

Road work begins on Highway 36

On Monday, several road construction projects began in both Rawlins and Cheyenne counties.

A 29-mile project to profile mill and perform a 1.5-inch overlay of U.S. 36 will take place from the Cheyenne/Rawlins County line to the K-27 Junction. The same scope of work will be applied to K-27 Highway in Cheyenne County, from the Sherman/Cheyenne County line to the U.S. 36 junction. The Kansas Department of Transportation awarded the construction contract, totaling \$3.1 million, to Venture Corporation, Great Bend.

Two jobs to seal U.S. 36 and K-27 in Cheyenne County will also begin as soon as next week.

Starting at the Cheyenne/Rawlins County line and continuing east approximately 10 miles on U.S. 36, workers will spread a thin layer of asphalt over the pavement then coat it with a layer of rock chips that are pressed into place with heavy rollers.

Another chip seal project will take place along 21 miles of K-27 Highway from the U.S. 36 junction north to the Nebraska state line.

Chip seals are a low cost method of sealing minor cracking in a roadway, preventing water from seeping into the pavement and therefore extending the life of the road.

The department of transportation awarded the chip seal construction contracts, totaling \$772,000, to Heft and Sons, Greensburg.

During construction, flaggers and a pilot car operation will guide one-lane traffic through both work zones during daylight hours. Delays of 15 minutes or less should be expected through the construction time frame. The public should plan their travels accordingly. The department of transportation urges drivers to pay attention to the signs and workers within a construction zone. Slow down and "Give 'Em A Brake!"

These highway projects are funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May of 2010; and designed to create jobs, preserve highway infrastructure, and spur economic development opportunities across the state.

Weather permitting, all the work should be complete by early August.

For questions concerning this project, please contact Kansas Department of Transportation Area Two, Engineer Eric Oelschlager at (785) 626-3185 or erico@ksdot.org in Atwood; or Kristen Brands, Northwest Kansas Public Affairs manager at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton



ROB JENSEN IS EXPERIMENTING with a different method of baling using a CLAAS Liner 2800 hay rake.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Other jobs completed before harvest

By Norma Martinez
nmartinez@nwkans.com

This last two weeks, the roads and U.S. 36 have had a constant stream of crews driving extra wide combines, trucks and equipment for harvesting, cutting wheat and hauling it to the elevators in St. Francis, Wheeler, Bird City and McDonald.

While waiting for the wheat to ripen, Rob Jensen, rural Bird City, brought a piece of equipment into his yard that looked like it belonged in a carnival. It appeared that he had given up on harvest and decided to join his wife Susan at the rodeos, the Thresher Show and county fairs at the end of the month.

Since he had lots of oats and

alfalfa that needed to be cut and baled, could that be what that strange looking piece of equipment parked with his tractor was? Seeing it still setting there after Mr. Jensen came with his tractor and swather brought an investigation. He was trying a different method of baling his oats this year, and this odd looking piece of equipment is a CLAAS Liner 2800 hay rake which he borrowed from Josh Johnson to experiment with. Mr. Johnson uses the rake for his alfalfa as it fluffs it up, gets it dryer and sweeps a wider path.

After Rob raked his oats with his old rake and left it to dry for a week it was not drying well enough on the bottom. He hooked up the liner and raked two swathed rows,

combining them into one perfectly even, box-shaped swath. With the hotter and dryer weather it was dry in no time, and he had it all baled, loaded on the hay truck and stored ready for cattle and horse feed.

After Mr. Jensen figured out how the rake worked, his son Terry took over driving the machine. Terry plans on continuing his career in farming and is presently helping his dad while establishing his own work. Terry graduated from Fort Hays State on May 18, brother Mitchel graduated from North Central Kansas Technical College in May 11. Brother Jacob graduated from Kansas State in 2011, and lives in Long Beach, California. Jacob was married

in California on May 23. The Jensen's have had a busy May.

On the Fourth of July, Rob, Terry, and neighbor Josh Johnson were swathing and baling alfalfa. Susan Jensen was rodeoing in Washington. Her father Dan Swannack rode home with her to help out with the harvest.

Since the wheat was not ready he got in on swathing the alfalfa. The hay rake performed very efficiently and on Friday it was all cut, baled, and waiting to be sold or used to feed the cattle and horses.

