

Road closings coming

Decatur County commissioners set a hearing to decide if some county roads will be closed or downgraded to minimum maintenance for 9 a.m. next Tuesday in the commissioners' meeting room on the second floor of the courthouse.

The changes have been requested by officials in Sappa, Bassettville and Oberlin townships, the county says.

- These roads would be closed:
- North 4,600 feet of road between Sections 3 and 4, Township 30 West, Range 4 South.
 - South 3/4 mile of road between 8-4-30 and 9-4-30.
 - North-south road between 1-3-30 and 6-3-29.
 - North-south road between 1-3-30 and 2-3-30.
 - North-south 2 miles of road between 7 and 18-3-30 and Rawlins County.
 - East-west 1 mile, between 7-3-30 and 18-3-30.
 - One mile between 12-3-30 and 13-3-30.
 - Road between 24 and 25-3-30 and 19 and 30-3-29.
 - Road between 20 and 29-3-30 and 21 and 28-3-30.
 - Road between 19 and 20-3-30 and 29 and 30-3-30.
 - West 3,500 feet of road between 31-3-30 and 6-4-30.
 - Road between 32-3-30 and 5-4-30.
 - South 3/4 mile of road between 33-3-30 and 5-4-30.
 - Road between the northwest-northwest and northeast-northwest 34-3-30.
 - Road between the northwest-northwest and southwest-northwest 34-3-30.
 - North 3/4 mile of road between 36-3-30 and 31-3-29.

- These roads would go to minimum maintenance:
- Road between 6-3-30 and 7-3-30.
 - Road between 8 and 9-3-30 and 16 and 17-3-30.
 - Road between 8 and 17-3-30 and 9 and 16-3-30.
 - Road between 11-3-30 and 14-3-30.
 - Road between 22-3-30 and 23-3-30.
 - West 1,950 feet of road between 23-3-30 and 26-3-30.
 - South 1/4 mile of road between 36-3-30 and 31-3-29.
 - South 1,650 feet of the road between 32-3-30 and 33-3-30.
 - South 680 feet of the road between 3-4-30 and 4-4-30.
 - Road between 4-4-40 and 5-4-30.
 - Road between 4-4-30 and 9-4-30.
 - North 1/4 mile of road between 8-4-30 and 9-4-30.
 - North 1/2 mile of road between 9-4-30 and 10-4-30.

Long-time lawyer retires after 53 years here in Oberlin

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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Lawyer Elmo Lund may not have lived in Oberlin for the last 12 or so years, but he has worked here for the last 53.

He was never a judge, never went out for politics or took on a dramatic case for someone who'd been falsely accused. Mr. Lund was happy to serve his community, thought of his clients as friends and continued to work in Oberlin after he had to move almost two hours away.

"For a little town," Mr. Lund reflected, "Oberlin is progressive, more so than other little towns. And it needs to be. It's an awfully good place to raise a family, and that's what I did, with my wife and three kids. My wife has been in a wheelchair for about 10 years, and when that happened, we moved to Hays so she could get more therapy, but I've been coming back up to Oberlin for 12 years since I moved, and I wouldn't have done it if I didn't like what I was doing."

Always a private practice lawyer, Mr. Lund started his career when he joined the L.F. Cushenbery law firm in February 1959, and he's been there ever since.

"Cushenbery tried a lot of lawsuits," he said, "so one of the first things (my boss) did when I got



Elmo Lund

there was tell me I had to try a lot of lawsuits, as well as tax law — everything that a country lawyer does. So I did a lot of litigation and tax returns.

"Lawyers in the country are stuck doing tax returns whether they want to or not, because most of the time there isn't anyone else to do it otherwise. It was a good place to learn. You don't get rich, but you make a good living if you work at it."

"The most memorable cases are the ones you win," he said, chuckling slightly at the question. "I had a slip-and-fall case in Norton that was tough, where the client had horrible injuries from slipping on ice in his housing unit."

"He had been trying to get the owners to clean off the sidewalks and they wouldn't. He wanted to put salt on the sidewalks and they wouldn't let him do that. And then he fell, got a concussion and was incapacitated afterward. It was tough, but it was successful in the end."

"I also had a malpractice case against a doctor, and those are tough to win as well. They offered \$50,000 before the trial, \$60,000 during the trial and then the jury gave us \$248,000 — and we weren't overpaid. The doctor was from Africa, and he thought that we would just accept the level of care that they were used to over there, but

we didn't.

"Another case I had was against a hospital; I won't say which one. A 6-month-old child fell out of a defective crib and onto the cement floor of the hospital basement; the nurse covered it up and didn't report it, and the child had a skull fracture."

"Those were my big cases that turned out right."

Mr. Lund said he never became a judge because when the opportunity came his way, he just wasn't interested. Back then, he said, the salary wasn't very good, and he always preferred the one-on-one relationship he had with his clients to the less personal duties of a judge.

"It's been a fun experience and a lot of work," he said, "but I don't mind rolling up my sleeves and getting to work. In rural America it's different; the people you work with are good people. In the city, you end up working with the criminal element a lot, but the kind of people I had for clients were the kind of people I liked as friends."

"I've had a lot of clients, and they've made practicing the law very pleasant, but there comes a time when you've been there long enough, and I'll be 83 on my next birthday, so I figure it's time. My son is a lawyer in Wichita, and he's talking about retirement, so I figure I better beat him to it."

