

# Service planned at high school

Memorial services for Col. Delbert L. Townsend, 90, a retired Army officer and World War II veteran who endowed a scholarship program for area students, will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Decatur Community High School gymnasium.



D. Townsend

Col. Townsend died Jan. 26 in Fort Washington, Md. He was born April 6, 1921, in Norcat and was reared in Danbury. After high school, he enrolled at Kansas State University with the dream of becoming a veterinarian. However, following graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. His 30-year career included tours in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and concluded with his retirement in 1973.

He then began a second career working at Rosecroft Raceway and managing Seitz' Liquor Store in Oxon Hill, Md., until it was sold in 1989.

He will best be remembered for establishing scholarship programs at the University of Nebraska and Kansas State University which

have enabled 42 students to attend college so far. He could often be found at his computer, corresponding with "his" students, and he maintained scrapbooks on each one's accomplishments.

He was an active member of the 17th Airborne Association, including two years as its president. He spent hours staying in touch with former comrades. To ensure their passing was appropriately honored, he spent time researching, writing and sending death notices.

He is survived by a daughter, Jo Anne Townsend, Parrish, Fla.

Private burial will be in Oberlin. Memorials may be made to the Delbert L. Townsend Scholarship Program. Donations should be sent to either the KSU Foundation, 2323 Anderson Ave., Suite 500, Manhattan, Kan., 66502, or the University of Nebraska Foundation, 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300, Lincoln, Neb. 68508.

Pauls Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements here.

# Wichita firm hired as bond counsel

The Oberlin City Council agreed to hire a Wichita firm to serve as bond counsel for an upcoming water treatment plant, potential recovery zone bonds and future airport revenue bonds.

This is a long-term agreement, said City Administrator Austin Gilley at the meeting Thursday, May 6. The city sent out requests for proposals in March.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch and Mr. Gilley served as the selection team. Mr. Gilley said they recommended Sarah Steele with the firm of Gilmore and Bell.

Mr. Hirsch said the city has had a good working relationship with the company. Although they aren't the cheapest, he said, their work is good.

The council approved the agreement.

Mr. Gilley said there wasn't a whole lot to report on the airport project. While the Automated Weather Observation System is paid for, it hasn't been shipped yet and won't be until the city is ready to install it. The problem is digging the trench to get power to the site chosen for the system. It won't be cheap, said Mr. Gilley; the estimated cost is upwards of six figures for a mile on trench.

Mr. Gilley said they have asked the engineering firm working on the airport, BWR, for help with getting the weather system in.

Mayor Joe Stanley said Bob Fraker, the fixed-base operator and manager at the airport, asked about the weather system because he is getting calls from pilots.

In other business, the council: • Heard the city's employee health insurance will increase about 8 percent or \$149,699 total, next year. The city's insurance doesn't include dental coverage, said Mr.

Gilley. That will cost an additional \$9,092.

The city budgeted for a 15 percent increase. Even with the dental insurance, said Councilman Bill Riedel, it's under what the city expected. The council approved the increased cost and additional dental insurance for the employees.

• Appointed Judy Scott to the planning commission, Ron Jansoni to the Arts and Humanities Commission and minimum housing, Kary Anderson to the board of zoning appeals and planning commission, Lee Gilliam to the board of zoning appeals and planning commission and Gary Anderson to the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

• Heard that the city received the hotel feasibility study from Fletcher Simmons. Mr. Gilley said there's a copy at the city office. He said he hasn't reviewed it to make recommendations, but it says that a hotel is feasible.

• Heard from Mr. Gilley that he is still watching The Gateway and library funds. He said the city will probably have to pass a budget revision for the library account at the end of the year. An accounting deal, back when we give the library money and then pay the payroll, then the library pays us back for the payroll city pays for everything at the library

• Paid the bills which included \$40,650 from Miller and Associates, the city's engineering firm, for preliminary equipment specifications for the well design of No. 13, Kansas Department of Health and Environment compliance, arsenic and uranium violation, additional line work estimates, Dakota aquifer research and more. Mr. Gilley said he included that in the consent agenda because of the size of the bill.

# Council approves new solar mixer bids

The Oberlin City Council approved a second contract for solar mixers to reduce odor problems at the new sewer lagoons at its meeting Thursday.

While the city had signed a contract with Aeromix, the council decided Thursday, April 22, to cancel that agreement. The council approved releasing Aeromix from the contract during its meeting Thursday after a five-minute closed session for attorney/client privilege. Those in the session included the mayor, council, administrator and city attorney.

City Administrator Austin Gilley said the city still has an \$85,750 pledge from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment under the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act, also known as the "stimulus bill."

