

Some St. Francis streets getting chip seal

The St. Francis city crew, along with the county road and bridge crew, chip sealed streets this week.

Steven Marshall, of Cobitco Inc. in Colorado, was in town to oversee the project and has been working with the city and county on these road sealing projects for over 20 years. He explained that the crews first lay down an asphalt emulsion, which is a combination of oil, latex and water, among other chemicals. While wet, an aggregate is evenly spread out on top of the asphalt. Aggregate is material like stone or rock that is of a more or less consistent size and quality.

The aggregate is compressed by machinery and as the heat of the day evaporates the water out of the asphalt, it solidifies, sticking the aggregate to the street.

In approximately a week, after the chip sealing process has had plenty of time to evaporate all the water in the asphalt and to set correctly, a much lighter coating of asphalt will be applied to affix the aggregate even more. This is called a fog seal.

The point of chip sealing streets is to protect the street underneath from water drainage and wear from traffic, which creates cracks. The seal prolongs the life of the street.

The city and county crews work together to chip seal streets to save money. Doing it themselves instead of hiring an outside contractor saves money on labor and material. They even used a chip spreader owned by Thomas County for the project, as these machines are expensive and hard to come by.



COUNTY AND CITY EMPLOYEES worked together this week to do some road construction on several of St. Francis' streets. The chip seal was applied this week and once it weathers, a fog seal will be applied.

Pictured driving the yellow equipment is Tony Vandike; Mike Zwegardt, the red equipment. Herald staff photo by Nathan Fiala

Frontier Ag location manager in leadership training

Sean Cravens, location manager of Frontier Ag in Bird City, recently completed a part of the Tomorrow's Agribusiness Leaders Program. The program is a jointly sponsored initiative of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association.

It is an intensive leadership development program designed to teach members of the association about the state and federal legislative and regulatory

process and how to be a better leader within the industry.

Applications were reviewed by the Tomorrow's Agribusiness Leaders Alumni Selection Committee, consisting of 10 past graduates of the program. They made their selections based upon who they believed would gain the most from the program and who had the most to offer their respective associations.

While the majority of the expenses were paid for by the associations

through corporate sponsorships, there was a \$350 fee that the individuals or their firms were required to submit once the applicants were selected to participate in the program.

Mr. Cravens was one of 10 people to complete the class which returned from Washington, D.C. where they gained experience and contacts that will allow them to grow professionally and add to their respective companies, the industry and association.

The Washington trip is part of a three-session leadership program. Other sessions include two days at the Kansas Statehouse and a management development program taught by the Wichita State University's Center for Management Development.

In Washington, in addition to touring several historical monuments and the capitol, the class met with a number of national agribusiness trade associations and members of the congressional

delegation.

The class also received a private briefing from Commodities Future and Trade Commissioner Jill Sommers on the MF Global debacle and steps being taken to rectify the situation. During their meetings at the United States Capitol, the team relayed thoughts and concerns about the 2012 Farm Bill and regulatory environment facing agribusiness to Kansas Congressmen and Senators.



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