Girls cheer it up at state



THROUGHOUT THE STATE wrestling tournament, the Red Devils cheerleaders, (from left) McKenna O'Hare, Ashley Witt, Caitlin Shields, Lara Zodrow and Brittany Urban, kept spirits up. — Herald photo by Gary Juenemann

Time to nominate your own 'Hero'

For the third year, *The Oberlin Herald* invites readers to nominate a "Hometown Hero" for an upcoming special section, where our staff will write short stories on each of the nominees.

Nominations are needed by Friday, March 8, to give time for the staff to interview everyone.

Anyone who wants to nominate someone can mail a letter to Assistant Publisher Kimberly Davis at 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749 or e-mail the nomination to k.davis@nwkansan.com.

Nominations, said Mrs. Davis, need to include the person's name, the nominator's name and phone

number, and the reason for the nomination. If a picture is available, that can be sent or emailed to Mrs. Davis.

The staff will try to write about each of the nominated "Heroes," Mrs. Davis said. A hero can be anyone, she said, maybe someone who has worked hard to raise money for

a community project, someone who volunteers to shovel their neighbor's sidewalk off each winter or maybe just that person who always has a smile on their face and constantly cheers people up.

Mrs. Davis asks that people not nominate the same "heroes" as in previous years.

Statewide tornado siren test on Tuesday

A statewide tornado drill is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in preparation for the spring storm season, and sirens in Decatur County and around the state will sound.

"After this Tuesday, we'll start testing our tornado sirens every Monday morning at 10 a.m. through tornado season," said Emergency Preparedness Director Jacque Boultinghouse. "We don't usually specify a (start and end) date

for the tests, because you never know when the season will begin and end."

Also keeping tornados in mind, the National Weather Service will hold a storm-spotter class at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20 at The Gateway.

The class is free and open to the public, said the agency, which offers it once a year for police officers, sheriff's deputies, fire fighters and volunteer

spotters. The class will cover wireless emergency alerts, new impact-based warnings, clouds and their meanings, thunderstorm hazards, safety, organization and evolution, and how to report your sightings.

For information, call the service at (785) 899-7119 or go to weather.gov/goodland for a full schedule of spotter classes.

County agencies preparing for spring activities

There may still be a foot of snow on the ground, but Decatur County's Road and Bridge and Noxious Weed departments are gearing up for spring.

Directors of both departments reported to county commissioners last Tuesday to discuss their plans for this year, including new bridges, chemical spraying and road signs.

Road Supervisor Tim Stallman reported that he had proposals from Husker Steel for two bridges this year. The first one, in Finley township, is just north of the Traer Cemetery, eight miles west and north of Oberlin, and will cost \$74,581. The second is in Roosevelt township, on the Bogart Road about 8 miles east and 5 1/2 north of Oberlin. It is a more complex design, Mr. Stall-

man said, so it will cost \$87,884. Both proposals were approved by two of the three commissioners. Commissioner Brad Marcuson was out sick.

Mr. Stallman also said that he is going to need some part-time help this summer putting up "911" signs to mark county roads for a program called "New Generation 911," aimed at enabling people to call, text, picture and video-message information to 911 dispatchers.

Noxious Weed Control Department Director Gaylen Huntley said that he has received bids for the chemicals the county will need this year. The commissioners told him to go with the lowest one, which he will report at their meeting Tuesday.

In other business, commissioners:

- Passed a motion to reappoint Robert May to the Decatur County Fair Board and appointed Keri Bryan to be the treasurer of Center township.

- Agreed to pay \$2,500 to R & S Digital, the company that provides the county with its database of county roads. The database automatically pulls up the address of the person calling 911, and the county is charged an annual fee to use it.

Team may go to 8-man football

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Oberlin school officials want to know what parents and fans think about the possibility of going to eight-man football in 2014.

Coach Joe Dreher and Principals Ben Jimenez talked to the Oberlin School Board about the idea at its meeting Monday, Feb. 11.

Coach Dreher, also the activities director for Decatur Community High School, said in the state's last classification cycle, Oberlin was eligible to go to eight man but stayed with an 11-man team.

Each cycle lasts two years, he said, which means that by September, the district needs to decide if it will stay with 11-man football or go to eight man for the 2014-2015 school year.

To be eligible for eight man, enrollment numbers for ninth, 10th and 11th grades have to be 100 or below. Projected enrollment for 2013-2014 is 85 students in those three classes, Coach Dreher said.

In 2008, the school had 95 students in the three grades, said Mr. Jimenez. In 2003, it had 119.

All the other teams in the league are already playing eight-man. Oakley, said Mr. Jimenez, is still 11-man, but is leaving the league.

Oberlin would be a large eight-man school, he said, but it's time to start looking at the future. There just aren't a lot of Class 2A 11-man schools around to play. Because of that, the school has only three home games for football next year, said Mr. Jimenez. One of those will be homecoming and one will be senior night.

The rules are basically the same, said Coach Dreher. The difference is the actual number of players on the field. Board President Monte Moore asked if the field would have to be changed. Coach Dreher said it would need to be 20 yards shorter and somewhat narrower.

So far, said Mr. Jimenez, the only thing he has heard is from people asking why they haven't gone to eight-man football already.

Just like it says on the handout, said board member Abby Hissong, what's most important is what's best for the kids.

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Pictured: Chad Miller, CRNA (left), and Brian Smith, CRNA

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