

The power of travel in Kansas

Travel and tourism is a Kansas powerhouse industry, according to a 2011 study recently released by Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism (KDWPT). The study on the benefits of travel and tourism was conducted by IHS Consulting, a firm that measures the contribution of travel and tourism to an economy. For study purposes, visitors were defined as residents or non-residents who travel more than 50 miles, make non-commuting day trips and all overnight stays. The results include:

In 2011, Kansas received 32 million visitors generating tourism expenditures of \$8 Billion

The average visitor in Kansas spent \$236.

In terms of jobs, tourism was the third largest industry in the state, directly and indirectly employing 148,228 Kansans

Only 217 visitors are required to create a new job in Kansas

Tourism was responsible for 4.4 percent of the total Kansas gross state product; yet, tourism activity provided 14.4 percent of all state and local tax receipts.

Tourism provided \$917 in tax

relief to each Kansas household.

Kansas state and local tax receipts equaled \$32 per visitor.

Travel and tourism industry leaders in cities across Kansas will be promoting the Kansas Power of Travel message during National Travel & Tourism Week, May 4-12. A tradition first celebrated in 1984, this week will also launch the "Kansas Power of Travel Coalition." This newly formed coalition was organized as a grassroots effort to showcase the power of travel in Kansas.

The Kansas travel community has celebrated National Tourism Week for many years. From staging state and local rallies to conducting social media outreach campaigns to recognizing all levels of industry workers, the underlying goal has been to communicate the economic significance of the travel industry at state and local levels. The new Kansas Power of Travel Coalition will help communicate the economic impact of travel and tourism statewide.

Kansas Power of Travel will leverage the collective strength

of everyone who benefits from travel in Kansas, thus continue to grow this industry.

"By forming new partnerships and providing effective communication through Kansas Power of Travel, the industry will collectively demonstrate the positive impact travel has on the state and communities," said Becky Blake, KDWPT Tourism Director. "National Travel & Tourism Week is the perfect opportunity to formalize this concerted new effort in Kansas."

All businesses and employees who recognize the value of the travel and tourism industry are encouraged to support the Kansas Power of Travel Coalition. Coalition members will have access to the latest research and trends; marketing partnership opportunities; industry news; educational opportunities and special promotions and events.

For more information about the impact of travel and tourism to Kansas and the "Kansas Power of Travel" Coalition visit: www.travelks.com/industry/ks-power-of-travel.

Great meal for a cause



Virginia and David Will take advantage of the spaghetti dinner held at the Norton Community Center last Saturday. There were 80 people served at this meal which was a fundraiser for the center.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Families for exchange students sought

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), in cooperation with the local high school, is looking for local families to host boys and girls between the ages of 15 to 18 from a variety of countries; Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy and Japan, to name a few.

ASSE students come with an enthusiasm to practice their English and experience American culture—food, sports, shopping and more. They also love to share their own culture with

their host families. Host families welcome these students into their family, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving both the students and families a rich cultural experience.

In addition, ASSE students have pocket money for personal expenses; and full health, and accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are academically selected into the program, and host families can choose their students from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and per-

sonal interests.

To become a host family or to find out how to become involved with ASSE in your community, please call our ASSE Midwestern Regional Office at 1-800-736-1760 or go to www.host.asse.com to begin your host family application. There are many students to choose from, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter into your family today.

Trust fund workshop offered in Dodge

The Kansas Historical Society announced it will present a Heritage Trust Fund (HTF) grant workshop 1 -- 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 7 in the Occidental Room of Boot Hill Museum at 500 West Wyatt Earp Boulevard, Dodge City. This free workshop includes information on the 2014 HTF grant application process and grant administration procedures.

Workshop attendance is not mandatory to apply for a HTF grant, but it is highly recommended. Advance registration is requested. For more information and to

register, contact Marsha at 785-272-8681, ext. 240, or mail to: cultural_resources@kshs.org.

Additional presentations of this workshop are scheduled for June 27 in Hutchinson and July 16 in Topeka.

The Heritage Trust Fund grant program funds projects for properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the Register of Historic Kansas Places. Qualifying expenses include professional fees and construction costs. Properties owned by the state or federal governments are not eligible. Individual grant awards may

not exceed \$90,000 and must be matched by the grant recipient. The deadline for the 2014 round of HTF grant applications is November 1, 2013. For more information about HTF grants or to apply, visit kshs.org/14617 <<http://kshs.org/p/heritage-trust-fund/14617>>.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.

