

Commissioner concerned about future of state parks

By Tom Dreiling

The future of state parks in Kansas has at least one Norton resident tossing and turning.

Doug Sebelius, a commissioner on the Kansas Wildlife & Parks Commission, said that Kansas, in 2005, celebrated a half-century of building a system of state parks to enhance the quality of life for every Kansan through outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation. However, he said, the future of that system is uncertain.

Sebelius explained that properly protecting and improving 24-state parks requires a dependable, long-term source of funding which is fair and beneficial to everyone.

"When Kansas dedicated its first state park 50 years ago, 70 percent of the cost for caring for the parks was borne by the state's General Fund," he said. "More recently, it has been 15 percent and soon there will likely be no general tax support for the park system."

Sebelius feels another hike in access and user fees might result in less revenue by reducing park visitation. "Kansas is tied for last in the nation in general fund

spending on state parks," he said, cautioning that "without adequate support, parks will open later and close earlier, services will be cut, some will deteriorate and some may close altogether."

He said the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks offered a solution last year by proposing in the Kansas Legislature an outdoor recreational access fee of \$4 to be paid by Kansas residents each year when they register a vehicle. Known as SB87, it removes the need for a Kansas resident to have a park permit and makes entry to the parks free for anyone who drives a vehicle registered in Kansas. Sebelius said those who have purchased a park vehicle pass under the present law, this proposed bill (SB87) will save \$41.50. The daily park permit is currently \$2.50 more than the proposed cost for a full year.

Sebelius said that in addition to easier and less expense access to all state parks, the once successful Local Outdoor Recreation Grant Program can be revived. "When the parks division of the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

had sufficient tax support several years ago, local governments received matching funds for their own recreation and parks projects," he said. Sebelius added that part of the proposed \$4 registration fee will be devoted to grants which at one time assisted more than 100 Kansas communities.

Sebelius mentioned that Oklahoma, Montana and California are among several states that care for their parks through a motor vehicle registration fee. "Kansas, sadly, is last among the states in per capita spending for recreation," he said.

He called the lack of legislative support "puzzling," noting that 7 of the top 10 tourist attractions in Kansas are state parks.

"The only opposition to SB87 that I have heard during the past year has come from legislators. They need to be convinced that this step is vital to the protection of our natural and historical resources," he said.

Sebelius called it a question of values. "Kansans," he said, "should guarantee that our wonderful, diverse system of parks has a future beyond our lifetimes."

Children invited to free movie

All children in Norton County have been invited to a free, mystery movie Thursday evening at Norton Theatre sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Norton. Showtime for the "G" rated movie is from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

No one knows what the feature will be (that's what makes it a mystery) but everyone will be

given a chance to guess. The first clue is "can't be broken". If anyone guesses the name of the movie, they will be eligible for a drawing.

The evening is made possible by a grant from Midwest Energy. Everyone attending may have free soft drinks, compliments of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Colby and free popcorn compliments of

the theatre.

If you are interested in becoming a Big or Little, or are already matched, come join the fun. Director Mary Kay Woodyard said parents are invited, too.

For more details about Big Brothers Big Sisters call Mrs. Woodyard at 874-4200.

Auto accident injures former Norton youth

A former Norton young man almost lost his arm in an accident last week.

Jan. 14, Ray Rojas, 17, of Oberlin, son of John Rojas, Norton and Cindy Wright, Almena, was riding in a vehicle on a county road in Decatur County when it struck an abandoned vehicle. His right arm was caught between the two vehicles and nearly severed.

Mr. Rojas used his belt to apply pressure around his arm to control the bleeding.

Despite his injuries, Mr. Rojas and the driver walked until they could get a signal for their cell phones. When they were able to call for help, they called Mr. Rojas' brother and sister who also live in Oberlin.

He was taken to Decatur County Hospital and then transported to McCook Community Hospital where he was stabilized before he was taken, by ambulance, to Omaha.

