

TAMARA DANIEL

Continued from A1

“Additionally, Dr. Daniel is fully supportive of Butler’s strong sense of family and its timeless institutional values of quality, integrity, service and caring.”

Butler Interim President Dr. Jackie Vietti believes Daniel possesses the unique capabilities necessary to not only sustain but expand the college’s difference-making impact. “I am confident that Dr. Daniel has the skill set to lead Butler to its next best level by fostering the enduring culture of the Butler family. During the interview process it became clear that Daniel recognizes the many strengths and innovative work of our faculty and staff and will build upon those, while bringing exciting new ideas to the table.”

With more than 25 years of leadership experience in the community college sector, Daniel looks forward to building on Butler’s established foundation of quality education and student support. “I’m truly inspired by the incredible work that’s already being done, and I’m eager to amplify that momentum,” she said.

Following her inauguration in October of this year, Daniel will be the visionary to lead Butler through its 100th anniversary celebration in 2027 and beyond.

VETERANS

Continued from A1

way on and off each plane and around the hotels and memorials. WWII, Korean and Vietnam war era veterans are priority and are selected in the order they apply. Priorities are also given to terminally ill veterans. If you or someone you know is interested in taking an honor flight, you can apply on the website at <https://kansashonorflight.org/>.

The Times-Gazette would like to thank each and every veteran that’s served this great country and all current members of the US Military. You have served a debt that can never be repaid. We certainly hope this is the welcome home you need.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks announces free fishing and state park entrance days for 2025

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

TOPEKA – Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) Secretary Christopher Kennedy has issued orders designating several Free Fishing and Free State Park Entrance days. The announcement was made at the April 24, 2025, Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission meeting.

The Free Fishing Days are June 7 and 8, 2025. On those days, anyone can fish by legal means without a Kansas fishing license. All length and creel limits still apply.

All Kansas State Parks will also offer free entrance on Saturday, May 3. Camping fees still apply.

“I encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities to enjoy Kansas’ incredible natural

resources,” said Kennedy. “Whether you’re casting a line, hiking a trail, picnicking on a beach, or simply taking in the beauty of nature, these days are meant to inspire connection with your family, friends, and the great outdoors.”

Along with these state-wide events, Secretary Kennedy has also designated several park-specific Free Entrance Days that align with local events and programs designed to engage families, outdoor enthusiasts, and newcomers to Kansas state parks. These dates are as follows:

May 11 – Wilson State Park

May 17 – Milford State Park

June 7 – Cheney State Park

June 7 – El Dorado State Park

June 7 – Prairie Dog State Park

June 7 – Elk City State

SUN Bucks 2025 delayed benefit distribution

Kansas Department for Children and Families

SUN Bucks is a permanent federal program administered by DCF to help families buy food for their eligible school-aged children during the summer.

Benefit distribution for this program was originally expected to begin in mid to late April 2025 and has been delayed. The delay is a result of two factors. While DCF received approval of its 2025 SUN Bucks program from our federal partner, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), DCF was awaiting its award letter from FNS outlining the total benefit amount awarded to the state. DCF just received that letter.

In addition to the federal funding, DCF must also provide the Kansas legislature’s finance council with proof of filing the Pop and Candy Waiver that would make some candy and soft drinks ineligible to purchase with SNAP benefits. This new requirement was included in the state budget for FY25. DCF is working with the governor’s office on the most appropriate next steps.

An updated timeline has not yet been determined. Updates will be provided on the DCF website and Facebook page.

SOD & STUBBLE

Continued from A1

Ise—with additional material added by Von Rothenberger in the 1990s—the story follows Henry and Rosie Ise as they battle hardships on the Kansas plains and build a life and legacy through grit and resilience.

“This story is a Kansas story but it’s also an American story,” said Spurgeon.

“It’s the story of people who were not from here, who made America very much their home. This was their dream; to carve out their little piece of America for themselves,” he said.

Filming took place in El Dorado, Wichita, and Downs, Kansas. Spurgeon noted the physical challenges of filming during the Kansas summer:

“We filmed in June, July, and August,” said Spurgeon.

“The heat was intense, but it added authenticity,” he said. “It looked and felt like a true Kansas summer.”

One of the most meaningful moments for Spurgeon occurred in Downs.

“We were filming two miles from where the Ise family once lived. I told

our cast and crew, ‘For the first time in over 100 years, Henry and Rosie will be walking in Downs again.’ It felt like the family was back, even if just for a moment,” he said.

