

Shootin' for Arkansas



The Norton Rotary BB Gun Team held a fund-raiser Saturday to help fund their upcoming trip to the national competition in Rogers, Ark. The wobble trap shoot was held at the black powder range with about 20 shooters of all ages participating. The team raised about \$1,400 for their trip. Prizes were awarded to the top shooters in every round and multiple shooting rounds were held. Pictured, Jason McKenna of Norton takes his turn at shooting the clay targets as they flew from all directions.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

Be safe during holiday travel

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.

The 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. Summer is the height of road construction and by planning ahead and using the free services available anytime, 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 also be a resource to help travelers learn about changing weather conditions.

-KanDrive, www.kandrive.org, the department's traveler information gateway for Kansas and surrounding states, provides essential information you need to plan your trip. KanDrive features include camera images, motion camera views, an interactive 511 map of Kansas roads, road conditions and work zones and links to helpful transportation resources, such as Kansas Turnpike information, Kansas Byways, weather information and metro traffic information. Much of the same information

can be accessed by calling 5-1-1 from anywhere in Kansas. -Camera snapshots of the roadway are updated every few minutes from closed-circuit cameras installed along I-70 and other highways. A camera tour is provided so travelers can select and see all camera images on a specified highway.

-Motion camera links are also provided for many cameras along I-70 between Goodland and Auburn Road west of Topeka. These can be accessed by clicking on the camera icon and then clicking on the "motion camera" link (if provided on that camera) beneath the lower right corner of the camera view. Still shots will be updated every two seconds.

-Electronic sign message views show construction, accident and safety messages currently being displayed.

-Metro Traffic Management Center websites - Traffic Management Centers in Kansas City (KC Scout) and Wichita (WICHway), use up-to-the minute information to provide travel speeds and camera views on select routes, posted messages on electronic signs and other helpful information for drivers. KanDrive provides links to KC Scout (www.kcscout.org) and WICHway (wichway.org), the new Wichita metro website. A new link at the top of the 511

Map page, "Metro Traffic Sites" now provides drop down links to metro traffic information for both of these sites.

-RSS feeds and GeoRSS feeds have recently been added to the 511 map page (<http://511.ksdot.org>).

The 511 Mobile site at <http://511mm.ksdot.org> provides map, camera and electronic message sign views, road conditions, work zone and event information and links to weather. The site is accessible from multiple devices, including iPhones, Droids and Windows mobile devices, Version 6.0 and higher. Any devices not compatible with the new application will be able to access text information only for road conditions and work zones.

511 Phone - From any phone anytime, travelers may call 5-1-1 from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S. to get route-specific road conditions, work zone information, including detours and closed roads, and travel-related weather information to plan their trips or for updates as they travel.

For everyone's safety, drivers should buckle up, safely secure children in safety seats and avoid distractions such as talking or texting on their cell phone.

Fireworks business is a total blast

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

South Bimini Island. It's New Year's Eve. A beautiful fireworks display is underway to celebrate the New Year in the Bahamas. But who is putting on this fireworks display? Would you believe, a family from the middle of Kansas? Today we'll learn about a rural Kansas family that operates a leading fireworks business.

Steve and Peggy Showalter are the founders and owners of Showalter Fireworks near Inman, Kansas. They live on Steve's family farm near Inman. Steve served in the Army and attended K-State before coming back to Inman.

Steve has always loved fireworks. Each year the Showalters would invite family members over for a big Fourth of July celebration. Steve would set off the biggest fireworks assortment he could find.

The Showalter home is located near the McPherson-Reno County line. McPherson County would allow fireworks to be set off while Reno County did not. One day in 1987, a guy from Reno County asked if he could set up a fireworks stand in one corner of their alfalfa field and then asked if his customers could set off some fireworks. When Steve saw the huge crowd that showed up, he realized this was a real opportunity.

So the next year, Steve decided to put up his own fireworks stand for the public. He built a 20- by 20-foot lean-to shed with a dirt floor and bought \$1,000 worth of fireworks. It was a big success. "The idea grew exponentially," Steve said. "By the mid-1990s, the building had

tripled in size. "We would have 1,000 cars full of people coming out to buy fireworks and then shoot the fireworks right here. They would shoot from dark till one or two in the morning."

In 1995, the Showalters had wanted to put on a special fireworks show as a thank you to their customers and neighbors, so they approached an older man who sold display fireworks. Again, it went really well. "If you ever want to retire, let us know," the couple told him. Within a year, that call came. The Showalters bought his business and expanded it through the years.

Today they have two companies: Showalter Fireworks, which sells fireworks to consumers, and Rainbow Fireworks which sells display fireworks. Those require special licenses to purchase and operate.

Rainbow Fireworks is a major source of fireworks supplies and shows. From the period of June 30 to July 5, they will be involved in 208 fireworks events in five states.

About a third of Rainbow Fireworks' business is the direct sale of fireworks. Another third is from providing the fireworks equipment to someone else to operate, and the final third consists of the turnkey shows where the Rainbow Fireworks crew operates the equipment themselves.

Town festivals are a popular venue for fireworks displays.

"What fireworks will do for a small town festival is hold everybody in town until dark," Steve said. "That's good for the vendors and helps these towns keep a crowd."

