



KTA President/CEO Michael Johnston discusses the construction project with a community member at one of the Turnpike's informational meetings.

Lawrence toll plaza to close temporarily in early April

On the morning of April 5, Plaza 204 – the I-70 interchange in East Lawrence with access to N. 2nd St, US-59 and US-40 – will close for approximately seven months. The closure is a necessary part of the Turnpike's construction project to replace dual bridges over the Kansas River and reconstruct the interchange.

When the new plaza opens, it will include dedicated entry and exit lanes for K-TAG customers and one entry and two exit lanes that can serve either K-TAG or cash customers.

The entire bridge replacement project, which began in June 2008, is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2011. The project is estimated to cost \$130 million and include new east- and west-bound bridges over the river, new ramps and alignment at Plaza 202 (McDonald Dr with access to Iowa St), a completely new interchange at Plaza 204, and new overhead bridges to accommodate a wider roadway beneath.

For additional information on the construction, visit the project website at www.SpanningTheFuture.com.

NEWS

Sampler Festival brings bits of Kansas to Leavenworth County



The 2010 Kansas Sampler Festivals will be held at Ray Miller Park in Leavenworth on May 1 and 2. The event is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. An opening ceremony will also take place at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, prior to the start of the event.

Approximately 300 vendors and exhibitors will be at this year's festival, providing information about attractions and events throughout Kansas. Planners have also added three new tents this year: an Authors' tent, an Artists' tent, and a Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

The Authors' Tent will feature 18 Kansas authors who will be selling, discussing and autographing books. The Artists' Tent will feature about 15 artists who will be demonstrating and selling their art. At least one nationally-known artist, Michael Young, is participating. The Freedom's Frontier National Heritage area will include reenactments of events that shaped Kansas.

Throughout the weekend, performers of all different genres will entertain festival-goers on four full-time stages.

"These new features, along with the traditional Kansas Sampler Festival favorites promise to make this one of the biggest and best festivals

yet," said Keyta Kelly, 2010-2011 Kansas Sampler Festival Director.

Some of those favorites from year's past include the Beer/Wine Tasting tent, the Regional Tourism tents, the Mercantile tent, and the Kansas Food Vendors.

The purpose of the festival is to educate Kansans about what there is to see, do, hear, buy, taste and learn in Kansas. This event has been described as "a living brochure of the state of Kansas."

The annual event began as a book-signing party for father-daughter co-authors Mil and Marci Penner. Through the hardwork and dedication of many passionate Kansans, the festival has grown and flourished. The Kansas Sampler Festival is now organized by the Kansas Sampler Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, sustaining and growing rural culture through Kansas education. The foundation supports rural communities and strives to keep every town viable that shows the will and spirit to help itself.

To learn more about the Kansas Sampler Festival, visit www.kansas-samplerfestival.com. For additional information about the Kansas Sampler Foundation and its programs and initiatives, visit www.kansassampler.org.

Those traveling the Turnpike to attend can use the Tonganoxie-Eudora interchange at Milepost 212.

K-TAG KORNER

Answers to two of K-TAG's most frequently asked questions

K-TAG Customer Service answers hundreds of questions each week. Here are two frequently asked K-TAG related questions.

Why doesn't my K-TAG work (at all or sometimes)?

Your K-TAG may not work properly or at all if it is not mounted correctly. If your tag is mounted correctly, your vehicle may have a material in the glass that is causing problems

or the tag may simply be malfunctioning. If you experience a problem, please note the day and time and have your tag number available so we can help troubleshoot the issue when you call or e-mail.

Why do I receive a message saying that my account number isn't valid when I try to access my account information online?

Your account number and your K-

TAG number are two completely different numbers. Your K-TAG number can't be used to log in for online account information. Your account number is created after you open an account and is, therefore, not located on your K-TAG. During the account opening process, you will need your K-TAG number so the Turnpike can identify which tag belongs with your account.

No Phone Zone pledge aims to stop distracted driving

Close to half a million people are injured and 6,000 people killed every year in cell phone related crashes.

In January, Oprah Winfrey aired a show dedicated to the dangers of using a cell phone while driving.

"It is my prayer that this show, this day will be a seminal day in your life," Winfrey said. "Let it be the end, the end of you using a cell phone or send-

ing a text message when you are behind the wheel of a moving vehicle. And until we as a nation decide we're going to change that, those numbers are only going to go up."

Many cell phone users don't realize that by taking their focus off of the road they are just as bad as a drunk driver, and when it comes to texting they're even worse. Drivers who talk

on cell phones are four times more likely to crash than those who don't; drivers who text are 23 times more likely to crash. Even more startling is the fact that 87 percent of teen drivers admit to texting behind the wheel.

Winfrey asks drivers to take the No Phone Zone Pledge and stop using cell phones in the car. Declare your car a phone-free zone at www.oprah.com/nophonezone.

Kansas books, author featured at Turnpike service area gift shops

"The Homestead Trail: Kansas Calls", the second novel by Kansas author Roberta Seiwert Lampe, has recently been released on the national level by Tate Publishing.

The 350-page historical fiction novel is inspired by an actual family, who came from Illinois in 1871 to homestead northwest of Wichita. Piqued by the colorful railroad posters, Ephraim Von Horne, becomes excited about exploring the Plains states, and settling on new lands. His family, however, is less than excited. The story begins when he asks, "Does anyone here want to move to Kansas?"

That begins the lifestyle change and adventure for his family and a departure from those they loved.

The winter in St. Louis is an eye-opener and the exciting

and enlightening trip takes them through a rich historical era.

Two of the author's historical books for children will be released in late spring. Both "Prairie Dog Pet" and "The Farm Girls' Revenge" take place in the late 1880s

The books, along with Lampe's first novel "Agnes", are available on the Turnpike at the Belle Plaine Service Area gift shop located at Milepost 26 between Wichita and Wellington and at the Kansas Originals store at the Topeka Service Area located at Milepost 188 between Topeka and Lawrence.

The books will also be available at bookstores in Wichita, Hutchinson, Yoder and many gift shops and book stores across Kansas.

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