

Ready for a new roof



WORKMEN MOVED ROOFING material onto straps and tall crane drew several onlookers Monday morning. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

City to widen old bridge south of town

The old bridge over Sappa Creek at the south end of town is not only going to get a repair job, but will be widened, the Oberlin City Council decided Thursday.

The bridge, on Penn Avenue south of the railroad tracks near the Decatur Co-op, is deteriorating with broken boards, bent tubes and holes on one side.

Wayne Hackney, owner of Oberlin Concrete, talked to the council at the last meeting about replacing the wood-plank east-side retaining wall on the bridge with concrete. The west side, already concrete, is in good shape, he said, but the east side is getting dangerous.

Mr. Hackney said that he would need help from the county crew because he doesn't have the equipment to do the heavy dirt work required for the job.

The cost of the repairs would be

about \$27,600, he said, but for a little over \$34,000, the city could get a wider bridge which would allow two vehicles to pass. Right now, it's almost impossible for oncoming vehicles to pass each other, he said.

The council said it needed to think about the problem, and at last week's meeting, it agreed to go with the wider bridge.

Besides the ability to pass, said City Administrator Karen Larson, the city hopes that large, loaded farm trucks will come into the elevator from the south using the repaired and widened bridge instead of from the north over Oberlin's aging brick streets.

The county is doing its part of the work for cost, Mrs. Larson said, and Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman told her he thought Mr. Hackney's bid is quite low.

Hearing postponed in murder case

With the forecast calling for a blizzard in northwest Kansas on Friday, a preliminary hearing in the murder case against Dylan Coryell Jr. was postponed once again.

The hearing, originally set for November, has been continued three times. It's now scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17.

Mr. Coryell, 24, is being held in the Decatur County jail with bond set at \$500,000, cash or surety. He faces three felony charges for allegedly shooting Airman Corey Cook, 22, and a companion.

The first count is for premeditated

murder in the first degree with an alternative charge of felony murder in the first degree. A premeditated murder involves a planned killing, while a felony murder charge applies when a death occurs during a planned felony crime, regardless of whether the death was planned.

The second count is aggravated battery for alleged injuries to Sarah Campbell, who was with Airman Cook, and the third is for aggravated burglary for entering the occupied home northwest of Jennings where the shooting occurred.

District changes day off for students

Because of a change in the state activities schedule, the Oberlin School District will have classes on Monday, Feb. 20, but not on Friday, Feb. 24.

Letters went out to parents last week about the change. While the calendar committee scheduled the schools to be closed for a teacher training day Monday, Feb. 20, the letter said, with a change in the state wrestling tournament, the district will be open that day.

Instead, wrote Superintendent Duane Dorshorst, students will be

off Friday, Feb. 24, during the final day of the state tournament. That same weekend, some students will be in Wichita at the Kansas Music Educators state performance, he noted.

"The High School Activities Association scheduled the state wrestling tournament on Thursday and Friday of that week, instead of Friday and Saturday," Mr. Dorshorst said. In past years, the district often has not had classes the Friday of the wrestling tournament.

Longtime editor, friend remembered

By **KEVIN BOTTRELL**
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Tom Dreiling, longtime editor of the old *Goodland Daily News*, and later publisher of *The Norton Telegram* and the *Colby Free Press*, was found dead at his home in Denver on Monday, Jan. 30, 2012.

A wake will be held at 7 p.m. (Central Time) Friday at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 307 W. 13th St., in Goodland. Services will be at 11 a.m. (Central Time) Saturday at the church. Burial will follow at the Goodland Cemetery, then friends and family are invited to a lunch at the church.

Mr. Dreiling was born on Nov. 25 in Hays to Richard and Mollie (Eichman) Dreiling, the second-youngest of nine children, though he was never sure of the year. He had documents saying both 1934 and 1935. In a column last year, he joked he often received birthday cards with two ages listed and instructions to circle one.

He graduated from St. Joseph's Military Academy — now Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays — in 1953. He attended Fort Hays State University before joining the Air Force in 1955. While in the service, he was stationed in

Japan. After his discharge in 1959, he spent 44 years in the newspaper business, getting his start at *The Ellis County Star*, a weekly paper in Hays owned by his family. In 1962, he was hired as a photographer by the *Hays Daily News* and eventually became sports editor and city editor.

Mr. Dreiling moved to Goodland in 1965 to take over as editor of the old *Goodland Daily News*, where he stayed until the paper changed hands in 1989. He worked for Kay Melia at KLOE Radio, then at Thomas More Preps as director of development.

In 1995, he moved to Sheridan, Wyo., to become the editor of the *The Sheridan Press*. He returned to Kansas in 1998 as the publisher of the *Colby Free Press*. He retired from that position in 2005, but that didn't last long. He recanted and was named publisher of *The Norton Telegram* later that year. Both papers are part of Nor'West Newspapers, owned by Steve and Cynthia Haynes of Oberlin

Mr. Dreiling retired for good in August 2009, moving back to Goodland before relocating to Colorado to be closer to his grandchildren. He continued writing, however,

penning a column appearing in newspapers from Arvada, Colo., to Goodland to Hays. He continued a popular tradition of eliciting "Snippets," one-sentence comments from readers he would include in his columns.

Last year, he was recognized for his lifetime in Kansas media with the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award, the top honor given by the Kansas Press Association.

Mrs. Dreiling's death leaves friends and colleagues "deeply saddened."

"Tom filled our office with humor," said Dana Paxton, who succeeded him as publisher in Norton. "He made me laugh every single day. On our trips to meetings, our conversations centered around family more so than work. His family meant the world to him."

She said Mr. Dreiling hired her as a sales representative before he retired, and she wished he had lived closer in retirement so she could have gone to him for help.

