Kansas Wildlife, Parks is all set to celebrate 100th birthday

PRATT — On Saturday, Oct. 1, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) will culminate a year of events commemorating the agency's 100th anniversary with the KDWP Centennial Celebration. The event will take place at the Pratt Operations Office, two miles east and one mile south of

Pratt, from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. The day will be filled with activities geared to every outdoor interest. Events, contests, exhibits, displays, and demonstrations will be held, and the Pratt Employees Group will operate a food concession featuring buffalo burgers and hot dogs with all the trim-

mings. Events and contests will include the following:

• team relay event —

the Pratt Recreation Department will organize a running, biking, and canoeing relay, which will begin in downtown Pratt and finish at the Pratt office by 9 a.m.;

• kids fishing pond — the KDWP Fisheries and Wildlife Division will organize a kids fishing contest, for three age categories. Prizes for contest winners;

• general fishing — Centennial Pond will be open for catch and release fishing by all ages; and

• canoeing.

Those looking for education or information will find KDWP staff manning booths and conducting training seminars on outdoor skills. Among the displays and demonstrations currently scheduled are the following:

- hatchery tours;
- education center tours;
- Laser Shot system;

• K-9 Unit;

Law Enforcement Division patrol boats;
Fisheries and Wildlife Division shocker boat:

- flint napping;
- trophy scoring;
- tackle making;

• retriever demonstration;

- flyfishing; and
- archery.

The event will also be an opportunity visitors learn more about the state's conservation organizations. The following organizations will man exhibits:

• Christian Food Bank;

Ducks Unlimited;
Kansas Farmer and Hunters Feeding the Hungry;

• Kansas Furharvesters Federa-

tion;

- Kansas Sport Hunting Association;
 Kansas Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation;
 - Pheasants Forever;
 - Pratt Tribune;
 - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation;
 - Kansas Wildlife Officers Association;

 Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education; and

• Kansas Wildscape.

The newly-developed Centennial Pond will be dedicated around lunch time with a number of state and local dignitaries on hand. This promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime celebration of outdoor Kansas, so everyone interested in hunting, fishing, boating, or nature in general is invited.

For more information, phone 620-672-5911.

Hunting licenses, stamps, deer permits are available

Kansas hunters can now purchase hunting licenses, deer permits, Harvest Information Program (HIP) stamps, and other issues from their homes, either through online purchase or by calling 1-800-918-2877, toll-free. To purchase from your home or office computer, click "Online Sales" at the top of the page.

In addition to the home purchase option, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) much-anticipated automated licensing system is in operation at KDWP offices, select license vendors, and Wal-Mart locations, the agency has announced. Other vendors will be added to the system in the coming weeks.

With the new system, Kansas hunters are now able to purchase over-the-counter big game permits online for the first time. Such permits include resident firearms and ar-

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There are a variety of advantages to this automated system. Hunters will enjoy the convenience of a streamlined, automated licensing service wherever licenses are sold. With point-of-sale electronic licensing, no longer will hunters or clerks have to fill out hand-written forms, and the waiting time for purchase should be greatly reduced. The new systems will provide more convenient access to licenses and permits for anyone who hunts, fishes, boats, or visits state parks in Kansas.

The system will be paid for by minimal fees, ranging from 50 cents to \$1.15, attached to each license, permit, or registration sold.

Steps can reduce mosquitoes

As the weather changes, the annoying presence of mosquitoes can put a damper on outdoor activities in the summer and fall. But there are things you can do to reduce mosquito populations and enjoy your backyard again.

Mosquitoes are a public health threat as well as annoying, and we all need to pay attention to the risks. To take action in the fight against the public health risks of mosquitoes, learn what your community is doing to control mosquitoes. Take an active role in protecting yourself, your family, your neighbors and your community by proactively looking for ways to reduce mosquito populations around your home.

The National Pest Management Association has the following tips to help control mosquitoes:

• Eliminate breeding sites by cleaning out gutters and other areas where standing water may be present, such as birdbaths, ponds and nonfiltered swimming pools. • Screen windows, doors and other openings with mesh.

• Remove unneeded vegetation and trash from around any standing water sources that cannot be changed, dumped or removed.

•Use insect repellent containing DEET (N,Ndiethyl-meta-toluamide) on exposed skin and clothes.

• Introduce mosquito-eating fish such as gambusia, green sunfish and minnows to standing water.

•Contact a pest control professional to inspect in and around your home or business to locate potential breeding sites and advise you on control methods. Many pest control professionals now offer mosquito control services.

Taking these steps and enlisting the help of a pest control professional will help reduce mosquito populations and provide months of warm weather fun.

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