

Officials encourage safe summer travel

Traditionally, the Fourth of July holiday creates one of the busiest travel times on roads and highways in Kansas.

Unfortunately, an increase in traffic increases the likelihood of traffic crashes, injuries and deaths.

Kansas Department of Transportation travel information resources can help with planning your holiday or other summer travels and can keep you informed as you travel.

By planning ahead, travelers can find out if their routes are impacted

by road work and make other plans as needed.

With weather updates provided every 15 minutes, Kansas 511 can be a resource to help travelers learn about changing weather conditions.

Before traveling, call 511 anytime from any phone in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S. to find out about the latest driving conditions, work zone and travel weather information for the Kansas Turnpike and any Interstate,

U.S. or state highway in Kansas and Nebraska.

Phone numbers for road conditions in other states surrounding Kansas are provided. Information is provided free from a landline phone; however, for cellular phone users, cell minutes may apply.

Road information can be obtained by visiting the 511 Travel Information Map at 511.ksdot.org that now includes 33 cameras and 25 electronic message sign views across the state.

The 511 map provides links to other information, such as closed roads and driving conditions lists, travel information for other states and more. These and additional traveler information can be viewed by visiting KDOT's new traveler information portal, KanDrive, at www.KanDrive.org.

En route travelers will be informed of road conditions and road closings by Dynamic Message Signs on I-70, extending from Topeka to Goodland, and on northbound I-135

and southbound US-81 in the north central region of Kansas.

In the Kansas City area, travelers can visit the Kansas City Scout Web site at www.kscout.org for camera views and incident and message board information for many interstates in the Kansas City area.

Travelers can use their handheld mobile devices, such as Smartphones or Blackberries to access a text report for construction project information by visiting 511mm.ksdot.org.

If alcohol is going to be part of your holiday celebration, please don't get behind the wheel; plan ahead and use a designated driver. This travel season, state officials remind travelers to stay informed, wear their seat belts and watch out for motorcyclists and workers in work zones.

For everyone's safety, officials remind everyone not to text or call 511 while driving.

Former Air Force officer running in primary

Marck Cobb, 62, a lawyer, former Air Force lieutenant colonel and Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, recently made a campaign stop in Goodland.

Cobb said he has been stopping in towns to meet with business people and reporters as well as visiting each county courthouse. He drops off a copy of his book, "Uncommon Sense," which he describes as "a few words of wisdom" he wrote for his son, at each town's library. He took one to the Goodland Public Library when he was in town on June 24.

Cobb said he has been enjoying the campaign. He has minimal non-paid staff, and acts as his own campaign manager. His son, a student at Wichita State University, often accompanies him, he said. Cobb said he wants to lead by example, spending more time campaigning and less money on ads.

Cobb said he has been to most of the 69 counties in the district, and said he finds many people are just getting interested in the upcoming election. Cobb is one of six Republicans seeking the nomination on Tuesday, Aug. 3, to replace Jerry Moran who is seeking to move up to the U.S. Senate.

In his 20-year career with the Air Force, Cobb said, he flew 143 combat missions in Vietnam and southeast Asia with refueling tankers. He served as an air attache at the U.S. embassy in Russia for two years, and negotiated a 1981 air flight treaty between the U.S. and Soviet Union. He last assignment was as deputy chief of long-term planning at the Pentagon. While there, he

developed an Air Force plan used in Operation Desert Storm, the invasion of Kuwait, just a few months after he left the service.

After leaving the Air Force in 1991, Cobb said, he was general council and chief financial officer for insurance firms in Colorado and Illinois. He returned to Kansas and has lived here for 10 years. Cobb, the only licensed attorney in the race, said he works as a legal mediator in McPherson County. He graduated from Galva Rural High School in 1966 and after his military career has returned to live in Galva.

Cobb served as a board member of the McPherson Red Cross, as president of the Anatoly Karpov International Chess Institute of the Midwest in Lindsborg, the McPherson Arts Association and the McPherson Bar Association. Cobb said he has served as treasurer of his church and housed exchange students.

Cobb said his experience as a mediator would serve him well when trying to elicit better cooperation among agencies

"You have to communicate and negotiate well," he said. "Congress now, I don't think some of them even talk to each other."

Cobb said a congressman has to be an educator, since many people from urban areas don't understand agricultural economies.

Cobb said his experience serving on boards and in the Air Force has given him a different approach to the issues.

He outlined three main issues he would focus on if elected. The first is to help improve the agricultural

economy. Cobb said he would help expand the markets for wheat and beef, as well as maintain crop insurance and the Conservation Reserve Program.

"Government can do a few good things," he said.

The second issue is the comprehensive health care legislation recently passed by Congress. He said he would have preferred Congress institute changes such as insurance for kids, the uninsured and those with pre-existing conditions incrementally rather than with a comprehensive bill.

