

A garden at your fingertips



Wyatt Cressler, foreground, showed off his "Garden in a Glove". Seated behind him is Katelyn Skrdlant, Tyson Gill is seated on the other side of the table. The glove project was taught by Rhonda Browning during the "Then and Now" Day Camp help Wednesday. Seeds were pressed into moist cotton balls and placed in the "fingers" of the glove. The children were instructed to tape the glove in a window where the sun would warm the seed and cause it to sprout. After the seed sprouts, the children are to "cut off the finger" and plant the seed in the ground.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Meeting discusses Highway 36

By HOWARD KESSINGER
The Marysville Advocate

When state Sen. Dennis Pyle, a board member of the U.S. Highway 36 Association, asked when the four-lane road could be extended west of Wathena, District Engineer W. Clay Adams from Topeka said that could be included in a new highway program.

The association, which represents road users in 13 Kansas counties, held its annual meeting Friday, May 6, at First National Bank in Washington. One of its goals is to see the highway improved to four lanes across the state, starting at Wathena.

The Kansas Legislature will be faced with drafting a new transportation plan next session, and escalating costs, driven mostly by record costs of oil, are threatening work planned for the next few years, highway engineers said.

Shannon Kusilek of St. Joseph, District 1 planning engineer for Missouri Department of Transportation, said his state hopes to finish the last 52 miles of four lane on U.S. 36 between Macon and Hannibal next year, a year ahead of schedule. Construction was speeded up by a half-cent sales tax voted in by four counties with the last stretch of two-lane road.

The upgrade is from rural two-lane to four-lane expressway. Costs will be about \$100 million for work done from 2007 to 2011 for expansion and rehabilitation of existing lanes on the 180 miles from St. Joseph to Hannibal, Mr. Kusilek said.

After the widening is completed, Mr. Kusilek said, traffic across Missouri is expected to pick up 10 percent in five years, perhaps more, delivering a lot more vehicles, especially trucks, to the Kansas border.

New program needed
State Rep. Sharon Schwartz, R-Washington, said a new transportation program is needed, since the current one expires next summer, and this will be a topic for the Legislature next year.

If additional gambling is approved, Rep. Schwartz said, the state's share of the money could go for tax relief and debt reduction, and that could benefit the highway fund.

Docking Institute study
Of the 13 counties along U.S. 36 across Kansas asked to put up \$2,000 each for a study of the road by the Docking Institute of Fort Hays State University to

help determine the feasibility of widening U.S. 36 to four lanes, eight have paid \$2,000, two more have promised to pay and the last three are to be contacted.

The money will be needed by this fall if the association is going to try for a foundation grant, said U.S. 36 President Steve Haynes of Oberlin. The effort to widen the road may take 50-60 years, he said, just as getting U.S. 81 took a long time.

Director Marilyn Sorenson, Scandia, noted that 1,800 new U.S. 36 brochures given out at the Kansas Sampler Festival at Concordia were well received.

Vice president Jim Erickson, Scandia, head of the fall treasure hunt along U.S. 36, noted plans are unfolding for the event.

More road work
Mr. Adams, one of three district engineers at the meeting, said his 1st District, covering the road from Wathena to the Marshall-Washington county line, has two more resurfacing projects on U.S. 36 this year, from Wathena west to Troy and Seneca west to K-87.

Proposed for 2009, he said, but on the bubble because of rising costs are two bridges between Fairview and Hiawatha and resurfacing from the west junction of K-63 to K-236 and from that junction to the Nemaha-Brown county line.

New District 2 engineer Randy West of Salina said just over \$2 million has been spent in his dis-

trict widening the road in two projects either side of Mankato. This allowed them to remove guard rail, which in winter weather acts like snow fence.

Set for next year is rebuilding of the U.S. 36-K-15 intersection in Washington, which doesn't have room for semis to turn, at a cost of \$1.6 million.

Jeff Stewart, District 3 construction and materials engineer from Norton, said asphalt millings will be used in an overlay for western Rawlins and western Decatur counties. Work is under way in Rawlins County. To be done later this summer will be 11 miles east from the Decatur-Rawlins line to Oberlin.

