

City could face big water shortage

Oberlin may have a serious water problem this summer, Mayor Rob McFee told the council at its meeting on Thursday.

Over the winter, the city's wells usually recharge, he said. This year, however, they didn't, and they were five feet below normal levels last month, he said. City Administrator Karen Larson said that the wells are now six feet below what they should be.

"I want everyone to use as little outdoor water as possible," the mayor said, noting that the city may have to shut off all outdoor watering if the wells do not regenerate soon.

The old odd-and-even water rationing system might not even work right now, he said.

"Keep stuff alive, but no more," he warned the council and those at the meeting. "We are almost to the state of emergency in our wells."

Councilman Rusty Addleman said it's too bad that the city can't use its old wells, which do not meet standards for drinking water, for outside water use only. Unfortunately, the mayor said, if those wells are

used at all, the city would have to treat the water, and that would be too expensive.

The mayor also said that he is starting to realize how behind the city is in dealing with its electrical infrastructure. The city is working on its water sewer problems, he said, but is about 20 years behind in taking care of the electrical system.

The city is now putting away \$150,000 a year to work on the system, he said.

On the theme of water and sewer, the council decided to pay for a service program for upkeep of the solar mixes at the sewer

lagoons.

Solar Bee, the company which installed the mixers to help keep the lagoon aerated so it doesn't become so smelly, gave the city three options.

A one-year contract would be \$14,650. A locked in three-year option would be \$15,236 a year and a paid upfront three-year option would be \$41,753.

Mrs. Larson said that she would go with the one-year option since the city really needs the service contract. The company, one of the few to do this kind of work, is out

of North Dakota, she said. Last year, they came right down and checked everything out and she thinks it would have cost twice the amount of the service contract and no one around here knows how to deal with solar. However, she said, she wants to go a year at a time because there is no way of knowing what the future will bring.

"We might not even use these in another year," she said. "We might use them for 10 years. Who knows?"

The council agreed to pay the one-year agreement.

Graduates to return home for banquet

Graduates will be returning to Oberlin this weekend for the annual Decatur Community High School Alumni Banquet, which will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday at The Gateway.

Alumni Association officers are Anita Richardson Hirsch, president; Steve Zodrow, vice president; Galen Olson, secretary; and Judy Wenger, treasurer.

The president will give the welcome. Entertainment will be by vocalist Pat Berkheimer Dixon, Class of 1978. Jenny Hirsch Tally will be

accompanist for the "Alma Mater." The Class of 2013 have been invited as guests of the association.

Election of officers will be held and 25- and 50-year anniversary classes will be recognized during roll call, as well as veterans.

A special section featuring 10-year, 25-year and 75-year alumni anniversary classes is included in this week's *Oberlin Herald*.

The Decatur County Museum will have activities for alumni on Friday and Saturday, which will include (See ALUMNI on Page 5A)

Services planned at cemeteries

By MARY LOU OLSON
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The Oberlin American Legion will hold Memorial Day services at the Oberlin Cemetery on Monday, with assistance from the Herndon Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Volunteers will put up American flags given by the families of deceased veterans. For a complete listing of the veterans whose flags have been donated to the American Legion, see Page 4B.

Services will start at 10 a.m., with members of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary assisting, said Commander Rollie Avery.

The posting of the national colors will be done by John and Connie Simonsson, John Bremer and Gary Jensen and the National Anthem will be sung by Samantha Anderson and Miki Dorshorst. The Rev. Deacon Stanley Chapin will give the opening and closing prayer.

Jim Miesner will place a wreath at the Veterans' Memorial. Poppy Girl Megan Lohofener will be in charge of a Gold Star Memorial. For the program, Memorial Day poems will be read by several people. Commander Avery will play "Taps."

NORCATUR

This will be the 124th year for the annual observance of Memorial Day and the 41st consecutive year that the Avenue of Flags has been

Stores will close

Most Decatur County businesses will be closed Monday for Memorial Day, including all banks and city, county, state, federal and school offices.

Other closures include post offices, the Decatur Health Systems Family Practice Clinic, Decatur Co-op elevators, Hansen Mueller Grain and Ward Drug Store.

