

Work begins on roads

By STEVE HAYNES
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Contractors are resurfacing several highways in Decatur County, with other work expected before the end of summer.

A work crew should begin "chip sealing" the pavement today on K-383 between the end of new pavement at the Sheridan County line and the west side of Jennings.

Flaggers and a pilot car operation will guide one-lane traffic through the work zone. Expect delays of 15 minutes or less, said Kristin Brands, northwest district public affairs manager for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton.

The workers will cover the road with a thin layer of emulsified asphalt, followed by a layer of lightweight aggregate, which gets embedded into the asphalt.

"The new surface is then rolled and swept before being reopened to traffic," said Mathew Withington, area construction engineer in Atwood. "It is a relatively quick process, and the contractor can treat several miles of roadway per day."

Chip seals are a low-cost method of sealing minor cracking, blocking moisture from penetrating the surface and extending the life of the pavement, he added. The work also smoothes out the surface.

Hi-Plains Sand of Kanopolis has a \$389,260 contract to do the work. The project is part of T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature last year, Mrs. Brands said. The work should be done by the end of next week.

A similar project finished up last week on U.S. 83 north of Oberlin to the state line. That job was done by Blevins Asphalt Construction Co. of Mount Vernon, Mo., on a \$355,097 contract, Mrs. Brands said.

Another job, this one on K-9 and K-123 in southeast Decatur County, should begin next week. Construction crews will mill off the surface of K-9 from the junction of K-123 east to the Norton County line and all of K-123 in both Sheridan and Decatur counties. Work could start as soon as Monday, Mrs. Brands said.

After the milling, Mr. Withington said, the crew will overlay the roadways with two inches of new asphalt starting around Monday, Aug. 8. The entire project totals approximately 19 miles. Flaggers and a pilot car will guide traffic.

The contractor is Venture Corp. of Great Bend. The work should be done by mid-August.

Sometime after that, Venture will begin work on two other repaving projects, one from Oberlin south about eight miles and the other from there to the K-383 junction east of Selden. A stretch of U.S. 36 east of Penn Ave. in Oberlin to near the city cemetery also will be repaved.

This week, the department plans to do pavement evaluation tests on parts of U.S. 36 in Decatur County. A pilot car operation will control traffic. These annual falling weight deflectometer tests measure the quality of the pavement so the department can plan maintenance work.

Technicians will be working in four-mile segments, Mrs. Brands said. Delays of 15 minutes or less can be expected.

Mrs. Brands asked drivers to slow down, be careful, pay attention to orange construction signs and watch for workers when driving through any work zone.

For questions, contact Mr. Withington at (785) 626-3258 or matheww@ksdot.org or Mrs. Brands at (785) 877-3315 or kristentb@ksdot.org.

Concert planned

The four-person group Dustin Evans and Good Times will be here to perform during fair week at the beginning of August.

Stan McEvoy, who arranged the concert, said tickets are on sale for \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

The concert will start at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, in the arena at The Gateway.

Mr. McEvoy said Mr. Evans got involved in music at a young age. As a teenager, he taught himself to play the guitar, drums, bass and piano and started to write his own songs.

Also with the band is Tim Deats on keyboards, harmonica and vocals; Gary Snow on lead guitar and vocals; and Ned LeDoux on drums.



Kids cook snack food

AT THE 4-H BUILDING last Wednesday at the Decatur County Fairground, Madelaine Johnson (above) worked on a yogurt/juice drink during the Kids a Cooking class. Sage Lohofener (right) got ready to eat a snack she had made.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Some fair events set for next week

While the Decatur County Fair doesn't start until August, a few events will be held next week.

The first will be the clothing construction, buymanship and fashion revue starting at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the United Methodist Church. The

kids' outfits will be judged that day, then during the fair there will be a public fashion revue at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5.

The 4-H and open class horse show starts at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 30, at the Tripple Creek

Riders Arena just south of the fairgrounds.

That event is open to the public.

*Council starts budget work; taxes may drop

(Continued from Page 1A) said she thought that would cost less than \$25,000.

The water department asked for a power saw to cut pipes and a crane, which would be \$11,000 together.

In the electric department, proposed expenses include repairs on the radiators and the power plant and catalytic converters for the diesel engines, which could cost \$200,000 to \$300,000.

Mrs. Larson said some of the areas the city has been able to save is by paying off the consolidated improvement loan, which was costing \$120,000 a year. That loan consolidated bonds for water system improvements, The Gateway, streets and renovating of the former youth ranch.

In 2010, she said, actual expenses at The Gateway were \$214,000. So far, the estimate for 2011 is \$149,000, a savings of \$65,000. The Gateway, said Mrs. Larson, is doing more business this year. One full-time job was cut from the staff at the civic center.

Some requests the city received aren't in the preliminary budget,

Mrs. Larson said. Those include \$5,000 for the Chamber of Commerce, \$1,000 for the library and money for Options Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center.

The mayor and council are trying hard to lower taxes this year, said Mrs. Larson. People just can't afford an increase, but water rates will have to go up to pay for required improvements, either a treatment plant or new wells.

