



## Workers secure spillway

**WORKERS WITH Nelson Concrete Construction (above) prepared to pour concrete at Sappa Park in the new wetlands area on Monday. Two men (left) waited for the bucket of concrete, being moved by a crane brought from the county. The men poured concrete to reinforce the outside of the existing spillway. Work to put in the wetlands near the shelter house started months ago, but wet weather has limited the amount of work heavy equipment could do in the former lake bottom.**

— Photos by Jeannie Martin

## Man dies, scholarship continues

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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A 1938 graduate of Decatur Community High School who has helped pay for graduates to fulfill their dreams at Kansas State University died last Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Col. Delbert Townsend started the scholarship program in Decatur County in 2000. The program pays for four years of education at Kansas State University.

Since its inception Col. Townsend has awarded the scholarship in person each May, before graduation. Recipients have included Roxanne (Corcoran) Ostmyer, Danielle (Bailey) Batchelder, Grant Reynolds, Byron McFee, Krickit (Steinmetz) Ketterl, Bridget Corcoran, Grant Reichert, Sarah (Olson) White, Allie (Moore) Lohrmeyer, Kelsey (Dorshorst) Feyes, Kelly Olson, Anthony Marshall, Drew Martin, Lora Marietta, Marci Metcalf, Breck Simonsson, Rebecca Helm, Gage Reichert, Alyssa Rippe and Derek Chambers.

At the dinner each May, Col. Townsend would tell the recent graduates and their families the story of why he started to scholarship; also of how he tried to help one of his relatives and it back fired, but that he still wanted to help students get their education.

In his 2008 awards book Col. Townsend is quoted as saying that he wanted to assist "these rural boys and girls in getting an education because I'm convinced education is the first step toward a successful future."

"My greatest accomplishment,

bar none, is the establishment of these two scholarships," he said. "To think that these students will be able to receive college degrees just about tops everything as far as I'm concerned."

Brenda Breth, teacher and counselor at Decatur Community High School, said that while many know about the scholarships for both Kansas State University and University of Nebraska, for students in McCook, many may not know that besides the

scholarships, Col. Townsend gave the students personal support. Once they became a "Townsend Scholar" they became part of his family. The colonel, she said, kept a notebook on each student, including their correspondence, newspaper clippings about the student, graduation announcements, wedding announcements and everything else.

"He kept track of 'his kids' and shared in all aspects of their lives," said Mrs. Breth.

People also might not know about the new program that will start this year, she said. Along with the two four-year scholarships to Kansas State University, there will be two students receiving two-year scholarships that can be used at any college, vocational school or university.

"The Colonel," said Mrs. Breth, "would have really enjoyed handing out scholarships to four Decatur Community High School students this spring during the annual awards assembly."

Col. Townsend grew up on a farm near Danbury, Neb. While he went

(See MAN on Page 5A)



Townsend

## Doctor plans retirement, sells his clinic

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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After 46 years in chiropractic care, Dr. Douglas Fair plans to retire next week, selling his clinic to a former patient and fellow associate, Dr. Ryan Unger.

Dr. Fair said he will miss treating the patients the most when he retires, although he looks forward to spending time relaxing, playing golf and spending time with family.

He and his wife Sandy, who has worked along side her husband at Fair Chiropractic, have been spending some time in Texas. He said they found an RV park that they enjoy visiting and will probably spend a little time there in the winter. Dr. Fair said they want to spend more time seeing the family and grandkids, which now total 16, and are all over the country.

He said they still love Oberlin and have no plans of moving.

Dr. Fair said he decided to study chiropractic care after it helped his mother and himself. He said his mother was paralyzed on the left side of her body after having a stroke after giving birth to his twin sisters. Dr. Fair said they didn't think his mother would live.

With the help of chiropractic care

though, she managed to finally start to walk with a cane. Chiropractic care, said Dr. Fair, really helped her gain her mobility.

Then, he said, he was injured playing football his senior year of high school. The local chiropractor helped him out and he decided he wanted to help people too.

After high school, he went to Kansas Wesleyan in Salina for two years and then to the National College of Chiropractic in Chicago. Dr. Fair also has a bachelor's degree in nutrition from Columbia College in Missouri and a master's degree in nutrition from Bridgeport University in Connecticut.

Dr. Fair opened a clinic in St. Francis in 1964, then in 1986 he opened one in Oberlin.