The film also honors the legacy of John Ise, who authored the book with his mother Rosie’s help.

“John was a longtime economics professor at KU—he taught for nearly 50 years up to around 1970,” said Spurgeon.

“Sometimes people come up to me and share their memories of him,” he said.

Sod and Stubble features a standout cast including Bailey Chase, Dodie Brown, Barry Corbin, Mary McDonough, Buck Taylor, Darby Hinton, Rudy Ramos, Wyatt McCrea, R.W. Hampton, Mark Mannette, Delno Ebie, and more.

The film recently won Best Western Feature at the Chandler International Film Festival and is set to expand beyond Kansas. In addition to the theatrical releases, it’ll be available on streaming this summer. Visit the film’s website, <https://sodandstubble.com/> to learn more.

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Eight Butler County schools receive All Star recognition

Nikole Babb
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In an announcement made by the Kansas Board of Regents in April, eight Butler County schools were recognized as All Star High Schools.

The All Star High School program was launched in 2022 with the mission given by Apply Kansas of enhancing college access to high school students. The process guides students through the college application process while giving them support to complete the applications, seek financial aid and celebrate their post-secondary paths. The events are held each year with the hopes of creating a thicker college attendance and environment within the schools in Kansas.

In total, 217 schools across the state were recognized. The schools recognized in Butler County were:

Andover Central High School
Andover High School
Augusta High School
Circle High School
El Dorado High School
Flinthills High School
Remington High School

To be considered for the award, high schools must:

- Submit Apply Kansas Summary Data
- Sponsor or collaborate on a FAFSA Completion Event
- Host a Senior Signing Day Event
- Complete the All Star High School Survey, describing the three events

If recognized, each All Star High School will receive a certificate and vinyl banner to display at the school. Each year won moving forward, schools will receive a certificate and star sticker to add to their banner, indicating multiple award winning years. The 2025 award winning schools will be recognized at the May 14, 2025 Kansas Board of Regents meeting.



The vinyl banner that the award winning schools receive. Photo courtesy

FREYA STUDY CLUB GUEST DAY

Jennifer Callaway
Freya Study Club

Members of the Freya Study Club gathered with their guests for the 71st annual Guest Day spring luncheon in the Dankert Room at Butler Community College Welcome Center on April 11, 2025. Tables were decorated with spring flowers contained in stylish cowgirl boots, complimenting the program theme. Attendees enjoyed a delicious luncheon of shrimp or vegetable taco salad in a taco shell bowl, prepared and served by Great Western Dining. Dessert was sherbet with sugar cookies. Janice Shaffer created special programs which also carried the western theme. Co-hostesses were Carolyn Connell, Ashley Ingalls, Francia Bird, Cindy Koehler, and Jennifer Callaway.

Vice President Carolyn Connell welcomed all attendees, and Janice Jones gave the invocation. Kelsey Sundgren and Ashley



Chase Locke, President and CEO of One Country attended the meeting.

Ingalls introduced special guest and program Chase Locke, President and CEO of One Country, a digital media company.

A digital marketing professional, Chase has worked with leading brands in the Country and western retail industries. Chase related how growing up a “ranch kid” from El Dorado gave him the solid footing to step out into the country music business world, rising to the top levels of marketing and promotion of this music and the artists who make



Guest Day hostesses from left to right were Cindy Koehler, Ashley Ingalls, Jennifer Callaway and Carolyn Connell.

it. He credited many local people for encouraging and believing in him.

After the program, members introduced their guests, and enjoyed socializing. Members in attendance were:

Deb Wheeler, Ashley Ingalls, Kelsey Sundgren, Janice Jones, Jane Doornbos, Bobbie Jaax, Bernie Spradling, Janice Shaffer, Carolyn Connell, Nancy King, Joan Hess, Dana Brooks, Paula Pepperd, Jennifer Callaway,

Barbara Dankert, Cindy Koehler, Marlene Rethman and Jann Ziegler.

Guests included:

Cassie Morton, Lindsay Demo, Hannah Nitsche, Teresa Smith, Alison Locke, Nancy Grange, Sharon Mangles, Nancy Samp, Roberta Schmidt, Judy Shipley, Shari Claasen, Joyce Parker, Kay Fisher, Suzie Locke, Kelli Locke, Jean Plummer, Debbie Rieb, Emily Connell, Ted Dankert, and Shelly Gaston.

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