

Kansas Highway Patrol gives out tips to prevent road accidents with deer

The Kansas Highway Patrol is advising all motorists to be cautious of deer activity on and around Kansas' roadways. Because deer-breeding season runs from October and into December, law enforcement officers routinely investigate a large number of deer-vehicle crashes this time of year. According to Kansas Department of Transportation statistics, 10,184 deer-vehicle accidents occurred on Kansas' roadways in 2001, causing 418 injuries but no deaths. Deer-vehicle crashes have significantly increased over the

last two decades. For example, Kansas reported 4,209 deer-vehicle crashes in 1990 with 161 injuries. In 1980, they reported only 1,395 accidents with 66 injuries.

Colonel Don Brownlee, Patrol Superintendent, urges motorists to be mindful of this seasonal traffic hazard. "Drivers should use extra caution in the coming months," Colonel Brownlee said. "We hope that by staying alert and paying more attention to the road and roadside drivers will be able to avoid deer collisions."

The Patrol offers the following tips to avoid and mitigate vehicle deer crashes:

- Intentionally look for deer. Be especially alert at dawn and dusk, the peak movement times for deer and when visibility is low.

- Slow down near woods, parks, golf courses, streams, and deer-crossing signs, which are posted where deer-vehicle collisions have repeatedly occurred.

- Deer usually travel in groups. When one deer crosses the road, there may be

others about to cross. Be prepared to stop for others darting into the road.

- Slow down when approaching deer standing near roadsides. They have a tendency to bolt, possibly onto the roadway.

- Use emergency flashers to warn oncoming drivers after you see deer near a roadway.

- Always wear your seatbelt. Statistics show that most people injured or killed in deer-related collisions were not wearing seat belts.

- The most serious accidents occur

when drivers lose control of their vehicles trying to avoid an animal. Do not take unsafe evasive actions. It is usually safer to strike the deer than another object such as a tree or another vehicle.

- Motorcyclists need to be especially careful; fatality rates are higher in deer-motorcycle accidents than in deer-car crashes.

If you hit a deer, pull over onto the shoulder, turn on your emergency flashers and watch for traffic before exiting your vehicle. Do not try to remove a deer from the roadway unless

you are sure it is dead; an injured deer could hurt you. If you have a cellular phone, dial *47 (*HP) for the nearest Highway Patrol dispatcher or *KTA for assistance on the Kansas Turnpike.

Anyone involved in a vehicle-deer crash that results in personal injury or property damage that totals \$500 or more is required to immediately report the crash to the nearest law enforcement agency. Failure to report any traffic crash is a misdemeanor and may result in suspension of driving privileges.

Rexford man finishes Navy training

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Justin L. Spreser, son of Debra L. and Carl J. Spreser of Rexford, recently graduated from the Navy's Basic Nuclear Power School at Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, N.Y.

During the six-month course, Spreser received fundamental training in several technical fields related to the nuclear power program.

Spreser studied basic mathematics and physics for three months in preparation for hands-on training

later in the course.

In the latter half of the course, Spreser spent hours becoming familiar with nuclear reactor theory and operations.

With his newly acquired knowledge, Spreser is prepared to operate a reactor on a nuclear powered submarine or aircraft carrier, ensuring the availability of propulsion and power.

Spreser is a 2000 graduate of Golden Plains High School in Rexford, and joined the Navy in November of 2000.

Classroom training to be offered to area teachers

Smart Start Northwest Kansas along with the Birth to Success Coalition, the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, the Regional Prevention Center, and the Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services have contracted with Dr. Dennis Embry of the Paxis Institute to provide a free training targeting teachers and schools.

Dr. Embry is the President and CEO of Paxis Institute and is a Child and Developmental Psychologist. His *Teacher Power* training will make a long-term difference in the lives of children and take some of the stress out of teaching, said organizers.

The *Teacher Power* training is for educators who teach kindergarten through sixth grade. At this training teacher will learn strategies that will reduce disrespect, disruption and discourtesy from 100 or so acts per hour in a classroom to a handful per hour. The *Good Behavior Game* rewards teams of children for the inhibition of negative behavior and creates a peer culture supportive of the vision of a positive school. The game is not a curriculum. It is a simple behavioral procedure from applied behavior analysis.

On Nov. 12, 25 recruited elementary teachers from the 17 county judicial region will participate in an all-day workshop at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center to learn how to implement the *Good Behavior Game*, which has recently recognized as exemplary by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Upon completion of the training, the teachers will have to agree to establish a baseline of classroom behavior prior to implementing the program in their classroom during the 2003 school year. Student classroom behaviors will again be measured before school ends in May after the *Good Behavior Game* has been utilized as a classroom behavior management technique.

Funding for *Teacher Power* materials and substitute teacher reimbursements is limited to 25 elementary teachers.

If you would be interested in sending one elementary teacher from your district lease contact Smart Start of Northwest Kansas at (785) 465-9103 or e-mail them at:

smartstart@colbyweb.com.

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