

Signs alert drivers

Updated highway laws show that emergency and transportation organizations mean business when it comes to safety along Kansas roadways. Last week, the Cheyenne County State Highway crews put up signs at the Colorado-Kansas and Nebraska-Kansas state lines.

The signs, "Move over or slow down for stopped emergency or maintenance vehicles," are the result of a law which was updated. The signs highlighting the safety laws are placed along highways across the state.

"Kansas highway and emergency workers deserve a safe work environment," said Deb Miller, secretary of Transportation. "That's the purpose of these important laws."

The first law requires motorists to slow down and move over if it is safe to do so for all stationary authorized vehicles engaged in work along the highway and displaying flashing lights, which includes highway maintenance vehicles, law enforcement, and emergency first responders.



DAN PENTON and Alan Rose put up new signs on K-27 by the Kansas-Nebraska state line. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Drivers who fail to comply with the updated move-over law face a fine of up to \$90 plus court costs, according to the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The second law prohibits drivers traveling on two lane roadways

from overtaking or passing another vehicle within 100 feet of such vehicles. Tickets will be issued and carry up to a \$180 fine plus court costs.

"I am pleased to see the law extended to include roadside courtesy and safety for all who work alongside Kansas roadways," said Highway Patrol Superintendent Colonel William R. Seck. "Although not required by law, drivers should provide the same safe distance and courtesy for motorists who are pulled to the side of the road with their emergency lights turned on."

Last year in Kansas, 14 people were killed and 657 were injured in Kansas work zone crashes.

Every year in work zone crashes across the United States:

- More than 1,000 people die - that's one person being killed every 8.2 hours.
- About 160 people are injured every day - that one person injured every nine minutes

Kansas joins more than 30 states that have laws to protect public works crews and other roadside workers.

Hospital board receives update from clinic manager

The Cheyenne County Clinic manager told about her work when she met with the hospital board on July 31.

Erika Zimelman reported that the Bird City Clinic has had 250 more visits this year to date. She feels that being there every morning, five days a week has helped improve volume. The St. Francis Clinic has had 385 more visits so far this year. She said that there are several new patients coming from the Goodland area.

She has been working on the Primary Care Clinic grant and has been implementing the business and health plans supported by

the grant. The case manager will initially work on preventative care for the charity care and sliding fee scale patients, and will be working with other patients as the grant progresses.

The hours have been expanded with the extra providers and this has been very positive and being open on Saturday mornings has been overwhelming successful too.

She reported that the accounts receivable has been challenging and the staff is working theirs like the central business office is doing the hospital so it takes her a lot more time to do the

promissory notes. The reason the central business office can't bill for both facilities is because the clinic has its own system and right now doesn't cross over with the hospital.

Another challenge is space for storage of paper charts. They would like to get some of them moved downstairs but right now there is not extra space. There are companies that scan the paper charts but they are expensive.

The Health Fair this year will likely be revamped to make it more educational for the community.

Reservoir releases water

On Aug. 14, Colorado State Engineer Dick Wolfe ordered the Bureau of Reclamation to release approximately 2,000 acre feet of water from Bonny Reservoir. The Reservoir, located on the South Fork of the Republican River near Burlington, Colo., has increased its pool due to heavy rains over the last week.

Mr. Wolfe explained that the Republican River Compact required the release stating, "Colorado must comply with the Compact, and in order to do so, we must release that water."

The Republican River Compact apportions the waters of the Republican River and its tributaries between the States of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. The Compact imposes strict limits on the amount of water Colorado may consume, and Colorado continues to put great efforts into Compact Compliance.

Mr. Wolfe explained that this order slightly modified his previous order of Aug. 9, that the Bureau begin releasing water. Mr. Wolfe stated, "We've been working with the Bureau for some time on this issue, and have tried to accommodate some of their concerns regarding administration of Bonny Reservoir. We will continue to work closely with the Bureau on this difficult issue."

Bonny Dam has a limited release capacity and the release

of approximately 2,000 acre-feet is expected to take several weeks. Mr. Wolfe said that his office will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to assure that the correct volume of water is released

and that future inflows into Bonny Reservoir will pass through the reservoir and into the South Fork of the Republican River as quickly as is safe and practicable.

Summer reading keeps library busy

The St. Francis Public Library had a very successful reading program this summer, said Pat Leibbrandt, librarian.

The theme was "Catch The Reading Bug."

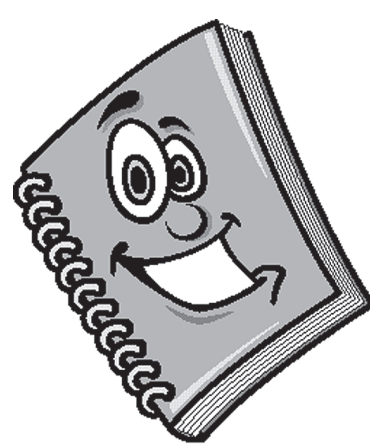
"Each year, we encourage children in grades kindergarten through sixth to enter our reading program," she said.

Prizes were given for every 10 books read. Along with the program, a drawing was held each week for a Dairy King treat.

Winning the top prizes in the reading program were Jenna and Jessica Confer who read the same number of books. They each selected a new book as their prize.

The top girl was Hanna Bracelin, and the top boy was Trey Van Allen. They each received a Pizza Hut certificate.

Winner of the weekly ice cream treats were Mattie Leibbrandt,



Jenna Confer, Hanna Bracelin, Kattie Jenik, Jessica Confer, Mallery Mills, Reagan Beims and Trey Van Allen.

As an extra fun drawing, the preschoolers and school-aged children signed up for a free water bottle. Winner were Hailey Robbins and Mallery Mills.

Students earn awards



Yonkey



Neitzel

Erin Neitzel of St. Francis and Heidi Yonkey of Wheeler have accepted scholarships from Fort Hays State University for the new academic year.

Neitzel, a 2006 St. Francis High School graduate, accepted a \$1,000 Harold A. Stones Scholarship.

She is involved in Tigers4Life, Tiger Wild and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The daughter of Roger and Traci Neitzel, she plans to major in management and marketing.

Yonkey, a 2008 Goodland High School graduate, accepted a \$900 Award of Excellence in chemistry.

She was involved in 4-H, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Science Olympiad, National Honor Society, golf, track and softball. She was a member of the Kansas Honors Program and was on the Honor Roll.

The daughter of Gary and Miriam Yonkey, she plans to major in chemistry.

ON JULY 14, 2008, AQUILA UTILITIES IN COLORADO, IOWA, KANSAS AND NEBRASKA BECAME BLACK HILLS ENERGY.

WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION, "WHAT IS BLACK HILLS ENERGY?"

Black Hills Energy consists of five former Aquila electric and natural gas utilities in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. Black Hills Corporation purchased the utilities on July 14, but has been providing reliable energy to the west for over 125 years. We look forward to bringing that proud tradition to you.

The new 24/7 **customer service number** for former Aquila customers in these four states is **888-890-5554**; the 24/7 **emergency assistance number** is **800-694-8989**.



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