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The Saint Francis Herald

12 Pages

Thursday, March 5, 2009

125th Year, Number 10

Highway work begins first of May

By Karen Krien

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Big semi trucks keep rolling into the site a mile north of U.S. 36 on K-27. Piles of rocks, sand and gravel are looking like mountains as materials are stock piled for the road construction set for this summer.

Eric Oelschlager, area engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said Cheyenne County will be getting 27.25 miles of asphalt work. The project will start at the Nebraska-Kansas state line on K-27 south to U.S. 36, then east through St. Francis, stopping at Wheeler at the junction of U.S. 36 and K-27 south.

On the stretch of highway from the state line to U.S. 36, K-27 will have a three-quarter inch mill with 1.5-inch overlay of asphalt. From K-27 on U.S. 36 to St. Francis, there will be a little milling but a

2-inch overlay. On the four-lane highway going through St. Francis, there will be a 2-inch mill and a 2-inch overlay of asphalt. From St. Francis to Wheeler, the highway is in good shape so there will be only a 1.5-inch overlay.

Mr. Oelschlager said he expects the work to begin around the first of May as Venture Corporation of Great Bend, the contractor for the job, will be completing road work in the Oberlin area which is to start on March 23.

The job is to be completed within 60 working days. However, Mr. Oelschlager said, unless there is bad weather or unforeseen problems, he expects the work to be completed before wheat harvest arrives.

There will be no detour but people will need to schedule their traveling time to allow for flagmen and pilot cars that will be stopping and/or slowing down traffic.



CHECKING OUT THE POSTERS at the annual Conservation Awards Banquet last Tuesday were (l to r) Hanna Bracelin, Madison Tice, Matthisen Witzel and Cody Baxter. Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider

Flu strains resist last year's meds

The current flu season is going long again this year, said Dr. Mary Beth Miller, Cheyenne County Hospital and Clinic doctor.

"It has been complicated by the fact that the strains this year are resistant to the medicine called Tamiflu which we would usually use to treat the flu."

It is believed that the flu vaccine will be protective, however there is some concern that people should be re-immunized as the original vaccination effects wear off. This then leads to the question of whether Medicare will pay for a second immunization in the same season, Dr.

Miller said.

The bottom line: Those who haven't received a flu vaccine, are strongly recommended to get one now. Those with chronic health problems may find it worth the money to get another flu vaccination even if they were vaccinated in October or November. The cost is something like \$20.

Some may have symptoms of cough which feels like it is in the lungs and not just drainage in the throat AND fever — this, Dr. Miller said, may be the flu. She strongly recommends that these people call the clinic and See FLU on Page 8

Courthouse steps on hold again

By Karen Krien

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For the second time, the bids for replacing the south courthouse steps had been let. The commissioners were hopeful that this time, the bids would promise that the steps would soon be replaced. However, after examining the bids, no decision was made and

the replacement of the steps was once again put on hold.

Eric Johnson, Campbell and Johnson Engineering, opened the bidding process at 1:31 Friday. The Cheyenne County Commissioners had met that morning but met again after lunch specifically for opening the bids.

There were two bids: one from

Cary Stupka Construction of Concordia; and one from Shamber Historic Preservation, of Damar. The Shambers are experienced in doing historical replacement work and had been to St. Francis several times. However, the Shamber bid came in at \$274,961 base, and \$26,076 for the alternate (replace/repair an entry door). The Stupka

bid was \$135,900 with an alternate bid of \$22,000. The other extreme difference was the window of completion. Stupka's bid was 60 days; and the bid for Shamber was 180 days — 6 months. If the county had a third bid, it would have been easier to determine a representative bid.

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Daylight saving time begins

Spring is still several weeks away but, for the second year, people will be setting their clocks ahead a little earlier for Daylight Saving Time. Before going to bed Saturday night, people should plan to set their clocks ahead an hour or they might be late to church Sunday morning.

Daylight Saving Time actually begins on Sunday at 2 a.m. but most people will not be up at that hour

and should take care of the clock changes a little earlier.

Now, it will stay light longer in the evening which is nice for those working in the fields or playing golf. However, it will still be dark when many people, especially school kids, get ready for the day.

It would be a good idea to get to bed an hour earlier than usual or you'll end up losing an hour of sack

time and it could take the whole week to catch up.

Change batteries

While changing the clocks, it is a good time to change the batteries in the smoke alarms rather than wait until there is strange sound like a bird chirping or there is an emergency and the alarm doesn't go off. Firemen suggest that by changing the batteries, it could save a life.



Saintly man returns to county

By Casey McCormick

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The John Deere implement dealership, Goodland Greenline of Wheeler, has found a manager who is familiar with the area. Tim Neitzel is coming home to head the team at the Wheeler location.

Mr. Neitzel grew up with his two brothers and two sisters on the family farm about 5 miles south of Wheeler. After some years away he brings work experience along with a desire to raise a family in rural northwest Kansas.

"Working for a John Deere dealership will be new, but I've been in the ag industry all my life," said Mr. Neitzel.

After graduating from Kansas State University with a degree in agriculture, Mr. Neitzel spent the last four years with Hormel Foods in Fremont, Neb.

"The first three years I was the production manager for the facility," Mr. Neitzel said, "But the last year I was a human resources manager."

His job entailed recruiting graduates from Kansas State, the Universities of Kansas and Nebraska and South Dakota State. In addition, with the facility being a "union shop," he had to deal with union issues.

Ron Lucas, owner and operator of Goodland Greenline with dealerships in Goodland and Wheeler, had been considering Mr. Neitzel for the job since last October.

"I'm really excited about having a western Kansas, agriculturally-experienced man to step into the management of Goodland Greenline here in Wheeler," Mr. Lucas said.



TIM NEITZEL crawls up on one of the John Deere tractors. Neitzel is the new manager at Goodland Greenline of Wheeler. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

"I've been looking for the caliber of person with the right characteristics that Tim is going to bring to the area."

Mr. Neitzel's wife, Jill, is also starting a new job back where she grew up.

A native of Goodland, Mrs. Neitzel graduated from the University of Kansas with a doctorate in pharmacy. She is starting

work as the pharmacist at the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The couple will be kept even more busy when their first child arrives in July.

"I'm looking forward to working with the producers in the area and helping them achieve their farming goals," Mr. Neitzel said.



KAROL LOHMAN, Equity manager, checks out the engine of one of the new Fords purchased by the Equity. Terry O'Leary, front, just popped the hood while Bob Yost, dealer, and Justin Haislip look on. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Businesses thrive when they help each other in everyday buying

By Karen Krien

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Two St. Francis businesses are helping each other out.

Karol Lohman, manager of the St. Francis Equity, and Bob and Dave Yost, owners of Yost Ford Mercury, know that small communities need businesses to help each other. Recently, the Equity purchased three new Ford pickups.

He said that he is a believer in doing business with other businesses in town. The Ford dealership purchases supplies and fuel from the Equity. He also does much of his business with Mark Cooper at St. Francis Tire and Service, another small locally-owned business.

"We need to appreciate the local businesses

we have in St. Francis," he said.

He went on to point out that his business keeps nine employees busy by being able to service Ford vehicles along with other vehicles. The purchase of a generic computer has helped with this service of other lines of vehicles.

Mrs. Lohman joined the Equity almost two years ago. She and the board are actively pursuing several improvement projects. The latest came after tearing down the old creamery. It is being replaced with a shop for the feed and fertilizer department which will be used to repair equipment.

This year, the Equity had a total sales of \$1,130,742. Patronage dividends of \$977,247 were handed out following the annual meeting in January.