



All-Tri-Valley League basketball honors have been announced: see more on Page 5.

## Cement plant legacy lives on with Old Iron exhibit addition

A new, eye-grabbing display has been added to the Old Iron Club exhibit just south of Bacani Plaza on US-400.

The little "Donkey Engine" locomotive, pictured at left, which hauled the rock from the Fredonia Portland Cement's quarry to the crusher has been donated by General Portland Cement Co. to the Old Iron Club.

The core rock from which cement has been made in Fredonia since 1907 was first tested by F. H. Patterson in 1906, which set in motion the development of the cement industry here.

The engine and two cars are located near the highway so they are easily visible.

At the monthly meeting of Old Iron members Sunday, plans were made for added buildings and displays for this year's show in the fall.



## Anonymous tip prompts review of county's tobacco policy

An anonymous note received by a Wilson County commissioner reporting employees allegedly smoking in county-owned vehicles prompted the commission as a whole to restate the county's tobacco policy on Monday.

According to the policy "smoking and the use of other tobacco products in the workplace, including all county-owned vehicles, is prohibited except in those locations that have been specifically designated by the county as smoking areas. Smokers have an obligation to keep smoking area liter free. In situations where the preferences of smokers and nonsmokers are in direct conflict, the preferences of nonsmokers will prevail."

Commissioners said heads of departments were in charge of enforcing the no-smoking rules, with normal disciplinary actions being taken for violations.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Dave Parker reported his department had been doing tire work on equipment, and discussed roadwork needed in the Neodesha area. Parker asked for, and commissioners approved, right-of-way for Century Link in the county ditch between 800 and 900 roads.

Parker discussed dumping

rock and dirt to shore up county roadway in the north part of the county where the river was cutting into the right-of-way. Commissioners agreed it was a good use of excess materials.

Raises were discussed and approved for county shop employees Bonnie Odell and Kent Hoover, both of whom have accepted additional work responsibilities, and Shawn Schlotterbeck, due to his completion of his introductory period. Parker said he had shut down road graders in an effort to save on diesel costs and will focus on mowing.

Parker said he heard again from the company hauling heavy equipment that wants to use Harper road to get through Wilson County. The weight of the load was reported to be 295,000 pounds, and the Harper Road bridge south of Fredonia was reported to have a 49 ton limit. Commissioners again declined permission to use Harper Road.

Health Department Director Todd Durham reported his department was setting out swimming pool regulations for the pools in the county. He also requested permission to upgrade office software, which was approved.

Commissioners reappointed John Gillett to a two-year position to the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Community Juvenile

Corrections Advisory Board.

Sheriff Dan Bath reported on the jail census, with 50 inmates that included three from Sedgwick County, one from Montgomery County and three from Chautauqua County.

Commissioners reviewed last week's discussion on truck purchases for the Sheriff's Department. They originally chose to go with Ford trucks but discovered there would be a long wait for delivery, and the county needed two trucks as soon as possible. So a motion was approved to rescind last week's motion, and to purchase two Chevrolet pickups with county specifications from Ranz Motors, Chanute, the total cost not to exceed \$50,388.

A resolution was approved authorizing registration forms, which scrap metal dealers operating in the county, will be required to file. Approved by consensus was the purchase of an Automatic External Defibrillator for the Courthouse and the Health Department.

Commissioners approved the revised proposal from Vaughn Koehn, not to exceed \$34,270, to complete the revised Americans with Disabilities Association courthouse sidewalk project. County Coordinator Kris Marple presented for review six applications for the Emergency Management Coordinator position.

## SEK not represented in governor's KanCare advisory appointments

TOPEKA — Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced the members of the KanCare Advisory Council on Wednesday. The council consists of 20 members, including representatives of consumer groups moving into integrated care under Kansas' Medicaid reform.

"KanCare is the result of involved, detailed study and planning that began more than a year ago," Brownback said. "Thousands of Kansans took part in that process. This advisory council will continue to provide the Administration with ongoing insight and recommendations as we move forward with the implementation of KanCare."

"I look forward to working with such a diverse group to ensure the best person-centered care coordination model in the

country."

The council has representatives from mental health, substance abuse, disabilities, doctors, hospitals, pharmacists, seniors, tribal organizations, family members, legislators and consumers.

Members of the council are: Andy Brown, Lawrence, representing children's advocate network; John Calbeck, M.D., Garden City, representing substance abuse providers; Bernie Mayse, Overland Park, representing physically disabled Medicaid consumers; Rep. Brenda Landwehr, Wichita, representing the Kansas House of Representatives; Craig Concannon, M.D., FACP, Beloit, representing medical providers; Dave Geist, Dodge City, representing area aging agencies; Sen. Vicki Schmidt, Topeka, representing

the Kansas Senate; David Sanford, Wichita, representing primary care providers; Kevin Bryant, M.D., C.M.D., Wichita, representing nursing facility providers; Audrey Schremmer-Phillips, Wamego, representing independent living centers; Sen. Alan Schmidt, Hays, representing the Kansas Senate; Larry Martin, Valley Falls, representing senior Medicaid consumers; Mary Barba, Topeka, representing developmental disabled Medicaid consumers; Collin McKinney, Valley Center, representing developmental disability service providers; Mike Conlin, R.Ph, F.A.C.A., F.I.A.C.P., C.E.A.C., Topeka, representing community pharmacists; Randy Johnson, MA, CPS, Lawrence, representing mental health care Medicaid consumers; Steve Kelly, Newton, representing hospitals; Rep. Jerry Henry, Cummings, representing the Kansas House of Representatives; Susette Schwartz, Wichita, representing health clinics and tribal organizations; Walt Hill, Hays, representing mental health care providers.