His father said he has already had several surgeries to repair the damage his arm suffered. The senior Mr. Rojas said, "At first, they thought he might lose it. But, he's had major reconstruction work done on the bones. He has pins and plates in his arm and two rods sticking out of his arm to immobi-



Ray Rojas

lize it. He has sensation in most of his fingers and will have to have these two rods in his arm for at least six weeks. Ray will need more surgery and some skin

grafts."

His father added, "I'm a volunteer fireman and I always tried to tell the kids what they should do in an emergency situation. Thank God, he listened to some of the things I told him."

Mr. Rojas, an employee of Oberlin Pizza Hut, is a patient at Nebraska Medical Center at Clarkson, 4350 Dewey Ave., Omaha, Neb. 68105, but his father said he should be home in a few days.

Dean and Ann Husted and Raymond Rojas, Norton, are his grandparents. Mrs. Husted said, "I know God must have a special plan for Ray." When he does arrive home, he will be staying with his grandparents at 202 E. Waverly, Norton, 67654.

He also has a great-grandmother, Margaret Husted of Hoxie.

Monday was 33rd anniversary of legalization of abortion

January 23, 2006 marked the 33rd anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling Roe vs. Wade, which created a right to an abortion. The companion case of Doe vs. Bolton, said that abortion was "legal" throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

"Seven men on the Supreme Court created this right to an abortion. No law was passed to make abortion legal, just the decision of seven men," said David Gittrich, state development director for Kansans For Life.

Since this infamous decision, more than 46 million children have died in the womb, Gittrich said. "In fact," he added, "more preborn Americans have died in the womb at 5107 E. Kellogg in Wichita than all the Americans who died in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the Iraq War — combined."

And, Gittrich said, abortion is not safe for the woman as well, declaring that over the last few

years three abortionists have closed shop in Kansas. He said one closed because his clinic was filthy, and continued to be extremely filthy, and rodent infested, over several years; another because he was a drug addict, a felon, and had an inordinate amount of malpractice suits filed against him; and the third closed because of a failure to perform abortions according to standard medical practices.

Gittrich said that just over a year ago, a 19-year-old died from an abortion.

Gittrich said abortion is never safe for the child in the womb.. it is not safe for women, and that abortion, the final solution for an unplanned pregnancy, continues to be a disaster for women, children, and our society.

"It will be illegal once again in this country [and] I pray that it will be sooner rather than later," he said.

Farmer's condition remains serious

The Norton farmer/rancher who lost his leg in a farm accident Jan. 14 remains in serious, but stable condition.

Warren Harting, 56, underwent more surgery Monday morning to remove tissue. His son, Chris Harting, said his father had been

awakened from his drug-induced coma and was alert.

Greetings and get-well wishes may be sent to Mr. Harting in care of Bryan LGH Medical Center West, 2300 S. 16th St., Lincoln, Neb. 68502.

AUCTION FOR: DEE WOLFE AND HAROLD CURRAN

~Furniture~Antiques~Collectibles~Yard~Tools~Household~Car

SATURDAY February 4, 2006

Auction Location: National Guard Armory, North Highway 283, Norton, KS

Furniture

- White Oak China Hutch
- Maple China Hutch
- Howard Miller White Oak Grandfather Clock
- Jewelry Chest

Antiques & Collectibles

- OTCO West German Leaded Crystal Items
- Bell Collection and Case
- Cranberry Fenton—Fenton Like Glass
- Cranberry Pitchers
- Cranberry Vases
- 1998 FORD CROWN VICTORIA LX 4 DOOR

Yard, Tools, Household

- QPV 14 Gallon Shop Vac
- Concrete Bird Bath
- Electric Weed Eater
- Large Lighted Christmas Decorations
- Christmas Decor
- Metal Lawn Chairs
- Sleeping Bag
- Stainless Steel Pan Sets
- 5' Step Ladder
- Ski Machine
- Pyrex Bowl Set
- Stoneware Canister Set
- Style House Stoneware Dish Set
- Nancy Calhoun Stoneware Dish Set
- Chicago Cutlery Knife Sets
- Rogers Brothers Silver Plate Silverware Set
- Kobe Cookware Set
- Mirrors
- Sharp Microwave
- Table Cloths
- (2) Metal Shelves
- Small Metal Patio Table
- Conn 6 String Guitar and Case

Trundle Bed

- (2) La-Z-Boy Swivel Recliners
- Charles Schneider Chair
- (2) Lane Swivel Recliners
- Maple Drop Leaf Dinette Table/4 Chairs
- Maple Drop Leaf Dining Table/4 Chairs
- 5-Piece White Oak Bedroom Set King Size (1/2 Select Comfort Air Bed, 1/2 Restonic Box Spring & Mattress)
- 2-Piece Bedroom Set (Princess Style)
- Queen Size Sealy Box Spring and Mattress
- Telephone Stand
- Full Size Bed and Headboard Imperial Box Spring and Mattress
- 3 Cushion Leather Couch
- View Point Leather Sofa Sleeper
- White Oak Dinette Table and 4 Chairs
- White Oak Coffee Table and End Tables
- Zenith 25" TV with Remote
- White Oak Sofa Table
- Corner TV Stand
- Quasar VHS Recorder
- Book Shelf with Secretary
- Gulbransen 2 Key Board Organ
- White Floor Lamps
- Small Drafting and Art Table
- (2) Wardrobes (Modern)
- Kirby G 5 Vacuum
- Dresser Lamps
- (2) Kimball Chairs
- Heavy Ceramic Plant Stands
- Brass Quilt Rack
- Climax Sewing Machine and Cabinet

Small Germany Cuckoo Clock

- New Haven 25-20 Bullet Mold and Reloading Tool
- Ideal 38 Special Reloading Tool
- Leader 10 Ga. Paper Casings
- Brass Bullet Mold
- Teaching Aids and Supplies
- Photo Album w/Indian Picture on Cover
- Kansas Centennial Book 1861-1961
- Fiesta Creamer and Sugar, Salt & Pepper
- Fiesta Pitcher, Bowls, Butter Dish, Plates
- Fiesta Stainless Steel Silverware Set
- L E Smith Pressed Glass Relishes
- Capodimonia Fruit Bowl, Jewelry Dish, and Mirror
- Capodimonia Lamp Stand, Lamp, Vase
- Capodimonia Chandelier
- Danbury Mint Doves and Swans
- Danbury Mint Statue of Liberty
- Fenton Opalescent Vase 8 1/2"
- Fenton Opalescent Bowl & Brass Stand
- Fenton Opalescent Candle Holder
- Fenton 11" Wild Rose Vase (Limited Edition)
- Fenton 11" Compo Bowl and Stand, (Hand Painted)
- Portugal Platter, Bread Box and Pitcher and Glasses
- Euport Crystal Covered Dish
- Large Cut Glass Bowl
- 9" Milk Glass Dish
- Winston, L&M, Comet Tire Cigarette Lighters
- Doll Bed
- Hot Wheels Race Set
- New Haven Mantel Clock

Games

- Toy Race Car
- Barbie Dolls
- Toy Street Rod
- Barbie Clothes
- Sheet Music
- Kerosene Lamps
- Games

TERMS: CASH DAY OF AUCTION. NOTHING REMOVED UNTIL SETTLED FOR. ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DAY OF SALE TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER PRINTED MATERIAL. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR ITEMS AFTER SOLD. LUNCH STAND BY SENIOR CITIZENS LADIES.

Visit Our Website for More Photos:
www.mcmullenandwyattauctions.com

Auction for... **Dee Wolfe and Harold Curran**
McMULLEN AND WYATT AUCTIONS

113 North State — Corner of State and Lincoln, Norton, KS 67654 — 785-877-3299
Donald McMullen — Broker/Auctioneer — 785-877-2028
Robert Wyatt — Auctioneer/Salesperson — 785-877-2731

Complete Auction Service — Proven Performance of Service — Ability — Honesty