

## Extra work OK'd for wetlands

The Oberlin City Council approved some extra dirt work and making the holes in the outlet structure at Sappa Park bigger at its meeting last Thursday. A liner to hold water in the pond area will be put off to see if it's needed.

Rick Pauls, with the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever, which is supervising construction of a wetland and pond at the park, and Dave Bose of Dust Cloud Construction, the contractor, talked with the council about the work.

Mr. Pauls said Mr. Bose is probably half

to two-thirds finished with the dirt work to form the wetlands.

When he met with the council a year ago and Pheasants Forever received \$66,560 from the city for the job, said Mr. Pauls, part of the money was for a liner to hold the water in.

The application soda-ash liner was budgeted at \$11,080 per the engineer's recommendation, Mr. Pauls said, but he's been watching the soil at the park in the last three months. Every time the soil is worked, he said, it changes.

The engineer only suggested three acres of soda ash, he said, but that isn't enough. Also, he said that part of the area is too steep to use a tractor to apply the soda ash.

Mr. Pauls said he's not sure that a liner is needed. Since it's been raining, the outlet was closed three weeks ago and water started to back up.

This week, he said, there's about four feet of water behind the dam and the level has dropped six inches to a foot. The liner might not be necessary, said Mr. Pauls.

There's another company that uses a veg-

etable oil with a surfactant to do a liner that can be done later, he said. The vegetable oil is basically poured into the water and then drops and lines the ground.

It would cost around \$30,000 and could be done at any time. It could be done all at once or in increments, said Mr. Pauls.

Mr. Bose said there's one area where he's pretty sure he's dug through to the original lake bed.

Mr. Pauls said he thinks they need to have bigger holes put in the outlet structure so that when the lake is full, water can get out.

When the water flows over the dam, he said, it means the golf course has flooded.

The change to the outlet will cost \$400, he said. To move some added dirt, make larger outlet holes and move some rocks around would cost \$2,100.

The council approved the change in how the money is spent and agreed to hold off on the liner.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she's in favor of letting the wetlands fill up and see what happens.



## Colonel's service marked with many stories

Scholarship recipients, teachers, family and townspeople said a final goodbye to Col. Delbert Townsend on Thursday during a memorial service in the Decatur Community High gym.

Col. Townsend, who graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1938, set up a scholarship program for two students from the high school to attend Kansas State University each year. He recently started a two-year scholarship program for students to attend other Kansas colleges. Before that, he also created a four-year scholarship program for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Col. Townsend died at the end of January, and a memorial service was held in Maryland shortly afterward.

The service Thursday drew Townsend scholars from Kansas and Nebraska, his family, teachers and relatives of his scholars together to remember a giving man who got his start in Danbury, just over the Nebraska line.

His generosity, said Principal Charlie Haag, will live on through his scholarship program. Col. Townsend also donated the screens in the gym which allow a slide show of the graduates to be shown each year.

Several rounds of applause punctuated the service, two for Ken Aumock, who served in the 17th Airborne Division like Col. Townsend and for Kevin Brown, representing his father, who also served in the 17th Airborne.

Lori Rogge, with the scholarship program at Kansas State University, said Col. Townsend told her he wanted to help rural students obtain an education.

Over the years, 23 students from the high school have become Townsend scholars, she said. So far, 14 of them have graduated.

Oberlin school Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he was able to sit in on the first meeting between Col. Townsend and former high school Principal Buzz Matson. When Col. Townsend left, said Mr. Dorshorst, the men asked if his offer was for real. Turns out it was, Mr. Dorshorst said.

Besides the scholarship program, Oberlin students were able to get to know Col. Townsend on the yearly trip to Washington. He would meet the students and take them for a meal and talk history with them.

Col. Townsend said he wanted to instill in these kids what the nation's capital meant. He was engrossed in the history of his country and what it means to be the best you can be, the superintendent said.

