

Reservation system now open

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has announced that its new (www.kdwpt.state.ks.us/State-Parks/Reservations) online reservation site is open for business. Built by Active Network, Inc., a cloud-based activity and participant management solutions provider, the new system makes it easy to find and reserve campsites and cabins in the state parks as well as cabins at certain state fishing lakes and wildlife areas. It is hosted on www.reserveamerica.com, a media property of Active Network for camping reservations. The online registration system powered by ActiveWorks cloud technology was launched on schedule just after midnight on Tuesday, April 17. The department had not taken online or phone reservations since April 1 to allow programmers to move reservations made before April 1 into the new reservation system.

The new reservation system allows the department to take its paper, and phone-based camping reservations process online for the first time, creating tremendous efficiencies for both park staff and consumers. The centralized system allows guests to search multiple camping and cabin sites simultaneously and make reservations from the comfort of their homes. In many cases, park users will save money through reduced service fees and

will be assured a site if they have made a reservation. Additionally, the system will enable park staff to more effectively manage their statewide parks and facilities, and benefit from centralized reporting and auditing.

To make campsite and cabin reservations, guests can visit the department website, www.kdwpt.state.ks.us/State-Parks/Reservations where they'll be directed to the new reservation site at www.reserveamerica.com, or they can call a state park office or the Pratt Operations Office at 620-672-5911. For the location of the nearest Kansas state park office, go to the department website and click "State Parks/Locations." For those without computers or who still prefer using a phone, park staff will be able to use the new system to help callers with reservations.

The number of campsites available for reservation will vary by park - in most parks about half of the sites can be reserved. The rest will be available through the traditional "first-come, first-served" method. Shelter and group campground reservations will continue to be made only through the park office where the facilities are located.

For more information, contact the nearest state park or phone the Pratt Operations Office, 620-672-5911, and ask for the Parks Division.

Organic initiative taking applications

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Eric B. Banks, Salina, reminds potential applicants to contact their local field office soon to find out if they are eligible for the agency's Organic Initiative. Applications for the final ranking period of 2012 are due at NRCS offices by close of business on June 1, 2012. The NRCS Office Locator is available at <http://go.usa.gov/Uo8>.

Nationwide, the service has nearly \$50 million in financial and technical assistance avail-

able to certified organic producers, those who want to make the transition to organic production and producers who sell less than \$5,000 in organic products annually.

Part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Organic Initiative offers a wide array of conservation practices specifically designed for organic production. The top six Organic Initiative conservation practices are cover crops, nutrient and pest management, seasonal high tunnels, crop rotation, and fencing.

Changes for the 2012 signups include, three ranking periods for current and transitioning producers, a threshold ranking score that can speed up approval for qualified applicants. Conservation practices are required that promote the consistent use of those practices and an expanded list of conservation activity plans.

Learn more about the Organic Initiative at <http://go.usa.gov/Uo9> and find out about other NRCS initiatives and programs at <http://go.usa.gov/UoX>.

School

(Continued from Page 1)

- bond election
- July/August 2013: Bond election committee formed
- July/August 2013: Bonding company selected by school board
- Nov. 13, 2013: Bond election

The consideration of a bond issue comes with recent discussion about the need for more facility space in the classroom, especially in regards to classroom space at Eisenhower Elementary. The school board agreed earlier this month to begin pursuing options for temporary/portable classroom space at the elementary school to accommodate higher-than-normal student enrollment.

Oath of Office



(Top right) Norton City Clerk Darla Ellis administers the oath of office to Donna Foley last Wednesday evening after Foley was re-elected to her position on the Norton City Council and (bottom right) newly elected city council member Harriett Gill finishes the oath of office and receives a certificate from the city clerk.



-Telegram photos by Carleen Bell

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Oncology - Dr. Anne O'Dea
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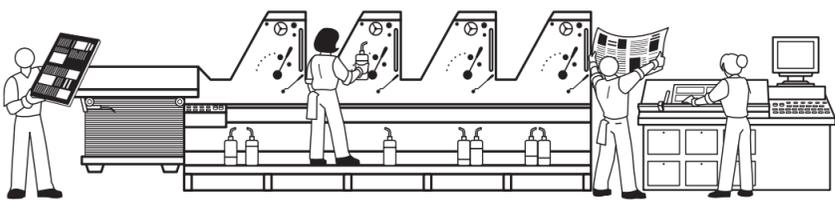
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