The Jensen's are hoping to be harvesting wheat sometime this week. The early Monday morning rain was good, but it put a stop to their cutting as planned.

Thresher Queen named July 25

At 1:15 on Thursday, July 25, the 2013 Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Queen will be crowned. And, who will carry the title for the next year?

Clues and photos of the queen will be published in the Times and The Herald for the next two weeks.

Take a close look at the photos, read the clues and see if you can guess who she is, said Phyllis Wright, Queen Committee.

This year's queen is no stranger to the state of Kansas as she was born in Jewell County. Her family lived on her grandparent's farm with her grandfather. She had six brothers and one sister. At this writing, three brothers and her sister are living.

Like many children who grew up in the country, our queen and her siblings helped their mother with gardening (a big one each year) along with canning vegetables and fruits or the family and, of course, learning to milk the cows. Her father was employed by a nearby neighbor farmer.

Another job they did for their parents was chop wood to heat their home. The little queen wanted to help so she laid her wood chips down, a brother swung the axe and



2013 Thresher Queen

took her index finger first joint off. Ouch! She said they carried her to the house where her mother put the end of her finger back on, wrapped it and, somehow, got hold of the doctor, who arrived at their house and examined her finger. He put a splint on it, wrapped it and it healed fine.

Look for more clues and another photo next week.



DARCI SCHIELDS, (left to right) Casey Vandike, Nakita Schneider and Pastor Dan Carson wait their turn as DeAnza Ambrosier tells of her eye-opening experience of real poverty seen in their recent trip to Haiti. Not pictured are Shayla Hubbard, Stephanie Busse and Dianna Carson.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Wheat harvest in full swing

By Tim Burr
tburr@nwkans.com

People in the county who are not directly involved still expect to see lots of activity in the area when the wheat harvest arrives. Normally, pickups, combines, and support equipment will be hurrying from field to field, trucks will be heading to town to take their place in the line at the elevators, the tire repair shops are busy keeping people going, and lots of food and drinks are headed out to the hungry crews. This year, people may not see much of this activity, it would seem, as the harvest is quite noticeably less busy than usual.

The wheat harvest generally progresses from southeast to northwest in the area. The wheat south of town had suffered the most distress from the drought, and overall yields, as was expected, are low.

North of town, yields are better, but still a long way from good. As of Monday, there were some fields with green wheat still needing a few more days to ripen.

The elevator operators all stated that test weight and quality were remaining acceptable, in fact, better than expected, and that they had plenty of room,

expecting to be able to easily handle the harvest.

"Its hard to tell, especially this harvest, but we may be as much as half done by Monday night," said Shirley Zwegardt, St. Francis Equity grain manager.

"Combines, equipment and storage space are plentiful. The only thing that isn't plentiful is the amount of wheat in the fields," said Dale Weeks, Wheeler Equity manager.

Large, modern equipment can cover a lot of acres in a hurry.

"Another week, with good weather, and there won't be much left," said Bob Ochsner, a producer who was unloading his truck at the elevator.

Yields and quality of this harvest will be assessed after the harvest is complete.

"No one expected good yields, and it is proving true" said Ray Magnani, of Frontier Ag.

Doctor sworn as president

Dr. Mary Beth Miller, Preceptor Teaching award from the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Kansas University School of Medicine - Wichita. Today, she is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and serves on the Kansas Primary Care Research Network. She is also a clinical preceptor with the Wichita State University Physician Assistant Program and the Fort Hays State Nurse Practitioner Program.

She graduated with a Science-Med Tech degree from the University of Nebraska and went on to earn her medical degree from KU School of Medicine-Kansas City. She completed her residency at Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency Program, Preceptor Teaching award from the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Kansas University School of Medicine - Wichita.

Dr. Miller came to the county 14 years ago. Not only did she supply the county and surrounding area with a physician but also expanded her talents as a teacher, bringing in future physicians to work so they could see what general practice was like in the rural areas all the while working with patients. In 2011, she received the Doug Parks Family Medicine Volunteer

Preceptor Teaching award from the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Kansas University School of Medicine - Wichita.

Today, she is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and serves on the Kansas Primary Care Research Network. She is also a clinical preceptor with the Wichita State University Physician Assistant Program and the Fort Hays State Nurse Practitioner Program.



Dr. Miller

Salina 1999. Also attending the ceremony was Terry Miller, Stacy Kaup and Kathy Biggs.