Col. Townsend wanted to teach the students to be proud to be an American, to serve their country in everything they did and to pass that on to future generations, said Mr. Dorshorst.

Brian Cochran, one of the first Townsend scholars in Nebraska, said when he got that letter saying that he had been selected, it opened up a world of opportunity to him.

Grant Reichert, who received a (See MAN'S on Page 8A)

## Seniors receive diplomas

THE CLASS OF 2010 huddled around each other (above) after the graduation ceremony Saturday, before being congratulated by family members and others. Before the ceremony, Ashli Samson (left) helped make sure Wade Juenemann's hat was on straight.

— Herald photos by Sarah Fredrickson

## Veteran drives to friend's funeral

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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Dressed in his 17th Airborne Division uniform from World War II, Ken Aumock walked into the gym at Decatur Community High School last Thursday, leaning on his cane.

Mr. Aumock said he drove down from Minnesota to attend a memorial service for his friend and fellow serviceman, Col. Delbert Townsend. He said he was unable to make it to a service in Maryland, but he wasn't going to miss this one.

While the men served together during the war, it wasn't until later reunions that they really got to know one another. Mr. Aumock said he and Del would trade off in the volunteer jobs for the association. They didn't volunteer for the jobs, he said with a grin, but the other members of the association would volunteer them.

Mr. Aumock said he was a paratrooper during World War II. He flew on Christmas Eve 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge, in one of (See VETERAN on Page 8A)

## City administrator says final goodbye

After 17 months at the city's helm, City Administrator Austin Gilley plans to move on to another Kansas city.

Mr. Gilley said he has taken a job as the city manager in Medicine Lodge, which he said is about the same size as Oberlin.

The post here was his first city management job. Mr. Gilley was hired here about six months after Gary Shike resigned.

In his 17 months on the job, said Mr. Gilley, he has learned a lot about local politics.

He said he hopes he has helped

citizens engage in community and government.

Over the past year, he said he thinks he's brought professionalism to the job, resulting in an increase of efficiency and effectiveness for the city.

The city should reap the benefits of that for years to come, he added.

Perseverance and dedication make a difference, said Mr. Gilley, for the betterment of a community.

He said he would have liked to

have seen the city's airport projects to fruition and to see the website better developed and become more useful to younger families. That's important for better access to government, he said.

Mr. Gilley said he's not quitting, but taking a better opportunity for the family by making the move to Medicine Lodge.

The move will put them 2 1/2 hours from the children's grandparents.

## Postal hours to change

Hours for the Oberlin post office will change next Wednesday, with the counter opening earlier and closing for an hour in the middle of the day.

The office will be open from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and then from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the week. On Saturday, the hours will remain 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Steve Carpenter, officer in charge, said the post office is now open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The change in hours, he said, will allow people to use the post office earlier in the morning. He said he's not sure why the change, although it could save some money.

Customers will still have the same amount of window time, he noted.

## Alumni section inside

Inside today's *Oberlin Herald* is the third annual Alumni section featuring graduates of Decatur Community High School just in time for the annual alumni weekend, reunions and banquet at The Gateway.

The section includes stories and pictures about classes that graduated in 1935, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000, all of which will be holding reunions Saturday, with the exception of the 1935 class.

THE OBERLIN HERALD'S  
*Welcome Alumni*  
Featuring the 10-year alumni classes of Decatur Community High School

Class of 1935

## Memorial Day services planned at cemeteries

Over 300 flags will fly proudly at the Oberlin Cemetery Monday morning to celebrate Memorial Day.

The public is invited to the Memorial Day ceremony at 10 a.m. around the main flag pole at the cemetery.

The program is sponsored by the Oberlin American Legion, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary.

The program will include Rollie Avery for the colors, John and Connie Simonsson posting the national colors, Ashley Horton singing the national anthem, the Rev. Stanley Chapin with the opening and closing prayers, Jim Miesner placing the wreath and Sid Metcalf as

the sergeant-at-arms for the gun salute.

