

A DAY in the LIFE OF...

Getting to Know: Highway Superintendent Rod Polley

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

Being a highway superintendent is all over the place — quite literally — according to current Clay County highway superintendent Rod Polley.

Checking bridges, checking roads, bridge replacements, a lot of paperwork and keeping up on projects coming up, Polley does it all.

However, he says it all gets done only because he has good help.

"I have a foreman that handles day to day stuff and I try to keep ahead of the rest," Polley said. "Which bridges we need to put on the list to be replaced or repaired, what roads we're going to be working on. I work on getting all that stuff put together so the crewmen have a plan to go by."

Polley said he relies on experts both in and outside the office.

"We usually work with a couple of engineers to figure things out, what needs to be fixed and what our priorities are and should be," he said. "I have all this paperwork

that I never had to do before. My secretary helps me out a lot. She was on the job before I started as Superintendent."

Polley said he started in the Department of Transportation in 1993, and has enjoyed the learning the job, while eventually accepting the job of superintendent.

"It's been quite a learning process," he said. "I've had a lot of support from the former superintendents. They've been around a lot longer, so, whenever there's a problem all I have to do is call somebody and they'll help."

There are definite perks of working with the public, Polley said.

"I've met a lot of people and made a lot of friends, not just in the county but other counties," he said. "That's the top part of the job."

People, Polley said have helped him especially since he became Superintendent.

Challenges come with the job, as well.

"The everyday administrative stuff, I never had to deal with

that," Polley said. "Budgeting is the worst part. I'm in charge of a lot of money and that kind of makes me nervous."

As far as work hours, Polley said they are dictated mostly by Mother Nature.

Polley and his team are on-call 24 hours a day.

"In the spring, sometimes I go out in the middle of the night to check to see if water is coming up and get the guys to set up barricades if they need them," he said. "I usually leave early in the morning in the winter time to go check roads. (My) normal starting time is about 7:30 a.m. When you have to go work on roads the guys have to be out by five so that means I'm out by 3:30 a.m."

Though this can get busy, Polley said he doesn't mind.

"I drive a company vehicle home, so, if I get called in the middle of the night with a tree blown down or a road under water I leave Wakonda and go right to the scene," he said. "It keeps me busy



SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Rod Polley, Clay County highway superintendent works out plans for the day.

but it's not that bad."

According to Polley, while others might see his job as boring, he finds most of it interesting.

"It is kind of humdrum because

you look at the same roads every day," he said. "We don't have the money to fix them all, so we have to come up with some unique ideas sometimes on how to fix things."

Winging It At The Dental Hygiene 5k Fun Run

By Amber Margheim
For the Plain Talk

It was fun and smiles at the 7th Annual USD Dental Hygiene 5k Fun Run Saturday at Prentiss Park.

This was the first year with a theme "Plaque Attack—The Tooth Fairy Strikes Back!" Participants were attired in stylish fairy wings and tutus.

Denae Plueger and her dog Ace attended the race, which she ran for the second time.

"I ran a couple of years ago," she said. "I decided to run again because it was such a cute idea with the wings and tutus."

She even dressed up Ace with his own red bandana sporting the words "Getting Flossy" on it.

Due shipping delay — a box of wings and tutus was missing — the race was slightly delayed.

"I ordered the first set a couple of weeks ago and they arrived in two days," said Dr. Graham Smith DDS, the Supervising Dentist of the USD Dental Hygiene program and organizer of this year's run.

"I thought I could order the 2nd set on Monday and they would be here easily. I don't know what happened. I didn't get any tracking information. Then it said they had been delivered this morning to Sioux Falls. The Post Office was nice enough to let someone pick them up for us and they are bringing them down....I found there is no place in Sioux Falls to buy wings and tutus for adults. Infants, no problem!" said Smith.

All in all, hot pink, purple, violet, red and green tutu and wing combos sprinted away from the starting line.

Participants included not only current and former USD Dental Hygiene students, but also people like Kevin Krall who ran for charity.

