

Winter weather driving tips

Winter officially began December 21 and KHP is sending some reminders about traveling in the winter weather. Every year, whether it is the first winter storm of the season, or the last storm, the Patrol and our law enforcement partners from across the state work numerous traffic crashes related to the weather.

Some of the most important things to remember when traveling in adverse conditions are to slow down, turn off your cruise control, turn your headlights on, and dress appropriately for the conditions. It is Kansas law that you must turn on your headlights if your windshield wipers are on continuously. By turning off your cruise control, you will have complete control of your vehicle's acceleration during adverse conditions on the roads.

As motorists venture out during one of the first winter storms of the season, the following tips are offered:

Prepare your vehicle for winter travel by replacing wiper blades; ensuring tires have good tread and air pressure; and by checking the vehicle's fluids, exhaust system, and other mechanical equipment. You also may want to consider adding a shovel to your trunk, weight such as sand bags in the bed

of a pickup (to help with traction and control), and carrying a sand/salt mixture in your trunk to help melt the snow and gain traction.

The vehicle should also be stocked with items that would be beneficial if you were involved in a crash, or your vehicle became stuck. Beneficial items would be: bottled water, blankets, non-perishable food items, a first aid kit, and a flashlight with extra batteries.

You should try to keep your gas tank full, as this adds additional weight for traction in adverse conditions, and lessens the possibility of running out of fuel if you became stuck for a long period of time.

Clean frost and snow off all windows, mirrors, and lights, and use your headlights to provide optimum visibility. Make sure the entire window is clear. Having only a small portion cleared could contribute to a crash if you don't see another vehicle. You could also be ticketed.

Accelerate and brake gently, and increase following distance between you and other vehicles. You should increase your following distance by at least one, if not two, additional seconds when driving in adverse conditions (Standard following dis-

tance for good weather is three seconds.). Be particularly cautious on bridges, and in curves, as they are often the slicker parts of the road.

If your vehicle loses traction and begins to slide, steer in the direction you want to go.

Allow for more time when traveling to and from work, home, school, or other activities. Check the weather before you go to bed, and set your alarm clock early if a winter storm is expected.

Always wear your seat belt, and properly secure children in the proper child safety seats.

Have a plan for your children should they get sent home from school early.

If you are involved in a traffic crash, or need assistance, call 911, or contact the Patrol at *47 from your cell phone. Call *KTA if you are on the Kansas Turnpike.

To find out road conditions, call 511 from a landline or cellular phone, or view conditions at: www.kandrive.org.

The following sites offer great information for preparing your home and vehicle for winter weather: www.redcross.org/, www.ready.gov/winter-weather, www.kansastag.gov/press_release_detail.asp

Happy Holidays!



A group of children from The Sunshine Learning Center made their rounds singing Christmas carols last week and on their travels stopped at the Norton Telegram to serenade the employees. From left to right are: Natalie Simmons, Heath Simmons, Taylor Mapes, Gentry Sproul, Mareesa Helpler, Gavin Sproul, Brennen Pfannenstiel, Brynna Brown, Reid Fort, Rhiannon Romey, Ainsley Collins, Sydney Menagh, Leanne Beikman, Mason Hogan, Kylee Mapes and Lilly Beikman.

— Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Award recognizes civilian employers

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, is encouraging all Guard and Reserve members to nominate their supportive employers for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the DOD's highest honor for civilian employers supporting Guard and Reserve members. The award highlights those employers going to extraordinary lengths to encourage their military employees' service and provides Guard and Reserve members a way to show their appreciation for their employers' tremendous support.

Just over one month remains for Guard and Reserve members to nominate their employers. The nomination process does not take long to complete and family members may submit nominations on a Guardsman or Reservist's behalf. Employers of every size and industry are eligible. ESGR will accept nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil through Jan. 21, 2013.

"Guard and Reserve members understand better than anyone how critical America's employers are to our national security, which is why we look to them to tell us which employers deserve this distinguished honor," said Ron Young, Executive Director, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "We call on all Guardsmen and Reservists who have received outstanding support from their employer to nominate them for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award."

There really is no better way to thank these employers for standing firmly behind our military men and women."

The 2013 recipients will be announced in early summer and honored in Washington, DC during a ceremony next fall. Recipients of the 2012 Freedom Award included diverse employers such as a telecommunications company, department of public safety, Midwest law firm, and small town church.

About ESGR and the Freedom Award: The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 175 employers have been honored with the award. Established as a DoD agency 40 years ago, ESGR develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

For questions or interviews regarding the Freedom Award, please contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 571-372-0705 or by email at ESGR-PA@osd.mil.