Phil Law will show the different military bugle calls on his trumpet for the program.

### NORCATUR

Air Force Capt. Jacob Leichter will give the Memorial Day address at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Norcatut Cemetery. There will be a parade to the cemetery, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in front of the bank downtown.

The Rev. Larry Danforth will give the opening prayer. The Norton American Legion Color Guard will (See SERVICES on Page 8A)



# \*Services set for holiday

(Continued from Page 1A) assist.

The Avenue of Flags will be placed at 7 a.m. and volunteers are welcome to come help. "Taps" will be played by Anthony Marshall and Nolan Henningson.

In case of bad weather, the service will be held at the Norcat High School gym.

## BIG TIMBER

Memorial Day services will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday at Big Timber Cemetery, with the Jennings American Legion in charge. A dinner will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Jennings. Beverages will be furnished.

## JENNINGS

There will be a Memorial Day service at 10 a.m. on Monday at

the Jennings Cemetery. The Jennings American Legion will be in charge.

## SELDEN, LEVILLE

Services will be held at 9:30 a.m. at Calvary Cemetery at Leville on Monday, followed by services at 10:30 a.m. at the Selden Cemetery by the Selden American Legion Post and Auxiliary. The Girl Scouts will lead the flag salute and the invocation will be given by the Bernita Aumiller, auxiliary chaplain.

Pastor Glenn Paterson will speak and give the benediction. Paulie Neff will place a wreath and music will be provided by Janell Antholz and Caitlin Spreser. The Selden American Legion will follow with a rifle salute. "Taps" will be played by Ms. Antholz and Jacob Antholz.

## HERNDON

Memorial services will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday at the Herndon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, according to Commander Chris Niermeier. Speaker will be Don White, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Atwood. The Herndon Veterans of War and Oberlin American Legion will conduct the memorial service. Refreshments will follow.

## WaKEENEY

Norman Staab, past national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will speak at the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery for the Sixth Annual Memorial Day service at 10 a.m. on Monday. The cemetery is at 403 S. 13th in WaKeeney. The north gates will be open for additional parking.

# \*Man's generosity continues

(Continued from Page 1A) Townsend scholarship in 2003, said it's hard to impart what the scholarship has meant to him.

When asked to serve on the scholarship committee, said Gary Walter, president of The Bank, little did he know that he would have a chance to read information from the area's best and the brightest.

He said he's sorry that the young people receiving scholarships now

and in the future won't have the opportunity to get to know Col. Townsend, however.

"I hope his generosity is never forgotten," said Mr. Walter.

All of the speakers talked about receiving e-mails from Col. Townsend throughout the year. He had a personal relationship with each of his scholars, keeping a scrapbook for them.

Before Taps was played in the

gym, teacher Brenda Breth read a poem called "Airborne at Last," dedicated not only to Col. Townsend, but Lora Marietta, a Townsend scholar prospective Army officer who was killed in a car accident in December, and to all military personnel, including Jerry Chambers of Oberlin, whose son received the Townsend scholarship.

Col. Townsend was buried at the Oberlin Cemetery.

# Selden to host seventeenth show

The 17th annual Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show is set for the first Sunday in June downtown on Main Street.

There's no admission or entry fee for people joining or entering a vehicle for the show on June 6, said organizers. The show is organized by the Selden Community Foundation.

Throughout the day, there will be events for everyone in the family. Food and drinks will be served all day, including hamburgers and barbecued pork. There will be entertainment during and after lunch.

Attractions will include barrel train rides of the kids and a parade at 3:30 p.m. The owners of the top five tractors, top five cars and top

two small engines will receive plaques.

- Other events include:
- A horseshoe pitching competition at 10 a.m.
  - A kiddie tractor pull at 1p.m.
  - A barrel-roll competition at 2:30 p.m.
  - A washer drop competition at 3 p.m.

