

# Storms

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my lap and when I leaned forward, the whole house moved off the foundation. The wind picked us all up and moved us from the northeast corner of the basement to the southeast corner. None of us were even touching the ground at one point."

When the tornado moved away from the house, David reflects that three of her children ended up under a table in the corner of the basement and the 2-year-old ended up under his mother, with the family dog on top of them both.

When the storm had passed, David was able to crawl straight up and out of the basement and use her cell phone to call her husband. The call was made at 2:51 p.m., a mere seven minutes after she reported that the weather didn't seem to be threatening.

Within a few minutes of calling her husband, a family friend arrived on the scene and was able to help free the children from the basement, all free

from serious injury.

Each of the David family, except the youngest, all sustained minor scrapes and bruises, but none needed to be transported for medical care. Even the family cat, who started upstairs in the house and was found a half mile away, escaped with only bruises and cuts.

"This is not something I ever wanted to go through in my life," David said. "It was the scariest thing I've ever been through."

Prior to Monday's storms, the David family was planning to move to a house in Alma, but after their rental home was destroyed, have now moved into town a little sooner than they planned, with some help from their friends and neighbors. "Everyone from the area has been so helpful. Within a few hours, people were out there with trucks and trailers to salvage what they could from the house," Preston David said. "The help from the community is just overwhelming. Everyone has been so helpful."



This tractor and combine ended up in a heap of twisted metal Monday afternoon on the Steve Cox farm two miles north of Highway 383 on the Norton/Phillips county line.

—Courtesy photo by Terry Nelson

# Clinic

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"Now that we're adjacent to the hospital, we have plenty of parking and we can get patients to the hospital very quickly if we need to," Griffey said. "They don't have to go back to their cars and drive to the hospital."

Griffey reported that the construction of the new clinic has helped some of the space constraints of the clinic, along with

allowing the facility to increase staff for the clinic. The facility has increased from six medical providers to eight with private working space for the doctors and nurses who provide medical care at the clinic. The facility also increased from 7,500 square feet to 9,000 square feet.

The total cost of the project is about \$2.2 million and the new clinic construction is funded through several funding streams, including a \$1.2 million Commu-

nity Facility Loan through the US Department of Agriculture, which is a low interest loan to be repaid with operating revenue over 20 years. In addition, facility leaders were able to use a Rural Economic Development Loan Grant in the amount \$740,000. "The loans are paid back entirely through operating revenue," Miller explained. "We did not create a tax levy increase to fund any part of this project."

# Graham/Rooks road projects underway

One of two highway projects to seal K-18 and US-24 Highways in Graham and Rooks County began this week.

Blevins Asphalt Construction Company has started sealing a portion of K-18 in Graham County beginning at the Rooks/Graham County line and continuing west six miles to the junction of K-18/US-24 near Bogue. When that portion is complete, contractors will move on to US-24 Highway and place a seal from the K-18 junction east approximately 23 miles to the west city limits of Stockton.

The seal process consists of placing a thin layer of emulsified asphalt followed by a layer of lightweight aggregate which gets embedded into the liquid asphalt layer.

"The new surface is then rolled and swept before being reopened to traffic," explains KDOT Con-

struction Engineer Jim Riener of the Phillipsburg office. "It is a relatively speedy process and the contractor can treat several miles of roadway per day."

Chip seals are a low cost method of sealing minor cracking in a roadway, blocking moisture from penetrating the surface and therefore extending the life of the pavement.

Flaggers and a pilot car operation will guide one-lane traffic through both work zones during daylight hours. Delays of 15 minutes or less will be expected throughout the construction time frame.

Please use caution, pay attention to the work zone signs, and respect workers when driving through any road work zone. Slow down and "Give 'Em A Break."

KDOT awarded both construction contracts to Blevins Asphalt

Construction Company, Inc., of Mt. Vernon, Mo. The Graham County seal is estimated at \$282,732. The estimated cost of construction in Rooks County is \$498,753. The projects are funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May, 2010.

Weather permitting, construction work should be complete next week.

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# Kansas routes designated for speed limit increase

The speed limit on rural stretches of Kansas interstate highways, as well as segments of two U.S. routes, will be boosted to 75 miles per hour this summer.

The 75-miles per hour routes include:

• I-70 from the Colorado state line to just west of Topeka in Shawnee County.

• I-135 from a half-mile north of the 85th Street interchange in Harvey County to I-70 near Salina.

• I-35 from U.S. 50 just east of Emporia to a mile east of the Sunflower/Edgerton Interchange in Johnson County.

• U.S. 81 from I-70 near Salina north to K-106.

• The Kansas Turnpike from the Oklahoma state line to K-7 in Wyandotte County.

The new maximum speed limit was passed by the 2011 Legislature, authorizing the Secretary of Transportation to consider any separated, multilane highway for the new speed limit. All of the routes chosen for the increased speed limit are freeways, which have controlled access and interchanges. No expressways, which have at-grade intersections with cross traffic, were selected. A total of 807 miles of roadway will have the 75-mph speed limit.



Kent Melcher of Topeka acted as Commander during the services held for the headstone dedication of Civil War Veteran Orrin Barden. Alan Russ of St. Francis lays a grapevine wreath on the grave of the brave soldier during the ceremony that was held last Saturday at the Densmore Cemetery.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# Honoring a Civil War Veteran

By DANA PAXTON  
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Last Saturday at the Densmore Cemetery, a headstone dedication was held for a Civil War Veteran by the name of Orrin Barden. He was buried 107 years ago and finally, on this day, a military grave marker was set to honor him.

Mr. Barden was a member of the fifth Wisconsin Infantry of the Union Army and member of the Logan Post Number 77 of the G.A.R. This honor was way past due.

The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War from Topeka and St. Francis conducted the program. The Stockton V.F.W. Post provided the Honor Guard and the Logan American Legion and S.A.L. provided a firing squad. Kevin Pinkerton played

Taps.

A small number of people showed up to honor the veteran which included two of his great grand daughters, Mary Lon Post Breese and Walta Hunter Russ, friends of the family and others interested in honoring one who gave so much.

Kent Melcher, Area Superintendent for New Church Development of Topeka, led the services as the Commander, dressed in uniform wearing a kepe cap. The Chaplain, Kirk Nystrom, an attorney from Topeka, gave a blessing. He too was dressed in uniform. Commander Melcher then laid a red rose on the grave explaining that it represented purity. Chaplain Nystrom then stepped up placing a wreath of evergreen upon the grave stating that is was a

symbol of eternal life and the symbol of undying love of comrades in war. A third man, also in uniform, Alan Russ, of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, National Chief of Staff from St. Francis, then took his place at the grave and laid a wreath of grapevine as a token of affection from the sons and grandsons of those who fought to preserve the Union as a symbol of victory.

The poem, the Unknown Dead, was then read. Arms were presented and three volleys were fired, followed by Taps in the background. The service ended in silence and with a prayer.

Orrin Barden was born on November 18, 1830 at Bellona, Yates, New York and was 73 years old when he died at his home on May 14, 1904 of heart failure.

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