

# Hunters, anglers have more options with rule expansion

Since day one, the Trump administration has prioritized recreational access to public lands, particularly for hunting and fishing. These two great American pastimes have formed the bedrock of the nation's wildlife conservation efforts, generating more dollars for habitat protection and restoration than any other outdoor pursuit. The Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) helped grow that legacy by finalizing a rule to open additional hunting and fishing opportunities in Kansas and across the country. This brings the total expansion to over 4 million acres nationally since President Trump took office.

"On the heels of President Trump signing the most significant conservation and recreation funding in U.S. history, providing nearly \$20 billion over the next 10 years to fix and conserve the American people's public lands, the Trump Administration has now made an additional 2.3 million acres accessible to new hunting and fishing

opportunities," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt. "We continue to take significant actions to further conservation initiatives and support sportsmen and women who are America's true conservationists."

"The Trump Administration and Secretary Bernhardt have made access to public lands for hunting and fishing and other outdoor recreation a priority beginning day one. Hunting and fishing are a part of our American history, and we continue to ensure we provide opportunities for these activities which epitomize our American heritage," said Service Director Aurelia Skipwith. "Furthermore, we have maintained our commitment to promoting good government by reducing the regulatory burden by working with states to facilitate these outdoor activities."

In Kansas, four national wildlife refuges are adding hunting and/or fishing opportunities. This includes opening badger, bobcat, coyote, skunk, furbearer, raccoon, opossum and fox

and Wildlife Service for their efforts to collaborate with the parties necessary to expand hunting and fishing opportunities," KDWPT Secretary Brad Loveless said. "We especially appreciate the dialogue we've had with our local U.S. Fish and Wildlife partners who have worked diligently to make themselves more accessible. It's been an enjoyable process, and I'm confident that, with time and continued collaboration, we'll see more of these expansions in the future."

Since the creation of the very first national wildlife refuge by President Theodore Roosevelt, refuges have been places where wildlife is managed to ensure healthy populations for future generations of Americans to enjoy. Responsible hunting has always been a part of that management equation. Refuge managers complete rigorous environmental studies to ensure each hunting opportunity is con-

"Ensuring that Kansans have abundant outdoor recreation opportunities is critical to the mission of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, so we applaud the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service for their efforts to collaborate with the parties necessary to expand hunting and fishing opportunities," KDWPT Secretary Brad Loveless said. "We especially appreciate the dialogue we've had with our local U.S. Fish and Wildlife partners who have worked diligently to make themselves more accessible. It's been an enjoyable process, and I'm confident that, with time and continued collaboration, we'll see more of these expansions in the future."

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# Fire

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to a hay bale fire 8:16 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, at milepost 155 along I-35.

Station 5 — LeRoy, responded to a chemical spill/leak 7:02 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, in the 500 block of Sixth Street, LeRoy.

Station 5 — LeRoy, responded to a medical assist 9:03 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, in the 600 block of Sixth Street, LeRoy.

Station 7 — Waverly, responded to a lift assist 6:01 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, in the 400 block of Hammond Street, Waverly.

Station 6 — Lebo, responded to a medical assist 11:37 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, in the 20 block of Broadway Street, Lebo.

Station 6 — Lebo, responded to a medical assist 3:24 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, in the 20 block of Broadway Street, Lebo.

The Coffey County Republican

# Devotional Page

## I love the Lord

**Pastor Don Haselhuhn**  
Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Burlington



Pastor Don Haselhuhn

Dictionary.com defines "love" as "a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person; a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend." I love my wife. July 30 was my 26th wedding anniversary. This year marks half my life as being married to my lovely wife.

We have four children. I love my children, too. All four are moved away at work or at college. Since they have all moved away, my children decided that we needed to have a new dog. I now love my dog, Sadie Lou.

In late March, as you all know, something rather weird happened. We were all told that our lives had changed, and that we were to stay home unless we were "essential." I spent my work days at church alone. There was a lot of prayer going on. I'm sure I wasn't the only pastor praying during the "Safer at Home" time.

With all that has been happening in the world around us this year, a verse from the Bible truly sums up my life.

Psalm 116:1 reads, "I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy." I love the Lord.

Each day, I start the day at church in the sanctuary talking to God. When we have Sunday service, you'll find me walking around the pews praying well before the service starts, which includes prayers for my church members, and also for those who are in need in our community and world.

In March, I started offering prayers for those who live and work at the Life Care Center, The Meadows, and also our members from the COF and those who work with them. These are prayers that continue today.

As the Psalmist writes, "I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy." As I'm praying for those in need, loved ones, family members, church members and those who live around us, I know God hears those prayers. I know that God will answer those prayers because of who He is.

In the Old Testament,

God is described over and over with words just like these: "But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." (Psalm 86:15) God shows His mercy and grace as He hears our prayers and answers. He also shows His steadfast love in being with us always when we are in need.

Our greatest need is that of forgiveness for the sins we have committed. God answered that need by sending Jesus to the world to live, to die and to rise again for us all. This is what Jesus says about God's love, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:16-17)

I love the Lord, but that love is only a reflection of His great and grand love for me, and for you, and for all people!

From the Bible

When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you.

— Psalm 56:3

## God is good

"Wow!" said an associate as a group of us left a restaurant after a dinner meeting. "That was a really good meal!"

"Good?" questioned another. "What do you mean good? That's one of the worst meals I've ever paid for. It was horrible!"

"Not so fast," said another. "Part of it was really bad and part was fairly good. At least, that's my opinion."

"Good" is in the eye of the beholder. You and I might experience the same event together - as the meal mentioned above - but have entirely different opinions about it. But when the author of Psalm 100 was ending his thoughts about God, he said, "For the Lord is good and His love endures forever." He was convinced that "God was good." In fact, this entire Psalm is written as a Psalm that expresses

his reasons to give thanks to God.

Years ago when the Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christ, they searched for a word in their language they could all agree upon that expressed the character of the divine Being of the Bible.

They described stories of His faithfulness, His grace, His holiness, His mercy, His power, His love, His salvation and asked, "What one word will express all of these words?" After a discussion they all agreed: "The good!" And "good" is the old English word for "God."

When we look at the "big picture" of all that God has done for us, to us and in us, it is certainly appropriate for us to describe Him, as they did, as "The Good."

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