

Highway Patrol has tips for safe Thanksgiving travel

This week Kansas roads will be busy with holiday travelers going to and from their destinations. The Kansas Highway Patrol will mobilize, along with other law enforcement organizations across the state to participate in the annual Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). The enforcement program is courtesy of a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

"With the Thanksgiving holiday weekend around the corner, the Kansas Highway Patrol and other local law enforcement officers will be out working Kansas roads to help ensure motorists get to their destinations safely. We want you to enjoy these holiday times, spent with families and loved ones," Lieutenant Josh Kellerman said. "Enjoy your holiday memories this Thanksgiving—designate a sober driver, and buckle up, every trip, every time."

The Patrol and other agencies will focus on impaired drivers, child passenger safety laws, and seat belt use among travelers of all ages. Because of the STEP campaign funding, there could be more law enforcement officers on Kansas' streets and highways during the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday period when travel increases in Kansas and

across the nation. During the 2011 Thanksgiving reporting period, there were 576 collisions, resulting in 140 injuries, and one death. Of these crashes, 26 were alcohol related, resulting in 11 injuries, but no deaths. For 2011, the reporting period was from 6:00 p.m. the Wednesday prior to the holiday, to 12:00 midnight the Sunday following the holiday (102-hour reporting period).

Before hitting the road for travels, the Patrol encourages motorists to take the following things into consideration:

- Make sure their vehicle is in good working order. Check your tires' tread depth and air pressure; check the vehicle's fluids, exhaust system, and other mechanical equipment. If traveling in cold conditions, make sure added precautions are taken for the cold weather.

- The vehicle should also be stocked with items that would be beneficial if you were involved in a crash, such as: bottled water, blankets, non-perishable food, first aid kit, and flashlight with extra batteries.

- Make sure to plan your route of travel and communicate this to your family so they know where you might be at, should you be involved in a crash or if your vehicle

broke down.

- Charge your cell phone before you leave, that way you can make important calls if you should need to.

- Dress for the weather. If you will be in the cold, make sure you have a coat in the vehicle, and warm shoes, should you need to stop for any reason.

- Check your route of travel for road conditions and/or construction work or other delays before you leave. The Kansas Department of Transportation provides an improved 511 system for motorists to use. Call 511 from any phone, or visit www.kandrive.org to check roads in the state of Kansas.

The Patrol reminds motorists not to drink and drive, and do not let your friends or family members drive while impaired. If you consume alcohol, call a friend, family member, or taxi service for a sober ride home, or make plans to have a sober ride home before going to holiday parties. Motorists concerned that another driver might be impaired can use their cell phone to dial *47 (*HP) on Kansas highways or *582 (*KTA) on the Kansas Turnpike to reach the nearest highway patrol dispatcher.

Final election results

Results from the 2012 General Election have been finalized, and while votes from several provisional ballots were added, none of the races were affected.

The Sherman County Commissioners canvassed the votes for the on Friday, Nov. 9, at the courthouse, where they opened provisional ballots and added them to the results. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said there were many provisional ballots that were invalid. In some cases, she said, it was because the voter had never registered in Sherman County.

The final results were:
President/Vice President
 Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan - 1,976
 Barack Obama and Joe Biden - 577
 Gary Johnson and Jim Gray - 49

Chuck Baldwin and Joseph Martin - 17
U.S. Congress
 Tim Huelskamp - 2,170
State Senate: 40th District
 Ralph Ostmeyer - 1,952
 Allen Schmidt - 593
State Representative: 120th District
 Ward Cassidy - 2,204
District Court Judge: 15th District 1
 Glenn Schiffler - 2,075
District Court Judge: 15th District 2
 Scott Showalter - 2,261
County Commissioner District 2
 Ken Klemm - 791
County Commissioner District 3
 Steve Evert - 453
 Larry Witt - 204

Sheriff
 Burton Pinalto - 1,572
 Kevin Butts - 958
County Clerk
 Janet Rumpel - 2,146
County Treasurer
 April Hall - 2,303
Register of Deeds
 Billie Hoyt - 2,144
County Attorney
 Brock Abbey - 2,174
Grant Township Trustee
 Neil Schritter - 31
Logan Township Treasurer
 Christie Rasure - 107
McPherson Township Trustee
 Joyce Purvis - 22
McPherson Township Treasurer
 Carolyn Paul - 22

Brewster student will study abroad

Brewster native Karman Selby has been selected to receive one of Kansas State University's scholarships for international.

Selby, a senior from Brewster, is one of the recipients of a Global Education Initiative study abroad scholarship. Majoring in anthropology, Selby received a \$750 Elfrida Nafziger Memorial Scholarship to help with studies in Russia.

K-State awards these scholarships to 25 students, of which 10 received the Faculty-Led Scholarship, made possible by the Kansas State University Student

Governing Association; four students earned the Presidential Scholarship for Australia, made possible by university President Kirk Schulz; while others earned scholarships sponsored by private donors through the Kansas State University Foundation.

In addition, several other students earned scholarships from study abroad program providers Academic Programs International and Universities Study Abroad Consortium. The study abroad experiences vary in length, from short-term faculty-led trips to programs lasting up to a year.

No injuries in grain bin collapse

COLLAPSE, from Page 1

"Our job is to keep the scene secured," Lies said Wednesday morning. We've worked closely with U.P. and the facility."

Mark Davis, a spokesman for Union Pacific in Omaha, said that the rail cars were cleared from the track by about 12:30 a.m. and railroad crews were laying 500 feet of temporary track, called a shoo-fly, around the site of the collapse to get their trains running. He said that the track should be ready by 4 p.m.

About 10 a.m. Wednesday, Lies said that a structural engineer was expected, but had yet to arrive. The engineer will have to evaluate the rest of the elevator before officials can determine if it's safe to work around, he said.

"They've cleared what they could clear safely," he said. "We'll just hope that things continue to work well."

About two dozen vehicles were parked along a dirt road next to the elevator, many belonging to Union Pacific workers who were laying the new track. The

train cars had been removed from the pile of grain. Six or seven were on the track on either side of the collapse, three were standing off the tracks and another 17 were sitting on the tracks just east of the elevator.

Davis said that Union Pacific is holding all the traffic going through Oakley until the track is opened. He said that about eight Union Pacific trains pass through the town each day, including many coal trains.

"All we know is that there was not an explosion," said Ben Branvik, grain marketing manager for Frontier Ag in Goodland said. "Obviously there was just a structural failure."

Branvik said that insurance adjusters would be coming this morning, probably accompanied by the structural engineer, to assess the damage and see if the elevator can be rebuilt.

"It's just too early to say," Branvik said when asked what Frontier Ag will do next.

The best-case scenario, he said would be for the rest of the elevator to remain standing, and the worst case would be that the entire structure to have to be rebuilt.

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