The budget, said Mayor Bill Riedel, isn't final yet. It's in the preliminary stages. He said he would like to see the city be able to help some of the groups like the child advocacy center.

This budget doesn't include a \$75,000 transfer from the electric fund to the general fund. Mrs. Larson said the city staff has done an excellent job keeping the expenses down. The Gateway isn't going to need a \$60,000 transfer this year, she said, and that's because of the staff.

The budget is on the agenda again for the regular meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

Commissioners opt for program

The Decatur County commissioners asked the county attorney to write a resolution to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone program not to exceed \$26,000 a year on the county's part.

The commissioners plan to talk about the draft resolution at their next meeting.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., with board members Sid Metcalf, Greg Lohofener and Kevin Rippe, came to ask the commissioners to consider the program. Kem Bryan with DreamMakers and James Foster with the state Rural Opportunities office in Colby, joined them.

Ms. Grafel said they all hoped the county would get involved in the program. The hospital has hired a new physician assistant, she said, and they have also been working with a doctor from Arkansas who is interested in coming here.

This program, which gives anyone moving to rural Kansas from out of state a tax break, might come in handy, she said. With county approval, the state would split the cost of paying off part of a new worker's student loans.

Ms. Grafel said they plan to mail around 100 letters to Decatur Community High alumni living out of state to see if they want to return for a professional job.

Ms. Grafel said they would like to see the commissioners sign a resolution putting the county in the program so it can be published.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said that the commissioners had agreed to have County Attorney Steve Hirsch draft a resolution for the program for up to \$26,000 on the county's behalf.

The blanket resolution the state sent out was vague, said Commissioner Gene Gallentine. The language needs to be adapted to Decatur County.

If only part of the 50 eligible counties take part in the program, asked Mr. Gallentine, what happens to the extra money? Could those counties that choose to participate get more money?

Mr. Foster said he thinks that might be possible, but the county would need to increase its share, too.

Mr. Gallentine asked how many counties have joined the program. Nearly half, said Mr. Foster.

This program, said Ms. Grafel, could be an opportunity to bring some people into the county.

"We have to make investments in our community," said Mr. Gallentine, "although sometimes we don't know what the payoff will be."

COST SHARE FUNDS (Non-Point Source)

The Decatur County Conservation District will be taking cost share applications from **July 18 through July 29.**

"Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund."

"Failing" SEPTIC SYSTEMS – Please apply now as this will be our only sign-up for this year.

Our office is located at 410 South Buffalo Avenue in Oberlin. For more information call 785-475-3131 Extension 101. Ask for Diana Solko.

Water Resource Cost Share Program Funds

These funds will also become available to the Decatur County Conservation District Office. Applications for the cost share funds will be accepted from **July 18 through July 29.**

Some of the eligible practices are: terraces (including rebuilds), diversions, livestock wells, pipelines, tanks and grass seeding.

"Funding is provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund."

Applications **will only** be taken **July 18-29** at our office located at 410 South Buffalo Avenue in Oberlin. (Office hours will be from 8-11:30 a.m. and from 12:30-5 p.m.)

For additional information, please call 785-475-3131, Extension 101, and ask for Diana Solko.

Patient-centered and family-oriented

Brenda Kopriva, M.D.
will soon practice general surgery in McCook!


Community Hospital welcomes Dr. Brenda Kopriva to our surgery team and community.


Dr. Kopriva graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2006 and completed her five-year residency at the same institution in May.

Dr. Kopriva will begin her practice at Community Hospital in August, where she will join Dr. Walter Eskilden of Surgical Associates in McCook as a member of Community Hospital's medical staff.

Natives of Ness City and Atwood, Kansas, Dr. Kopriva and her husband, Jim, look forward to raising their son, Nathan, in the McCook area.

To make an appointment with Dr. Kopriva, call the Community Hospital Surgical and Orthopedic Clinic at 308-344-8376.





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UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

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National Day of the Cowboy
July 23, Abilene
Celebrate the American Cowboy with activities at Old Abilene Town. Gunfights, stagecoach rides, can-can dancers, class in a one-room school, ice cream social, music and more!

KKOA Leadsled Spectacular Car Show
July 29-31, Salina
World's Oldest & Most Famous "Traditional" Kustom Car & Truck Event! 1,000+ Kustoms, Hotrods & drag machines. Live entertainment. kustomkempsofamerica.com

Dodge City Days Festival
July 29 - August 7, Dodge City
Western heritage comes to life. Parades, BBQ, concerts, rodeo & more!
(620) 227-3119, dodgecitydays.com

Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo
August 3-6, Abilene
Put on your boots and hat and attend this exciting PRCA event.
Bullfighters, clowns and specialty acts. wildbillhickokrodeo.com

Dodge City Roundup Rodeo
August 3-7, Dodge City
The greatest show on dirt!
(620) 225-2244 or (866) 327-6366
dodgecityroundup.org

Wichita Flight Festival
August 20-21, Wichita
Three day festival celebrating the past, present and future of aviation in Wichita, the Air Capital of the World.
(316) 462-2787, wichitaflightfestival.com

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You will want to own and share this photographic journey of Kansas. The 156 pages inside this hard-bound book are as rich as the jacket image.

