

Repaving begins on Highway 36



Kansas Department of Transportation crews were hard at work Tuesday afternoon to repave a section of Highway 36 through Norton. The work included milling off a layer of the asphalt and installing an overlay on a section of roadway from West Street in town, extending east to the city limits.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

On Tuesday, the Kansas Department of Transportation began work to re-pave two sections of US-36 Highway in Norton County.

The scope of the project includes rehabilitation on two separate stretches of US-36. The first section begins at West Street in Norton, and extends to the east city limits. The second stretch starts at the east US-36/K-383 Junction and ends at the Phillips County line. The two projects total 9.1 miles.

"The project in the city of Norton consists of a three-inch mill and inlay performed in two lifts," explains a department Construction Engineer

Jim Riener - of the Phillipsburg office. "The other section beginning at the junction begins with a quarter-inch profile mill, followed by a two-inch overlay."

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 a road work zone. Slow down and "Give 'Em A Break."

The Kansas Department of Transportation awarded the

construction contract - totaling \$1,336,000 - to APAC Kansas, Inc. Shears Division of Hays. Subcontractors on the job include: Dustrol Inc, of Towanda, milling; Roadsafet Traffic Systems, of El Dorado, pavement markings; and Garcia-Chicoine, of Milford, Neb., rumble strips.

The pavement repair project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May, of 2010.

Weather permitting, the construction work will take approximately a month to complete.

Cold Weather Rule takes effect

As winter approaches and temperatures drop, the Kansas Corporation Commission reminds Kansans that the Cold Weather Rule took effect Tuesday, Nov. 1 and remains in effect through Saturday, March 31.

"We encourage consumers to take appropriate steps to prepare for colder temperatures this winter," said Commission Chairman Mark Sievers. "Set your thermostat at a reasonable level, make sure heating equipment is in good working order, caulk and weather strip windows and doorways - these are all things that can cut down on heating costs. The Cold Weather Rule helps to ensure that Kansans can be warm in their home this winter."

The Cold Weather Rule prohibits utility companies from disconnecting a customer's natural gas or electric service during periods of extreme cold. The Rule requires utility companies to offer a 12-month payment plan to allow consumers to maintain or re-establish utility service.

Disconnection Conditions: Utility companies may not initiate disconnection until temperatures are forecast to be above 35 degrees for the next 48 hours.

Utility companies must contact the customer by phone or in-person 24 hours before disconnecting service.

Utility companies are prohibited from disconnecting a customer's service when temperatures are forecast to be at or below 35 degrees over the

next 24 hours. The Commission wants Kansans to have the electric and gas service needed to keep their homes warm during the winter months. The Commission also recognizes the customer's responsibility to make arrangements to pay for that service. The Cold Weather Rule was designed in 1983 to ensure that both goals are met. Any residential customer with a past due balance will qualify for payment arrangements under the Rule. However, it is the customer's responsibility to contact the gas or electric company to make those arrangements.

Payment Plan Conditions to maintain or restore service: Customers must contact their utility company and inform them that they cannot pay their bill in full.

Customers must agree to pay 1/12th of the total amount owed, 1/12th of the current bill, the full amount of any disconnection or reconnection fee, plus any applicable deposit to the utility.

Customers must agree to pay the remaining balance in equal payments over the next 11 months, in addition to their current monthly bill.

The Cold Weather Rule applies only to residential customers of electric and natural gas utility companies under the Commission's jurisdiction. For a complete list of utilities regulated by the Commission visit kcc.ks.gov/pi/jurisdictional_utilities.htm.

Focus on infrastructure to create rural jobs

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced funding for rural electric cooperative utilities to improve distribution systems and smart grid technologies in 27 states, as part of the Obama Administration's continued focus on investments in infrastructure that create rural jobs.

Over \$2.1 billion in loans are provided by USDA's Rural Utilities Service, a Rural Development Agency, to help rural electric utilities build and upgrade rural America's electric infrastructure. These projects will fund over \$40 million in smart grid technologies and will build or improve nearly 6,000 miles of line. Funding for distribution cooperatives, which provide power to consumers, will benefit over 38,000 rural businesses and residents.

The recent announcement is part of a series of rural infrastructure investments expected by Secretary Vilsack during the next two weeks. This effort supports the goal of the American Jobs Act, which makes critical infrastructure improvements to put people back to work immediately.

On Sept. 8, President Obama presented the American Jobs Act in an address to Congress. The purpose of the American Jobs Act is simple: put more people back to work and put more money in the pockets of working Americans. The American Jobs Act is specific. It will

put people back to work right now, and it will not add to the deficit. Through a combination of direct spending, such as infrastructure investments, and tax relief, such as an extension of the payroll tax cuts, it will lead to new American jobs.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an existing port-

folio of more than \$155 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

Call Mike with all your social news.
877-3361

November Business in the spotlight

Each month this column features one Norton County business selected at random in honor of all our local businesses large and small, well-established and newly-established for their valuable contribution to our economy. Economic development board member Jerry Jones submitted this month's article.

November 2011
S&R Ready Mix / Norton Propane Service / Norton Fuel Service / Pro-Con, Inc.
206 N. Jones
Norton, KS 67654
(785) 877-5346

In 1991, Bob Neff and Rick Schwab had been working for Don and Carol Ryan at S&R Ready Mix and Norton Propane Service for a number of years. The two businesses came up for sale and Bob and Rick decided they liked the prospect of working for themselves. After leasing the businesses for a few years they purchased them in 1996. Norton Fuel Service was added a few years later and then they formed Pro-Con, Inc., the parent company.

