

Local

Development plan nixed

▶ A proposed residential development near Riverside Airport has many potential problems, the planning commission decides.

By **SUSAN HYLTON**
World Staff Writer

A unanimous Tulsa Metropolitan Area Planning Commission rejected a proposed residential development near Riverside Airport on Wednesday.

Attorney Robert Nichols said property owner Bill Satterfield's proposed development in suburban Jenks would be different from areas plagued with noise complaints around Tulsa International Airport.

"The Air National Guard is not stationed at Riverside. The large, commercial liners which generate a great deal of the noise are not located here," Nichols said.

He argued that a residential area already exists south of Riverside and that home buyers can choose whether they want to live near an airport.

"There are persons who would be attracted to this area for a home because of the nearness of the location of this airport and the hangar facilities," Nichols said.

Although the area is zoned for industrial use, residential zoning for the proposed development is in accordance with the comprehensive plan for the metropolitan area. But planning commission staff members said the proximity of the airport, and the

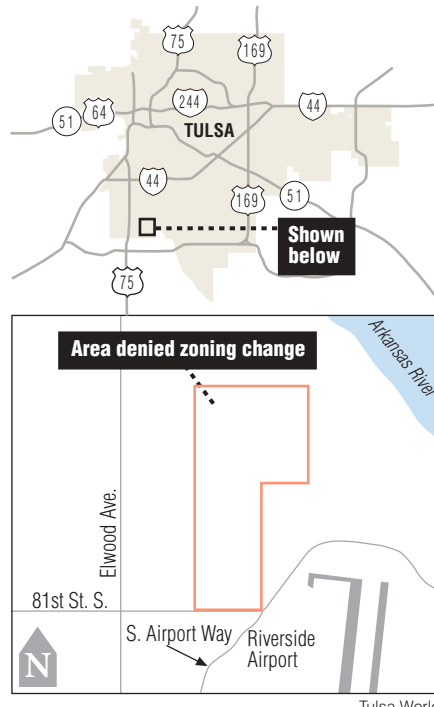
noise, vibration and traffic it produces, were greater factors.

"The comprehensive plan is to be an organic document we use as a guide," commission member Joe Westervelt said.

Tulsa Airports Director Brent Kitchen said single-family residences are the absolute worst land use near an airport because of noise and safety issues. About 130 condemnation cases exist involving Tulsa International Airport for similar reasons, he said.

Kitchen said Riverside is the state's busiest general airport, serving private and corporate aviation. It has three runways and ranks among the top 35 airports for traffic volume in the nation.

SEE AIRPORT A-18



River dispute may go to court

By **ROD WALTON**
World Staff Writer

TAHLEQUAH — Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission members are ready to take court action, if necessary, to stop a land developer from doing further dirt work along the banks of the Illinois River, the agency's leader said Wednesday.

"We'll seek an injunction in Adair County District Court if any work starts up again," commission Administrator Ed Fite promised.

The Tulsa businessman who started the work wonders why he has stirred up so much trouble on his property about 25 miles north of Tahlequah.

"You'd have thought I was dumping plutonium in the river or something," Hoby Ferrell said.

State and federal officials said Ferrell damaged anti-erosion protections along the waterway by digging up gravel and brush. Eyewitnesses said they saw bulldozers and backhoes actually in the Illinois River, Fite said.

Officials also contend that the work was done without a permit.

Acting on an anonymous tip, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ordered the work on Ferrell's land — done by G&R Excavation of Salina — to stop on March 10.

"Now we're trying to determine what has to be done to rectify what's been done," corps spokesman Ross Adkins said.

"For a developer, he should have known better."

Ferrell countered that he's not technically a developer.

He said he bought 60 acres of land intended for his own use and perhaps eventually to build a parklike area with cabins.

SEE RIVER A-18

Second burst same as the first



STEVE GOOCH/Associated Press

Oklahoma City firefighters shovel hail from around a stuck car Wednesday in Oklahoma City following a heavy hailstorm that passed through the area. Severe thunderstorms packing large hail, heavy rain and possible tornadoes struck the state for the second day in a row Wednesday, but little damage and no injuries have been reported.