Ray's Grocery Store will have shortened hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Frontier Restaurant will be open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the LandMark Inn will serve a breakfast buffet from 8 to 10:30 a.m.; Pizza Hut will be open regular hours of 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Subway will be open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The ReLoad will be closed. Jerry's Bar and Grill in Normand

will be open. Volunteers are needed to put the flags up at the cemetery at 7 (See SERVICES on Page 5A)

County learns about tax-rebate program

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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Decatur County commissioners met with representatives of Norton Economic County Development last Tuesday to hear about that county's experience with the Neighborhood Revitalization tax-rebate program.

Later, they agreed to hold a special meeting with other agencies to hash out details of the proposal. No

time was set, but those assembled discussed a cap on how much value a property owner could get a tax rebate on, things that might get someone kicked out of the program and what Norton has learned in the five years it's been working with it.

"I think we all agree that it's a good idea and that it would behoove us to get it moving along," said Commissioner Sid Metcalf.

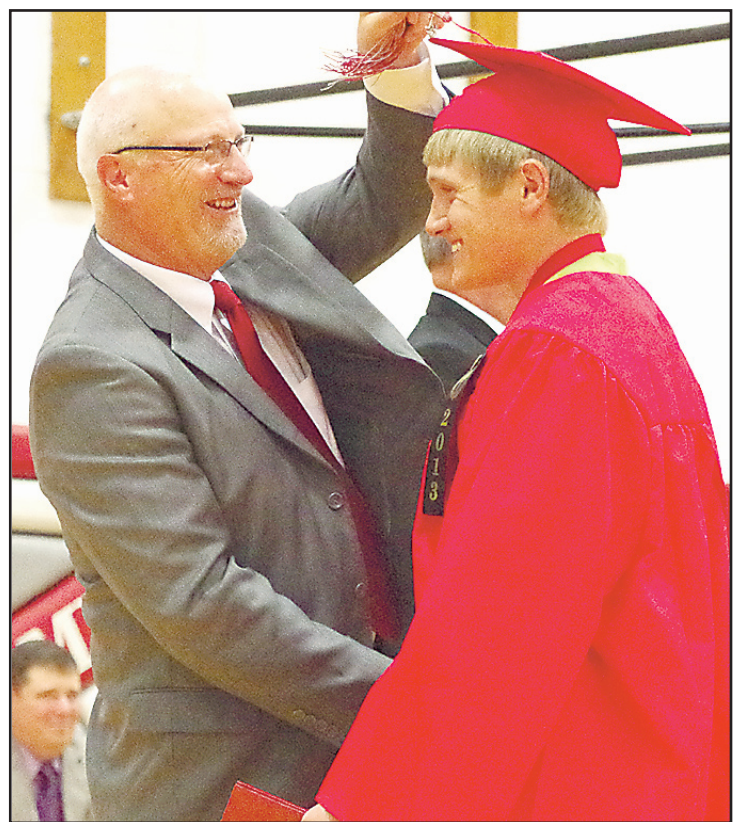
(See COUNTY on Page 5A)



TOSSING THEIR HATS in the air, the 2013 graduating class (above) prepared to leave the Decatur Community High gymnasium at the end of Commencement exercises Saturday. Superintendent Duane Dorshorst (below) moved

salutatorian Kade Brown's tassel after he received his diploma. Co-valedictorians Miki Dorshorst (bottom, right) and Zach May (bottom, left) both spoke at the ceremony.

— Herald photos by Sarah Fredrickson



Two students share the top spot at graduation

Two students with identical grades were named as co-valedictorians of the Decatur Community High class of 2013 on Saturday.

Miki Dorshorst, daughter of Duane and Pat Dorshorst, and Zach May, son of Roland and Pam May, shared the honor of being the top graduate this year.

Kade Brown, son of Kevin and Carol Brown, was next as the class salutatorian.

Oberlin had 27 seniors graduating during the 110th Annual Commencement Exercises on Saturday, including 11 members of

the National Honor Society.

The program at the Decatur Community High gym started out with a saxophone ensemble playing "El Relicario" by Jose Padilla.

Morgan Jansonius and Caleb Koerperich played "Pomp and Circumstance" for the processional, led by marching ushers Jalyn Shaw and Kennedy Fortin. Door ushers were Konner Fortin, Hannah May, Kyle Breth and Lara Zodrow.

The valedictorians and salutatorian gave talks, interspersed with (See SENIORS on Page 5A)