This was Krall's fourth run for a good cause. He also ran in the First Annual Run from the Police as well



AMBER MARGHEIM/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Denae Plueger and her dog Ace crossing the finish line after rocking out to tunes during the run.

as two others — one in Beresford and one in Sioux Falls. This was Krall's first time participating in the USD Dental Hygiene Fun Run.

"With the number of people that are here and with all the donations we got, we will probably make about \$1,500 for the department and the philanthropic projects that we have," said Smith.

The funds will support the USD Dental Hygiene oral health education endeavors in south eastern South Dakota. The preventative dental program provides

education as well as sealants and fluoride treatments for school age children.

"It is amazing how much toothbrushes and toothpaste add up," Smith said. "We will be able to provide fluoride varnishes. We also educate and let parents know how to be proactive in the oral health of children. One of those statistics that is always interesting is that childhood dental decay is the most preventative but also the most common childhood disease."

Blackburn Basement Systems
Waterproofing & Repair
Basement & Foundation Specialists™

Wet Basement? Basement Wall Bowed? Foundation Settling?

•Free Estimates •Financing Available
Toll Free 1-800-392-3389
www.blackburnbasementrepair.com

We live for *weekend road trips.*

Avera Medical Group
Avera.org/live

Avera Medical Group has more than 200 clinics connected to 33 hospitals across a five-state region, so the most pressing thing on your mind will be finding the next tourist attraction.

Live better. Live balanced. Avera.

15-PRIM-2915

Astronomer Explains The Mystery Of Black Holes At USD April 21

Astronomer and NASA investigator Peter Roming, Ph.D., will address the fact and fiction of black holes in space during a public lecture April 21 at the University of South Dakota.

Roming is a staff scientist at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas, where he specializes in astrophysics. His lecture is part of the AAS Harlow Shapley Visiting Lecture program, which brings astronomers to North American colleges, especially those not offering astronomical degrees. Roming has been the lead investigator on a number of NASA-related instruments and mission concepts. His research covers

ground-based astronomical instrumentation, the violent death of massive stars and observational cosmology.

Roming's presentation will address the mystery around black holes and will debunk movie myths and rumors about how black holes work. He also will discuss what happens when something or someone falls into a black hole. The lecture is made possible with funding from the National Science Foundation and the Harlow Shapley Visiting Lecture-ship Endowment Fund.

The lecture, free and open to the public, will be in Farber Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

Got News?
Call The PT At
624-4429

GOOD GOVERNMENT DEPENDS ON PUBLIC NOTICES!
www.sdpublicnotices.com

I WANNA RIDE EVENT GOING ON NOW!



CALL FOR THE BEST PRICE ON YOUR NEW Honda... OVER 50 IN STOCK!



NEW! 2014 Honda GOLD WING VALKYRIE
MSRP \$17,999
Bonus Bucks \$ 3,000
Dealer Bonus \$ 1,000
VALUE PRICE: \$13,995*



NEW! 2014 Honda CTX 1300 DELUXE
MSRP \$17,499
VALUE PRICE: \$14,995*

THE AREA'S
#1 VOLUME POWERSPORTS DEALER!



NEW! 2014 Honda CTX 700
MSRP \$7,799
VALUE PRICE: \$6,495*



NEW! 2013 Honda SHADOW
MSRP \$7,499
VALUE PRICE: \$5,995*

*Specifications and pricing are subject to change. Dealer sets the actual destination charge, your price may vary.

www.VernEideMotoplex.com



Follow us on Facebook!

4915 N. Northview Drive • Sioux Falls, SD 57107
605-221-4000 • VernEideMotoplex.com

*SRP excludes destination charges. Visit powersports.honda.com to view applicable destination charge amount. Safety disclaimer: honda.com ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. NEVER RIDE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, AND NEVER USE THE STREET AS A RACETRACK. OBEY THE LAW AND READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL THOROUGHLY. For rider training information or to locate a rider training course near you, call the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at 1-800-446-9227. Shadow™ CTX™ Goldwing™ is a registered trademark of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (04/15)