

New signs for new gun law

State and municipal buildings that legally qualify and wish to exclude concealed firearms under terms of a new state law will have to post new and different signage starting next Monday, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today.

In order to make clear to concealed carry license holders that a state or municipal building has been exempted, the Attorney General's office has proposed temporary regulations that would require a modified "No Guns" sign be posted at the entrance to exempted buildings. The modified signs will state that the posted building is a state or municipal building and that it is exempt from the new statutory requirement that concealed carry be allowed.

The proposed regulations and new signs are available to download and print from the Attorney General's website, www.ag.ks.gov. The old signs, which have been in use for years, may still be used on locations other than state or municipal buildings, but they no longer will have any legal effect on state or municipal

buildings on and after Monday, July 1.

The Legislature in April approved House Bill 2052, which includes a requirement that state and municipal buildings allow concealed carry licensees to carry concealed handguns unless the building is exempt. One way to be exempt is for the building to have adequate security measures in place. The Legislature allowed for several other exemptions to this rule, including allowing the governing body or administrator of a state or municipal building to seek six-month and four-year exemptions by sending notice to the Attorney General's office. Many local governments have already submitted notices to the Attorney General's office of these exemptions.

In order to exercise its exemption, an exempt state or municipal building also must post an appropriate sign. The only sign that will satisfy the requirement will be the new, modified sign that expressly identifies the building as a state or municipal building that is exempt from the

new law and, therefore, concealed carry permit holders may not lawfully carry their handguns in the building.

The proposed temporary regulations are pending approval by the State Rules and Regulations Board, which will meet on Friday. If adopted, they will take effect the following Monday, July 1. Permanent regulations have also been proposed and are in the process of being considered. Members of the public will have at least 60 days to submit comments on the proposed permanent regulations to the Attorney General's office. A public hearing on the proposed permanent regulations will be announced at a later date.

Other changes to the concealed carry law during the 2013 legislative session included the recognition of out-of-state licenses and the privacy of concealed carry records. A Frequently Asked Questions document has been posted on the Attorney General's website, www.ag.ks.gov, outlining some of these changes.

Providing a taste of the old west

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

The delegation of Chinese is visiting Kansas. They are having dinner with state dignitaries. Is this some formal meal at a fancy Kansas City restaurant? No, it is an authentic chuckwagon meal, prepared by historic re-enactors from rural Kansas.

Becky and John Conway are the historic re-enactors who provided this meal. Becky works for the annual Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, and John is an electrician and working cowboy. But on weekends, they become what they call the Rafter JB Chuck Wagon Crew.

The Conways live in eastern Cowley County. In 1990, a friend invited them to go to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City where a chuckwagon cooking competition happened to be underway.

"We met Red Steagall's chuckwagon crew, and they were so nice to us," Becky said. The Conways got hooked on this unique enterprise.

"We have a natural love of history," Becky said. "We grew up in cow country, in the southern Flint Hills, so this was a good fit." Chuckwagon cooking was a unique way of capturing and experiencing this history.

Becky and John traveled to Texas several years to help out with Red Steagall's chuckwagons, and his crew encouraged them to try a chuckwagon cooking competition on their own. The Conways started experimenting and cooking for neighbors.

In 1993, the Conways bought a historic wagon from a neigh-

bor whose grandfather had bought it when it was brand new in 1910. "Technically, we're the second owners," Becky said with a smile.

Wouldn't that make an interesting ad? "For sale: One used vehicle, on second owner, 113 years old."

This vehicle was an authentic Cooper wagon. Becky and John added a chuck box of antique wood. Using their cattle brand as the name, they started taking the Rafter JB wagon to festivals, historic re-enactments, and chuck wagon cooking competitions.

What is a chuck wagon cooking competition? It's about food, but especially about historic accuracy.

"We are judged on three things," Becky said: "Number one, the condition and authenticity of the wagon; number two, the camp and clothing; and number three, the food."

Typically each crew is given the same ingredients and asked to prepare them.

So John and Becky set up their camps, wear period clothing, and prepare food in the classic manner using wood coals and Dutch ovens over campfires. The Conways have won many competitions through the years. The prize money essentially covers their costs. "It's the bragging rights (that are important)," Becky said with a smile.

Most weekends from March to November, the Conways will be competing or simply demonstrating chuck wagon cooking at gatherings or festivals.

"It's a labor of love," Becky said. "Everything we prepare

is from scratch." Beef, beans, and biscuits are typically on the menu, along with desserts like vinegar pie and buttermilk pie. We look for recipes that are common for the period and common for the people."

