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# Reservoir News

Fishing - Hunting - Camping - Recreation

TUESDAY,  
JULY 1, 2008  
THE NORTON  
TELEGRAM

“...and the rockets red glare...”

PULL  
OUT

Oh,  
wow!

Another spectacular fireworks show is guaranteed the thousands who will watch the annual July 4th event at Prairie Dog State Park west of Norton. The shows starts at dark, but leading up to the featured event will be music and a watermelon feed.  
— Telegram photo (2007) by Carolyn Plotts

## The schedule

7:30 p.m. — Watermelon Set Up, thanks to Jamboree Foods  
Music  
8 p.m. — Welcome, Marvin Matchett, Emcee  
Watermelon served  
The National Anthem  
Music — The Stars & Stripes Forever  
Announcement of donors  
9:30 p.m. — Retiring of the Flag by Boy Scout Troop 181  
Music — America the Beautiful  
Dark — Fireworks begin  
Fireworks crew: Russ Erbert, Steve Mees, Karla Reed, Tim Kelly, Jim Sharp, Larry Nelson, Harold Shinn, Travis Chisham, Mick Kier, Joyce Quinn, Dan Hazlett, Mike Barrett, Wally Burton.  
Boat Patrol — Calvin Wright  
Special thanks to:  
• Prairie Dog State Park employees: Steve Mathes, Toby Kuhn, Mindy Braun, Jim Ray, Gordon Ingram, Derek Volgmore, Becky Jones and Deb Kaus.  
• Norton County Sheriff's Department  
• Kansas Highway Patrol  
• Norton Rural Fire Department  
• Almena Fire Department  
• Lenora Fire Department  
• Norton County EMS  
The fireworks display will be accompanied by marching music.



## Rules and regulations needed for busy state parks

Greetings and welcome back to Prairie Dog State Park and “On the Range.” I appreciate all the kind words I received from my first column. As I expected, many of you were amazed at what we could accomplish with such limited funds. In this column, I will discuss some of the regulations that govern camping and ways to be a courteous camper.

First of all, we have been extremely busy so far in this camping season with the water and electric sites being nearly full every weekend. For comparison purposes, here are the numbers from the rest of the parks in region one. The number listed below is the number of utility sites sold this year through May 31. Primitive camping isn't included.

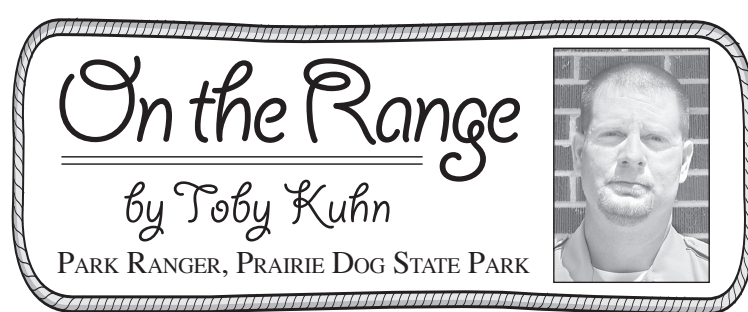
Lovevell, 1544; Prairie Dog, 1197; Meade, 1153; Cedar Bluff,

981; Webster, 541;

Scott, 459; and Glen Elder, 369.

Due to the number of utility permits being sold, we ask that you occupy your site with your camping unit or a vehicle immediately upon purchase of your permit. This will alleviate any confusion as to whether the site is rented and prevent any confusion that may result.

With the campgrounds being nearly full every weekend, there are several regulations that need to be followed to be a courteous camper. First, all dogs in a state park must be on a leash or a tether less than ten feet in length. This is in the campgrounds and everywhere else within the park's boundaries. Please be considerate of the next people who occupy your site by cleaning up after your dog. After all, not only is



it required; it is the right thing to do. Also, dogs are prohibited from entering all public buildings and the swimming beach. Second, all camping units, vehicles and other property shall not be left unoccupied in excess of 24 hours. In addition, all camping units are limited to a stay of not more than 14 consecutive days. Upon completion of the 14 consecutive days, each person and all property shall be absent from the park for not less than 5 days.

One extended camping stay of not more than 14 additional days may be granted through a written permit issued by the department. Please remember if you are requesting an extension, you must stop at the office and complete the necessary form. Failure to complete the extension paperwork will cause your extension to be denied. Third, quiet hours shall be observed between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Actions which will alarm,

anger or disturb others shall be prohibited during quiet hours. This includes the operation of a generator during those times. Failure to comply with laws, rules and regulations, permit conditions or posted restrictions by an individual may result in such individual or equipment of the individual being removed from departmental lands or waters. Your idea of a good time might be playing washers at 2 a.m., but your camping neighbor's idea of a good time might be getting on the lake at 5 a.m. to fish. Please be respectful of those camping around you.

Lastly, fire rings are intended for cooking and campfires. They are not trash receptacles. All of your trash needs to be taken to the nearest dumpster or barrel for disposal. Failure to clean up your site after your stay could

result in a citation being issued for littering.

Due to the number of vehicles that are present at Prairie Dog Campground, we would ask that visitors please use the field south of sites 31-40 for additional parking. The traffic ways between site rows gets very crowded at times. We are concerned about the lack of visibility and the potential for vehicle/pedestrian accidents. Several campers have reported small children almost being hit when the child ran out from behind a parked vehicle.

Our goal at Prairie Dog State Park is for all our patrons to enjoy the relaxing atmosphere and the park's abundant natural resources. By following the regulations, the park can be an enjoyable experience for all.

As always, thanks for keeping your park clean.