



Crew members from J & J Contractors, of Iola, Kansas, were busy driving guard rails into the newly constructed bridge east of town on Thursday. The temperate weather has allowed work to progress so that traffic will be able to test-drive the new viaduct as soon as next week.

— Telegram photo by Kristen Brands

Viaduct could be done next week

By KRISTEN BRANDS

Drivers could be driving over the newly constructed viaduct just east of town by the middle of next week.

Crews from Ritchie Paving, of Wichita, have finished all the asphalt work on the bridge and are making preparations to tear up the temporary road known as the "shoo-fly" located just north of the bridge.

"The shoo-fly made the construction a fairly painless process," said Kansas Department of Transportation Engineer Harold Schliecher. "It was a great temporary road, and has held up very well throughout the entire con-

struction period.

"As soon as we open the road to traffic, crews from Ritchie can begin to tearing out the shoo-fly and re-configuring the side road which runs north to the sale barn. That side road will be as it was before, and will meet U.S. 36 at a 90 degree angle."

The 5.7 million dollar project began on March 10, 2003, with the main contractor as Capital Contractors out of Lincoln, Neb.

The project included widening the bridge's driving surface to 24 feet of driving lanes and 16 feet of shoulders.

The new bridge deck includes seven inches of concrete and 1 1/2

inches of a silica fume overlay.

Yesterday crews from the Kansas Department of Transportation office in Phillipsburg were out performing performance tests which included "chaining the deck" on the driving surface.

Engineering Technician Shane Jones said that by dragging a designed, chain tool across the final surface, the sound the tool makes tells him that the silica fume overlay is properly bonded to the sub-decking of concrete.

Other sub-contractors were wrapping up work including Troy

Sporer Land Development, of Oakley, who oversees the dirt work. J & J Contractors, of Iola, were installing the guard railing/fencing as a final part of the preparations for opening the road to traffic.

"We will still need to do some seeding," Schliecher said. Department of Transportation paint crew will install temporary striping, including the center lane marking before drivers will be able to test the newly constructed bridge next week.

Almena council wants to fix streets, pot holes

By KRISTEN BRANDS

The Almena City Council wants to get the streets fixed and the potholes filled.

On Monday night's meeting Councilman Robert Bowman asked when the holes would be filled, and City Administrator Bill Alexander said that many of the holes had been filled that day, prior to the meeting.

Other potholes near the residences of Steven Whitney and Carrie Malcolm need to be filled, council members said.

Council members decided to wait on signing a contract with a rock company for the chip and seal of the streets. President Monte Montgomery said he had talked to a company representative, but was unsure if the rock would arrive on time for the work to get started.

Councilman Larry Hawks wanted to obtain a beer license, so that a beer garden and street dance could be arranged in conjunction with the annual Sunflower Pioneer and Power Association celebration held this summer.

The council decided to purchase a special, one-night only license for the event. Members also suggested that an area downtown be roped off for the beer garden with

hours from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Council members decided that the design of the door for a new public bathroom was improperly drawn up. When opening the door, it would swing into the building, not outward.

It was reported that footings have been poured for the facility, and the city is now waiting on the construction material. A crew from the Norton Correctional Facility will help with the construction.

Several trees were purchased, with plans to plant them around town soon. Mayor Gerald Wilson suggested having the kindergarten students help with the planting.

The council voted to accept a bid from Patterson Plumbing for the 59 International Fire Truck for \$1,075. The bill of sale will read "where is and as is" with no guarantees.

Visitor Mike Hawks attended the meeting again, with further concerns about the damage done to his basement. Mr. Hawks' basement was flooded when the city's sewer lines were being cleaned.

The council had a closed session addressing this situation, and later advised Mr. Hawks that he should proceed on his own.

Congressman's staff member will be in Norton on May 18

A member of Congressman Jerry Moran's staff will be in Norton from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18.

Daron Jamison, constituent services representative for the First Congressional District, will be in the first floor lobby in the Norton County Courthouse to answer

questions and concerns of area residents. Anyone who has questions about the federal government, experiencing difficulties with social security, Medicare, veterans' affairs or other issues or wish to voice their opinions are encouraged to attend.

County looking for another technician

Norton County Commissioners said they haven't discussed hiring a director for the emergency medical service on Monday, when asked if they would be giving acting ambulance director Andy Nielsen the job.

Mr. Nielsen was not at the meeting on Monday but his assistant Ruth Schillig met with commissioners in closed session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel.

No action was taken after the closed session.

Mrs. Schillig asked if she and Mr. Nielsen would be allowed to see the applications and be involved in interviewing for a new emergency medical technician.

The commissioners said they have only received two applications, both of which Mr. Nielsen and Mrs. Schillig have seen.

Mrs. Schillig said that she thought another one had arrived at the ambulance office that hasn't been brought to the commissioners, yet.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Agreed to let Ruth Schillig attend the director training at the Kansas Emergency Medical Systems Association along with acting director Andy Nielsen.

- Heard that Mr. Nielsen will be in Hays on Wednesday to take cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructor training.

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