What is the key to success

in the fireworks business? "We grow the business through service," Steve said. He believes in the personal touch. "I give out my cell phone number to customers," he said. "We don't keep business hours. My cell phone is always open."

Such service has generated customers as far away as Bimini Island. Each year Steve sends a crew to the Bahamas to do a fireworks show on the Fourth of July and again on the tenth of July to celebrate the Bahamian Independence Day. Then in late December, he and Peggy make the trip to the Bahamas to put on a New Year's Eve show. Not bad for a fireworks company from the rural community of Inman, population 1,139 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information, go to www.showalterfireworks.com.

It's time to leave the Bahamas, where Steve Showalter is making a difference by sharing these fireworks displays with others. For him, this business has been a blast.

And there's more. Fireworks aren't just for the Fourth of July any more. Next week we'll learn about another side of the Showalters' fireworks business.

Fall internships available with Moran

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) recently announced he is accepting applications for congressional internships in his Washington, D.C., and Kansas offices for the 2012 fall semester.

An internship in Senator Moran's office provides a unique opportunity to work closely with Senate staff on behalf of the state of Kansas. Interns will gain a better understanding of the legislative process in the U.S. Congress, and develop knowledge and professional skills valuable to future career pursuits.

The Intern Program is open to qualified undergraduate and graduate students who have strong interest in public service and government and have achieved academic excellence. While preference is given to Kansas residents, students from

all states are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline for the fall 2012 semester is Friday, July 20. Application forms can be obtained and completed under the "Services" section of Sen. Moran's website at www.moran.senate.gov. Applicants should submit a completed application form, resume, academic transcript, two letters of recommendation and a cover letter explaining the applicant's interest in public service and goals of serving as an intern. Please submit required materials to internships@moran.senate.gov.

For questions, please contact Sen. Moran's office at internships@moran.senate.gov or call 202-224-6521 and request to speak with the Intern Coordinator.

PUBLIC RECORD

District Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the District Court clerk at the Norton County Courthouse.

Traffic and Wildlife and Parks cases are given to the paper when the fines are paid.

June 21

April 18-Saul Ortega, Garden City; Charge: Gross weight lim-

its for vehicles; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$418.

May 26-Gregory G. Solko, Atwood; Charge: Speeding 76 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$149.

May 28-Donna L. Jones, Lenora; Charge: Taking, possessing illegal length saugeye;

Found: Guilty; Fine: \$0.

June 2-Hoan Tuan Le, Denver, Colo.; Charge: Personal flotation devices not available; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$123.

May 26-Jason D. McGregor, Norton; Charge: No fishing license; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$163.

COLLEGE NEWS

Local students attending Fort Hays State University are among the 28 who who have been renewed for the \$1,000-per-semester Ralph and Lucile Hunter Scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Logan: Carri Brobst, a 2009 Logan High School graduate and college senior, is majoring in management.

Norton: Charli Lawson, a 2009 Norton Community High School graduate and college senior, is majoring in nursing.

Morgan Kauten of Norton has been named to the Spring 2012 honor roll at Emporia State University. To qualify for the semester honor roll, students must earn a minimum 3.80 semester grade point average in at least 12 graded hours.

Call Mike with all your social news. 877-3361

Leaving The Country Sale!

Diane and Chuck Kribs are leaving the country, so everything must GO.

A unique yard sale will be held on the property on the 7th-8th of July. Not much will be priced, any fair offer will be accepted for most items. Find it, bring it to the front, tell us what you want to pay and take it away. We reserve the right to reject ridiculous offers. Contents of the house, barns and shops, it all goes.!!!

Furniture, appliances, tools, sporting goods, pottery kilns, trailers, truck topper, clothing. Whatever isn't marked as a keeper (very little) is fair game.

Place is located 6 miles North of Bird City on Highway 161, 3/4 mile East on Road T. Starts at 9 a.m. Both days

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CS-570
*shown with optional enclosure lid, side shelf, and front shelf

Winchells Inc.
S. Hwy. 183, Phillipsburg, Kansas
Phone: 785-543-2118

Help Raise the Roof!

The Haven House
will be holding a benefit
Hog Roast with all the Fixins
Sat., June 30
6:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building
Shelter House to fix their roof
Come enjoy good food, friends and local entertainment!

The Haven Phone: 874-4043
813 N. GRANT, NORTON, KANSAS

Residential Real Estate Absolute AUCTION

Wednesday ~ July 11, 2012 ~ 6:00 PM
Auction at the Property: **705 M Street**
Beaver City, Nebraska
Phyllis E. Werner - Owner

Plan to attend this Absolute Residential Property AUCTION with No Minimum Bid!

The Property: This 982 sq. ft. (+/-) home has a partial basement, central heat & air and includes a Kitchen, Utility area, Living/Dining Room, 1+ Bedrooms & Bath. The exterior of this home is Wood Siding & Asphalt Shingle Roof. This property is a corner lot with plenty of room to build on, plant trees plus have a garden. Located just 4 blocks from the grocery store & "downtown" makes it convenient yet quiet. The following appliances will sell immediately following the house auction: Kenmore HD Washer, Kenmore HD Dryer, Maytag Refrigerator and Frigidaire Custom Stove.

Don't Miss This Opportunity to Purchase This Property at AUCTION!
See This Property at www.hprealty.net or Call Mary Upson 308-991-0723 to See It

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