The building on Main Street, which houses Fair Chiropractic Clinic, was formerly a medical clinic. Then when one was built by the hospital, he said, the doctors moved there.

Dr. Fair said his son was working in the St. Francis office and the couple started looking at areas for another clinic, wanting a new challenge. He said they looked all over, but really like Oberlin.

(See DOCTOR on Page 5A)

## State representatives plan visit to county

State representatives are planning a stop at the Decatur County Courthouse to talk with people here.

Sen. Ralph Ostmyer and Rep. John Faber plan to be in Oberlin from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13.

The men will start their day in Bird City then go to Atwood and plan to head to Norton after visiting with people in Decatur County.

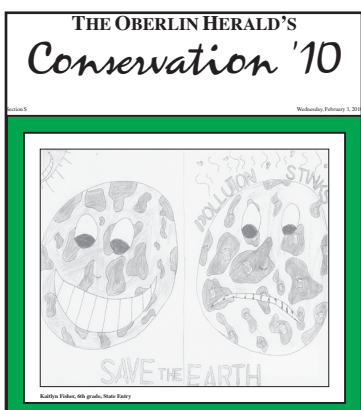


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## Section reveals 2010 winners

Each year, families in the county are honored for their work with the land. In today's Oberlin Herald is the annual Conservation Section, which has stories about the families who received the awards this year.

Two families received Kansas Bankers Awards from the Decatur County Conservation District this year for superior conservation practices and windbreaks.



## Council to look at circle drive bids

The Oberlin City Council plans to look at bids for a circle drive on the south side or main entrance to The Gateway at the meeting Thursday.

The council has discussed the circle drive previously deciding to ask for bids on the project.

City Administrator Austin Gilley said the council will have the code enforcement officer proposal from Jan Ackerman, of Hoxie, to view. Mrs. Ackerman attended the council meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21 to give the group her proposal. There wasn't a decision made at

the meeting.

The council will also discuss priorities again.

Mr. Gilley said the city has the consent order from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to do something with the city water.

There are proposals from Miller and Associates of McCook and HWS Engineering of Manhattan about a capital improvement plan.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m., upstairs in The Gateway and is open to the public.



**WHILE SERVING IN KOREA** in April 1958, Maj. Delbert Townsend (second from right) sat with the general staff of the 7th Infantry Division.

## \*Man serves over 30 years in the Army

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 to school in Danbury for the first 10 grades, he graduated from Decatur Community High School. He attended Kansas State University and then joined the Army in 1943.  
 In May of that year he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and joined the Company A, 194th Glider Infantry, 17th Airborne Division at Camp Mackall, North Carolina.  
 After finishing glider training and parachute school, he was shipped to England with the 17th Airborne Division.  
 According to Col. Townsend's autobiography, on Jan. 7 1945, he

was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge and spent almost two months in the hospital.  
 He said he returned to Company A, 194th Glider Infantry and stayed with them until the end of the war.  
 With the war over, he transferred to the 82nd Airborne Division in June 1945 for a short tour in Berlin.  
 Col. Townsend's military career included 13 months in Korea, three years at the University of Kansas, 12 years at the Pentagon in three tours and two tours in Vietnam to name a few.  
 In 1973 Col. Townsend retired with almost 31 years of military service behind him.  
 Over the years Col. Townsend received the Glider and Parachute Wings, Senior Pilot Wings, Combat Infantry Badge and three battle stars for service in Europe. His decorations included the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, four wards for Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, two Army Commendation Medals, several air medals and three Vietnamese Army decorations.  
 He also finished 68 parachute jumps and logged over 2,500 hours of flight time as a pilot.  
 "The Colonel was so very intelligent," said Mrs. Breth, "and never forgot anything. He and I