Storms again shake up state

▶ A second round of severe weather destroys two mobile homes and brings more rain, hail and wind.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Storms pounded Oklahoma for the second day in a row Wednesday, bringing high winds, funnel clouds and hail to central and eastern parts of the state.

Two mobile homes in Silver City in northwest Creek County were destroyed, and some flooding was reported in the area, emergency management officials said.

"There was circulation in some of those cells that went across there," said B.J. Pope, director of emergency management for Creek County. "We've not been able to ascertain whether it was high

winds or whether we had an actual funnel drop."

The mobile homes were not yet inhabited, and no one was injured, Pope said.

In Tulsa, lightning might have started a fire that left a large hole in the garage of a house at 2303 S. Richmond Ave., said a neighbor, Woody Lock. A loud thunderclap was heard just before the flames were spotted, he said.

One man was inside the home when the blaze began, and EMSA medics treated him at the scene for smoke inhalation. It was not clear Wednesday night if he was

transported to a hospital.

No damage estimate was available, but the fire appeared to have been contained in the garage.

The storm system dropped baseball-size hail in Oklahoma County, The Associated Press reported.

Oklahoma City firefighters shoveled nearly 8 inches of hail off the Broadway Extension.

"I've never seen hail that deep," Maj. Brian Stanaland said. "It looked like a snowstorm."

Hail damage was reported across the state, with baseball-size hail reported near Mannford in Creek County, said Pete Snyder, a National Weather Service meteorologist. Hail an inch in diameter fell on parts of Tulsa and Broken Arrow, he said.

About 900 customers of Ameri-

can Electric Power-Public Service Company of Oklahoma in the Tulsa area were without power, said Amber McNeil, an AEP-PSO spokeswoman.

"There are a large number of small scattered outages," she said.

The National Weather Service listed almost the entire state under a tornado watch. Tornado warnings were issued in several counties, including Tulsa, Creek, Sequoyah, Haskell, McIntosh and Oklahoma.

Although many funnel clouds were reported throughout the storms' track, no tornado touchdowns had been confirmed in northeastern Oklahoma, officials said Wednesday evening.

SEE STORMS A-18

Grant to yield windfall of food

By **GINNIE GRAHAM**
World Staff Writer

About 11 million extra pounds of food will be generated for the needy with the help of a \$9.1 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma was awarded the grant to build a new food distribution center on 6½ acres just north of its current building at 1150 N. Iroquois Ave.

The new building, designed by Tulsa's McParland Davies Architects, will consist of 78,520 square feet and will feature a warehouse storage space that's three times larger than the current facility's.

"There have been years where we would have to turn down as much as 2 millions pounds of food — mostly fresh and frozen — because we didn't

SEE FOOD A-18

TU's Sharp Chapel reopens with a reaffirmation of faith

▶ The memorial chapel has undergone a \$4.2 million expansion and renovation.

By **BILL SHERMAN**
World Religion Writer

Sharp Memorial Chapel, which has occupied a central position on the University of Tulsa's campus for 45 years, reopened Wednesday after an 18-month, \$4.2 million expansion and renovation.

Minutes after TU President Robert

Lawless and others cut the ribbon blocking the door, campus ministers, students and staff members prayed, sang and worshipped together in the renovated chapel.

"This is a very special occasion," Lawless said, especially significant because it symbolizes the importance of faith at TU.

"We're a campus in which faith is paramount," he said.

"We're an inclusive campus, but we also have a strong foundation in the Christian tradition."

TU has a covenant relationship with

the Presbyterian Church USA.

Lawless said he hopes to see a weekly midweek service joining all the diverse campus ministries.

Participating in Wednesday's events were Martha Buford and her daughter Jo Buford Siegfried, granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Robert C. and Josephine P. Sharp, who conceived the vision for the original chapel and provided the funding.

"Mom and I are speechless," said Siegfried, who lives in Tulsa and serves on the TU Board of Trustees.

She described her great-grandfather

as wise and gracious, kind and gentle.

Robert C. Sharp was an oilman from Pennsylvania who came to Tulsa in 1917 to work as vice president of Oklahoma Natural Gas Co. and later became the company's president.

Two TU students spoke at the service, called WOW — for Worship on Wednesday.

James Kilian, TU Golden Hurricane quarterback, credited prayer and his relationship with God for getting him from an eight-man high school football team in a small town near Enid to Division I collegiate football.

