



AIRPORT NEWS

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Caldwell Industrial Airport

Hubler Terminal

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GOPHERS

The melting snow and slightly higher temperatures may be an indicator that Spring is in the near-term forecast for Caldwell! The change of season also marks the beginning of a new round in our battle with the local gopher population. There are actually several kinds of critters, but I tend to refer to them generically as gophers. We are working on an agreement with a man who plans to place traps to reduce or eliminate our gophers. He plans to be on the field at different times of the day, but normally during daylight working his trap set. He will be using a four-wheeler that will be sporting a ramp flag.

IRRIGATION CANAL

Some of you no doubt noticed that portions of Linden and Smeed Parkway have been closed for the past several weeks. A portion of the irrigation canal that passes by the Hubler Terminal was placed in an underground pipe. Moving the canal underground between Linden and Smeed was the first step toward the construction of a road that will form the hypotenuse of a right triangle. The road itself will be a new path for Smeed Parkway to “jog” over to the Hubler Terminal area where it will rejoin Linden. Constructing the new road will permit the City to permanently close the portion of Smeed that’s been closed for the canal work. “Hypotenuse Way” (the Smeed Parkway extension) has been planned for a number of years as a part of our Airport Master Plan. The road itself should be built in the next several weeks by City crews.

GATE #1

If all goes as planned, City crews should be replacing the asphalt and the detector loops under the approaches to Gate #1 sometime next week to permit it to re-open. The difficult weather this winter took an especially severe toll on the underground "loops" that were placed using saw-cuts in the existing asphalt rather than being buried under fresh asphalt. The wires were then exposed to rain water and repeated cycles of freezing and thawing, which was likely the cause of their failure.

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AIP)

The summer of 2018 we plan to rehabilitate our runway, but there will not be a grant-funded project this summer. The engineering and preparations for the runway project have been underway for the past several months. The timing (next year) is based on the need for additional FAA grant funding and the fact that we have to compete with other priority projects for the available funds. The grant that we would usually receive to perform various kinds of eligible maintenance will be carried over to next year to enable us to complete the much-larger-than-normal runway rehab project.

As we move closer to next summer, I will provide more details about exactly when and for how long we will need to close the runway. The construction itself will be very similar to what you saw take place last year when the transient ramp was rehabbed.

TRAILERS, DRIVING, ETC.

With the improving weather comes more activity at our airport. It's also time for an annual reminder that trailers may not be parked by our hangars and must be moved off the airport. I'm happy to work with you for very short visits, but please then move trailers off-field promptly.

Please also remember that it is not okay to drive across the transient ramp to move from one part of the field to another! Don't hesitate to remind other pilots that **The-Red-Zone** exists for a reason and everyone will be able to operate more safely if it's respected.