

Parks passport to debut in 2013

Kansans who enjoy visiting the state parks can count on at least two annual rituals - renewing their vehicle registrations and buying their annual park permits. Currently, these tasks must be completed on separate occasions, at different buildings or online locations, and using separate transactions. That's about to change, thanks to a partnership between the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) and the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR).

Beginning in 2013, Kansas motor vehicle owners will be able to buy an annual park vehicle permit as part of their vehicle registration process. The permit - called a Kansas State Parks Passport - will cost \$15.00 (county treasurers can elect to add a \$0.50 service fee). This lower-price, non-transferable permit will be available only during the vehicle registration process at a motor vehicle registration office, through the online vehicle registration site (www.kswebtags.org), or when registering by mail. The Kansas State Parks Passport will expire when the vehicle registration expires a year later.

During 2013, persons who would like to purchase an annual park permit before they register their vehicles can do so at any KDWPT office, Kansas license vendor or through the KDWPT website, (www.ksoutdoors.com/License-Permits), and then request a pro-rated refund for the

difference in cost. Refund forms will be available from KDWPT state park offices or through the KDWPT website at ksoutdoors.com. Only Kansas State Park Passports purchased between Jan. 1, 2013 and June 30, 2013 will be eligible for refund.

Kansas residents (except seniors and persons with disabilities) and owners of vehicles not registered in Kansas who buy their park vehicle permits at a KDWPT office or vendor will have to pay the regular price for annual and daily permits. The regular annual park vehicle permit will cost \$25, and the daily vehicle permit fee will be \$5, including processing fees.

To save even more starting in 2013, residents 65 years of age or older or persons with disabilities who display a special license plate or placard issued pursuant to state law can buy a park vehicle permit directly from a KDWPT office or vendor. Including processing fees, the cost will be \$13.75 for annual vehicle park permits or \$3.25 for regular daily permits. These lower-priced permits will not be available as part of the vehicle registration process.

KDWPT pushed for the new passport in the 2012 legislative session. Kansas state parks receive modest funding from the state general fund but the amount has dwindled in recent years, resulting in significant challenges for park operations and maintenance.

Robin Jennison, KDWPT Sec-

retary, explained that the agency is striving to be less reliant on state general funds. "The new annual permit will provide a lower cost way for families and young people to visit our state parks. It also will help expand our customer base, and provide a more reliable, consistent revenue stream to stabilize the funding pool so we can more effectively operate our state parks. We deeply appreciate the help of the Department of Revenue to make this happen," he said.

Linda Craghead, Assistant Secretary for Parks and Tourism, added, "The Kansas State Parks Passport will make it more convenient and affordable for Kansans to enjoy our 25 state parks. It will be a great way for families to reconnect with nature and each other, and help preserve the parks for future generations. Families can enjoy a whole year of adventure and outdoor activities for less than the cost of treating the family to a night at the movies."

"We are pleased to partner with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to offer this customer service feature which will make it easier for all Kansans to visit our state parks," said KDOR Vehicles Director Donna Shelite.

Information about the new Kansas State Parks Passport will be included in the registration renewal notice sent to vehicle owners each year.

The state of the workforce



State officials from the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, and the Kansas Board of Regents visited the Natoma Corporation on Tuesday, along with five other communities across Kansas, to promote the state's effort to build a certified, highly qualified workforce for business and industry in the state. (Pictured from left to right) Natoma Corporation President Gail Boller gives a tour of the facility to Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George, Interim Labor Secretary Lana Gordon, Kansas Board of Regents Dr. Blake Flanders, and Director of Workforce Training and Education Services Kathryn Hund.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Giving the gift of an education

More than 9,400 academic scholarships have been awarded to Kansas State University students for the 2012-2013 school year. Overall, students have earned more than \$19.2 million in scholarships for the current academic year -- nearly \$1 million more than the previous year.

Most of the scholarships are made possible through donations and gifts to the Kansas State University Foundation. Information on the university's student financial assistance is available at <http://www.k-state.edu/sfa>.

Students receiving scholarships totaling more than \$1,000 include:

Almena: Ashley Constable, President's Excellence Scholarship; Tyler Montgomery, Calvin H. Grove Scholarship, Dane G. Hansen Foundation Scholarship, and Leadership Scholarship
Norton: Maia Carlson, Dane G. Hansen Foundation Scholarship, and Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence; Mariah Farber, Eric Haskins Memorial Scholarship, Medallion Scholarship, and Dane G. Hansen Foundation Scholarship; Tonielle Fiscus, Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence; Marcus Herman, Capitol Federal Scholarship; Logan Kelly, Arthur B. Sperry Memorial Scholarship Fund, and Chesapeake Energy Corporation Distinguished Scholars; Taylor Meder, Heritage Award; Kyle Mindrup, Phebe Bissell Memorial Scholarship in Engineering; Kaylen Rossi, Dane G. Hansen Foundation Scholarship; Bethany Roy, Dr. Richard and Marcia Petracek Wiltfong Family Scholarship, Ruth Hoeflin Home Economics Scholarship, Phebe Bissell Memorial Scholarship in Human Ecology, and Dane G.

Hansen Foundation Scholarship; KaraJo Sprigg, June D. Hull Sherrid Cancer Center Scholarship and Education Fund, and Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence.

The First Church of God Choir
will be performing a Christmas Cantata
"Let There Be Light" on
Sunday, December 16 at 10:45 a.m.
at the First Church of God.