Drought response and plans for 2013

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback convened a meeting recently of Kansas leaders to discuss the persistent drought and the toll it is continuing to take on Kansas. Plans for 2013 were identified to assist communities, businesses, farmers and ranchers to help cope with the decreasing water supply and historic dry conditions.

The Governor asked all Kansans to do their part and take conservation seriously.

"We can't predict the end date of this drought," Governor Brownback said. "I am asking all Kansans to please take steps to reduce their water usage and be conscious of fire hazards. There have been examples of communities cooperating to respond to this drought, but we need ALL Kansas communities

working together to conserve, provide assistance and resources to reduce the damage of this drought."

Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli; Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman; Kansas Secretary of Health and Environment, Division of Environment Director John Mitchell; Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Secretary Robin Jennison and Kansas Water Office Director Tracy Streeter joined the Governor and discussed action items they recommended for the upcoming year.

The main message shared by state leaders was cities and rural water districts need to measure their current water supply as well as review and use their conservation and drought emer-

gency plans. They need to evaluate their experience from this past year and update those plans to make sure they are prepared to address water supply needs should the drought continue as predicted.

Governor Brownback reminded citizens of the website, Drought.ks.gov, which provides drought information for all Kansans. It provides easy access to specific drought information, as well as links to state and federal resources for farmers and ranchers, small businesses, Kansans, and cities and counties.

The Governor's Drought Response Team will continue to watch the situation closely and work to minimize the effects the drought has on Kansans.

Highway superintendent from Norton

Former Norton resident Galen Engel was recently promoted to Gage County (Nebraska) Highway Department Superintendent. Galen is the son of the late Clem and Clarice Engel. His brothers, John Engel and Greg Engel still reside in Norton and his sister Cheryl McMurry lives in Lincoln, Neb.

The Gage County Board of Supervisors removed the interim from Engel's title as highway

superintendent during its regular meeting.

Following a 15-minute executive session, the board unanimously approved hiring Engel as the full-time highway superintendent.

Engel will receive a salary of \$59,000 a year plus county benefits. According to the adopted budget for Gage County, Engel was making \$53,703 in 2011-12 as assistant highway superintendent with interim head superintendent duties.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NCHS

Boys "C" Basketball Tournament at Hill City, Dec. 28, 29 and 31

Monday, Dec. 31

No School-Christmas Break

Tuesday, Jan. 1

No School-Christmas Break

Wednesday, Jan. 2

No School-Christmas Break

Thursday, Jan. 3

No School-Christmas Break

Friday, Jan. 4

No School-Christmas Break

JV/V Basketball at Osborne,

4 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 5

KMEA State Honor Band Auditions

J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament, 9:30 a.m.

NJHS

Monday, Dec. 31

No School-Christmas Break

Tuesday, Jan. 1

No School-Christmas Break

Wednesday, Jan. 2

No School-Christmas Break

Thursday, Jan. 3

No School-Christmas Break

MCEL "A" BB Tournament at Stockton, TBA

Friday, Jan. 4

No School-Christmas Break

Saturday, Jan. 5

MCEL "A" BB Tournament at Stockton, TBA

EES

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Thursday, Jan. 3

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Friday, Jan. 4

No School-Christmas Break

NVHS

Monday, Dec. 31

No School-Christmas Break

HS BB JV Boys Tournament at Hill City, Dec. 28, 29 and 31

Tuesday, Jan. 1

No School-Christmas Break

Wednesday, Jan. 2

No School-Christmas Break

JH BB practice in Almena from 1-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 3

No School-Christmas Break

JH BB practice in Almena from 1-2:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 4

No School-Christmas Break

HS BB at Logan, 4:30 p.m.

JH BB practice in Almena from 1-2:30 p.m.



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Northern Valley graduate earns commission with U.S. Marines

Henry Griffiths of Long Island was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Henry successfully completed Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Va. during the summers of 2011 and 2012. Next fall he will go back

to Quantico for basic school. Henry is a Northern Valley graduate and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Griffiths.

Call Mike with all your social news.
877-3361

James E. Reeves

DPM, P.A.

Norton Hospital Specialty Clinic

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2012

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Call to schedule an appointment

PHONE: 785-877-3351

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*Excellence in
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on the go!*

Debbie Stevens wasn't about to let a congenital hip condition slow her down. She conferred with one of Community Hospital's visiting orthopedic surgeons, who advised her of the outstanding joint replacement care right here in McCook.

Community Hospital's Orthopedic Package included classes to learn about pain management, and therapy strategies to help Debbie speed her recovery.

After surgery, Debbie had physical therapy at the Community Hospital Rehabilitation Center. Now she enjoys swimming, golf, and so much more!

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