The council will hold its first meeting later this month in Topeka.

## Walk Kansas starts Sunday

More than 120 members, representing 22 teams, will embark on a statewide journey Sunday when the K-State Research and Extension program "Walk Kansas" begins an eight-week course. Designed to inspire Kansans to get active and make healthy food choices, Walk Kansas teams will choose one of two challenges: engaging in 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity per week, giving the team 423 miles — the distance across Kansas — or six hours of physical activity per week, resulting in 1,200 miles — the distance around the state's perimeter.

Registered teams and team captains for Walk Kansas 2012 are: CNB Cruisers, Louise Campbell; Flatlanders, Sue Steanson; Kansas Kinfolk Walkers, Carrie Carter; Rotary Roadwarriors, Meredith Wilson; Misfits, Wilson County Extension Office staff; Sandy's Walkers, Sandy Borrer;

Walking For Health, Peggy Ogle; Veggie Matics, Terri Farwell; The Box Turtles, Todd Durham; Walking Women,



Meghan Vorhees; Dragin Tails, Pat Bonner; Courthouse Gals, Rhonda Willard; UM #1-4, Joyce Overman; Walkie Talkies, Elizabeth Walker; Rwhertheyet?, Shannon Graham; Home Care Heroes #1, Debbie Shinkle; Home Care Heroes #2, Ronda Stapleford; New Beginnings, Ronnie Busch; and Stacie's Streetwalkers, Stacie Edens.

Teams will report their progress each Monday and can keep track online at walkkansan.org.

## Early wheat green-up creates concerns about crop

MANHATTAN — Unusually warm weather in late February and early March and good topsoil moisture levels, except in far southwest Kansas, have caused wheat in much of Kansas to break dormancy and start greening up, said Jim Shroyer, K-State Research and Extension crop production specialist.

"This is a scenario somewhat reminiscent of 2007, which was a year with severe spring freeze injury. Hopefully we will avoid that this year," Shroyer said. "The wheat has begun to grow as a result of several days with temperatures in the 60s and nighttime temperatures above freezing. It would be much better if temperatures were colder."

Plants growing at this time of year use valuable soil moisture, he said. Even though topsoil moisture is adequate in most of Kansas, the moisture would be better used later in the growing season.

In addition, plants will have lost some of their winterhardiness, he said.

"This won't be a problem if the weather never turns extremely cold again this month or if temperatures cool down gradually, so the plants can regain some of their winterhardiness. If the wheat is green and growing, however, and temperatures suddenly go from unusually warm to extremely cold, freeze injury

could occur," Shroyer said.

The warm weather could also result in early-season insect and disease problems.

"Army cutworms are sometimes a problem in wheat fields during March. Other early-spring insects to watch include winter grain mites and greenbugs. Early-season disease concerns include powdery mildew and tan spot," he said.

"Producers should watch their wheat crops for insects

and diseases, and make every effort to get on their topdress nitrogen soon, before the crop reaches the jointing stage -- if they haven't already done so," Shroyer advised.

"Other than that, there's not much that producers can do to stop the development of the crop. Grazing the wheat can hold back its development, but grazing may not be possible much longer this winter. Cattle should be pulled off before first hollow stem, and this will be

## Senior exemption on hunting, fishing licenses considered

TOPEKA — Earlier this year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism asked the Kansas Legislature to consider eliminating the hunting and fishing license exemptions for those aged 65 and older. Last week, the Senate Natural Resources Committee amended SB 314 and sent it to the full Senate.

The state's wildlife and fisheries programs are funded by license/permit fees and a federal match from the excise tax paid by hunters and anglers on equipment they buy (these revenues can only be used to fund wildlife and fisheries programs; they cannot be used for state park maintenance).

The amended bill would give senior residents two options for buying discounted hunting/fishing licenses. Under one option, seniors could purchase a lifetime combination senior hunting/fishing pass which would likely cost \$40 (excluding a vendor and convenience fee). The agency believes this is the lowest amount the department could charge and still safely claim the federal matching funds — amortized over 18 years per pass. The cost would be set by the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission through a change in regulation.

The second option would be for seniors to purchase an annual half-price hunting, fishing or combination hunting/fishing license (excluding vendor and convenience fee) up to the age of 75, with no license required for 75 years of age and older.



Mid-afternoon in mid-March and the temperature in Fredonia is 80 degrees. Today's readings in Kansas are expected to break records for this early in the year. Across the state, agronomists are concerned about wheat and other crops sprouting too early due to the warm weather.

Dale Fritz/Citizen