Going forward, Cobb said a repeal of the Obama bill probably won't happen, so Congress needs to amend the bill to make sure it doesn't bankrupt the country.

The third issue, he said, is national security. Cobb said he would like to see the U.S. border more secure and troops brought home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Cobb said he would like to see the U.S. more secure so people could stop living in fear of terrorism. By comparison, he said, European communities have and need far less police presence than American cities.

Part of the difficulty with national security, he said, is that bureaucracies such as Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement don't often cooperate.

Cobb said he has had experience in that area. While in the Air Force, he said, he wrote a journal article advocating refueling several fighter jets at once instead of one at a time. The procedure would have saved time and money, he said, but the Air Force still hasn't implemented because none of the internal departments wants to pay to refit the tankers.

turn onto Business U.S. 24 when she misjudged the turn, causing her to drive onto the median striking the median marker sign. The sign was destroyed; no damage to vehicle. Photographs of the sign were taken and the sign was removed.

Man dies in fall from Weskan grain elevator

A 21-year old Sharon Springs man was killed early Tuesday morning in an accident at a Weskan elevator.

Brett Spreser, 21, Sharon Springs, was killed when he fell 50 feet into an elevator tube partially full of corn. Officials at the scene said the fall killed him.

Wallace County Sheriff Larry Townsend said all units were dispatched to the sight at 8:35 a.m. Extensive efforts recovered his body around noon.

Townsend said Spreser stepped through a hatch in the top of the elevator used to fill the bins and fell 50 feet into a bin filled about

halfway with grain. He said he could not say why the hatch was open.

"Brett was a good man and our sympathies and prayers go to the family," Townsend said.

Townsend said rescue teams from CHS, (formerly Cenex Harvest States), Greeley County and Wichita County assisted in the recovery as well as Wallace County Fire and ambulance crews and local law enforcement.

The elevator is owned and operated by United Plains Ag, a division of CHS.

Townsend said the Wallace County Sheriff's Department,

United Plains Ag and OSHA will investigate the accident.

Spreser was a 2007 graduate of Golden Plains High School in Rexford. He went to Garden City Community College and got an associate degree from Colby Community College.

On July 25, last year he and Nikki Renae Welsh were married in Sharon Springs. On June 9, their daughter Zuri Jae Spreser was born in Tribune.

Services will be at 10 a.m. today, at the Wallace County School Gym, and burial in the Sharon Springs Cemetery.

Lone Salina Democrat running for U.S. House

By Pat Schiefen

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Alan Jilka, D-Salina, is the only Democrat running for the 1st District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives being vacated by Jerry Moran, R-Hays, who is running for the U.S. Senate. There are six candidates facing off in the Republican primary.

Jilka said the electorate is in a volatile mood and nationally people are more willing to look for the best individual. He describes himself as a 'blue dog' conservative Democrat.

Immigration will be the hot button issue for the Congress, he said. More border patrols are needed and the U.S. should encourage Mexico to help its own people so fewer try to enter the U.S. illegally.

He said the problems with im-

migration are worsened by drug smuggling and violence. First of all he said we need a secure border and need to cut down the amount of drugs coming into the U.S.

Jilka has said he thinks the nation needs to give the health care bill a chance to work and then fix the things that do not work. Health care costs need to be reigned in and monitored.

Jilka is a former three-term mayor of Salina and his family has owned Jilka Furniture in downtown Salina since 1923. He graduated from Salina Sacred Heart High School in 1980 and in 1984 from the University at Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in history. He taught in Mexico and Brazil as a teacher of English as a second language. He got his master's degree in

comparative literature in 1992 from University of South Carolina.

In 1986 he worked for U.S. Congressman Dan Glickman (D-KS) in Washington D.C. During college he interned for U.S. Senator Nance Kassebaum (R-KS).

Jilka was elected to his first term on the Salina City Commission in April 1997. He was on the commission for 12 years.

He has said he is in favor of term limits because the country is getting too far away from a citizen legislature. However, he said, he would not limit himself on how many terms he would serve.

Jilka thought his strength lay in being able to work with people and get things done.

"I work to solve problems and I am the best combination of experience, perspective and passion for the job," said Jilka.



Jilka

matters of record

Accidents

Report of accidents in Sherman County investigated by Sheriff's deputies

June 24: The Sherman County Sheriff's office was dispatched to Business U.S. 24 at the I-70 east exit

(Exit 19) at 6:34 p.m. Deputy Travis Belden responded to the minor vehicle accident where he found a Peterbilt Tractor Truck driven by Mary Brees, 54, Citrus Heights, Calif., had struck the median marker sign. The driver was making a left-hand

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