

Annual D of A Chili Cook-off set for Oct. 28

The annual Department of Administration Chili Cook-off to benefit the United Way of Greater Topeka is scheduled for Oct. 28 in the Rotunda of the Kansas Statehouse. Chili will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Last year the Department of Administration raised more than \$1,800 from the event, which included a silent auction for several gift baskets that were prepared by agency staff. The auction is back this year, as well as several baskets that will be available as buy-now items.

The chili cook-off will test the cooking abilities of Department of Administration staff, with the winner of each category receiving a framed certificate. In addition to chili there will be desserts and bottled water for a \$5 donation.

We also will have a pumpkin decorating contest for employees and their families. Bring your best carved or painted gourd to share.

The event coincides with the annual United Way of Greater Topeka campaign,



**United Way
of Greater Topeka**

which benefits a number of organizations and projects throughout the city. More information about the campaign will be distributed in October.

South Steps Fridays, annual picnic bring hundreds to grounds of Kansas Statehouse for music, activities, food



The second season of South Steps Fridays completed its run in August with a successful Back-to-School edition, featuring representatives several higher education institutions and backpack giveaways.

South Steps began in May and was held every other Friday throughout the summer. A mainstay of the events was live music provided by the Jazz Combo from the School of Music at the University of Kansas. The music was made possible through the support of Reach Out Kansas Inc., which provides opportunities across Kansas for musicians, artists and other performers to share their talents.

“We are fortunate to have had such great partners for our second season of events,” said John Milburn, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs for the Department of Administration. “I was so pleased with the response that we received from organizations wishing to be part of South Steps Fridays and this growing tradition at the Kansas Statehouse.”

Milburn said that crowds continued to grow all summer with state employees, Topeka residents and other visitors to the Capitol Complex. Favorable weather also contributed to success of the events.

South Steps themes in 2016 included a salute to Kansas Veterans on June 10, fea-

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Meet: Laura Smith



Office of Facilities and Property Management

Position:

Custodial Supervisor

Job Duties:

Managing 20 employees (day and night crew) at the Kansas Statehouse to maintain a Level 1 Standard

How long you've been with D of A:

Since March 28, 1979

Favorite part of your job:

Dealing with the public during the legislative session

Interesting fact about you:

I like working with the elderly.

Favorite hobby:

I like to play bingo.

How you would spend an ideal day off:

I would enjoy sitting at home reading a book.



A note from the Secretary...

Summer is almost over and soon we will turn our focus to school activities and winter holidays. Looking back, it was an eventful past few months with friends and families sharing good times, good weather and good memories.

One of the memories I will take away from this summer is the success of our second season of South Steps Fridays. Starting in May and ending in August, the events created a buzz at the Kansas Statehouse with live music, children playing and dozens of organizations sharing their message of all that they do across Kansas.

Several of the events had themes, such as a salute to veterans, back-to-school time and Kansas agriculture, complete with free bacon samples cooked on the grounds. It was a chance to bring state, local and regional groups together to highlight what they do in Kansas. Other groups celebrated the state's history, including the Combat Air Museum at Topeka's Forbes Field and the Lane Museum from near-by Lecompton, celebrating the state's free-state heritage.



South Steps Fridays also was an opportunity to showcase young musicians. At each event, the Jazz Combo from the University of Kansas' School of Music provided live music for two hours. These young musicians were sponsored by Reach Out Kansas Inc., a nonprofit organization. ROK aims to break down barriers to the arts and cultural awareness through sponsoring free concerts to the public at a variety of venues.

During each South Steps Fridays, the Jazz Combo's energetic sound could be heard across the Capitol Complex. They have developed a following that frequently brings lawn chairs to enjoy the music beneath a Statehouse shade tree.

We are already looking ahead to 2017 and making South Steps even bigger. We hope this tradition continues to grow in the coming years. Our goal is to provide a destination event at the Kansas Statehouse during the summer for employees, visitors and their families.

Thanks for making South Steps Fridays such a success. It's a team effort that shows what a difference the Department of Administration is making for Kansas every day.

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Sarah

South Steps Fridays completes successful summer



turing the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard from Fort Riley's First Infantry Division. Several other veterans' organizations, along with the Kansas National Guard, rounded out the list of participants.

On July 1, we highlighted Kansas agriculture, complete with free bacon samples prepared by the Kansas Pork Association. We also had several other agriculture organizations, such as the Corn Growers and the Soybean Commission and the Topeka Zoo and Helping Hands Humane Society.

In July, nationally ranked Drag Racer, Megan Meyer, signed autographs and handed out tickets to her races at Heartland Park Topeka.

In August we had some of the colleges and universities coming for our back-to-school South Steps. The KU Jazz Combo from the KU School of Music played at every event this summer. It was sponsored by Reach Out Kansas; without them we would not be able to have the live music.

Employees from the Department of Administration came out to eat lunch at the

annual employee picnic held in June. The food was cooked and served by the directors. The event is meant to get the whole agency together at one time to say thanks for all the hard work that all the employees do throughout the year to carry out the duties of the state. We had a great turnout this summer. After the employees finished eating their food, they enjoyed several flavors ice cream from Kansas State University's Call Hall Dairy.