## \*Doctor retires, clinic sold to native son

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 The building was purchased and used as a chiropractic clinic. Shortly after, he said, they were swamped with patients in Oberlin.  
 In 1986 the Fairs decided to move to Oberlin. When his son moved from St. Francis, he started to commute from Oberlin to St. Francis.  
 It was a good reason to keep flying, said Dr. Fair.  
 When Dr. Unger arrived on the scene, he took over the St. Francis office and Dr. Fair stayed in Oberlin.  
 Dr. Unger was a patient of Dr. Fair's while he was in high school in Oberlin.  
 Mrs. Fair said when Dr. Unger was in high school, Dr. Fair encouraged him to go into chiropractic care.  
 "I can still recall a day before he graduated as valedictorian of his class (he was a classmate of our daughter Jenna) that the day would come when Dr. Fair would want to retire and it would be great if he

would be here when it happened," said Mrs. Fair. "That was in 1994. The rest is history."  
 Dr. Unger and his wife Darci will own both clinics in St. Francis and Oberlin.  
 Dr. Unger has been in the practice now for 10 years and Dr. Shannon Addleman since 2007. They will continue to provide really good quality care, said Dr. Fair. He added that if he wasn't totally confident in their ability, he wouldn't be retiring.  
 Dr. Fair said that's always been his major concern, before Dr. Unger and Dr. Addleman were here, because he was very rarely out of the office for more than a day or two.  
 The Unger Clinic will keep the same staff with chiropractic assistants Kelly Wasson, Sarah Orr, Britta Noren and Shelby Hackney. All of the patient files will remain with the Unger Clinic.  
 There will be an open house from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11 at the clinic.

## City streets rates from good to bad

The Oberlin City Council looked over a listing of the streets in the city and their condition from bad to good to good.  
 The council didn't make any decisions about which of the streets should be fixed first during the meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21, but did talk about getting an engineering firm here to work on a capital improvement plan for the city.  
 Councilman Bill Riedel said he thought that sounded like a great investment and Councilwoman Rhonda May agreed.  
 City Administrator Austin Gilley said the street ratings were assigned to the streets after the crew took a look at them. There's 17 miles of city streets, including cement, brick, gravel and asphalt. Most are asphalt, said Mr. Gilley. That doesn't include alleys.  
 One-quarter of the asphalt streets are rated bad and need replaced. There are a number of cracks that need sealed, said Mr. Gilley.  
 The city has a crack sealer, he

said, but there needs to be six people to run the machine effectively. It's hard to get six crew members available at the same time to run it, said Mr. Gilley.  
 It would cost \$6.65 million to replace all the bad asphalt streets in the city.  
 The city's maintenance schedule, said Mr. Gilley, is to do crack sealing every year and chip seal the streets every five years.  
 There's going to have to be some consideration about where the money is going to come from for those roads, said Mr. Gilley.  
 He said he talked with an engineer who stopped by his office. The two talked about having a capital improvement plan for the city. Mr. Gilley said he was going to suggest that an engineering firm come in and help get a plan set up. The streets are kind of a forgotten infrastructure, and so is the electric department. It would be good to have an overall plan, he said.

## Members discuss Ladies Shopping Night

Members of the Oberlin Business Alliance discussed the success of the first Ladies Shopping Night held in December and how to improve it for next year at their January meeting.  
 Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark and Oberlin Mercantile, said at the meeting Jan. 3 that the evening had been good for him. Quite a few people stayed after the movie let out, he said, and several thanked him for being open late. The coolest part, said Mr. Anderson, was seeing people carrying bags from the different stores.  
 Laurie Wasson, owner of Prairie Petals, said she thought maybe they shouldn't make it quite so late. (Shopping hours were 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.)  
 Mr. Anderson said he knows there was some talk about also doing a Men's Shopping Night next year, maybe a few days before Christmas.

This would be a good opportunity to get the owners of other retail businesses in town involved in the alliance and get their input on the evenings, said Mr. Anderson.  
 The group talked a little about Santa Bucks, but deciding to table the discussion until July and make some decisions then. Store owners said they had a few people again this year buy something small with a \$20 Santa Buck and then want cash in return.  
 Suggestions have been made to keep smaller Santa Bucks in \$5 and \$10 increments to give as change, to print only \$10 and \$5 bucks or to make customers forfeit the refund.  
 The group hasn't made any decision. The Santa Bucks, used as prizes and Christmas bonuses, aren't supposed to be redeemable for cash. They are good only at participating Oberlin stores because their purpose is to keep the money

## League held meeting here

City employees gathered for a League of Kansas Municipalities training on finance at The Gateway Friday.  
 Oberlin City Administrator Austin Gilley said about 27 officials from cities in seven or eight north-

west area counties attended.  
 Mr. Gilley said he, Clerk Karen Larson, Treasurer Jan Elliott, Mayor Joe Stanley and Councilwomen Rhonda May and Marcia Lohofener represented Oberlin. He said the program focused on city finances.

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