# Businesses plan to close for Monday holiday

Most Oberlin businesses will be closed Monday for Memorial Day, including federal, state, county and city offices and all banks and financial institutions.

The Oberlin Herald will be closed. The paper will print a day later than usual next week, so copies may be picked up on Wednesday af-

ternoon, with mail delivery mostly on Thursday.

Deadline for the Country Advocate will be noon on Friday as usual. Deadline for news and advertising for the paper will be noon Tuesday.

Raye's Grocery will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday and Mon-

day. Crossroads Express, D & M Service, Ampride, Pizza Hut, Frontier Restaurant, A&W Restaurant, and Coffee, Tea and Me will be open on Memorial Day. The LandMark Inn will have a breakfast buffet from 8 to 10:30 a.m. on Monday. The senior meal site at the Golden Age Center will be closed.



KENAUMOCK sat at a breakfast table at the LandMark Inn Friday morning. The World War II veteran drove from Minnesota to attend the memorial service of his friend, Col. Delbert Townsend.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# \*Veteran jumped into 'the Bulge'

the last planes to fly in. He said he served in General Patton's Third Army, although he was still part of the 17th.

Mr. Aumock said he has no idea how many jumps he made, "too many to count."

After "the Bulge," he took part in the invasion on Germany on March 25, 1945. After that, he spent six months in the hospital. He was flown to Camp Carson in Colorado and received a medical discharge. While he wanted to stay in and serve like his friend, he said, that wasn't an option.

During his time in the Army, he served in the 13th Airborne, 17th Airborne, 101st Airborne and lastly the Allied First Army.

Mr. Aumock said he was 19 when he joined up. He didn't get drafted, but when someone said they needed radio operators and electronics guys, he took the test, passed "with flying colors" and signed up.

A twist of fate landed him in gunnery school. At Fort Leavenworth, he was told to switch trains, so he did. He ended up at the wrong place, which meant gunnery school for him.

Mr. Aumock said he then was assigned to beach control.

He was making \$21 a month and he was told paratroopers were being paid \$50, so again he signed up.

On his first of the five training jumps, he landed wrong and cracked a bone in his leg. The next day he jumped again, knowing if he didn't, he was out of the program.

On the third jump, a sergeant noticed he was shuffling into the plane. The sergeant asked what happened and Mr. Aumock told him. Impressed that he had jumped the second day injured and landed, the sergeant gave him a small blue flag to wave after he landed on the third, fourth and fifth jumps.

The sergeant had a driver pick him up, allowing his leg to heal.

After the five jumps, he still wasn't healed, so he went to rigging school for several weeks, learning to pack parachutes. He still wasn't totally healed after that and did a week in school to learn how to fix the big sewing machines used on parachutes, and then he was ready to jump.

Mr. Aumock said his folks had five sons in World War II, and all came back alive.

Although he wanted to work until he was 100, Mr. Aumock added, he retired in May 2007, after 57 years in the automobile business.

Mr. Aumock said his friend, Col. Townsend, was a wonderful gentleman and a true friend. Neither of them believed in procrastination, he said. Instead they just got the job at hand done.

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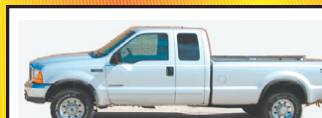
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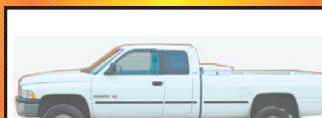
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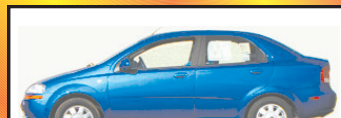
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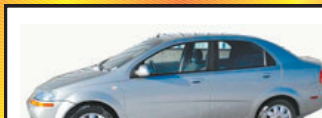
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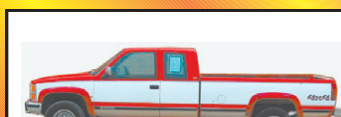
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