

Projects to alter traffic flow on I-70

I-70, from Page 1

under I-70 near mile markers 5, 8, and 10. Road closure signs will be placed south of the structures and at Old U.S. 24 Highway to alert local travelers of these closures. The closures are necessary for the shoring and formwork needed to support the box while patching is underway.

Koss Construction Co., Inc., of Topeka, was awarded the \$46.5 million job.

Workers will also close the east-bound driving lanes at three bridge locations along the second I-70 project from Edson east eight miles to the Sherman/Thomas County line. The bridge locations are at mile markers: 28, 30, and 31.

At the same time, workers will close the I-70 east and westbound passing lanes between mile markers 34 and 36 in order to construct crossovers which will eventually be used at a later phase in the construction schedule.

Starting around April 9, County Road 36 will close as workers perform a deck repair of the reinforced concrete box located one mile west of the Sherman/Thomas County line. Workers will also be extend-

ing the boxes along this section of I-70.

In May, I-70 traffic will be placed in a head-to-head configuration in the westbound lanes from milepost 34 to 36 so that crews can reconstruct the curve at the county line. The curve is being reconstructed to current standards; and at the same time contractors will lower the road to increase the clearance under the bridge at the county line.

Between May and August, this section of I-70 will be milled two inches and then receive a two-inch base lift of asphalt followed by 1.5 inch surface life of the roadway. The on/off ramps at Edson will also receive a two-inch mill and overlay.

KDOT awarded this construction contract – totaling \$7 million – to APAC Kansas Inc. of Hays.

The project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May of 2010.

For questions concerning this project, contact Oelschlager at 626-3258 or erico@ksdot.org in Atwood; or Kristen Brands, Northwest Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.

Charges filed in Goodland man's death

CHARGES, from Page 1

One reason the patrol took the accident report and his deputy did the follow-up investigation, Taylor said, is that both arrived about the same time. He said Mr. Gallentine had been moved by the time the deputy, Craig Cersovsky, arrived.

Because both emergency medical technicians on the scene were doing life-saving procedures, he said, Cersovsky drove the ambulance to Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Doctors

there pronounced Gallentine dead. That left the Trooper Medicott to do the accident scene work.

The charges allege that House was drunk and criminally negligent. Taylor said the man apparently had his 11-year-old son with him, though the boy was not present when officers arrived. He apparently had walked home, but his presence in the truck prompted the charge of child endangerment.

"The son was not at the scene," the sheriff

said, adding that the family lives nearby. "Val was found in the middle of the street on his back. They were trying to get someone to call 911.... When Craig got there, he had already been moved."

Taylor said the two officers and others were getting ready to send the case to County Attorney Kevin Berens for a decision on district court charges. That should happen sometime next week, he added.

Rainfall helpful for fast-growing wheat crop

RAINFALL, from Page 1

but if it is done after the wheat has grown too big, the chemicals can damage the leaves.

"You don't want to stress the wheat too much," he said, "so get in there before it gets too big."

Hot weather is supposed to return this weekend, however, with plenty

of sun and highs up to 79 degrees on Saturday and Sunday.

The area also saw high winds Thursday, with gusts up to 40 mph.

Winds on Sunday got as high as 62 mph in Yuma, Colo., where a grass fire burned about 24,000 acres. Two homes were destroyed and about 1,000 residents, including the 300-person town of Eckley. The fire

was fully contained by Monday, but firefighters have been taking care of hotspots and flare ups throughout the week. In Kansas, wind gusts reached as high as 58 mph.

The dry conditions also contributed to a fire at Bonny Reservoir in Colorado, as well as several grass fires in northwest Kansas.

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Out-

look, released Thursday, says that most of southern Kansas is likely to see an improvement in drought conditions this year. The extreme southwest corner, however, along with southern Colorado and the Oklahoma Panhandle, are likely to see the same conditions as last year, if not worse.

Arts Council plans annual dinner theatre in April

The Goodland Arts Council will host their annual dinner theatre event at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 29, at the Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade St. in Goodland. The times are mountain standard time.

A dinner will accompany the play on Saturday.

Tickets are \$30; arts council members can purchase reduced-rate tickets for \$25.

The Sunday performance will have a light buffet. Tickets are \$25; \$20 for council members.

V.B. Longhorn's Collective Dating will be performed. It showcases four romantic comedy

mini-plays based on the world of dating.

The event is sponsored by Eklund's First Insurance, First National Bank, L&W Andrist Insurance Agency and Peoples State Bank.

House debates state budget, income tax and teacher evaluations

This week was the last full week most House committees had to consider legislation, with Friday being the hard deadline for bills to be passed out of committee. March 31 marks the end of the regular session and the legislature will adjourn for its annual break before returning to Topeka on April 25 for what is called "veto session."

An agreement with the Senate on areas of unfinished business like redistricting, the budget, tax reform and addressing the unfunded liability of KPERS will have to be reached during the veto session. This will be a daunting task.

