

Online information gateway connects Kansas travelers to helpful information for planning safer, better travel statewide

How are road conditions east of Topeka on I-70? Is there a traffic accident slowing my evening commute? Where are work zones on Kansas highways?

These are some of the questions that drivers can find answers to, thanks to KanDrive, www.KanDrive.org.

KanDrive, operated by the Kansas Department of Transportation, connects travelers to helpful, relevant information to plan safe, enjoyable journeys in Kansas. Site features include:

An interactive map of Kansas roads, work zones, traffic incidents and surface-related weather conditions, <http://511.ksdot.org>.

Snapshots from more than 30 closed-circuit cameras along I-70 between Topeka and Colorado and along other highways in the state, as well as camera views

from the KC Scout system.

Important messages displayed on roadside dynamic message signs that advise travelers of key weather-related driving issues, traffic accidents, work zones, and AMBER Alerts.

Links to related helpful transportation resources, including KC Scout; the future Wichita Traffic Management Center; state, county and city travel maps; links to neighboring states' travel information, Kansas Turnpike information and resources on preparing for winter travel, rest area locations, Scenic Byways and more.

"KDOT created KanDrive to increase awareness among travelers, commuters and truck drivers of our intelligent transportation services, especially the roadside cameras, message signs and 511 system," said Barb Blue, KDOT spokeswoman.

"KanDrive reflects KDOT's commitment to using technology

to benefit the safety, convenience and awareness of motorists in the state of Kansas."

KanDrive is a portal that displays information from Kansas Department of Transportation's traveler information technology, including highway cameras, dynamic message signs, traffic management centers and 511 phone, online and mobile, <http://511mm.ksdot.org>.

It will also include Wi-Fi connections and kiosks planned for some rest areas and state parks.

Kansas Department of Transportation offers services such as those available through KanDrive to help travelers make informed travel decisions.

For everyone's safety, Kansas Department of Transportation encourages drivers to plan their trips before they go and not to use your cell phone or personal access devices while driving.

to have more time away to spend with my family and my grandchildren," Vollertsen said.

Vollertsen said that phase will last three years after which Rice and his wife Abby will purchase the business.

"Chase and Abby both grew up in Smith Center and are quite familiar with the closeness and bond that the people of small towns have with each other. They want the same for their children and are excited to make Norton

their home and build a business here," he said.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," Rice said.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your business and the trust you have in me as your pharmacist."

"I will continue to work at the store and will help you anyway I can with your pharmacy needs in these economically challenging times," Vollertsen said.

## Downtown

(Continued from Page 1) fet's. The drugstore will change ownership but will stay in the same location.

Steve Vollertsen, owner, sent a letter to pharmacy customers detailing the change which calls for Chase Rice, pharmacist, to take over as manager and chief pharmacist. Vollertsen will continue to work at the drugstore.

"I will continue to work at the drugstore and mentor Chase as needed but hopefully will begin

## Winner

(Continued from Page 1) Whitt is originally from Norton, although she has lived in Missouri, Texas and Topeka before returning in 2003. She graduated from Colby Community College's Norton Annex in 1994 with

her licensed practical nurse degree. She is currently enrolled at the school in the registered nurse program, and she also works at the Andbe Home.

"I have about as good a job as anyone could ask for," she said.

Whitt hopes to become involved in domestic violence or alcohol abuse work after becoming a registered nurse.

"I want to be an advocate for domestic abuse victims," she said.

## JENNINGS NEWS

The snow storm is the big news in western Kansas. With a foot of snow and high winds there were many families cancelling their Christmas Day plans.

Troy and Anne LaRue, Fulton, Missouri; Jared LaRue, a student at the University of Columbus in Missouri; Jessica and Chris Jaeger, Kansas City, Missouri arrived Thursday to celebrate Christmas with Troy's parents, Martin and Darlene LaRue. On Saturday evening Marge and Daryl Hartzog; Steve Hartzog, Garland, Texas; Stan Hartzog and Becky Carter joined the group at Martin and Darlene's. Christmas Day guests of Daryl and Marge Hartzog were their children, Scott and Tracey Hartzog, Norcatour; Steve Hartzog, Garland, Texas; Stacey and Jocelyn Hartzog and Allison, Olathe; Stann Hartzog and Becky Carter. Steve will remain a few days to visit.

