruta, a service technician at Colby Ag Center

- Jay Sanderson, KLOE KKCI sports broadcaster

- Leslie Focke, a nurse and coding manager at Family Center for Health

- Mary Beth Flanagan, secretary at Colby Grade School

- Melinda Cheney, part owner of Uptown Style

- Mike Wiens, part owner of Someplace Special and an employee at Bankwest

- Preston Mackley, physical ther-

apy assistant at Tina Harris' Physical Therapy

- Rusty Grafel, Colby College assistant men's basketball coach, and a former player for the Fort Hays State University Tigers.

- Sage Hemmert, Colby Police officer.

- Scott Focke, clinic administrator at the Family Center for Health Care

- Stacy Lee, Colby recreation director.

- Ted Hart, who works for Monsanto.

- Tess Smith, Colby assistant recreation director.



Rawlins County Health Center

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant
Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy New Year!						1
2	3 Dr. Rubiniowitz Oncology Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	4	5 Bone Density Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	6 Dr. Reeves Podiatry MRI's	7 Dr. Reeves Podiatry Cardiac Rehab	8
9	10 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	11	12 Dr. Frankum Surgery DEXA Bone Density Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	13 MRI's	14 Cardiac Rehab	15
16	17 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	18	19 Dr. Curtis Cardiology Mammograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	20 Dr. Saba Orthopedics MRI'S	21 Cardiac Rehab	22
23	24 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	25 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology Nuclear Stress Test	26 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	27 MRI'S	28 Cardiac Rehab	29
30	31 Dr. Rubiniowitz Oncology Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director 				

Mill Bar Angus 3x8