

# U.S. 36 Association holds annual meeting

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 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 district removing 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 Moyer, 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.

## Club Clip

#### Plum Creek 4-H Club

The regular monthly meeting of the Plum Creek 4-H Club was held on May 19. The members traveled to the Good Samaritan Village. There they planted flowers as part of their community service project.

The members gathered back at the Equity meeting room for the "Parents' Night."

The meeting was called to order by Edie Walters. Melva Douthit read the roll call, and members answered by telling what their favorite part of 4-H was. Roll call was answered by 14 members and one leader.

Officers gave reports and Courtney Douthit reported on the Council meeting. Club leader Sue Zimelman reported on the 4-H scholarships and the Curry Memorial project. Mikaela Grace reported on the Junior Leaders

meeting.

The program began with a demonstration by Tom and Cheryl Williams. Tom, the "Make-up Man," demonstrated how to apply makeup. The next demonstration involved all parents. Mary Beikman and Deb Grace led the parents in making towel dolls, while blindfolded. Some parents were better auditory learners than others.

The final item on the program was a special talk by Linda Elfers. Her topic was "How to Drive Your Parents Crazy at the County Fair."

The Douthit family led the song "Old McDonald had a Farm." The 4-H Pledge was recited and the meeting was adjourned. Ice cream bars were served as refreshments by the Douthit family.

Mikaela Grace, reporter

## Club Clip

#### Classy Classics Red Hatters

The Classy Classics Red Hatters of St. Francis met at the Cheyenne Manor on May 28. The hostesses, Ilene O'Leary, Shirley Sherlock and Bonnie McQuillen treated the group of 28 brightly dressed ladies to a delightful meal, catered by Mel Hearon. Additional servers were Tammy and Allison Grice.

Chicken tenders in a delicious sauce, mashed potatoes, and vegetables steamed to perfection were complemented by a superb

strawberry dessert.

Lady Wild Rose offered a poem fitting to the month of May entitled "Mother's Forget-Me-Nots" and an encore called "Sour Dough Biscuits."

Party favors of Red Hat address labels were a nice remembrance of a lovely evening.



FRED MAGLEY and Tobe Zwegardt erect a marker to identify the Western Cattle Trail.

Photos courtesy of Janet Carman

# Group meets to celebrate barns

Over 30 barn lovers participated in the "Old Barns-New Ideas" workshop on May 31. The session opened with a presentation of certificates to Valerie Wurm and Allison Grice, 4-H photographers. Sally Hatcher, Kansas Barn Alliance president from Leavenworth, commended the 4-H'ers for their work in documenting area barns. These photos are on file at the Museum and will complement the current display of barn photos by Tobe Zwegardt.

Following the 4-H presentation, Robert Metzker, restoration specialist from Ness City, spoke to the group about preserving old barns. He gave tips on painting old wooden structures, tinning, repairing foundations and other renovation procedures.

"Metzker has a vast amount of experience in renovation, and he was very willing to share his knowledge," said Roger Jensen.

Mr. Metzker and Ms. Hatcher shared information about applying for state and national historic status, and stressed the importance of owners taking this step. Materials were handed out explaining tax credits and other incentives available for restoring barns with historic status.

Lunch was prepared and served by Louanne Isernhagen

and Anabelle Rueb. Donations received will benefit the Historical Society.

After lunch, Helene Landenberger and Fred Magley led the group to the northeast corner of the farm. Together they told how the Western Cattle Trail had passed through the property. Ms. Landenberger recited two poems that paid tribute to the trail, and Mr. Magley set a historical marker commemorating the site.

The group reconvened in the barn to discuss niche agriculture and new uses for old barns. Ms. Hatcher related ways owners have put their old barns back into use. Producing pork products, shearing alpaca, raising tilapia, growing hydroponic basil, and drying lavender and herbs were just a few ideas she shared. Robert and Joann Klie spoke about their organic farming experiences.

Laura Reeser told about she and her sister's egg and herb business. She also informed the group about the opportunity for local growers to sell produce through the High Plains Food Coop.

Information about Freetricity, a new wind energy enterprise, was distributed by Rick Reeser.

At the conclusion of the event, board members summed up their experience in St. Francis.

"I am impressed with the




SALLY HATCHER, president of the Kansas Barn Alliance, speaks to 4-H'ers.

creativity of people who grew up here, whether they stayed or returned, and the love they have for a landscape that can be difficult," said Ms. Hatcher.


Roger Hubert, Sylvan Grove, added, "What a day, what a workshop for old barns, and what a way to meet grand folks who care about their rich heritage of farming and their barns, way out west on the high plains of western Kansas."

There's A  
New Name for Five-Star  
Orthopedic Care  
In Western Kansas.

## The Orthopedic Institute At Hays Medical Center



ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE  
At HaysMedicalCenter  
2500 Canterbury Drive, Hays, KS 67601  
785-628-8221



• Five-Star Rated for 2008 for Joint Replacement, Total Knee Replacement and Total Hip Replacement by HealthGrades®, the nation's leading independent healthcare ratings company  
• Recipient of the HealthGrades 2008 Joint Replacement Excellence Award  
• Ranked by HealthGrades Among the Top 10% in the Nation for Joint Replacement

# HUSTLER®

## TURF EQUIPMENT

### Cochran Farm Supply / Morrow's Garage

East US Highway 36 — St. Francis  
785-332-5336 or (Mike) 785-899-0096

**FasTrak**  
MSRP: \$5,899  
NOW: \$4,999

**Super Z Diesel**  
Factory Reconditioned Demos  
MSRP: \$16,000  
NOW: \$9,750

**Mini FasTrak**  
MSRP: \$4,899  
NOW: \$4,399



Many sizes and prices  
in between!

**No Job Is Too Large or Too Small  
We Have A Mower Just the Right Size**  
(Prices Good Through June 30)