

Project launches for young professionals

TOPEKA — Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers has announced the Office of Rural Prosperity (ORP) will partner with the Kansas Sampler Foundation to develop a framework designed to engage, empower, retain, and recruit young people in rural Kansas.

"Incentivizing younger Kansans to use their talents here at home, will be critical to continuing to build a 21st century economy in our state," Governor Laura Kelly said. "Our communities, especially rural ones, will benefit greatly if we can find ways to attract a young workforce and keep our children our home."

The Kansas Sampler Foundation (KSF), led by Executive Director Marci Penner, has been working to support rural communities for almost 30 years. KSF has completed projects in the past focusing on young professionals (21-39 years old).

"It is an asset to be young! Why not round up the ideas, energy, talents, and vision of this age group?" said Penner. "Instead of ignoring the perspective they bring to our state, let's capitalize on it. If we can make the state more attractive to the under-40

group, it would make Kansas stronger and better for everyone."

The project will consist of collecting core questions through interviews in targeted regions across the state and digital surveys in all 105 counties. KSF will work with existing young professional and leadership groups to widen the base of information. With the help of data from Kansas Department of Commerce, KSF will focus diversity of respondents.

"Out-migration has shrunk rural communities causing them to decline in size and increase in age," said Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers. "Focusing on the needs of young people, especially young professionals, is key to the future of these communities. Our goal with this project is to identify programs, policies, and investments that would encourage young people to stay in or move to rural communities in Kansas."

For individuals who are 21-39, identify as rural, and would like to be interviewed, contact the Kansas Sampler Foundation at marci@kansasampler.org or (620) 585-2374.

Master gardener program seeks applicants

The Frontier Extension District is taking applications for the Master Gardener Training, which will take place this fall. Deadline to sign up is 5 p.m. Aug. 27 and there is a fee associated with the program.

In the Master Gardener program, participants will learn about plant biology, soils, flowers, trees and shrubs. Additional information includes lawn care, fruits, vegetables, indoor plants, insects, diseases and pesticides.

This year, Master Gardener training will be different than in past due to COVID-19. The classes will be held 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays via Zoom from Sept. 3 through Dec. 17, with the exception of Nov. 26. The Zoom meetings will be recorded for later viewing. There will also be in-class meetings to reinforce what was presented in the Zoom meetings and will take place throughout the district. Places and times will be announced later.

To apply, and to obtain more

information about Master Gardeners, go to the Frontier District webpage: www.frontierdistrict.k-state.edu; click on the Lawn and Garden Tab, then the Master Gardener tab. Or stop by one of the offices to pick up an application.

Giving back may be the best part of the Master Gardener program. Master Gardener volunteers are asked to give 40 hours of service and education after completing the training. Some of these Master Gardener projects may include assisting with the Garden Show, helping with county landscaping plantings, teaching youth about gardening, helping in a community garden, going on tours to farther educate you on gardening, as well as many more possibilities.

For questions, please call horticulture agent Ryan Schaub at (785) 448-6826 or send him an email at rschaub@ksu.edu.

INJURY ACCIDENT



Photo submitted

Chelsea Moffett, 24, Garnett, was driving north on Fourth Street, Burlington, just north of Cross Street, at 8:30 p.m. Monday. For an unknown reason, her 2018 Nissan Versa left the roadway to the west and struck an electric pole owned by City of Burlington. The impact broke the pole at the ground and severely damaged her vehicle. She received possible injuries but refused transport to the hospital. Moffett was cited for driving at a speed greater than what was prudent. She is to appear in municipal court Sept. 10. All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Kansas Special Olympics convoy

MISSION — Drivers across Kansas will gather Sept. 12 to drive a collective 3,000 miles for Special Olympics Kansas (SOKS) athletes. The impact of COVID-19 has caused SOKS to veer away from its traditional annual Truck Convoy to now bring the Convoy to the local citizens and neighbors of Special Olympics athletes. Instead of trucks parading through the state all at once, Kansas residents will support the 2020 Convoy by displaying a decal on their vehicle Sept. 12.

As a part of the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, the movement will raise awareness and funds for over 4,500 Kansans with intellectual disabilities who compete in over 20 year-round sports.

Those who register or sponsor the Convoy before Sept. 12 will receive official 2020 Convoy decals and mileage logs via mail. On Sept. 12, participants will display the decal on their vehicles, take photos and document their mileage. No official parades will be held that day. Rather, participants will document their mileage for the day as they work, play, or explore

Kansas. SOKS hopes to log over 3,000 miles driven across the state of Kansas in one day.

Registration is open to any road-safe vehicle. Owners and operators of semi-trucks, classic cars, motorcycles, work trucks, farm tractors, grain trucks or any other vehicle are welcome to join the fun. Participants are required to display the decal and return the mileage log for documentation. Sponsorships spots are also available, and sponsors can register online or via mail. A sponsorship would feature the company's logo on the event shirts, website, and other promotional items.

Visit www.kssso.org/convoy for more information or to register for this year's events. For additional information, contact Luke Schulte schulte@kssso.org or call (620) 408-4450.



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Police

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legal registration at 2:21 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, at Fourth and Neosho streets. She is to appear in municipal court Sept. 10.

Disorderly conduct

Ciara Nicole Malone, 22, Burlington, was cited and arrested for alleged disorderly conduct at 10:04 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, in the 600 block of Cumberland Street. She was booked into Coffey County Jail and later released on an O/R bond. She is to appear in municipal court Sept. 10.

Parking lot accident

Two vehicles collided in the parking lot at 324 Cross Street at 11:58 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 6. Marcella Anne Trostle, 85, LeRoy, was driving northwest through the parking lot in her 2006 Dodge Dakota pickup. Carolyn Jones, 77, Yates Center, was westbound in her 2015 Buick Enclave. The two women stuck each other's vehicles simultaneously, causing damage to the passenger's side front panel of the Dakota and the driver's side front panel of the Enclave. It is unknown if the drivers were wearing seat belts, but no one was injured.

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It has been a privilege to serve the citizens of this district.
Thank you, Bruce Givens



Paid for by Bruce Givens for Senate
~ Larry Hibbard, Treasurer

Thanks to all of the supportive citizens who voted for me during the primary election. I appreciate your vote in the upcoming general election.

Sincerely, Eric L. Smith

Eric SMITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE House District 76

THANK you for your support

Paid for by the Committee for Eric L. Smith for Kansas House, Treasurer Becky Smith