

* Federal money for highways shrinking

(Continued from Page 1A) Kramer of Marysville, who elevated to vice president at the meeting. Charles "Cy" Moyer of Phillipsburg is executive vice president. New directors elected were George Pfrimmer and Wayne Dunn, both of Mankato. Plans were discussed for the second annual Great U.S. 36 Highway Treasure Hunt Sept. 14-16. For information, go to www.uswy36.com. Businesses will be encouraged to advertise to tie in with the 400-mile-long garage sale.

Field representative Elmer Kellner, St. Francis, said he hands out sheets on the U.S. 36 Association, telling people what's going on

along the route and who members are. Field representatives are to hand out a best-idea contest later this year.

Director Larry Brown, Smith Center, is asking each county along U.S. 36 to give \$2,000 to help fund a study by the Docking Institute at Fort Hays State University on the feasibility and economic benefit of making U.S. 36 a four-lane or "super-two" highway from the Missouri border to Colorado.

New brochures are to be printed soon, promoting U.S. 36 as the Windmill Route across Kansas. The second annual U.S. 36 tabloid is being distributed in 13 counties across Kansas and was given out at the Kansas Sampler Festival.

Missouri highway expanding lanes

By HOWARD KESSINGER
The Marysville Advocate

Missouri should complete widening U.S. 36 to four lanes across the state by 2009, a full year ahead of schedule, a highway engineer told members at the annual meeting of the U.S. 36 Highway Association in Mankato.

Don Wichern of St. Joseph, District 1 engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation, said voters in counties at the east end of U.S. 36 approved a half-cent sales tax to finish the last 52 miles of four lane near the Illinois line.

Widening and paving of shoulders on older stretches of the highway is underway, he said. There are a dozen work zones, Mr. Wichern said, and motorists can check them out on a map at www.modot.org.

The Missouri official said he had driven across Kansas on U.S. 36 and was impressed with the condition of the road.

"I love driving U.S. 36 — it's really smooth," he said. District engineers for the Kansas Department of Transportation reviewed work scheduled for this year on U.S. 36.

Decatur County has three projects, said Chriss McDiffett of Norton, district engineer for north-west Kansas.

Notice to proceed was given May 21 on a \$340,936 repair of the Sappa Creek bridge a mile east of Oberlin. In a joint project with the City of Oberlin, a contractor is replacing pavement from Fairway Drive to Penn Avenue, .43 of a mile through town.

The road will be resurfaced from the Rawlins-Decatur line to the west city limits of Oberlin, 10.97 miles. Bid letting is to be this fall, with the work done next summer.

Work is complete on a 2-inch surface recycle and ultrathin bonded overlay starting at the U.S. 183 junction east to the Phillips County line 13.58 miles at a cost of \$1.7 million.

Traffic is flowing on a new roadway for U.S. 36 nine miles from the Decatur-Norton County line to the K-383 junction west of Norton at a cost of \$18.5 million. Grading and

seeding will be completed by fall. Rawlins County has three projects, Mr. McDiffett said. To be let this fall will be a geometric improvement for concrete curb and gutter and pavement from the K-25 intersection at Atwood east .7 of a mile to Fifth Street.

Work is to be completed July 15 on a \$1 million ultra-thin bonded asphalt overlay from 10 miles west of Atwood to K-25. The road will be resurfaced from the Cheyenne-Rawlins line 10 miles to Beardley, but the contract is to be let this fall and work done next summer.

Cheyenne County has two projects. To be finished July 15 is a \$372,000 surface recycle and one-inch overlay from the Colorado line to the Republican River west of St. Francis, 12.29 miles. Let last month was a \$372,000 recycle of 16.2 miles from the east K-27 junction to the Cheyenne-Rawlins county line.

In central Kansas, a contract was let Feb. 21 for an overlay from the Smith-Jewell County line east to K-128 at a cost of \$792,684, said Don Drickey, District 2 engineer at Salina. From K-128 east to the four-lane section west of Mankato, a major rebuilding project was let Nov. 15, 2006, at a cost of \$5.4 million. New curb and guttering from Lincoln to Lebow streets was let Jan. 17 and will cost \$346,173.

A major road rehab from Mankato east 8.76 miles will be let Nov. 15 at an estimated cost of \$6.5 million.

A contract for an intersection improvement at U.S. 36 and K-15 in Washington will be let Feb. 16, 2009, at an estimated cost of \$839,000.

The road from Washington east 9.2 miles will get an overlay under a contract let Feb. 21 for \$983,800.

Catherine Patrick, new District 1 engineer in Topeka, said there are no construction projects set for this year in her district, which extends west from the Missouri River to the start of four-lane pavement just west of Marysville. In 2008, there will be two resurfacing projects, from Wathena west to Troy and from the east side of Seneca at K-63 west to K-87, she said.