House Budget (H. Sub. SB 294)

Friday was budget day on the House floor. The budget was debated from 11 a.m. until agreement was reached at 6:30 p.m. After the dust had settled we were successful in making sure that the \$29 million was included so that school districts would not have to take that amount in increased head count and at risk program cost from their special purpose funds.

Last year, the Legislature passed a budget that, for the first time since



rick billinger

state rep.

1972, decreased all-funds state spending by over \$880,000 and turned a \$500 million deficit into a \$100 million surplus without raising taxes. However, we still have very serious obligations facing the state, which makes it important for us to remain committed to keeping our spending in check. For too long, Kansas's government lived beyond its means and we've worked diligently to turn the tide. This year's proposed budget has an approximate ending balance of almost \$500 million, which exceeds the 7.5 percent statutory requirement for the first time since 2008. In the past, this ending balance, in my opinion, would have been quickly spent-perpetuating the cycle we've been stuck in for years.

On Wednesday the Senate approved its budget. After the House budget is passed, a conference com-

mittee with members of the House and Senate will be appointed to negotiate the differences between the two budgets. Kansas is a diverse state with distinct urban and rural issues, often making reasonable and agreeable solutions difficult. Budgeting is never an easy process and increased revenues and sizable ending balances complicate the process. I believe it is in the best interest of the State of Kansas that we continue on shrinking the size of state government, pay down our debt and spend responsibly to better improve the fiscal condition of Kansas.

Kansas Income Tax Reform (H. Sub. SB 177)

H Sub SB 177 is a tax bill that will reduce the income tax rate beginning 2013. Some of the key provisions include maintaining current tax reductions, credits and exemptions, including food sales tax refunds, historic tax credits, mortgage deductions and Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) proposed

for elimination in other proposals. It also eliminates the individual income tax on non-wage business income at a graduated cap for four years and expands the successful Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) to include 23 more counties.

The bill also maintains the statutory sales tax sunset, passed during the 2010 session, which lowers the sales tax rate to 5.7 percent in 2013 and includes a 3 percent growth factor that require increased revenues over 3 percent to trigger reductions in individual tax rates. Each of these provisions were designed to lower income tax rates while also insuring a healthy ending balance to keep Kansas at a sound fiscal status while limiting spending.

I was successful in getting my first piece of legislation added to this tax bill as an amendment. This amendment allows residents who reside in

counties with unemployment rates over 5 percent that move to a county designated a ROZ for employment opportunities will receive a tax credit for 3 years. The tax bill will go to a conference committee for approval.

The House debated the bill and added the following amendments to the bill: exemptions for most food purchases from sales tax, removes provisions in the bill that amends severance tax collections to keep current law, clarifies the nine percent EITC remains refundable in 2013, removes the current sunset provision on state historic tax credit, allows cities or counties to opt out of the food sales tax exemption and adds Sumner County to the ROZ counties.

Teacher Evaluations (HB 2634)

This bill would require teacher evaluations to be based on multiple

measures of student achievement and growth, as determined by the State Board of Education. The bill would classify each teacher in one of the following categories: highly effective, effective, progressing or ineffective. The classification would primarily be based on the growth in student achievement. Also, included in the evaluation would be a recommendation for improvement and plans of assistance, if needed.

I would like to congratulate Road Runner Manufacturing, Brad and Marie Skolout, from Levant. Their trailer manufacturing business received an award from the Kansas Small Business Development Center as a 2011 Existing Business of the Year. I was honored to help present their award at the Small Business Development Banquet.

SPRING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Saturday, March 24th, starting at 10 a.m MDT
At the Homestead Auction Lot, E. Hwy 24, Goodland, Kansas