The musical will be narrated by Phil Loughry and will feature solos by Wanda Vincent, Scott Kentfield, Larry Hillman, Bev Burns, and Terry Hillman. The choir is directed by Kollean Stewart.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO GRANT PROGRAM

As part of a mitigation project, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and Emergency Management are currently gathering interest from the citizens of Norton County to determine the level of need for NOAA weather radios. Please contact the Emergency Management office to let me know if you would be interested in having the ability to purchase a NOAA weather radio at a discounted cost.

If there is enough interest collected for our county the application for grant consideration will be submitted for approval to the State of Kansas.

You can contact emergency management in several ways: 1.) email nortonemd@gmail.com; 2.) call 785-877-5750, or 3.) send us a message on our Facebook Page under Norton County Emergency Management (Kansas). Please remember to include your full name and address when sending your email. Future updates to the NOAA Weather Grant program will be provided through various media sources.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NCHS
Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 17-19
Java Jive Auditions
Monday, Dec. 17
Jay Singers perform at Whispering Pines, 7:45 a.m.
FCCLA Christmas Party, A.P.
Tuesday, Dec. 18
Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
S.I.T. Meeting, 7:45 a.m.
Student Focus Group, A.P.
C/JV/V basketball vs. Cambridge, Neb., 4 p.m.
Wrestling at Phillipsburg, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 19
Red Cross Blood Drive at JH Gym, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 20
Final Exams
Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
Jay Singers perform at the Santa House, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 21
Final Exams
Saturday-Thursday, Dec. 22-27
KSHSAA No practice dates: USD 211 Gyms are closed
NJHS
Saturday-Thursday, Dec. 22-27

KSHSAA No practice dates: USD 211 Gyms are closed
EES
Monday, Dec. 17
Christmas Concert rehearsal at East Campus, 8:30 a.m.
Christmas Concert at East Campus, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 19
S.I.T. Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
TEAM Meeting, 3:40 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 20
Grade 1 Gingerbread Houses, 2 p.m.
5th and 6th Grade Level Meeting, 3:40 p.m.
Northern Valley
Monday, Dec. 17
7-12 Christmas program in Almena, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 18
HS BB vs. Wilcox-Hildreth in Almena, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 20
Officer Commissioning Ceremony in the Big Gym in Almena, 3:15
JH BB vs. Heartland Christian in Almena, 4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 21
End 2nd 9 weeks/First Semester-school dismissed at 1:15 p.m., Long Island, 1 p.m.

SCHOOL MENU

Norton Jr.-Sr. High Schools Menu
Monday, Dec. 17
Breakfast-Biscuit w/ham and cheese, fruit or juice, or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.
Lunch-Roast beef and cheddar roll-up, corn, carrots, pears or chef salad and milk.
Tuesday, Dec. 18
Breakfast-Breakfast burrito, hash brown patty, fruit or juice, or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.
Lunch-Chicken wrap, onions and green peppers, lettuce, chopped tomato and shredded cheese, strawberry/banana fruit cup or chef salad and milk.
Wednesday, Dec. 19
Breakfast-Apple cinnamon muffin square, fruit or juice, or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.
Lunch-Chili Frito, shredded cheese, carrots and celery, rosy applesauce, or chef salad.
Friday, Dec. 21
Breakfast-Biscuit and sausage gravy, fruit or juice, or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.
Lunch-Cheese pizza, combo salad, green beans, applesauce

or chef salad and milk.
EES Menu
Monday, Dec. 17
Breakfast-Golden waffles, warm syrup, fruit cocktail, apple juice, milk, and toast with peanut butter.
Lunch-Pizza roll-ups, tossed salad, pears, green beans and milk.
Tuesday, Dec. 18
Breakfast-Applesauce muffins, peaches, grape juice, milk, and toast with peanut butter.
Lunch-Potato boats, baked beans, fruit cocktail, whole wheat roll and milk.
Wednesday, Dec. 19
Breakfast-Canadian bacon/cheese, biscuit, orange juice, milk, and toast with peanut butter.
Lunch-Macaroni and cheese, little smokies, cooked carrots, rosy applesauce, pepper strips, french bread and milk.
Thursday, Dec. 20
Breakfast-Sausage pancake stick, warm syrup, strawberry fruit cup, apple juice, milk, and toast with peanut butter.
Lunch-Sloppy Joe, homemade bun, half corn, sweet potato tots, kiwi and milk.
Friday, Dec. 21
Breakfast-Breakfast burrito, orange juice, milk, and toast with peanut butter.
Lunch-Peanut butter and honey sandwich, cottage cheese, warm peas, celery stick, Mandarin oranges and milk.
NVHS Menu
Monday, Dec. 17
Breakfast-French toast, hash browns, applesauce, or assorted

cold cereal.
Lunch-Beef vegetable soup, crackers, relish plate, hot roll and apricots.
Tuesday, Dec. 18
Breakfast-Breakfast taco, hash browns, diced pears, or assorted cold cereal.
Lunch-Stromboli, french fries, pork-n-beans and applesauce cake.
Wednesday, Dec. 19
Breakfast-Breakfast pizza, hash browns, grape juice, or assorted cold cereal.
Lunch-Parmesan chicken, whole wheat roll, buttered broccoli and sliced peaches.
Thursday, Dec. 20
Breakfast-Banana bread, links, eggs, pineapple, or assorted cold cereal.
Lunch-Mexi-tot Supreme, tossed salad w/dressing, buttered peas and carrots and pear half.
Friday, Dec. 21
Breakfast-Pancakes, syrup, hash browns, juice, or assorted cold cereal.
Lunch-Shaved turkey, bun, french fries, buttered green beans and applesauce.

You're Invited to Our
Open House
In Our Lobby On
Wednesday, December 19, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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