Because costs have risen 20-30 percent in a half year, a wait-and-see attitude is being taken on concrete work in Atwood, Mr. Stewart said. That project will replace the pavement most of the way through town.

Officers re-elected
Officers re-elected were president, Mr. Haynes, Oberlin; vice president Jim Erickson, Scandia; executive vice president, Cy Moyner, Phillipsburg; and vice president Chad Kramer, Marysville.

Judy Sifers, president of Kansas Specialty Dog Service Inc. of Washington, talked at the luncheon, telling how she became involved with the agency, which trains dogs to help people with disabilities ranging from blindness to being confined to a wheelchair.

Mixed bag for Norton foundation

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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The Norton County Community Foundation has both a mess and an opportunity on its hands, county commissioners were told on Monday.

Kim Wicker from the foundation talked to the commissioners about getting some help to get rid of junk and debris from a building the group now owns right across the street from the courthouse.

The old building, which has been allowed to deteriorate has some great features like crown molding, iron balconies, tin ceilings, built-in cabinets and antique light fixtures, she said.

It also has a leaky roof, tons of garbage and lots of fallen plaster and general building debris.

Ms. Wicker was asking the commissioners for a break on the landfill rates for getting rid of the debris and junk.

The commissioners suggested that her group take the stuff to the landfill and that they would talk to Landfill Supervisor Curt Archibald. They said they would ask that the tickets for the trash be saved and then they would look at them and see what they could do for the foundation.

Ms. Wicker said that anything usable in the building would be cleaned up and sold but that there was just lots of junk including water catchers.

"There're like a billion baby swimming pools," she said. "But we're hoping to repair the roof. It's leaking like a faucet."

Ms. Wicker said that the group is hoping to get some prison labor to help clean up and repair the building.

She said the group's plans for the upstairs of the building, which has businesses on the ground floor, is an apartment or two.

But, the group has no money to do what it wants, she added.

Commissioner Leroy Lang suggested that the group might want to have its sale before continuing with the cleanup in order to generate some cash.

Ms. Wicker said the group is going to apply for some grants to help with this project and other downtown restoration.

"There are a lot of beautiful, beautiful buildings downtown," she said. "We're trying to find something to bring Norton back together."

"I'm so excited about this whole project," she said.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Talked to Gary Matson, courthouse custodian, about replacing some cement around the building, especially the sidewalk on the east side and trimming some trees on the grounds.

• Heard from Economic Development Director Diane Becker that state business awards have been given to Pure Prairie, United Northwest Federal Credit Union and Rural Telephone.

JUNIOR GOLF Starts Monday, July 7

Junior golf will start on Monday, July 7 with registration at 5:30 and begin at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and run every Monday thereafter in July

July 28 will highlight the year with a Pizza Party at 5:15, followed by a 9-hole golf tournament at 5:45 and a swimming party following golf

Cost this year is \$25.00 per participant aged 7 to 14. Registration this year will include a nice golf shirt. Come and learn the lifelong game of golf. Adults welcome to come, watch, and help mentor the junior golfers

Pre-register for only \$20.00 by mailing it to: Mark Keilig, 1005 Eisenhower Dr., Norton, KS 67654 with the name, age, and shirt size of the participant

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Norton Community High School Summer Band Lessons

(6) Half Hour Lessons will be offered during the summer

Please Call David Will at 785-877-2341 to arrange your dates and times

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In Honor of Our Five Year Anniversary
Whispering Pines Retirement and Assisted Living is Celebrating on **Saturday, June 14**

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Colby Community College is accepting applications for a **Nursing Instructor**. This is a full-time position for the 2008-09 academic year. The position includes clinical supervision and theory instruction. Master's degree in nursing, current Kansas RN license and CPR certification required. To apply, submit a letter of application, resume, all postsecondary transcripts and references to Human Resources Coordinator, Colby Community College, 1255 S. Range, Colby, KS 67701. Job to remain open until filled.

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