

**JULY/AUG 2010**

## ***Atchison hosts 14th annual Earhart festival***

Looking for something fun to do with family this July? You may want to check out the 14th Annual Amelia Earhart Festival in Atchison Kansas, July 16-17.

The famed pilot spent most of her childhood in Atchison, before accomplishing many great pioneering moments throughout her lifetime. This festival is a commemoration of her accomplishments and a celebration of the 75th anniversary of several of her historical feats.

The schedule of events includes an outdoor concert — LakeFest 2010 — featuring country singers Billy Currington, Julianne Hough and Gloriana, as well as a 2K/8K Fun Run-Walk.

In addition there will be an Amelia Earhart Car Show and a “Concert in the Sky” fireworks display sponsored by Stellar Fireworks, Inc., of Wichita.

In downtown Atchison you will find numerous arts and crafts vendors and other fun-filled activities for the entire family. From face-painting and miniature train rides to a petting zoo, you are bound to find something for everyone to enjoy.

More information about the festival is available at [www.atchisonkansas.net](http://www.atchisonkansas.net).

# **KANSAS TURNPIKE NEWS**



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## **State Farm Safety Assist** *Additional motorist assistance to patrol Turnpike this summer*



State Farm Insurance will partner with the Kansas Turnpike this summer for the State Farm Safety Assist program, re-implementing and expanding the program that helps stranded motorists and makes Turnpike travel safer and easier.

Travelers needing assistance should call \*KTA (\*582) from a cellular phone. State Farm Safety Assist is available on the Turnpike's two heaviest traveled sections of roadway — between Topeka and Kansas City on I-70 and between Wichita and the Oklahoma border on I-35 — through Labor Day.

Turnpike employees will patrol in red-and-white State Farm sponsored vehicles from 6 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.

Monday through Friday and 3-7 p.m. on Sundays. In addition to helping individual customers, State Farm Safety Assist will help to improve safety by clearing congestion from disabled vehicles and allowing troopers to perform their law enforcement duties.

Services will include:

- Giving fuel to get a customer to the next service station
- Watching for and removing debris from the road
- Helping change flat tires
- Calling tow trucks
- Offering minor mechanical assistance
- Assisting with traffic direction at accidents and other incidents to clear congestion and lower the risk of dangerous secondary accidents

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Call **\*KTA (\*582)** from a cellular phone if you need emergency assistance while on the Turnpike

## K-TAG KORNER

### MyK-TAG account type is more simple than you may think

If you're an infrequent user — usually using less than \$10 in tolls each month — the MyK-TAG program is the perfect account type for you.

Here's how it works: KTA bills your payment card automatically at the end of any given month when you owe \$10 or more in tolls. For example: if at the end of June you only owe

\$6.50, those tolls will roll over to July. Then, if you owe at least \$10 or more at the end of July, your payment card will be charged for the total amount due and you will receive a statement showing all trips since your last statement.

Find more information online at [www.myktag.com](http://www.myktag.com) or call 1-800-873-5824.

## 'Ranching' celebrated at fifth annual Symphony in the Flint Hills

By Courtney Crain

BAZAAR — The population of this small, central-Kansas town increased almost a hundred-fold in a matter of hours June 12. Nearly 7,000 people gathered in a pasture eight miles east of Highway 177 to celebrate one of nature's fleeting wonders: the tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills.

This was the fifth year for the event known as Symphony in the Flint Hills. This year's theme was ranching.

The daylong event included educational sessions about life on the prairie, locally prepared food and a prairie art auction, culminating with a 90-minute performance by the Kansas City Symphony. Grammy winning singer/songwriter Lyle Lovett accompanied the symphony during three of the songs.

While the symphony does draw people to the event, site manager Linda Craghead of



Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Lyle Lovett performs with the Kansas City Symphony Saturday at the Symphony in the Flint Hills near Bazaar. Lovett is an ardent supporter of the tallgrass prairie. **Photo by Jillian Blackburn**

Alma said the event is about much more than the music.

"Our event is not about the music that takes places on the stage," Craghead said. "Our event is about the music that takes place in the prairie. It's about education, it's about teaching, it's about learning, it's about experiencing."

The mission of Symphony in

the Flint Hills echoes her claims, saying the organization aims to "heighten appreciation and knowledge of the tallgrass prairie, by providing opportunities to experience symphonic music and place-based education in the Kansas Flint Hills."

Find the full story at [www.ksturnpike.com/recentdevelopments.shtml](http://www.ksturnpike.com/recentdevelopments.shtml).

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- Checking on the welfare of travelers

From 2000 to 2008, motorist assistance vehicles patrolled the

Kansas Turnpike, helping drivers of broken-down vehicles, looking for debris on the road, and helping with accidents or

other incidents. Due to the challenging operating environment created by the economy, the program was sidelined in 2008.

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