JENNINGS NEWS

On the chilly evening of April 18, Jennings Book Club members arrived at the home of Terri Hanke carrying plates of cookies. As they munched on sugary treats and warmed up with coffee, hot tea, and lemonade, members Helen Rhodes, Lynn Tacha, Joan McKenna, Alice Mizer, Patty Foster, Ruth Chance, Sue Long, Kathy Nauer, and Terri Hanke reviewed the adventures of Pi Patel in the novel "The Life of Pi" by Yann Martel. A cookie exchange concluded the meeting when plates were filled with snicker doodles, rum balls, chocolate chip, chocolate mint, sugar, oatmeal raisin, and apple-sauce cookies, plus brownies and many other delicious cookie treats. The entertaining detective

story "Dreadful Water Shows Up" by Hartley Goodweather was distributed by Lynn Tacha for members to read and discuss in May.

Bob and Neoma Tacha, Dona and Eugene Mrstik and Lila Jennings drove to Colby Saturday, April 20 to attend the 6th District American Legion and Auxiliary Convention held at the American Legion in Colby.

Those enjoying playing pinochle Wednesday at the Sunflower Senior Center were: Stan and Ramona Shaw, Agnes Wahlmeier, Carol Carter, Eleanor Morel, Diane Carter, Wayne and Louise Cressler.

Several Jennings residents arrived at the Community Hall front steps at 8 a.m. Saturday

morning to start clean-up day in Jennings. There was a brisk, cool wind blowing, but did not hamper the workers from cleaning up many lots in our town. Tree limbs were hauled to the Jennings Landfill, three truck loads of other debris was hauled to the Oberlin landfill. Also two large trailers are loaded to go to the Norton Iron.

Jana Slansky, Stockton, visited her mother, Imogene Keenan over the weekend and attended church with her.

Becky Carter has been teaching a children's Sunday School class each Sunday at 10 a.m. Some have been going to church with their parents. It is always nice to have children in church.

NEW ALMELO NEWS

By Betty Otter
Funeral services were held April 10 at St. Joseph Church at New Almelo for Doral Allen, 84, of Ozawkie. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery at New Almelo. Doral was born in rural Norton County, graduated from Lenora High School in 1947, married Rosalie Mindrup and to this union three sons, Jerry, John and James, and a daughter, Pam, were born. Also surviving are six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a sister,

Alene Hickert. Grandparents, Tom and Gayle James and George and Vickie Gassmann, attended the Baptism of their grandson, Luke Victor James, on April 14 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. He is the son of Wes and Alice James. His Godparents were, Caitlin James, Holton, and Jeremy Gassmann, Lee's Summit, Mo. Others also attending were Connie Gassmann, Colby; Brandi Gassmann and girls, Lee's Summit, Mo.; Randy and

Beth Gassmann and family, New Almelo; and Oliver Buel, Holton.

Family coming to the home of Alfred and Betty Otter on April 13 were Tina and Will Ritter and family, Olathe; on April 20 Tom Otter, DeSoto, came to do some turkey hunting.

Granddaughter Alyssa Owens, Hays, spent the weekend of April 20 with Gary and Bertie Bruinekool.

Monitor your own health with Decatur Health System's Direct Access Testing, available starting May 1

Did you know you can order lab tests without a doctor's order? Direct Access Testing has been growing in popularity over the past few years. There are many benefits to direct testing:

- No doctor's order required
- No insurance or Medicare involvement
- Confidential results directly to you
- Tests offered at a discounted rate
- Walk-ins welcome

Just print the testing form on our website, www.decatourhealthsystems.org, fill it out at home and bring it in, or ask for a form at the hospital front desk. No appointments are necessary. The following tests are available:

DAT CBC.....	\$25
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DAT PT/INR	\$20
DAT Glucose	\$20
DAT TSH (thyroid)	\$20
DAT Alcohol	\$20
DAT PSA	\$35
DAT Hgb A1C	\$30
DAT Urinalysis.....	\$15
DAT Urine Pregnancy Test...	\$15
DAT Strep Screen.....	\$20
DAT Mono Screen	\$25
DAT Blood Type and Rh	\$25
DAT Urine Drug Screen	\$50
DAT Influenzae Screen	\$30



Tests will be performed on-site in our CLIA-certified, full-service laboratory and mailed directly to the patient. Direct Access Testing will be available 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, holidays excepted.



For more information about this new service, visit www.decatourhealthsystems.org or call laboratory manager Jodi Votapka, MT (ASCP), at 475-2208 x256.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM
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