

Magazine ranks Kansas roads ‘best in country’

Reader's Digest's April issue features a survey of the best, worst and deadliest road in America, and Kansas ranks on top of the best roads list.

“We may not hear as much from *Reader's Digest* now as we did in its heyday, but the company is still kicking,” writes reporter Richard Read for *The Car Connection*. “In compiling these lists, *Reader's Digest* has taken into consideration factors like the condition of highways and bridges, traffic congestion, and the number of speeding tickets issued in a given area.”

The Best Roads list considers states as a whole with Kansas leading the list. The top 10 states include: 1. Kansas; 2. Wisconsin; 3. Montana; 4. New Mexico; 5. Utah; 6. North Dakota; 7. Wyoming; 8. Nebraska; 9. Virginia; and 10. Oregon.

Peggy Northrop, *Reader's Digest* vice president/Global Editor-in-Chief, says, “For decades, *Reader's Digest* has been a vocal proponent of safer roads in America. We hope our readers will use this report as a guide to becoming more aware of the road conditions in their own states and correct the unsafe driving behavior that transpires in the everyday lives of our nation's drivers.”



A stretch of I-35 in Kansas, judged to be the top state for best roads in a recent Reader's Digest poll.

The “Best Roads” list was determined by the latest data from the Federal Highway Administration, while the “Deadliest Roads” were

calculated using a simple ranking of fatalities per 100 million miles driven. The story offers simple solutions that legislators and local

highway officials can implement to fix the problem.

The country's safest and most sensible roads include: I-35 through

Kansas; the Montana interstates; I-75 in northern Florida; I-80 in Utah; and I-95 between Elkton; and Baltimore, Md.

The article says I-35 through Kansas (and Kansas roads in general) “is well maintained and open, and offers an extremely smooth ride. There are rest areas that are easy in, and easy out. It has wide-open spaces and you don't feel the constant pressure of interacting with traffic. Actually in Kansas all the highways are very good. Even the two-lane roads are great: smooth with shoulders.”

The “Worst Road” cites specific stretches of highway for being egregiously bad: Louisiana's I-12 between Baton Rouge and Slidell, Pennsylvania's I-78 and I-80, New Jersey/New York's I-95 over the George Washington Bridge and Oklahoma's I-44, know as the Will Rogers Turnpike.

The “Deadliest Roads” category consists of two sub-categories. One weighs the number of fatalities due to Driving Under the Influence, the other considers the number of fatalities due to speeding. Both take into account the number fatalities per miles driven (a figure that, on the whole, has dropped to its lowest

point in U.S. history). The two lists contain several repeat offenders.

The top 10 states with the “Deadliest Roads” include: 1. Montana; 2. Louisiana; 3. South Carolina; 4. West Virginia; 5. Arkansas; 6. Mississippi; 7. Kentucky; 8. Wyoming; 9. Alabama; and 10. Nevada. Kansas ranked 26th on the deadliest road list. Neighboring state Colorado ranked 30th and Nebraska ranked 32nd.

The article said, “Although Montana appears at No. 3 on the Best Roads list (good infrastructure, little congestion), it tops the Deadliest list in part because of drivers who drink, drive recklessly, or shun seat belts.”

The top 10 “Deadliest Roads” for DUI include: 1. Montana; 2. South Carolina; 3. Louisiana; 4. Wyoming; 5. West Virginia; 6. Mississippi; 7. North Dakota; 8. Texas; 9. Alabama; and 10. Arkansas. The highest ranked states for speeding include: 1. Alabama; 2. Mississippi; 3. South Carolina; 4. Wyoming; 5. Alaska; 6. Montana; 7. Pennsylvania; 8. Missouri; 9. Arizona; and 10. Texas.

Complete statistics, as well as the methodology used in the report and other information, are available at <http://www.readersdigest.com/bestandworstroads>.

Respiratory therapy receives grant

The Northwest Tech Respiratory Therapy Program has received a grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce of \$81,500 under the “Workforce Solutions Fund.”

“This money will be used to enhance the current program's ability to teach critical care simulations in the adult, pediatric and newborn patient populations,” said Leona Evans, Respiratory Therapy Instructor.

Scott Hubbell, Respiratory Therapy Instructor, said “Teaching will not only occur with the students enrolled in the program, but we will partner with other area colleges and hospitals to provide training to nursing students and current practicing healthcare providers in the surrounding communities.”

Collaborative efforts have played

a major role in the success of the Northwest Tech Respiratory Therapy program, he said. The Pete Henry Foundation granted the program \$25,000 in July. The generosity of the Foundation allowed the college to start this vision with the purchase of initial simulation equipment that will be built upon with the Work Force Solutions money. Without the initial grant from the Pete Henry Foundation, the college would not have been able to begin the process of developing a “state of the art” critical simulation laboratory, Hubbell said.

The ambulance donated to the college by Goodland Regional Medical Center and the Sherman County Commissioners will aid in the simulation of transporting critically ill patients, which brings the

concept of critical care simulation full circle, Evans said.

The Respiratory Therapy Program has begun to offer training in Advanced Life Support to area health care providers. In addition, they have offered continuing education to area respiratory therapists. The college will be offering continuing education to other health care providers once the simulation center is up and running with the new equipment.

Dr. Ed Mills, president of Northwest Tech said, “Faculty members Leona Evans and Scott Hubbell are to be commended for their efforts on behalf of the program and their ongoing leadership and teaching abilities — we are fortunate to have such a qualified team of faculty members.”



Northwest Tech Respiratory Therapy students learn how to load a patient into the ambulance recently donated by Sherman County and the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Man pleads no contest to raising fighting cocks

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with a statement from anyone the birds are sold or given to for breeding. He suggested Soto call the Sherman County Sheriff to be present if the birds are to be butchered.

Updates on court cases:

- Cheryl Krentz, 49 of Goodland owner of Cowboy Loop has plead no contest to attempted theft. An agent from the state lottery, Paul Schliffke, allegedly presented a winning ticket

to Krentz on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and she told him it was not a winner. The record shows it was for a prize of \$25,000 or greater, but under \$100,000. Krentz is expected to be sentenced on April 13. The state attorney general's office brought the charges as part of a statewide undercover check of lottery outlets, which resulted in charges being filed against five people across the state including Krentz.

- Sentencing of Steven Moyer,

who was found guilty in Sherman County District Court by a jury on Feb. 5, on charges of criminal sodomy and indecent liberties with a child, has been delayed with a request by the defense for a mental health examination. The sentencing has been postponed because there are no beds available at a mental hospital where the examination has to be done County Attorney Selby said.



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