Family and history are important to them. "My granddaughter has been rolling biscuits with me since I had to bring a box for her to stand on," Becky said. The Conways value carrying these traditions on to future generations.

Becky and John do chuck wagon meals for neighboring ranches during fall roundup. "One day it struck me that I was fourth generation and this rancher was also fourth generation, and now our kids were doing this too," Becky said. "That's why we do this," she said. "We don't have a lot of money, but we sure are rich."

The Conways have been called upon to provide these historic re-enactments for many groups, such as delegations from China, Russia, Hungary, and France.

"We were told that we ended up being their highlight," Becky said. That's pretty impressive for some historic re-enactors from the rural community of Cambridge, Kan., population 102 people. Now, that's rural.

It's time to leave this delegation of Chinese, who are enjoying an authentic chuckwagon supper prepared by historic re-enactors from rural Kansas. We salute Becky and John Conway for making a difference by preserving and sharing this history. They are providing their guests a taste of the old west.

'Baking for hope'



Three young philanthropists decided they wanted to help out the tornado victims in Oklahoma by "Baking for Hope." Hayley Mordecai, Sydney Kleinschmidt and Katelyn Skrdlant, all of Norton, held a benefit bake sale on Friday at the Jamboree Foods parking lot for the American Red Cross, with all proceeds designated for the Oklahoma tornado victims. (From left to right) Jennie Patterson looks over the 'goodies', as Catherine Cox and granddaughter Samantha Scott leave with cupcakes and smiles. In all, the girls raised \$420 and wanted to thank Rich and Dawn Risewick for allowing them to set up in the parking lot and Matt and Kelli Wyatt for the use of the trailer.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

COLLEGE NOTES

University awards semester honors to more than 3,350 students

More than 3,350 Kansas State University students have earned semester honors for their academic performance in the spring 2013 semester.

These are students earning a grade point average for the semester of 3.75 or above on at least 12 credit hours receive se-

mester honors along with commendations from their deans. The honors also are recorded on their permanent academic records.

Students earning semester honors include:

Norton County

Norton: Maia Carlson, Amanda Delimont, Mariah Farber, Tonielle Fiscus, Marcus Herman, Kent Mann, Taylor Meder,

Kyle Mindrup, Kaylen Rossi, Bethany Roy, Dustyna Sprigg and KaraJo Sprigg

Phillips County

Agra: Kayle Holsman and Megan Suchsland
Logan: Paige Buss and Kathryn Hartman

Phillipsburg: Dustin Aherin, Garrett Kennedy and Bethany Lennemann

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Highway accident reports will soon be online

Beginning the first week of July, official copies of Kansas Highway Patrol accident reports will be available through an online system.

"We are pleased to be able to offer this service to the public, as it will make it much easier to purchase a copy of the reports they may need, and they won't even have to leave the convenience of their home," said Patrol Superintendent, Colonel Ernest E. Garcia. "The new system saves time for both our Records personnel, and for the public."

Only the reports for accidents that have occurred since May 2013 will be available online. Once records since May 2013 are entered in the online system, copies of the reports will always be available. For someone who needs a copy of their report, they can go to: www.kansas.gov/accident-reports/. Once there, users will have to create an account, then the system will proceed to an online "shopping cart" style of ordering. Information that will be needed when people request a copy of their report will be at least the name of the individual involved in the accident, and/or a case number,

and/or the date of the accident. Payment for the reports online must be made via credit or debit card. The cost for the copy of a report is \$5.00. Once the transaction has been completed, the copy of the report is available for download.

Accident reports will not be immediately available after a crash. By statute, officers have up to 10 days to complete a report on a "regular" accident, such as those non-injury crashes, or those without different circumstances, such as a drunk driver. Fatality crashes, or those with reconstructions and more complicated cases take longer to complete, and are allotted more than the 10 days.

People can still purchase the reports in person at the Kansas Highway Patrol's Records section. There will be a link to the online reports on the KHP homepage. If anyone would run into a problem, or not be able to locate the report they are requesting, the Patrol would encourage them to call our General Headquarters at 785-296-6800, and a member of our Records personnel can assist them, or answer questions they might

have.

For several years, the Patrol has maintained online crash logs of injury and fatality crashes. It is important to note that these are not the official version of an accident report.

To go to the online sales section for accident reports, please visit: www.kansas.gov/accident-reports/

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361 email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com