S&R Ready Mix is much more than just concrete. They also carry rock, gravel and sand for any purpose and can get a variety of rock and other landscaping materials upon request. When asked about the

difference between concrete and cement, Rick explained, "Concrete is the finished product. Cement is the powder product which is mixed with a variety of rock, gravel, sand and water." The recipe varies depending on the project. Driveways, sidewalks, foundations, bridges, etc. each have different requirements, so not all concrete is the same.

Rick said he has seen an increase in the amount of concrete they have provided over the years. In 1985 they poured around 2,000 yards, and then poured 6,000 yards annually for many years. In the last 10 years that amount has doubled.

Norton Propane Service sells propane for heating homes and businesses as well as the propane cylinders for grills. They also have parts available such as hoses and regulators, and can get burner assemblies. Propane weed burners are also available from Norton Propane Service.

Norton Fuel Service provides gas, diesel and bulk oil for delivery or pick up.

Pro-Con, Inc. sells Sunheat Electric Heaters and Mountaineer Air Purifiers, and they do all warranty work in-house. All products are available at their location on Jones Street.

Earlier this year they began accepting credit cards for purchases from all their entities.

Bob and Rick are very positive about the economy in Norton County and feel there's room for many new Ag-related businesses to spring up, grow and prosper. "We have a lot going for us and growth in the agricultural area will provide a trickle down effect that will help our overall economy," Rick said. He has seen dreams and plans become reality; most recently the Sleep Inn Hotel and the Norton Medical Clinic.

Their advice for other business owners in Norton County is to take care of your customers. The small jobs are just as important as the large ones... take care of the pennies and they'll grow into dollars.

State traffic records upgrade receives national recognition

The Kansas Department of Transportation's automated digital Kansas Traffic Records System has received a prestigious 2011 Information Week 500 award. The award is attached to an annual ranking published by InformationWeek magazine that recognizes market-leading innovation in business technology.

Information Week recognized the department for the agency's ongoing digital upgrade of the state's traffic records system, which in the past relied on manually entered data from paper crash reports submitted by law enforcement agencies. The system was subject to delays that created lag times of up to a year between the date of a crash and its entry into the state's digital records system.

Under the new system launched last year, law enforcement personnel submit electronic crash reports directly into the system, where they are verified by special data-validation software and

automatically indexed for later retrieval and analysis. An image of the original report is created and stored at the same time. The system is shared by the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and other state agencies.

Future plans include incorporating violation data and emergency and trauma-care data into the system with the goal of creating an immediately accessible "one-stop shop" providing crash data to law enforcement personnel and other appropriate state agencies.

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com

General Public Transportation Bus
Call 785-877-5352
WE COVER ALL OF NORTON COUNTY
Bus is Available to the General Public and is Not Limited to Senior Citizens
First Come, First Serve — Wheelchair Accessible
THIS PROJECT FUNDED IN PART BY THE KDOT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Oct. 28 - Nov. 9
Showing at the
NORTON THEATRE
Courageous
2 Hours, 19 Minutes (PG-13) Presented in Digital Sound
Friday and Saturday: 7:00 and 9:30 p.m.
Sunday: 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.
Puss in Boots
1 Hour, 40 Minutes (PG)
All passes accepted for Courageous;
No passes accepted for Puss in Boots
Courageous is only \$4.00 per person (NO \$3 Sunday since tickets are already discounted)
Puss in Boots is Premiere Price of \$7.00 and \$6.00 (No Sunday Discount)
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 - DOLPHIN TALE (PG)
PREMIERING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 - TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN, PART I (PG-13)
PREMIERING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 - THE MUPPETS (PG)

Let's Go to the Movie

COMING SOON

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram

20th Annual Norton Long-Spur Chapter
Pheasants Forever Banquet
Friday, November 11
at the Norton Eagles Lodge
Social Hour at 5:30 p.m./Dinner at 7 p.m.
AUCTION WILL FOLLOW DINNER
Everyone is Welcome - **Prizes Include 26 Firearms**
Including Special Youth and Ladies Firearm Drawings
For More Information Contact: Dan Lauer (785) 877-5181
(Kansasland Tire) (785) 877-3638 (Home)
Brock Miller (785) 877-3354-Home; (785) 202-1312 (Cell)

KID-LINK
Early Intervention Services and Developmental Screenings
The DSNWK Kid-Link program provides a full range of early intervention services to infants and toddlers from birth through two years of age in their natural living environment. One of the services provided is Individual Developmental Screenings.
If you are interested in scheduling a screening for an infant/toddler, please call
(785) 425-6766
SERVICES ARE OFFERED IN NORTON, OSBORNE, PHILLIPS, ROOKS, RUSSELL AND SMITH COUNTIES
"Parents and Professionals Working Together to Assist Infants and Toddlers Reach Their Full Potential!"

Thank You
To everyone for the incredible support we received during the 28th Annual "Fall Family Carnival" held at the Norton Christian Church
We would like to especially thank the merchants who donated items for prizes: Jamboree Foods (Sandy the Horse), United Northwest Federal Credit Union, Norton Theatre, Bridges Insurance (Popcorn Wagon), Garrett Plumbing, Next-Tech, Natoma Corporation, Norton Corrections (Bikes), Almema State Bank (Savings Bond) and many others who gave candy and/or allowed us to post our event in their windows. We also want to thank the many individuals who gave items for prizes, monetary donations, donated cookies, cupcakes, food/pop; and those who gave their time to help running the games. We wouldn't have done it without you!
A Huge "Thank You" to the Public for Attending and Making it Another Successful Year!!
Norton Christian Church
WE HAD A BLAST!!!!