For more information on these events or how to get involved, visit our Facebook page, facebook.com/SouthStepsFridays, our Twitter Account @SouthstepsFri, or our website www.admin.ks.gov/offices/public-affairs/south-steps-fridays.

Dates for the Summer 2017 season are tentatively set for May 19, June 2, June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28 and August 11.



Intern reflects on summer experiences with Department of Administration

In answering the perennial question of “what did you do on summer vacation,” Madeline Triggs can honestly reply, “A lot.”

Triggs served from May through July as an intern with the Department of Administration, working directly with John Milburn, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs. She is a Topeka native and a sophomore at Kansas State University majoring in industrial engineering.

While the duties of legislative and public affairs are a world apart from her studies, Triggs said the experience this summer allowed her to develop new skills that will be useful regardless of what she does after college.

“When I applied for this job, I wasn’t sure which agency I wanted to intern for,” Triggs said. “It was suggested that I go to D of A, and at first I was surprised because I wasn’t entirely aware of all the functions the agency performs.”

Triggs said she was pleased with being placed in D of A because “this job truly had an impact on me.”

“Not many engineering majors will get an opportunity to broaden their horizon with an internship like this,” she said. “I have learned much more than I ever imagined about coordinating events, communication skills, and state government in general.”

During the summer, Triggs’ tasks ranged from maintaining social media sites, updating directories, and attending various meetings to coordinating events. She said the best part of the



job was her role in helping to line up groups that participated in the second season of South Steps Fridays.

She said that seeing the events come together each week was rewarding and she enjoyed meeting people in and out of state government who participated in the events. Working with groups outside of state government was challenging, but it taught her a level of perseverance when emails or phone calls were slow to be returned.

Triggs said she would recommend the Governor’s Internship Program to other students, not just those interested in state government. She said many employees told her that they never would have imagined working for the state but they found the job rewarding.



Chili Cook-off 2016

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, October 28

Kansas Statehouse Rotunda

Chili, desserts, water for \$5 donation to benefit the United Way of Greater Topeka

Silent auction and buy-it-now gift baskets with proceeds benefiting United Way of Greater Topeka

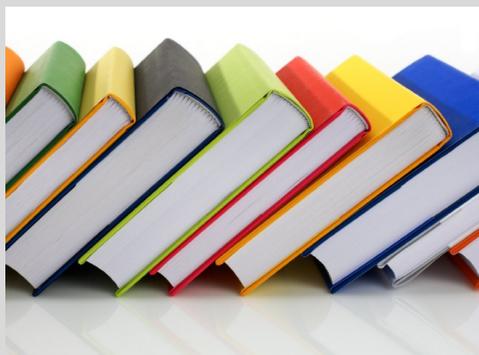
Bring your painted or carved pumpkin for judging with winners receiving certificates

Chili Cook-off with winners receiving certificates

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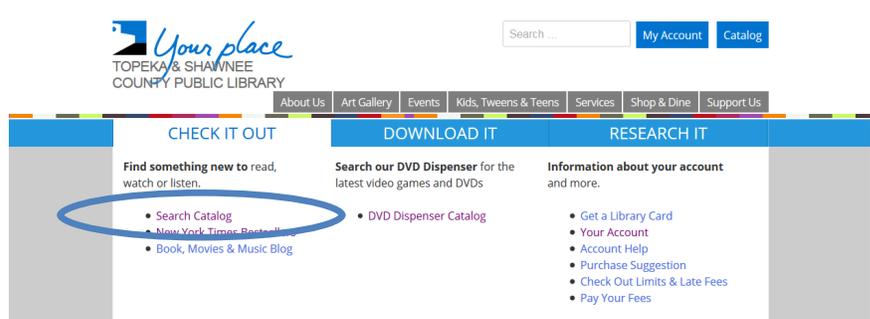
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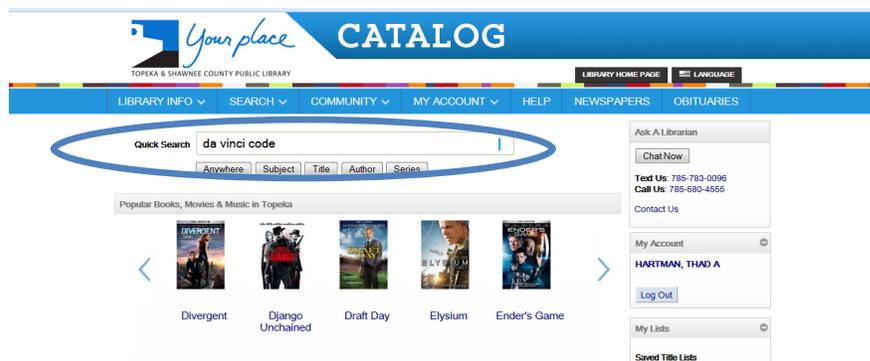
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