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Interstate work begins

Contractors started resurfacing on the westbound lanes of I-70 from Edson to Goodland Tuesday.

Eric Oelschlager, area engineer for the state Department of Transportation in Atwood, said the crews from Venture of Great Bend will be working daily, Monday through Friday.

He said the project will smooth the road and seal cracks with a 5/8-inch layer of asphalt. A specially modified oil will be sprayed over the road to bind the asphalt to the concrete pavement.

"This type of overlay promotes drainage, reduces hydroplaning and wet weather spray and improves the skid resistance of the road," he said.

The estimated cost is \$680,590, he said, and weather permitting, the project should be done by Monday.



TOM BETZ/Goodland Star News

Venture Paving of Great Bend laid the first layer of asphalt near Goodland and will be working on Interstate 70 in the westbound lanes from Edson to Goodland with the project expected to take about a week.

Disaster training scheduled

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Thomas County Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan and Brewster City Superintendent Mike Schultz invite the public to a "Lessons Learned from Greensburg" seminar later in June.

Bill Callaway, director of utilities for Clay Center Public Utilities Commission, will talk about things he learned in helping out in the wake of the May 5, 2007, tornado which destroyed most of Greensburg.

Two training sessions will take place June 24.

The first will be in from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Brewster School at 127 Kansas Ave. in Brewster. The second session is from 1-3 p.m. at the Sheridan County Emergency Service Building located at 1717 Oak Ave. in Hoxie.

For questions about the training, call (785) 694-8003 or 460-4516.

Colby woman seeks 15th Judicial District seat

By Patty Decker

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District Judge Jack Burr of Goodland will not seek another term in the second position of the 15th Judicial District — opening the door for three candidates, so far, to vie for that seat.



Wyrick

Thomas and Logan County Attorney Andrea Wyrick, Scott Showalter of Goodland and Kevin Berens of

St. Francis, all Republicans, have filed for the position.

It will then be up to voters in an eight-county area at the Aug. 5 primary to decide which Republican candidate is the best qualified to run.

"If elected," Wyrick said, "I am going to miss serving as the county attorney."

After practicing many areas of the law through past and current employment and in every courtroom in the 15th Judicial District, she said she is qualified for this next step.

Wyrick has also maintained a private practice in Sharon Springs, Goodland and Colby.

However, Wyrick said she doesn't think what she has done is

all that makes for a good judge.

"I believe character stemming from life experience and personal beliefs makes a good judge," she said.

"It's who you are — and I have tried my entire life to live out integrity," she said.

Although she admits she is not perfect and has made mistakes, she said she is continually learning from the past and hopes to pass her personal beliefs and importance of character on to her children.

"Who I am when no one else is looking is the kind of character I am talking about and I think a judge must possess this."

In her capacity as the county attorney, Wyrick said she wanted

to further the educational and prevention needs of the schools.

"My office has promoted the 'Computer Cop' that helps parents maintain an active role in their children's life by monitoring what they are exposed to on the internet," she said.

She also promotes youth with the addition of a student-aid in her office each year she has been the county attorney.

Other ways she has promoted helping young people understand the legal system has been through school visits, teaching a class on juvenile justice at Colby Community College, serving as a speaker at the National Honor Society's induction ceremony and serving on a panel to address teen drug

and alcohol abuse issues.

"Following the lead of Judge (Mark) Temeat in Logan County, I revived Law Day for fifth graders by conducting a mock trial in order to learn about our judicial system," she said.

Wyrick, 33, was born Long Island, near Norton, graduating from Abilene High School in 1993. She attended Taylor University in Upland, Ind., a Christian liberal arts college with a double major in international business and Spanish.

As an exchange student, she spent time with a family in San Jose, Costa Rica, attending school at the University of Costa Rica and interning in an economic support organization for new businesses.

When she returned from her travels, Wyrick enrolled and graduated in 1999 from the University of Tulsa (Okla.) Law School.

Her first job after law school was as the general counsel at Petroleum Wholesale, Inc. in Houston, Texas.

She then moved to Kansas City, Mo. and worked with Shook, Hardy and Bacon Law Firm. She passed her law examinations in Texas, Missouri and Kansas.

Wyrick found her way to Colby in 2002 when she decided she wanted to be closer to family.

She and her husband, Travis, who she met the first year of law school, have three children: Cole, 6; Seth, 4 and Anakin, 18 months.

School board approves bids for two buses

By Joey Falkoff

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Colby school district transportation director Alan Wade has asked the school board to help replenish his aging bus fleet each of the last four years only to come away empty-handed.

In a little less than a month, Wade may finally get the answer he's been looking for.

During Monday's meeting, the school board approved a motion with a 6-1 vote to make sealed bids for two 24-passenger busses.

The district will deliver bids on two new and used buses to Midwest Bus Company of Bonner Springs and Kansas Truck of Wichita. By law, they are required to go with whichever one gives them the lowest price.