He said he is often asked how he balances school, football, social life and his work with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"The Lord is in control of my life," he said.

Student Anne Sherman described growing up in a single-parent home.

"God has been an absolutely perfect father to me when I didn't have one . . . because he loves me as a daughter," she said.

The renovated chapel is a "beautiful

SEE CHAPEL A-18

FOOD:

The food bank distributed 8.5 million pounds of food last year and could distribute 20 million pounds per year with the new space.

FROM A-13

have space for it," Executive Director Sara Waggoner said.

"We also found we need different kinds of food distribution programs to meet the needs. Our vision is to make everyone food secure in eastern Oklahoma. We cannot do that in our current facility."

Groundbreaking is expected in the fall, with a scheduled opening date in the fall of 2005.

The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma distributes food to about 50,000 people weekly in 24 counties through partnerships with more than 450 nonprofit programs.

Last year, the food bank distributed 8.5 million pounds of food.

With the new warehouse storage, Waggoner predicts being able to distribute as much as 20 million pounds of food a year.

"We know 20 million pounds is needed," she said. "Based on



Courtesy

This rendering by McFarland Davies Architects depicts a new Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma food distribution center that is to be built just north of the current building on Iroquois Avenue. A \$9.1 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation is funding the new center, which should open in the fall of 2005.

our assessment, we are giving about 40 percent to 45 percent of what agencies need. They either raise or purchase what they cannot get from us."

The food bank acts as a middle agent between donations and agencies that need food.

Waggoner said the bank will now be able to develop its own food distribution programs ranging from lessons in community gardening to training in food preparation, budgeting and grocery shopping.

A Kids' Cafe program is being planned and would partner

with existing after-school programs to provide an evening meal for children.

"We have plenty of after-school and latch-key programs for kids, but many still go home to no dinner," Waggoner said. "So we can take an existing program with no feeding component and now have a feeding component."

A 2,200-square-foot commercial kitchen and training center will allow the food bank to prepare foods for delivery programs. The food bank currently takes in only nonperishable items for distribution because

no commercial kitchen is available.

The grant is part of an upcoming \$12.7 million capital campaign. The remaining money will be used for facility maintenance and program development.

The existing food bank building will be sold, with the proceeds going into an operating endowment, Waggoner said.

"Eventually, we want to completely be self-sufficient," she said.

Ginnie Graham 581-8376
ginnie.graham@tulsaworld.com

AIRPORT:

Noise could become a big problem if the plan were approved, a commissioner says.

FROM A-13

Spartan School of Aeronautics also operates out of Riverside.

"They have 600 flight stu-

dents with plans to grow," Kitchen said.

He said officials already receive many complaints from residents outside the "noise contours" of Riverside Airport.

Commission member Dwain Midget said he was hard-pressed to support the residential development because of the noise abatement difficulties Tulsa International Airport has had.

"I know just what would happen in the not-so-distant future if that was approved — there

would be another noise mitigation program going on," planning commission member and pilot Baker Horner said.

In other action, the planning commission:

► Approved plans for a commercial development on the northeast corner of Reading Street and Peoria Avenue. The development calls for a dry cleaner, bank, offices, restaurants and convenience stores.

The developer is Paradise Partners I LLC, which includes

former Oklahoma State University football standout and NFL veteran R.W. McQuarters and former University of Oklahoma head football coach John Blake.

► Approved an amendment to the comprehensive plan that would include the proposed site for a Grand Central Library at 11th Street and Denver Avenue.

Tulsa County voters could vote on whether to fund the new library later this year.

Susan Hynton 581-8313
susan.hynton@tulsaworld.com

RIVER:

"Keep in mind, I own the place," Ferrell said.

FROM A-13

Ferrell didn't know that Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission members voted 9-0 Tuesday night to consider seeking legal action against him.

"None of this was done intentionally," he said. "I didn't realize I needed a permit to clear brush on my own land."

Ferrell denied that any of the bulldozers ever drove into the river and pulled out dirt.

"We're talking about a property that was basically a thicket of trash and thorn bushes," Ferrell said. "No trees were taken down of any substantial value at all."

In any event, the work done on Ferrell's property has attracted the involvement of the commission, corps officials, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Adkins said the corps entered the fray because of possible damage to flood-prone and wetlands areas.

