

# Western Plains announces first concert

The Western Plains Arts Association, representing the nine counties of northwest Kansas, plan to present the Steve Miller Cabaret Band as their first concert of the 2002-03 performance schedule.

The band will perform at Hoxie High School Auditorium on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 3 p.m. (CDT).

The Steve Miller Cabaret Band, said Vicky Waldschmidt, media correspon-

dent, will present the "Kansas City Sound" featuring vocalist Rosetta Robinson and narrator Russ Simmons.

"The concert features the beautiful voice of Rosetta, one of the brightest singing talents in the Midwest," she said. "Rosetta always capitivates the audience, whether expressing a slow ballad or a rhythmic up-tempo show tune or the blues."

Professional musicians who have

worked with her compare her to Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin.

In addition, Russ Simmons has been a vocalist with the band for the last 12 years.

"He is also an actor and emcee receiving a degree in theater from Emporia State University and appeared for three seasons at Robert Redford's Sundance Theater at the famous Utah resort," she said.

The program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The Western Plains Arts Association is a non-profit organization, which receives private, state, and federal funding.

Admission at the door will be \$12 for adults and \$5 for students. Season tickets are \$40 for adults; \$15 for students.

# Patrol plans to be out in full force during holiday

Traditionally the last weekend for summer vacations, Labor Day weekend's traffic should be heavy, especially Friday night and all day Monday.

That is why the Kansas Highway Patrol urges all travelers to take precautions and help make the weekend as safe as possible, said Mark Engholm, public relations.

"With the assistance of a Kansas Department of Transportation program, troopers and members of 61 local law enforcement agencies, will be out in force across the state, educating the public, helping stranded motorists, and focusing on speed limit violations," he said.

During the holiday weekend, the highway patrol will take part in the state's special traffic enforcement program mobilization.

"Its public information and education efforts began last Sunday and will continue through Saturday, Aug. 31," Engholm said.

Law enforcement agencies participating in this program mobilization will target speeding drivers, he said, since speeding contributed to 29 percent of all fatal crashes in the United States in 2000, claiming 12,350 lives. In 2001, Kansas' 8,585 speed-related crashes killed 135 people.

"If you will be traveling this Labor Day weekend, please buckle up and

watch your speed.

These are two simple, effective ways to protect yourself and your loved ones," said Colonel Don Brownlee, superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

In addition, the highway patrol offered the following tips for this weekend's travel:

- Plan a trip, making sure the driver is well-rested and comfortable with the route. Consider the possible delays and allow plenty of time Road conditions, including construction zone locations, are available toll free at 1-800-585-ROAD or on the internet at www.kanroad.org

- Summer heat can be hard on vehicles, so make sure its ready for travel. Before leaving home, inspect components such as lights, fluids, tires, belts, hoses and windshield wipers to avoid accidents and breakdowns

- Make sure everyone in the vehicle is properly secured. Buckle seat belts and fasten small children into safety seats or booster seats.

Kansas law requires all front seat passengers to wear safety belts; children under the age of four to be secured in approved child safety seats; and children ages four to 14, regardless of where they are seated in the vehicle, to wear safety belts at all times

- Watch the weather. Prepare for Kansas' swiftly changing weather con-

ditions Adjust speed and following distance to other vehicles as conditions dictate. Wet roadways can be just as slick as snow-covered or icy roads.

- Use alcoholic beverages sensibly. Do not drink alcoholic beverages before or during a trip, and never ride with someone who has. Kansas' law forbids open containers of alcoholic beverages in vehicles.

- Drive defensively and courteously. Assume other drivers' mistakes are not

personal. Be polite and courteous, even if another driver is not. Avoid all conflicts if possible.

- If the vehicle breaks down, pull over onto the shoulder as far as possible and activate four-way flashers Stay with the vehicle, lock the doors and let the windows down a little. For those with a cellular phone, dial #47 (\*HP) for the nearest Highway Patrol dispatcher or \*KTA for assistance on the Kansas Turnpike.

# Ed Asner returns to Kansas for state's top arts honor

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Edward Asner, who played grouchy newsman Lou Grant on television's long-running "Mary Tyler Moore Show", will be awarded Kansas' top arts honor.

Asner, 72, will return to his native Kansas City, Kan., Sept. 20 to receive the Kansas Arts Commission's Distinguished Arts Award.

The award is given annually to a native of Kansas who has made significant contributions to some form of art, whether it be performance or education, said Martin Bauer, president of the commission.

The award also is in recognition of Asner's efforts to promote and encourage arts in education, using the arts as a way to keep students engaged in learning, Bauer said.

Asner is a past recipient of the life-

time achievement honor at the Screen Actors Guild. He served as guild president from 1981 to 1985.

Among his credits are the miniseries "Roots" and "Rich Man, Poor Man" and the theatrical films "They Call Me Mr. Tibbs" and "Fort Apache, The Bronx."

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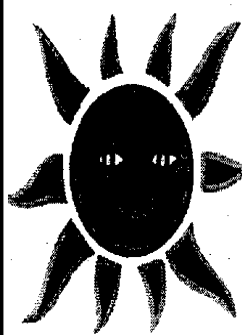
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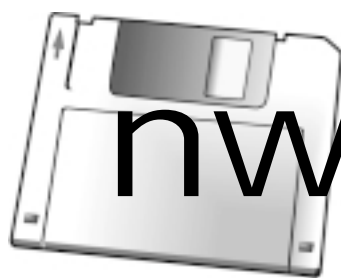
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