

... Top local gainer **Targacept 5.5%**

... Biggest local decliner **Blyth -5.8%**

Top S

A9

WEDNESDAY

January 15, 2014

journalnow.com

Business

Winston-Salem Journal • Editor: John X. Miller • (336) 727-7287 • news@wsj.com

Bill gives funding to towers at Smith Reynolds Airport

U.S. Contract Tower Association officials gave Smith Reynolds Airport officials some good news Tuesday, saying that the fiscal year 2014 omnibus appropriations bill passed Monday night by the House and Senate appropriations committees protects contract tower funding.

The bill must now be passed by the House and Senate and signed by President Barack Obama.

The tower at Smith Reynolds Airport was one of 149 contract airport towers scheduled for closing throughout the country June 15, 2013, because of the federal sequestration. Then the U.S. Department of Transportation said in May 2013 that the towers would remain open for the remainder of fiscal 2013, which ended Sept. 30. But the towers continued to operate even during the 2013 government shutdown.

Among other things, the omnibus spending measure provides full funding at \$3.35 billion for the Airport Improvement Program, ensures dedicated funding for the Contract Tower Program, and increases funding for Customs and Border Patrol staffing with an emphasis on limiting wait times at U.S. gateway airports.

— Fran Daniel