

K-27 paving to start Monday

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asphalt plant is set up, and weather permitting, paving should begin the first part of May, he said. Once the paving begins and the temporary detour is ready south of town, traffic will be diverted to allow the far north section of K-27, connecting the new road to the old pavement, to be rebuilt.

Paving will continue throughout the summer, Terry said, and should be wrapped up by fall. Up to 156,600 tons of asphalt mix will be

applied to the new corridor.

The roadway will have 12-foot driving lanes with three-foot paved shoulders and three-foot turf shoulders. The old road has no paved shoulders. Western Engineering of North Platte, Neb., is the prime contractor.

For questions, call Kristen Brands, department public affairs manager for northwest Kansas, at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org, or Terry at (785) 626-3258 or mterry@ksdot.org.



Dirt work is being completed on the shoo-fly detour south of town, and Michael Terry of the State Department of Transportation said Thursday the short detour will be the first part to be paved begin-

ning on Monday to allow the contractor to rebuild the northern end of the 14-mile K-27 project.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Veterans Affairs selects Burlington for outreach clinic

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pleased the veterans would have closer access to medical services.

"For a long time, we have partnered with area veterans and community leaders to have a Veterans Affairs outreach clinic located in the northwest Kansas area," Moran said. "I am disappointed the VA did not select Goodland as the clinic location. Still, I am pleased that local officials and residents worked to

showcase the community and meet the needs of veterans. It remains good news that area veterans will soon have closer access to care."

Goodland submitted a proposal in March to house the clinic in the Goodland Family Health Center clinic at no cost to the government.

A four-person site evaluation team toured the facility in April, spending about three hours here. The team visited both Burlington and Yuma the next day.

Brenda McCants, director of marketing and volunteer services for the Goodland hospital, said Wednesday the staff was disappointed the clinic would not be coming to Goodland.

"The important thing is that our veterans will be closer to medical services," she said. "We have to be proud that the mission to open an outreach clinic has been successful."

The announcement said the clinic

would be in the Medical Arts Building, 1117 Rose, Avenue in Burlington, and that the City of Burlington would renovate the building in order to meet Veterans Affairs standards.

The renovations should be completed by mid-September to allow the clinic to open on Oct. 1, the agency said.

The notice of award said Burlington has offered the first three years of the lease for the 1,900 square feet

free, and that the next seven years would cost the government \$6,000 per month, or \$504,000 over seven years.

Goodland offered the same amount of space for the clinic as Burlington, and it would have been rent-free for the first three years, Jolly said.

He said there would have been negotiations after the three years, but felt the monthly price would have been comparable with what

Burlington has.

Jolly said he was really surprised at the delay in opening the clinic until October because the site team and the proposal kept talking about opening the clinic in May.

He said the renovations they ask about in the site visit to Goodland could have been done within a month, and at very little cost.

"We could have had it open by June," he said.

Deputies stationed at schools because of school violence threat

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care of and the threat was removed.

"The KBI is relieved to advise we believe we have identified the originator of the threat discussed earlier Wednesday and the situation is now under control," Smith said. "Local authorities in the Atchison area have interviewed the suspect and are taking appropriate action."

"The suspect is believed to be a juvenile so additional identifying information can not be released at this time."

"The KBI would like to recognize the excellent cooperation and efforts by Kansas and Missouri police departments and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Cyber Crimes Task force, in bringing this case to a speedy and safe resolution."

"We would also like to thank the Kansas Department of Education in notifying local schools, and their prompt and professional response to the situation."

In the earlier message Smith had said the KBI and Atchison police were investigating a nonspecific

threat of school violence in Kansas.

"The posting was received last night on 'My Space' pages in the Atchison area," Smith said, "but there was no specific information provided as to what school, where or when, other than it would be a school shooting incident 'tomorrow'."

"While there is no credible information to suggest the validity of the threat, law enforcement and school administrators across Kansas have been asked to be on heightened awareness."

People don't think about mental health

The Mental Health America web site says that most people don't think much about their mental health or even use that phrase, yet it is a common element in life.

Some people define mental health as "a state of mind," others as "being content with life" or "feeling good about yourself."

Mental health may be best explained as how well a person copes with the challenges of life and daily living.

Mental Health America writes that strengthening our mental health is even more important nowadays, considering the fast-paced, high stress culture of daily life. People live with daily threats to good mental health.

Many people work extended hours or multiple jobs and are chronically overworked. The line between work and home life is often blurred, and home is rarely a place of rest.

People sleep less and eat poorly. Technology and the information age have also brought increased expectations and challenges. Families are disconnected and communities less engaged. Parents and kids are in a constant race from one activity to another without any downtime.

Many people face additional challenges that put their mental health at risk, such as major health



high plains mental health
• plain sense

tor in all aspects of life and influences relationships, work performance, school and physical health. When one's mental health is good, a person can deal well with

problems or an addiction to alcohol or drugs. Some deal with the stress of care giving or the loss of a loved one.

Divorce, job loss, single parenting and abuse can add to the list. And then there are major mental illnesses, such as depression or schizophrenia.

Most people take their mental health or mental well-being for granted. It is such a basic, yet unseen, part of who we are that it doesn't seem to merit a lot of thought compared to everything else.

But mental health is a major fac-

tor in all aspects of life and influences relationships, work performance, school and physical health. When one's mental health is good, a person can deal well with

daily challenges and problems. When it is not so good, it can be difficult to function in even the simplest aspects of life.

Contributed by Karen Schueler, manager, Consultation and Education Department. The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.

Mail questions to High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, Consultation and Education Department, 208 E. Seventh, Hays, Kan. 67601. Internet site: www.highplainsmentalhealth.com.

Cowboys golf team places third at Thomas More Prep tourney

The Cowboys varsity golf team took third at the Thomas More Prep Invitational Tournament on Monday, while the junior varsity took second at the Ulysses Junior Varsity Invitational.

Goodland was third in Hays with a team score of 353. Hays High won with 326 and Phillipsburg was second at 343.

Nathan Linin came in ninth in 82 strokes. Darrick Ihrig finished in 87, Mikey Doll 91, Andrew Taylor 93, Ryan Gausman 95 and Joel Weis 106.

"This course was tough," said Coach Jon McLean. "Our kids will not play another course with rough like this. Nathan triple bogeyed the last hole, so he played very well up to that point."

"Darrick's 87 was a very good score as well. There were only 18 kids who broke 90 on the day due to the severity of the rough."

At Ulysses, the Cowboys finished second with a team score of 372. Ulysses won with 366, and Syracuse was third with 395.

Andrew Miller was the top golfer, finishing in 89 strokes. Drew Raile was fourth in 91, and after the tie-breaker, Aaron Deeds was fifth, also in 91. Nelson Bergemann came in 17th with a 101, and Ross Townsend was 18th in 101. Jace Mosbarger finished 20th in 103.

"I'm really happy for Andrew Miller to win the tournament with 89," the coach said. "That is a pretty good score for the Ulysses course."

For all six kids to place was great, McLean said. "This tournament is a great experience for these kids," he said, "having to play 18 holes is a different tournament for many of these kids."

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