TRACTORS & COMBINES, TRAILERS, ROAD GRADER: JD 4630, QR, 3pt, duals, recent work done on motor; Ford TW 35 MFWD W/Great Bend loader, grapple fork, joy stick, 3pt, very clean (Very little wear on loader); Ford Mdl 1920 W/7108 loader, 34hp diesel, MFWD, shuttle trans, joy stick, 14.9x24 (tires, rear weights, 3pt, only 2059 hrs); MF 1805 4x4 tractor, 18.4 x 38 duals; IH 684 diesel tractor W/KMW 835 QT loader, 3pt, 7' bucket, 3088 hrs; Ford Mdl 231 industrial tractor, gas, 3pt, turf tires; 1979 IH 1460 combine; IH 810 - 24' header; Bobcat Toolcat 5600 W/bucket & tilt bed; Allis Chalmers Mdl 45 road grader, 10,000 series motor, 14' blade; John Deere 544C loader W/ forks; Allis 545 Wheel loader; 1988 IH 8300 day cab, Cummins, 10sp; 1984 Kenworth, 370 Cummins, 13sp, small sleeper; 1991 IH 4700 crew cab, diesel, W/10' FB, GN hitch, 97,400 miles, 300 miles on new 16 ply tires; 1999 IH 4700 service truck W/fuel & oil tanks, air compressor; 1985 Ford F900 dump truck W/Heil box, diesel, air brakes; 1985 GMC 7000 dump truck W/Heil box, diesel, air brakes; 1990 Ford F350 W/Telsta Bucket, utility box; 1984 Ford F700 W/16' FB, GN hitch; Fruehauf 8' x 35' flat bed trailer; 24' GN tilt FB trailer, W/hyd winch, tandem duals. **VEHICLES (WE WILL HAVE 40+ VEHICLES):** 1987 Ford ElDorado 27' motor home, generator, 87k miles; 1980 Scout Classic, 4x4, lock out hubs, auto; 1996 GMC extended cab pu, bucket seats, 141K miles; 1991 Dodge 1 ton dually, Cummins diesel, auto, 175K miles; 1999 Chevy crew cab 1 ton pu; 2002 Ford E350 work van, ladder rack; 1984 Ford Van; 1972 Chevy 4x4 pu, auto; 1999 Chevy Astro van; 1978 Ford F100 pu, only 82K miles, 351 motor; 1998 Ford Explorer; 1962 Chevy Impala 2dr hard top; 1967 Ford Mustang; 1978 Ford Mustang; 1991 Chevy C/K series Blazer; 1996 Olds Cutlass Supreme SL; 1995 AV Dune Buggy; 1969 Chevy 3/4 ton camper special, new paint; City of Goodland Police Dept: 1990 Geo Metro, 35,312 miles, no title; 1997 Mercury Sable, no title; 1989 Chevrolet Corsica, no title. **EQUIPMENT:** Orthman 797 grain cart; Krause Mdl 1915 - 21' offset disc W/Krause tires; 2-JD 9300 - 10' disc drills, 7" spacing W/alfalfa boxes; Pride of the Prairie 10 bale trailer; 1999 Neil; 20' FB trailer W/5200K axles; 40' GN flat bed trailer, tandem duals, ramps; 30' Shop built header trailer; JD 3pt rotary hoe; Ford 6' 3pt mower; Ford 7' 3pt rear blade; Ford 3pt PO digger; 5', 3pt tandem disc; Orthman 12 row ditcher; 4-8" IH 150 hoe drills, 12"; 2-5' 3pt mowers. **MISC ITEMS:** Atlas Model 3980 bench, back geared screw-cutting lathe; 90 new 20' continuous fence panels; Pickup flat bed W/side tool boxes, like new; Trailer load of new tools; 18'4 x 38 duals W/13 bolt rims; 18.4 x 38 clamp on duals; 1860 Marty J mower, needs motor work; Concrete steps for mobile home; 3pt round bale mover; Kawasaki Mdl 400B 4 wheeler; Kawasaki 4 wheeler for parts; Yamaha 250 Enduro motorcycle; 7 pallets of new shingles; 6" HD pallet forks; Large iron rack; Dual Loader, was on JD tractor; Coats 50-50 tire machine; IH & JD suit case weights; Several Hyd jacks; 12 Yetter row cleaners for IH planter; 2 Yetter notill markers; John Blue Fertilizer piston pump; New Multi-Power gas steam pressure washer; New gas transfer pump; Concrete 36" power towel; Delta 9" Contractors table saw; Portable wheel barrow air compressor, 8hp motor; Denies Commander riding mower W/60" deck; Toto Ground Master mdl 345 mower W/4 cyl gas motor, 72" deck; Portable loading chute W/14-12' panels.

Many more consignments by auction day. For updates of new consignments and pictures go to www.goodlandhomestead.com/auctions. Homestead Realty & Auction, 1023 Main, Goodland, KS. Terry Richardson: 785-899-2328 or cell: 785-899-8094. 800-974-2426.

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NATIVE GRASS and CRP FOR SALE BY SEALED BID

KS LEGAL: ALL OF SECTION 30-11-42; ALL OF STATELINE SECTION 25-11-43, all in Wallace County
CO LEGAL: ALL OF STATELINE SECTION 30-11-41 in Kit Carson County. ALL LAND IS CONTIGUOUS AND CONTAINS 1280 acres, More or Less

SELLER: Tony L. Stewart
Ph: 706 988-1508

This land is located 18 miles South of Kanorado, KS or 13 miles North and 3 miles West of Weskan, KS. It is situated along the state line and has 651.46 Acres CRP with balance native grass. 366.9 Acres of KS CRP Contract expires 2012; 251.8 Acres CO CRP Contract Expires 2025. New Solar water pump and tank in 2012 and 1 mile new division fence built 2012. Also has 1 windmill.

SUBMIT SEALED BIDS TO:

HURLBURT LAW OFFICE
412 North Main St.
P O Box 505
Sharon Springs, KS 67758
Ph: 785 852-4246

BIDS TO BE OPENED
MARCH 28, 2012 at 10:00 AM

TERMS OF SALE:

10% down upon acceptance of bid, balance in GOOD FUNDS at closing.
Seller to pay all of 2011 real estate taxes and prorate 2012 taxes to closing.
Seller to prorate 2012 CRP Contract Payment to closing.
Minerals: Buyer to receive all of Seller's minerals (they are not currently leased).
Owners Policies of Title Insurance cost to be split between the parties.
Settlement Costs to be split between the parties.
CLOSING: On or before April 20, 2012 with delivery of Marketable Title

SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS