

New transportation projects designed to encourage growth

Lieutenant Governor Mark Parkinson and Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Deb Miller today said there are new transportation projects designed to help create jobs, improve safety and encourage economic growth in Kansas.

"We know that building roads creates jobs. So it's good news that Kansas will receive nearly \$380 million from the stimulus bill targeted for transportation projects," Mr. Parkinson said. "While the stimulus bill is not a long-term solution to our state's budget problems, it can spur long-term growth by putting Kansans back to work. These are important projects that will soon create thousands of jobs, enhance safety and sustain

long-term economic growth." "We picked projects that will create jobs and have a major impact on our state's economy," said Ms. Miller. "These are game-changers that couldn't have been built in the foreseeable future without this one-time stimulus funding. These projects support the state's economic goals and will continue to do so for decades."

Based on estimates from the Federal Highway Administration, Kansas stands to gain more than 10,000 jobs from these projects.

The major projects identified by the Department of Transportation include:

- \$91 million for US-69 in Overland Park for the corridor

from I-35 to 103rd Street to address congestion issues and support economic development.

- \$23 million for I-135/47th Street in Wichita for the reconstruction and upgrade of the interchange to remove the bottleneck and to provide a link to an underutilized area.

- \$11 million for K-23 in Gove County to enhance safety on 16 miles of a narrow, 50-year-old road that lacks shoulders and has steep side slopes, which creates a hazard for trucks hauling agricultural commodities and implements.

- \$88 million for K-61 in McPherson County to expand a 15-mile corridor from two lanes to four. This will enhance

safety and provide a critical link to the interstate system in south-central Kansas. This will also complete the final major Comprehensive Transportation Program commitment, for which funding fell short as a result of the economic downturn.

Additional projects and efforts identified by KDOT include:

- Beginning the initial phase of expanding K-18 between Fort Riley and Manhattan to four lanes.

- The Kansas City area will receive \$22 million for city road projects to be selected by the Mid-America Regional Council

- The Wichita area will receive \$16 million for city road

projects to be selected by the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

- KDOT will receive \$10 million for Transportation Enhancement projects such as bicycle/pedestrian trails and depot restoration.

- KDOT will receive nearly \$16 million for urban transit projects, determined by federal formula to include:

- Wichita will receive an estimated \$6.6 million

- Johnson County, \$2.8 million

- Topeka, \$2.5 million

- Unified Government of Wyandotte County, \$1.95 million

- Lawrence, \$1.93 million
- St. Joseph (Kansas side of the area), \$16,000.

- KDOT will receive nearly \$14 million for rural transit projects, to be determined.

- KDOT will also apply for millions of dollars in competitive funding for other transportation projects and airport improvements in Kansas.

- KDOT has also created a pool of \$32 million for cities and county projects outside of the Kansas City and Wichita areas. To learn more about how Kansans can take advantage of the federal stimulus package, or how businesses can bid on state contracts, please visit Governor Sebelius' Web page on the stimulus bill at <http://www.governor.ks.gov/recovery/> > www.governor.ks.gov/recovery/.

4-H members travel to Denver

By KEITH VANSKIKE
Special to The Telegram

For the past 59 years, local 4-H members of Norton County have taken part in the annual trip to Denver, and the National Western Stock Show held there, according to Keith P. VanSkiike, Norton County Extension Director. The January 2009 delegation consisted of Monte Montgomery and Keith VanSkiike, chaperones; Jade Braun and David Cressler, Prairie Dog 4-H Club; Dylan Sprigg, Busy Jayhawkers 4-H Club; Tyler Montgomery and Cassie Field, Cedar Ridge 4-H Club; and Kolton Harting and Austin Hager, Busy Beavers 4-H Club.

The delegation's funds are raised at the annual "Denver Trip Benefit" meal held each fall. They toured sites of Denver and the National Western Stock Show. The first groups of 4-H'ers were invited in 1950 to attend the stock show and tour the Central Bank of Denver by Mr. Elwood Brooks, former Norcat school teacher and businessman. Mr. Brooks, the former Chairman of the Board of the large Denver bank, wanted

the 4-H'ers to see the bank facilities and related sites surrounding the stock show.

With the help of the local businesses and friends of 4-H, we are able to take this annual trip. A group of businessmen and supporters began this program some 59 years ago for youth to attend a major event.

The youth are able to spend an afternoon at the National Western Stock Show, looking at the professional livestock shows, horse pulls and other exhibits.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo is a big treat with its variety of events and intermission shows, not to mention the rodeo clowns. At the stock show, the youth can see some of the major livestock related industries and view many different educational and commercial exhibits.

While in Denver, the delegation took the opportunity to tour the Outdoor World Sports Arena, a recreational game unit. The famous Casa Bonita Restaurant is always on the group's favorite stops, where cliff divers and Spanish musicians entertain the patrons of the

restaurant. They made a scenic stop over Look Out Mountain, west of Denver and Bill Cody's Museum. The group also had an opportunity to take in a tour of the Denver Mint.

The delegation made a stop at Rocky Mountain Sires, a commercial bull semen collection unit that is east of Denver. The group is shown some of the animals that are collected from, semen analysis, freezing and shipments. This tour gave the group more awareness of the science and technology involved in artificial insemination and embryo collection.

Before the group headed for home, they rode the downtown shuttle bus through Denver, looking at some of the historical buildings in the former Kansas territory and visited the State Capitol Building for a tour and stopped at the Hard Rock Café in Denver.

The Denver Trip Committee and this year's 2009 delegation wishes to thank the local Norton County businesses and all individuals who made it possible for them to attend the 59th Annual Denver Trip by supporting the program.

Quilters add new 'art' to library

By BEVERLY KINDLER
Special to The Telegram

There are thirteen different quilts in the exhibit at the Norton Public Library. In the Art Gallery you will find a table topper, crib quilts, wall hangings, a banner and full-sized quilts.

Thirties reproduction fabrics are featured in lap quilts made by Janice Beale and Cheryl Roberts. Janice's "Scrap Patch Heart" blocks are set on point and completed with a keyboard style border. Cheryl's work features hand-applied butterflies with the pattern "Wash Tub Butterflies."

Crib quilts were made by Kathie Skrdlant and Jerris McMullen. Kathie's quilt is titled, "Puppy Love" and made of nine patch blocks featuring plaids and checks. Don't forget to check out the paw prints! Bright, bright, bright are the purple, blue, green and red fabrics Jerris used in the crib quilt she made.

Any little one would like these colors.

Jo Pakkebieer designed a wall quilt, "Snow Chateau." Her use of appliqued snowflakes and frosted fabrics in some blocks emphasizes the snow effect of the center panel. After the snow come flowers — you will find lots of flowers in Regina Stark's full-size quilt, "Posey Applique." Notice the prairie points she used to complete the edges of the quilt. Marcia Shoemaker's quilt, "Row Upon Row Sampler," has several different motifs in the blocks that are in browns, blues and greens. Be sure to check out the machine quilting pattern. The "Rag Flag" quilt in red, white and blue was also made by Marcia Shoemaker.

Joyce Trumbo made a table topper, "Monarch Madness," with a butterfly motif that resembles stained glass work. Audrey Wiltfong also used the stained glass method to make the banner, titled "Joy." It

features colors of gold, blue, green and purple.

"Lucky Bugs" are machine applied on Alice Goscha's wall hanging. There are lots of bugs in the border fabric too.

Judi Carlyle made the wall hanging, "Kansas Walk" after visiting the Barton County Courthouse. Seven quilt block designs are set in the sidewalk at the courthouse. This is designated the Kansas Quilt Walk as a tribute to pioneer women.

"Pumpkin Spice," a wall hanging made by Sherry Rushton, highlights orange, black, gold and brown fabrics. Sherry appliqued the design motifs and hand-quilted her project.

Yvonne Sumner also made a wall hanging for the library's display.

These quilted items will be on display through the end of March. Stop at the Norton Public Library to see them as well as the displays of Precious Moments, roosters and snuff bottles.

Junior high KAYS lists activities

Twenty-five members of the Norton Junior High School KAYS Club attended a KAY Unit Conference last Tuesday at Logan High School. Sponsors Erin Manning and Jill Lively accompanied the group.

KAY Unit Conferences bring neighboring KAY clubs together in a non-competitive environment, providing the opportunity to share service project and program ideas.

The Unit Conference is designed to focus on club leadership at the local level in addition to developing teamwork as everyone participates in a conference service project.

Conference delegates return to their clubs refreshed and focused to end the school year by finishing all planned projects and functions.

KAYS is a character-building, leadership training program directed by the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

This nationally acclaimed organization provides students an opportunity to learn to assume their citizenship responsibilities and to enrich their personalities through well-organized programs. These programs emphasize four areas of service: school, community, nation and world.

Throughout the 2008-2009 school year, the Norton Junior High School KAY club has been actively involved in Heifer International, American Cancer Society, Salvation Army, Orphan Grain Train, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and God's Pantry.

Oberlin to host music performers

The Double D Wranglers will perform at 7:30 p.m. at The Gateway in Oberlin on Saturday.

The trio features award-winning yodeling, harmonies and instrumentals, all in one package.

Chris and Charity Gudel of Ainsworth, Neb., team up with Paul Siebert of Aurora, Neb., to form this new western group.

The guitar, banjo and dobro,

the fiddle, bass and harmonies make the whole western music listening experience complete.

Sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, this is a season ticket event

or \$10 for adults, and \$5 for students, grades 1 through 12 at the door.

For details, call Ella Betts, (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218.

Fur season closes

Sunday marked the close of fur-bearing season for 2009 with the exception of beaver, which runs through March 31. All fur-bearing animals "except bobcats and swift fox" must be skinned within 48 hours of the close of season. From March 18 on, all fur-bearing animals must be skinned to be legally possessed, no whole carcasses can be sold. Raw pelts of raccoon, red & grey fox and opossum may not be kept past Feb. 28. Beaver may be kept until April 30, and all other fur-bearers can be kept until March 16. If you have a bobcat or swift fox they must be pelt tagged within 7 days of the seasons' end or Feb. 22 and can be kept indefinitely with this tag. A fur-harvester license is required to sell fur-bearers even if you catch them on your own land.

A "hold-over" permit may be obtained from the local Game Warden to possess fur beyond the dates above. This would allow you to hold your fur until next year and possibly sell them for a higher price. The permit is free

of charge and the Game Warden will need to inspect and count the furs you will hold over. The game warden for this district is Larry Stones, 543-5820

JOIN US AT THE
Cardinal Bar and Grill
Norcat, Kansas
Saturday, February 28, 2009
for a Western Buffet
Roast Beef, Mountain Oysters, BBQ Ribs,
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Vegetable and Salad
\$10.50 Serving from 5-9 p.m.
Stay for Karaoke by MEL
from 8:00-Midnight

Ag Valley
Conveniently located
to serve our producers

**All Ag Valley Co-op
Locations will be CLOSED
On Saturday, February 28
For our fiscal year-end
Inventory.**

Except: C-Store in Curtis-closed 2/25/09 at 2:00
C-Store in Indianola-closed 2/26/09 at 2:00
Ampride in Oxford-closed 2/27/09 at 2:00

Ag Valley Coop Ph. 308-927-3681
P.O. Box 68 1-800-228-1352
Edison, NE 68936 www.agvalley.com

WACONDA BOATS
Annual Open House Sale Glen Elder, KS
Saturday & Sunday, Feb 28-Mar 1

2009 Lund, Larson & Starcraft
Fish and Ski Boat Packages
Starcraft Pontoons-Deckboats

Saturday - Fishing seminar by Kendall Strutt & Mike Cooper - 10 am & 2 pm
Sunday - Advanced Fishing Techniques by Prostaffers Kendall Strutt, Mike Cooper & Troy Ethridge - 1:30 pm

- Starcraft factory rep on hand with factory buyouts
- Prize drawing
- Free refreshments
- Clowns for the kids

Rebates up to \$2,000 • Factory Buyouts • Low rate financing • Top trade in allowances

Limited time offer-5 year warranty on Mercury & Honda outboard motors

Show Price (while they last)
Eagle Cuda 168 Fishfinder \$69.95
Shimano reels \$9.50 & up

Limited Factory Buyouts
Starcraft 212 Fish & Ski 4.3L \$26,745
Starcraft 192 Fish & Ski 4.3L \$24,995
2009 Larson 180 Sport 3.0L \$19,995
2009 Larson 180 Sport 4.3L \$21,995

Merc TCWIII Bulk oil - \$15.95
Merc Optimax Bulk oil - \$19.95
(bring your own jug)

www.wacondaboats.com
Show hours 8 am - 5 pm
Phone (785) 545-3545

20-30% off all wakeboards, skis, fishing & boating accessories

Lowrance factory rep demonstrating new high definition models
Factory direct sale on all units

Get Your
Norton Lions Club
ACTIVITY
AND BIRTHDAY
CALENDAR

Featuring the 2008/2009
Girls Basketball Team
Deadline March 3, 2009

For More Information Contact
Sue Urban or
Mark Keilig