Once the lowest bid has been determined, the information will be presented to the board at their next meeting June 27 and it is expected they will agree to buy at least one new bus for the first time since 2004.

"I'd imagine they'd buy at least one," said business manager Jo DeYoung.

The need for a new bus has arisen because of the ever-increasing age of Colby's school bus fleet. Eight of Colby's 16 busses are at least 15 years old and can no longer be used after 2013 because of Kansas state law that puts a 20-year age limit on school busses.

"It's either lease a fleet, buy one bus a year or do away with the fleet one bus at a time," said Wade during Monday's board meeting. "You have to spend money on what's important, and this going to become important."

Although exact prices aren't known at this point, DeYoung estimates a new 24-passenger bus would cost about \$50,000 and a used bus would cost anywhere from \$37,500-40,000.

In the past, the district has put up bids for busses, but hasn't bought one because the money wasn't available. DeYoung says that shouldn't be the case this year because the district has \$421,000 in its capital outlay fund.

The board did discuss leasing a fleet of 11 buses, which would cost them \$130,000 a year for the next five years, but ultimately decided against it.

"If you start leasing busses, you'll be doing it the rest of your career," said Wade. "It's far wiser to purchase your own buses, because you know they're going to make money on the lease somehow."

Gerry Fulwider, the only dissenting vote, was one who felt a leasing plan should get more consideration before deciding to put out bids to purchase buses.

"There wasn't a good reason for not putting out bids," said Fulwider. "I was just trying to make a statement. Rather than saying just buy two buses, I want to develop a long-range strategy and want to see us give further consideration to a leasing program if we can lease for municipal bond rates. We need to take into consideration the total cost of program before just buying two buses."

Fulwider is also concerned that buying one or two buses will sig-

nificantly diminish the district's capital outlay fund.

"You want to have money in there for unusual repairs or for an emergency," said Fulwider. "We probably need to always have \$400-500,000 in there. This will deplete that and I don't know if there's a way to replenish it."

Should the district decide to purchase a pair of 24-passenger busses, they would run two of the district's rural routes outside of the Colby city limits. By law, the district has to provide transportation to any student who lives over 2 1/2 miles outside the city limits. Because that number has decreased from 274 to 251 in the last five years, the need to purchase a larger bus this year wasn't necessary.

"I see all of these big buses driving around that are virtually empty," said board member Stan Molstad.

Even the number of in-city bus riders has decreased in recent years, so much so that Wade admitted there's two city routes they could do away with.

Pushing forward



JUDY ROGERS/Contributed photo

Avery Spreser concentrates as she pushes her barrel down the course in the barrel roll competition at the 15th Selden Antique Tractor and Car Show on Sunday. See more on page 3.

Briefly

Open house Sunday

Genesis-Thomas County, Inc. will be holding an open house at their new location in the Thomas County Office Complex, Suite 13, on Sunday, June 8, from 1-3 p.m., Sunday. Organizers are encouraging everyone to come for refreshments, tour the new facility and to find out more about the important services they provide for the citizens of Thomas County.

Fundraiser Saturday

In conjunction with the Brewster City-Wide Garage Sale starting at 7 a.m., Saturday, in Brewster, a fundraising event to benefit Ashton Domsch, who plans to attend school in Ireland as an exchange stu-

dent will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Brewster. The benefit will include Sloppy Joes, salads and desserts. In addition, hand-tied fleece quilts and handmade jewelry will be sold. All proceeds from the lunch and sale of items will go toward paying her expenses to Monaghan County, Monaghan Ireland.

Deadline to vote nears

Anyone interested in voting for the Cooper Barn on the grounds of the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby, is urged to do so before the deadline Sunday, June 15. The barn is in the running for one of the eight architectural wonders of Kansas through the Kansas Sampler Foundation. The voting website is: www.8wonders.org eight or the vote

will not count, officials said. The Kansas Sampler Foundation is receiving about 150 votes per day on line; this does not count the paper ballots. The final announcement will be made Monday, June 30.

Car wash fundraiser set

The Tumbleweed Tumblers are having a car wash from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, at the car wash on the corner of Franklin and Pine Streets in Colby. The cost is free-will donation to help the girl get to camp in Lincoln, Neb. For questions about the event, call Brette Pfeifer, 462-1513.

Decoration removal

Officials at Beulah Cemetery in Colby will re-

sume the regular maintenance on the grounds and are asking families to remove any non-permanent containers, pots or decorations from grave sites. Any decorations not removed by Monday, June 9, will be disposed of by staff. For questions, call Debbie Henry or Paul Baird, 460-3188.

Rod Run set June 13-15

Colby's annual Cruise to the Past Rod Run is scheduled Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 13-15. The Cruise-In and registration is from 4-7 p.m. at Sonic and Montana Mikes on South Range Avenue with the "Show and Shine" beginning at 9 a.m., Saturday at Fike Park. A dance is also planned at Southwind with awards presented Sunday. More details will appear in a future edition of the Free Press.