"I would often get e-mails from him sending us here best wishes during holidays," she said, "as well as personal notes from time to time to just see how things were going and to put his two cents worth in on things he heard were happening back here in Norton."

Mr. Haynes said Dreiling was "a fine publisher."

"He was a gentleman and a friend," he said. "Many people will miss him."

Jim Bowker, who worked with Mr. Dreiling at the *Goodland Daily News* as press foreman, said the two of them weathered several changes

in ownership over the years. He said Mr. Dreiling was a honorable man. "I was pleased to call him my friend," he said.

"I looked forward to getting Tom's columns, because I knew he would have a unique perspective on life," said Tom Betz who recently retired as editor of *The Goodland Star-News*. "I always enjoyed talking to TD, as he had a great breadth of knowledge and a great way of looking for the best in people. I know a lot of us will miss his humor."

Mr. Dreiling was preceded in death by his wife, Jean, who died of leukemia in 1975; brothers James and Norbert Dreiling; and a sister, Mary Bieker. Norbert Dreiling, a prominent Hays lawyer, was a noted Democratic political operative and a former state chairman of the party.

He is survived by three brothers Donald (Dolores) Dreiling, Overland Park; K. Dean (Mikki) Dreiling, Corpus Christi, Texas; and Eugene (Flo) Dreiling, Tulsa; two sisters, Dolores (Robert) Schlyer, Hays, and JoAnn JayJack of Scheierville, Ind.; and two sons, Todd (Darci) Dreiling and Lance (Tobie) Dreiling; a step-daughter, Denise (Darren) Burrows; and five grandchildren, all of Centennial, Colo.

Memorials are suggested to the St. Thomas More Society through Thomas More Prep-Marian Endowment Office, 1701 Hall Street, Hays, Kan. 67601, marked in memory of Tom Dreiling.

Condolences for the family can be left at www.horancares.com.

Schools receive great 'report card'

The Oberlin School Board received the district's "report card" from state testing last year, showing that the schools are earning the state Department of Education's "standard of excellence" in several areas.

The report, given at the meeting on Monday, Jan. 9, shows a Standard of Excellence earned for 2011 in sixth grade math at Oberlin Elementary School. The grade school received a building-wide Standard of Excellence award for reading and for science for the 2010-2011 year.

The Decatur Community Junior/Senior High School received the award for math and reading.

In other business, the board:

- Approved a trip for the band to Kansas State University with the board paying for a bus driver and overnight lodging for the driver.

- Tabled information on health insurance from Julie Yarmer out of Great Bend, an independent broker.

- Approved a diploma for Killian Deller, who was a senior last year and has met the requirements to graduate in December.

- Talked briefly that today is the day that the district and the teachers are to exchange letters on what they will negotiate for in terms of a contract for next year.

Banquet scheduled

The sixth annual Farmer and Rancher Appreciation Banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at The Gateway.

The event is free to farmers, ranchers, their families, others involved in agriculture and sponsoring businesses, but reservations should be made by Friday. Call the Decatur Area Chamber of Commerce office at 475-3441.

Chamber manager Carolyn Hackney said the banquet, a "celebration of our rural heritage," was held annually from 2006-2010. Last year, she said, due to the poor economy and the struggle businesses were having to survive, the Chamber,

which sponsors the event, decided to skip a year.

This year, the banquet is back in full swing with The Gateway staff fixing a roast beef dinner and all the trimmings.

Dr. Weldon Sleight, dean of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, will speak. Dr. Sleight will talk about encouraging small businesses and also about a 100-beef cow ownership program the college offers, Ms. Hackney said.

Besides good food and a great speaker, she said, the evening will feature lots of door prizes provided by area businesses.

Deadline looming for Republicans to vote

The deadline for Decatur County Republicans to register to vote in this year's statewide presidential caucus is Friday, Feb. 17.

Republican Central Committee chairman Ralph Unger said he urges all potential voters to register and then participate in the caucus on Saturday, March 10, at the Golden Age Center. Doors will open at 10 a.m. and voters will be signed-in until 1 p.m. During the event, presidential candidates or their representatives

will have no more than 10 minutes to present the issues of their campaign.

When all candidates have been heard, ballots will be distributed and voters will have until 1 p.m. to mark them. Results will be known by 5 p.m., Mr. Unger said, and the tally sent to Kansas Republican headquarters.

For more information, go to ksgov.org.

Westerns to be shown

The Oberlin Business Alliance plans a fund-raising spaghetti dinner and western movie night at the Sunflower Cinema next Wednesday.

Connie Grafel, an alliance member and marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said the meal will start at 6 p.m. at the bowling alley with spaghetti, bread, salad and desserts on the menu.

Following dinner, around 6:30 p.m., the first of two Clint Eastwood "spaghetti westerns" (so called because they were filmed

in Italy) will be shown at the theater.

Ms. Grafel said the first one will be "A Fistful of Dollars."

Tickets for dinner and the movies will be \$12.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children 12 and under. Tickets are on sale now at the Chamber of Commerce and economic development offices in the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center.

The money raised will go for purchasing new banners for downtown. Attire for the evening is blue jeans and western wear, Ms. Grafel said.

Partnering To Bring Medical Specialists To Oberlin

Oberlin Outreach Clinic Schedule

**Decatur County Hospital
810 W. Columbia - Oberlin**

Cardiology – Dr. Jeffery Curtis
Monthly - (785) 625-4699

Urology - Dr. Darrell Werth
Monthly
(877) 312-1619 or (785) 628-6014

**Mobile Ultrasound,
Echo & Vascular**
Weekly - (785) 475-2208



In partnership with Decatur County Hospital
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