He said the work done there — such as pushing fill dirt around the wetlands area to create ponds — could damage anti-erosion efforts and allow extra sediment to flow down river.

Any decision about what Ferrell might do to fix the damage could take a month or so.

"The guy is in big-time violation of the 404 permit," Adkins said, referring to federal Clean Water Act requirements. "He never had one, by the way."

Ferrell said he met with federal and state officials last month and plans to take whatever actions they want. At the same time, he believes that he has a right to make improvements to his own land.

"I understand some groups out there never want anything ever cleared," he said. "When you buy a property, it should be your ability to at least clear the brush out."

"Keep in mind, I own the place," he said.

The only work being done now, Ferrell said, is planting grass seed to prevent further erosion along the riverside.

Some of the damage already has been done, Fite said. The only question is how the Scenic Rivers Commission will respond.

"We will find out what remedies are available to us," Fite said.

"We will call a special meeting as soon as we can."

Rod Walton 581-8457
rod.walton@tulsaworld.com

STORMS:

A tornado briefly touched down near Gage, but no injuries are reported.

FROM A-13

A tornado briefly touched down a few miles north of Gage in northwestern Oklahoma, but no damage or injuries were reported, according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

The storms caused some minor street flooding Wednesday evening in Tulsa, most notably near Dawson Road and Lewis Avenue, where streets were barricaded until high water subsided.

Almost 2 inches of rain had fallen in the city by midnight Wednesday, with more expected Thursday, Snyder said.

Cherokee, Pittsburg, Okfuskee, Adair and Sequoyah coun-

ties received slightly more than 2 inches of rain Wednesday, he said.

Snyder said the additional precipitation expected Thursday raises the risk of flooding.

Apart from the destroyed Creek County homes, the scenario was much the same as what area residents saw Tuesday, with storms packing 70- to 100-mph winds and hail.

Very little storm damage was reported across eastern Oklahoma from Tuesday night's storm.

A carport and overturned stock trailer were damaged by wind in the far northwest section of Creek County on Tuesday, Pope said.

Elsewhere, officials in Mayes, Rogers, Craig, Wagoner and Muskogee counties did not report significant damage.

In Tulsa, Tuesday night was the first time G. Barry Epperley had been able to get all the performers necessary to perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in one place before a Thursday night performance.

"We got started around 7:15

p.m., working on the fourth movement, and had just got to the 'Ode to Joy' when a security guard came in and said there was a tornado heading our way," Epperley said.

His Signature Symphony rehearses and performs at the VanTrece Performing Arts Center for Education at Tulsa Community College's Southeast Campus.

Epperley led the 40-plus musicians and more than 100 singers straight to the area underneath the PACE stage.

"Usually, that's where we store the chairs and music stands and the large percussion instruments," Epperley said. "Fortunately, all those things were on the stage, so we could more or less fit in under there."

More than an hour passed before the orchestra was told all was clear and rehearsal could resume.

"We had these little pockets of singing going on" Epperley said. "So there wasn't much rehearsing, but we did get to know each other real well."



MICHAEL WYKE / Tulsa World

Participating in the reopening of Sharp Memorial Chapel on the University of Tulsa campus Wednesday were Martha Buford (left) and her daughter Jo Buford Siegfried. They are granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Robert C. and Josephine P. Sharp, who conceived the vision for the original chapel and provided the funding.

CHAPEL:

The ceremony marks the beginning of five days of events dedicating the chapel.

FROM A-13

reminder of everything God has done in everybody's life on this campus," she said.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony and WOW service marked the beginning of five days of events dedicating the chapel.

Other planned events are an open house 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday; dedication of the Westminster Student Center at noon Friday, followed by lunch in the Buford Atrium; a private rite of renewal ceremony Saturday for couples who were married in the chapel; and a chapel rededication service at 4 p.m. Sunday.

The TU chaplain, the Rev. Hank Knight, said the renovation includes wood restoration, new sound and lighting systems and a new slate floor in the chapel.

It is joined by an atrium to a new building, which has a bell tower, the Robert C. Sharp Westminster Student Center, meeting rooms and offices.

Bill Sherman 581-8398
bill.sherman@tulsaworld.com



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