Rebecca and Brock Peterson, Will and Henry, DeMotte, Indiana; Amy and Doug Osborn, Olathe, spent several days with their parents, Mike and Joan McKenna, over the Christmas holiday.

Those braving the winter weather to join them on Christmas Day included: Brett and Tracey McKenna, Claflin; Maxine Sauvage, Bill Sauvage and Pat Chard, Oberlin; John and Donna Sauvage, Selden; Trudy Stockham, Norton; Nikole and Nathan DeWitt, Ethan and Macy, Inman; Amanda and Lyle Davidson, Spencer and Shelby, Delphos.

Guests at the Greg and Paula McKenna, Marlee, Landee, Halle and Baylee home in Selden for Christmas Eve supper were Rebecca and Brock McKenna, Will and Henry, Demotte, Indiana; Amy and Doug Osborn, Olathe; Sarah McKenna, Topeka;

Jacque McKenna, Iowa City, Iowa; Marcus McKenna, Hays; D'Ann Basart, Rylan, Jalen and Rick, Mankato; Nick and Kathy Otter, Sean Otter, Hoxie; Mike and Joan McKenna; Pat and Shelley McKenna, Chris McKenna and Jerry McKenna.

Imogene Keenan and family enjoyed their Christmas celebration Sunday held at the Sunflower Senior Center.

There was no Christmas Eve services or Sunday morning worship services at the United Methodist Church in Jennings because of the weather.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Helen Derby, rural Dresden. Helen died Saturday December 26 at Oberlin. She was a school teacher at Jennings school for many years. Her funeral was held Tuesday, December 29 at the Dresden United Methodist Church.

## NORCATUR NEWS

Senior Citizens met Dec. 18 at the Educational Building. There were 12 players present.

Winners were Eleanor Jenson, June Jolly, and Pastor Larry Danforth. Next meeting will be Jan. 15.

Results of the pool tournament at the Cardinal Bar & Grill on Dec. 16 were: 1st-Sam Stapp; 2nd-Bill Ellis; 3rd-Stan Miller; 4th-Von Johnston.

Results of the darts tournament on Dec. 16 were: Game 1, 1st-Alice Barnett, 2nd-Kristi Gallentine, 3rd-Dolores Gallentine; Game 2, 1st-Patty Stapp, 2nd-Dolores Gallentine, 3rd-Alice Barnett.

The Norcatour Youth Group went caroling Dec. 20. Ten youths and seven adults met at the Educational Building to start the route. An excited group boarded the trailer lined with straw bales and pulled by a pickup.

They spent about an hour and a half on the streets singing carols and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. It was a beautiful afternoon and we hope the town enjoyed seeing this special activity by the youth group.

They all ended the event at the

Ed Building having hot chocolate and spiced apple cider with cookies and brownies.

The Norcatour City Mayor and City Council would like to thank everyone that voted in the recent election.

Eighty-three per cent of the registered voters voted. The vote to accept Ordinance #4 passed 50 to 31 votes.

Don't forget the Decatur County Helping Hands for Healthcare organization when making your end of the year donations, DCHH is a non profit organization that assists residents of Decatur County with their healthcare financial needs.

We have helped people in Decatur County with expenses for medical bills & fuel to the doctor.

As many of you know the grade school section of the city building needs a new roof put on. The City Council is going to be getting bids to put on an A framed roof on the grade school section of the building.

Several people have said they would be interested in donating money to help the city out with this project.

We are asking for pledges from you so we know how much people are willing to give toward this project, to see it it is even feasible for the city to do. You can contact Chris at the office with your pledge.

For help  
with your  
advertising  
needs please  
give Dana  
a call 877-  
3361

## Disaster

(Continued from Page 1) to have bridges inspected every two years.

Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste supervisor, informed the commission that the facility was recently inspected for compliance and passed with no violations. Inspections may increase.

## Teens

(Continued from Page 1) younger must have successfully completed an approved Driver's Education course (it is not required if the driver is applying at age 16).

