

Honoring veterans in Beaver City



(From left) Mark Hutchens, Lyle Hutchens and Delbert Beins marked Memorial Day at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Beaver City with cannon fire. Area Memorial Day services were held over the weekend to honor veterans. —Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

New seatbelt law is signed

A new state law requiring all drivers and front-seat passengers to buckle up their seat belt becomes effective on June 19. Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson signed the law on Thursday amending the state's seat belt law. Drivers and front-seat passengers who are not wearing safety belts may be ticketed even if an officer did not see another traffic violation.

Kansas is the 31st state to enact a primary seat belt law. The law goes into effect on June 10. Until June 30, officers will be giving warnings. Beginning June 30, they will be issuing tickets.

"The passage of the primary seat belt bill is a great traffic safety improvement which will positively impact Kansas families and travelers. Law enforcement officers know many fatalities in the state could have been prevented, had the person simply fastened their safety belt," said Patrol Superintendent, Colonel Terry Maple. "With the passage of a primary seat belt law, we expect to see voluntary seat belt usage increase. We appreciate all of the work put in to pass this life-saving legislation."

The new law makes it a secondary violation for adults in the back

seat, which means they would only receive a ticket if the driver was stopped for another violation. This does not affect the existing law for anyone under 18; it is still a primary offense if they are unrestrained anywhere in the vehicle, Maple said.

"Wearing a safety belt is the simplest thing any of us can do to keep ourselves safe while riding in a car or truck," said Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Deb Miller. "If you haven't been buckling up for yourself or for those who count on you to return home safely every day, do it now because it's the law."

When worn correctly, safety belts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent — and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans. That research becomes significant when coupled with KDOT statistics showing only 30 percent of people killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2008 were buckled in at the time of the crash. Currently, Kansas' safety belt use rate is 77 percent, which is one of the lowest in the nation (43rd out of 50 states) and well below the national average of 84 percent.

Highway 36 meeting scheduled

Members of the U.S. 36 Highway Association will meet Thursday and Friday in Scandia to hear reports from Missouri, Kansas and Illinois highway departments and get the results of a long-awaited economic study of widening the road.

The association's annual meeting begins with a reception and registration from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Tags Grill and Bar meeting room, sponsored by Jim's Mini Storage.

The meeting continues with reports from the state transportation agencies and the Federal Highway Administration.

Mayor Gary Cline will greet the group, and Steve Haynes of Oberlin, president of the association, will preside. Coffee and rolls will be provided by Astra Bank and PK Collections.

Speaker for the noon luncheon will be Linda Sutton of the North Central Kansas Small Business Development Center.

After lunch, Dr. Preston Gilson and Dr. Gary Brinker of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University will discuss the results of their study of the economic impact of widening U.S. 36 from two to four lanes across Kansas.

The study found that improving the road to a four-lane expressway would bring economic benefits of nearly \$2.45 billion over 10 years to the 13 counties along the highway in Kansas, Haynes said. This includes \$1.4 billion from construction and more than \$1

billion from new business generated by the road.

"Most importantly," he said, "the study shows the new highway would create 898 new jobs in our area, an average of nearly 70 per county. This kind of impact would be incredible in an area where nearly every county is losing jobs, population, farmers and schools."

"The area along U.S. 36 was left behind with the construction of the Interstate system.

"It became, in some ways, an economic backwater. Now, with Missouri set to dedicate a four-lane U.S. 36 across the state this summer, Kansas has an opportunity to get on the bandwagon and capture the traffic — and the economic benefits — of a four-lane road that bypasses congestion in St. Louis and Kansas City.

"Kansas has a start, the first eight miles of freeway, west of St. Joseph. Now we can see the benefits of continuing this work west."

The Docking study was done over the last year by Dr. Gilson, a senior fellow who worked on a similar study of widening U.S. 50 west of Hutchinson, and Dr. Brinker, director of the institute, under a contract with the association.

Money for the study came from many of the counties along the highway and from a grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation of Logan.

"We appreciate the support of the counties which joined this

effort and especially of the foundation," said Haynes. "I thought it fitting, since Mr. Hansen made his fortune as a road builder, that his foundation would support this project.

"Having the study is just the start, however. The real job is ahead of us, pushing improvements in a part of Kansas that in many ways has been left behind by state transportation efforts.

The association and our sup

porters must be as dedicated to this task as were the supporters of a four-lane U.S. 81 a decade or more ago."

After hearing the Docking report, members and directors of the group will hold a business meeting and elect officers for the year.

For information, call the association office at (785) 476-3196 or Mr. Haynes at (785) 475-2206.

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Jeffery McKinley, D.O. - Family Practice/Obstetrics
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In the case of an emergency contact the Norton County Hospital at

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FYI

The Decatur County Speedway in Oberlin will hold car races this Saturday. MBM Motorsports, NEPR promoters of Elmwood Park Speedway, will be the new promoters in Oberlin.

"S.O.S." "Summer of Safety," is the 2010 theme for Youth Day Camp. All children ages kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to attend on June 15 at the Norton County 4-H Building and Elmwood Park area. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. at the 4-H Building, with the activities concluding at 4 p.m. Some activities include games, crafts and other classes with lunch and snacks included. Pre-registration, with a fee of \$5 and completed enrollment form is required by June 8 to the Twin Creeks District Extension Office, 100 S. Norton, Courthouse, or the Norton County Farm Bureau Office, 205 N. Kansas Avenue, Norton. Registration forms may be picked up at the Twin Creeks District K-State Research and Extension Office on the ground floor of the Courthouse or the Norton County Farm Bureau Office. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

Ginger Niemann, a representative of Sen. Sam Brownback, will discuss small business and economic development issues with Norton residents at noon on Thursday at Attitudes.

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Events Start at 9:00 a.m. - All Exhibitors Welcome
Featuring: Case Tractors and Machinery
Non-Denominational Church Services 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Antique Parade of Power - Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m.

Admission to Entire Show for Both Days: \$5 Adults, 12 and Under FREE when accompanied by an adult
Prizes to be given away Sunday, June 13 - \$1 Donation - 1st: 1930 C Case Tractor; 2nd: M Pink Pedal Tractor; 3rd: Hand Made Linen Chest; 4th: \$100.00 Savings Bond; 5th: Intarsia Wooden Pheasant

Events Both Days: Small Engine Display, Saw Mill, Threshing, Corn Shelling, Hand Tie Baling, Steam Engines, Cars, Trucks, Tractors, Windmill Display, Tractor Pull Saturday and Sunday, Car Show Saturday; Quilt Show in Depot Both Days; Food Stand Both Days; Breakfast Both Days 6:30 a.m.

Entertainment: Larry Henderson and Lee Ann Shearer
Visit our web site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~kssppa/>

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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Elmwood Park

SHOW TIMES
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NORTON

Monday • June 7
Sponsored by The Norton Rotary Club