BRAD MARCUSON checked the wheat heads in the middle of the field while he waited for his father Gail to return from the elevator. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* Men harvest wheat crop

(Continued from Page 1A) known as just FFA, and before that he helped his dad on the farm.

After graduating from Decatur Community High school, he went to Kansas State University to study agriculture. That is where he met his wife Elaine; in 1977 they were married and came back home to farm.

The couple has three children, Leslie, 24, teaching in Topeka; Sarah 20, Pittsburg State University; and Jared, 18, a senior at Decatur Community High. Sarah, said Mr. Marcuson, did come out and help with harvest, but she was the only one at home.

Although he grew up on a farm near the Lund Church and has been interested in farming his whole life, he isn't sure if his kids will get into agriculture.

He said he really wants them to get an education. If they decide to go into farming, said Mr. Marcuson, he would like to see them go out and make some money first and then come home. It is hard to be a young farmer, especially by yourself, he said. A person can succeed doing that, but it's tough and one bad year can do you in.

The price of land is high, he said, and although the price for the crop is good right now, no one knows what will happen in the future.

This has just been an odd year, he said. The price of wheat is normally not this high at harvest. Farmers have to decide whether they will hold onto their crop to see if the price goes up or sell it now.

Some who hold onto it will have to pay storage fees, he said, and that could eat into any increase in price.

Back in the 70s, when the co-op put in the two extra bins, he said, some farmers bought a part, or a share, of that storage. That's what the family decided to do, said Mr. Marcuson, so for now the wheat is

being hauled into Oberlin to be stored.

Mr. Marcuson said harvest has been good so far, although one of the trucks broke down and the combine needed a part.

The wheat has been dry, he said. The elevator wants the moisture right around 13.5 percent, said Mr. Marcuson, and his crop has run right around there.

Some guys have had wheat that is too wet or straw that was too tough, he added, and you don't want that.

Mr. Marcuson said he also raises corn, which is looking pretty good, although it had some minor hail damage too. A few years ago, he said, he sold his cattle when the drought was bad.

Besides farming, he works full-time with the Decatur County road and bridge department. Mr.

Marcuson said he and his dad work on projects for the farm in the evenings and on weekends. A lot of the stuff, he said, his father can handle during the day unless it is a two-man project.

The two work as a team at harvest and have for years. For the most part, Brad drives the combine while Gail runs the truck. The two start around 10 a.m., after the dew is gone, said Brad, and stop when the truck driver is done, normally around 10 to 11 p.m.

After a short break to talk to his father, who had just returned from the co-op, Mr. Marcuson climbed back up into the cab of the combine, ready to get back to work. He dumped the bin full of wheat into the bed of the truck and headed out to the field for a few more passes before it was time to eat.

* School leader starts

(Continued from Page 1A) iar to the community.

"I don't just want to live here," he said, "but also be active."

Dr. Cullen said he isn't interested in coming into the district and making changes. This is a nice district and it has been run well. He said he plans to come in and evaluate what's going on. Change is good, said Dr. Cullen, if it is needed. This a strong school district and that needs to be maintained.

For now, he said, he will sit back and see what's going on.

Dr. Cullen said he also will sit down with the board and see what direction they want to go.

The superintendent said he will most likely get involved in the Rotary Club. He also has several horses and likes to play a little golf, but for now his focus is coming into the district and town and getting adjusted.

Dr. Cullen's wife Pam teaches art for kindergarten through 12th grade, he said. She has a few more years on her contract in North Platte, he said, so she won't be joining him right away.

They have two daughters, Jennifer, who has a degree in science and chemistry, and Lindsay, who is going to college in Laramie, Wyo. They also have a grandson Cutter, 2, who lives in Laramie. Dr. Cullen said Cutter is his best friend.

Council to meet

The Oberlin City Council plans to start working on the budget for the next year this month, with workshops planned on Thursdays, July 12 and 19.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the workshop July 19 will follow a regular council meeting.

All workshops are open to the public. The meetings start at 6:30 p.m. at The Gateway.

Northwest Kansas Virtual Program Non-Traditional Learning Opportunity (A K-12 Virtual Learning Opportunity) Information Meetings Scheduled in Northwest Kansas. Join us for more information. July 11 at 6 p.m. MT Goodland City Library July 12 at 10 a.m. CT Oakley City Library July 23 at 6 p.m. CT Oberlin TBA July 31 at 6 p.m. CT WaKeeney TBA August 1 at 6 p.m. CT Hoxie City Library August 2 at 6 p.m. CT Colby Pioneer Memorial Library For more information contact: Dan Thornton 785-672-3125 dthornton@nwesc.org www.nkesc.org

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