A Full (Unrestricted) License is available at age 17, if first time applicant, not including instruction permit. To receive a full, unrestricted license, teens must pass vision, written and driving exams; must provide proof of age and identification; and a signed affidavit of parent or guardian, stating applicant has completed at least 50 hours of adult (at least age 21) supervised driving with at least 10 of those hours being at night.

A Farm Permit can be issued at a minimum age of 14. The driver must reside on a farm (a parcel of land larger than 20 acres used in agricultural operations), or be employed for compensation on a farm. The Farm Permit is issued only with a written application of parent/guardian.

The Motorcycle License has the same restrictions as a Farm Permit. The operator must be accompanied by an adult (at least 21 years of age) who holds a valid class M driver's license. The supervising rider must be operating a motorcycle in the general proximity of the licensee.

Teen drivers also face new revocations or suspensions if they are not abiding by the law. A Restricted License shall be suspended for any violation of restrictions. If a GDL driver is involved in two or more accidents

The commission spoke with Gary Matson about the heating system. The line is building up a sand product, which plugs the heating element. The commission suggested looking into a filter system or contacting a firm for advice on maintenance.

The commission held a telephone conference call with Ralph

Frissore, Caremark Prescription drug card. There have been some questions since the county started using the card. Frissore said he would touch base with participating pharmacies.

The next Norton County Commission meeting will be held Jan. 18.

chargeable to the licensee, the license shall be suspended and not reinstated for one year. If a GDL driver is under the age of 16 and is convicted of two or more moving traffic violations committed on separate occasions they shall not be eligible to receive the full (unrestricted) license until age 17. If under the age of 17, but at least 16, and convicted of two or more moving traffic violations committed on separate occasions, the driver will not be eligible to receive a full (unrestricted) license until age 18.

More information on the GDL and the specific restrictions of each permit/license is available on the following web sites:

- [www.ktsro.org/images/KDOT\\_GDL%20Law%20Card\\_lowres.pdf](http://www.ktsro.org/images/KDOT_GDL%20Law%20Card_lowres.pdf)
- [www.ktsro.org/images/Teen%20Pages/GDL\\_Brief\\_Final.pdf](http://www.ktsro.org/images/Teen%20Pages/GDL_Brief_Final.pdf)
- [www.kansashighwaypatrol.org/general/gdl.html](http://www.kansashighwaypatrol.org/general/gdl.html)

The Patrol would also like to remind motorists about two other traffic legislations that were effective in July—the "Right Lane Law" and the "Move It Law."

The "Right Lane Law," or Senate Bill 145, prohibits vehicles on highways outside the corporate limits of any city, divided into two or more lanes of traffic proceeding in the same direction, from being operated in the far left lane, except when:

- Overtaking and passing another vehicle;
- Preparing to make a proper left turn;

• Otherwise directed by official traffic-control devices; or

• Otherwise required by other provisions of law. (e.g. Stopped emergency or maintenance vehicles).

These provisions do not apply to authorized emergency vehicles, including those operated by law enforcement officers. Kansas Turnpike Authority and Kansas Department of Transportation vehicles performing construction or maintenance work are also exempt from this legislation.

House Bill 2147, referred to as the "Move It Law," mandates that drivers of non-hazardous materials transporting vehicles involved in non-injury crashes on interstate, U.S. highways, or any divided or multi-lane roadways in the state move vehicles out of the lane of traffic if it is safe to do so. This is intended to help keep drivers and passengers safe by getting them out of the lane of traffic, and away from oncoming vehicles.

If vehicles can be driven, move them to a safe location such as a shoulder or the nearest exit to exchange information or to contact law enforcement. Law enforcement should always be called if:

- there are injuries;
- a vehicle cannot be moved;
- one of the drivers appears to be intoxicated;
- damage exceeds \$1,000;
- one of the drivers has no insurance; or
- one of the drivers leaves the scene of the crash.

This year, my New Year's resolution is to...

- ...expect the best customer service and a local store near me.
- ...save money on my wireless bill.
- ...get unlimited texting and data for my family.
- ...receive personalized face-to-face attention for my business account.

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