Abid from Solar Bee for \$178,905, he said, was the next lowest one.

Councilman Bill Riedel noted that a representative from Aeromix had claimed the mixers aren't going to make the lagoons any better.

Mr. Gilley said that the new contract includes a performance guarantee.

If the council decides not to do this, he added, the city crew has been putting enzymes and liquid oxygen into the lagoons, but those cost money, too. The city could also look at structural changes to the lagoons, which would cost more.

The council approved the original bid from Solar Bee for six solar-powered mixers.

# Digging in the dirt



ON MAIN STREET Friday evening, Connie Simonsson helped plant flowers in the planters. Members of the Master Gardeners Club and other volunteers helped get the plants in place.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# Council to meet on Thursday

The Oberlin City Council plans to meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

As of Monday, the agenda included:

• Bids for a new roof at the city warehouse downtown. The old one has been leaking.

• A contract to be signed for Midland GIS Systems to map out the city's utilities.

• A plan for a wall around the new part of the cemetery with price estimates.

• A report from Councilman Bill Riedel, who attended the Kansas

Municipal Utilities conference last week.

• Closed sessions for attorney client privilege and nonelected personnel.

The meeting, in the upstairs meeting room, is open to the public.

# Walk put off to next week

Rain and chilly weather led Decatur Health Systems to postpone its Community Walk two weeks.

The walk now will start at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 27, at Sappa Park. For three hours, people are invited to come out and get some exercise.

All ages are encouraged to join the fun, which will include trails for all fitness levels and boot camp exercises at 6 p.m. for 15 to 20 minutes. These can be modified for most fitness levels.

# UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Commerce Travel & Tourism Division

**Art Tougeau Parade**  
May 21-22, Lawrence

Wheeled art parade featuring art cars and wheeled art creations from national, regional and local artists. (785) 843-2787, lawrenceartscenter.com

**"Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties" Chautauqua**

June 2-6, Colby / June 9-13, Belleville  
The Kansas Humanities Council presents two weeks of first-person portrayals and history workshops for all ages. KansasHumanities.org

**Mulvane Mountain/Plains Art Fair**  
June 5-6, Topeka

This juried art fair features artists from across the U.S. Join the festivities with food, activities and art for everyone. Washburn.edu/Mulvane/artfair

**Smoky Hill River Festival**  
June 10-13, Salina

High-energy, low-cost family fun, featuring live music, fine art and good food. Music by Delbert McClinton, Kathy Mattea, The Steel Wheels & more. Oakdale Park riverfestival.com

**Kansas Masters BBQ Championship & Summer Fling**  
June 11-12, Wichita

BBQers compete for cash prizes and to qualify for regional and national competitions. Enjoy great food, entertainment and family fun. (316) 612-6886, wichitawellness.org

**Lake Garnett Cruisers Auto & Motorcycle Show**  
June 12, Garnett

30+ awards, all years, classic & customs. Cruise Garnett 4 Cash Contest (785) 448-0100, lakegarnettcruisers.com

**MidSummer's Festival**  
June 18-20, Lindsborg

Fri. night-Steak Dinner & Concert Sat.-Swedish Festival: music, dancing, arts Sat. night-Street Dance with Mainstreet. (888) 227-2227, midsummersfestival.org

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# Health office closed

The Decatur County commissioners found out last Tuesday that the county health department had been closed because of a sewer leak at the medical clinic next door.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin stopped to tell the commissioners about the office being closed. She said she still planned to hold a blood pressure clinic at the Golden Age Center that day.

Ambulance Director Linda Manning said a new automatic electronic defibrillator for the courthouse had come in, and she plans to hang the device by her office. Ms. Manning said she will train other county employees to use the machine, which can restart a heart or help a heart regain its normal rhythm.

The machine gives spoken instructions to tell someone how to use it, she said, but a little training won't hurt.

The commissioners decided not to give \$1,000 to the Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services for a first-time offender diversion program.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he thinks the commissioners are going to have to start saying no to some things because cuts are going to be necessary.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Signed collection letters for the ambulance department and one for the landfill.

• Heard that the landfill free days drew 210 customers, 87 on Saturday. In the past, said Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman, the free days drew between 120 and 140 people. They brought in 293 car tires and almost 200 pounds of latex paint, he said. The loss or revenue to the county was around \$3,600.

• Approved buying eight grader tires for \$400 to \$450 each.

• Signed a permit for Western Sprinklers to install an underground pipe and electrical wire for Craig Larsen under Road 1S.



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This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

**We had a great open house Sunday**  
**Our prize winners were**

Phil and Sharleen Wurm — Crossroads Express  
Ryan and Jana Leitner — Ward Drug Store

**Come in and pick up your prizes!**