

## Weather Challenges Road Crews

Continued from 1A

he said.

"It's tough when the wind blows from the north and the next day it blows from the south," said Commissioner Edwin Splichal.

"And the drifts get much harder to move the second, third or fourth times," added Robbins.

County Commissioner Doug Garman said while there were complaints about the county's snow removal efforts, he said he also heard from many residents who were grateful for the extra efforts of the highway department employees.

The county highway department is responsible for 1,272 miles of road: 84 miles of asphalt and concrete; 701 miles of gravel/rock; and

487 miles of dirt roads. Republic County contains 720 square miles.

Robbins notes that the national average for road maintenance costs per mile per year is \$8,000. Republic County, with a \$3.6 million operating budget, performs this service for less than \$3,000 per mile.

Robbins noted that the department's mechanics traveled to different locations to help keep equipment operating.

"Our mechanics have done an amazing job of keeping up with our needs during this weather event," he said.

As of Monday two motor graders are out of service for repairs.

Weather forecasts call for rain mid-week, and temperatures in the 30s and 40s for the next 10 days.



### One Step Closer

Efforts to change a portion of US Highway 81 are moving forward as Senator Elaine Bowers introduced a bill last week to rename a portion of the road, the Merle Miller Memorial Highway, for the road advocate and former Telescope publisher.

-Contributed Photo

## US81 One Step Closer To Being Renamed For Former Publisher

"We're definitely getting closer."

Kansas state senator Elaine Bowers told **The Belleville Telescope** over the weekend that efforts to rename a portion of US Highway 81 in honor of former Telescope Publisher Merle Miller were well on their way.

Bowers said she introduced a bill to the Senate Transportation Committee last week that would give a long overdue honor to the longtime highway supporter.

SB357 calls for:

"A portion of United States Highway 81 where it enters the state on the Kansas-Nebraska line, then south on United State Highway 81 indicate the highway is the Merle Miller Memorial Highway."

"This is a long overdue honor," Senator Bowers said. "I knew Merle from my days at the Concordia Chamber of Commerce, and no one promoted US8, and what it could be, like Merle did."

Current Telescope Publisher Fred Arnold has been working with

Bowers since prior to the start of the COVID pandemic to get a portion of US81 renamed for Miler.

"He worked tirelessly travelling all across the country, seeing who he needed to see and talking to who he needed to talk to in order to get a four-lane project done," Arnold said. "He was tireless with his optimism and promotion of what a four-lane would mean. Even when the rest of us couldn't see his vision, Merle kept talking until you did see it."

Arnold said he would be travelling to the state capitol to testify on behalf of SB357 in the coming weeks. Senator Bowers said the hearing could be scheduled for as early as next week after which a vote would likely be scheduled.

"I think we've got some very good traction on this," the senator said. "And I'm hopeful that we will have some very good news for the people of Belleville and North Central Kansas as well as the Miller family very soon."

## Property Fraud Alert Is A Free Service

The Property Fraud Alert is a free service offered by the Republic County Register of Deeds office.

To register, go to the Register of Deeds page on the Republic County website (republiccounty.org). From the ROD page, link to the PFA service site and get signed up for notices. Notices will arrive via phone or text message whenever there is any activity in the deeds' office against a person's property.

There are currently about 100 people in the county registered for fraud alerts, said Reg-

ister of Deeds Sandee Swanson.

"Property fraud is one of the fastest-growing white-collar crimes and is constantly changing in tactic and presentation," she said. "The threat of mortgage fraud and identity theft crimes continue to rise, and all too often victims of these types of fraudulent activities are unaware their homes or identity have been stolen."

Swanson said while Property Fraud Alert does not prevent fraud from happening, it provides an early warning system for property owners to take appro-

priate actions should they determine possible fraudulent activity has taken place.

According to the FBI's 2022 Internet Crime Report, 11,727 individuals in the US racked up real estate losses of \$350 million due to fraud.

"While this is still a tiny percentage of the roughly 87 million homes owned in the US, home title theft is on the rise and the industry should take notice," she said.

## Group Seeks Board Member

NEK-CAP, Inc., multi-county board of directors has an open seat for a Private Sector representative.

Private sector representatives are selected from a broad array of community interests, including private welfare; business; industry; labor; faith-based; law enforcement; education; or other interested private organizations.

The representative must be 18 years of age or older; live and/or work within the NEK-CAP, Inc. service area; cannot have been employed by the agency in the past 24 months;

and cannot be related to a current employee, another Board member, or the Executive Director. The term of office will fill partial 2024 term, followed by a full 3-year term, beginning January 2025.

Deadline is March 14, 2024 by 1:00pm.

For more information contact Jeanette Collier, Executive Director at 785-741-2183 or jcollier@nekcapp.org or Cathy Clark, Administrative Assistant at 785-742-2222 x 111 or cclark@nekcapp.org.

### Cash Grain Prices

\* At Belleville

Wheat: \$5.79

Milo: \$4.48

Corn: \$4.11

Soybeans: \$11.56

Sponsored by:



# 4.88% APY\* 7 Month CD

- 4.88% annual percentage yield (APY)
- APY accurate as of August 30, 2023
- Automatically renews into 6 month CD
- \$5,000 minimum deposit
- Early withdrawal penalty



1211 28th St, Belleville, KS 66935 • (785) 527-2772

## STEEL, ALUMINUM, AND MORE!



- Steel and Aluminum sales
- Irrigation Components, Replacement Parts, Repairs
- Field Service - two mobile units for in-field repairs
- Custom Fabrication CAD and CNC Work
- Aluminum and Stainless Welding

Contact Henry Grijalva  
785.527.2378 | bestwest@bestfor.com  
6:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday-Friday  
1190 100 Road, Scandia, Kansas 66966