By LARRY PHILLIPS

• Leader & Times

Changes are occurring at Lake Meade State Park, and anglers will see an opportunity to catch a new species at the lake, according to a press release from Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's Meade State Park Ranger Matthew Trujillo.

"Starting in January, you will now be able to fish for rainbow trout," Trujillo noted. "The lake is classified as a Type 2 trout water. On Type 2 waters anglers 16 and older who are fishing for or in possession of trout are required to have a trout permit.

"Anglers 15 and younger can fish for trout without a trout permit, but they may only keep two trout per day," he continued. "The daily creel limit for anglers with a trout permit is five per day unless posted otherwise. All anglers age 16-74 must also have a Kansas fishing license."

Trout permits will be available at Walmart or any other KDWPT approved licensee vendor for $12.50, according to Trujillo. They will also be available at the park office after the first of the year.

KDWPT has also decided to relocate its park office.

“Hopefully, by the end of January, we will have successfully moved our offices from the current location to the building known as the Visitor Center,” Trujillo wrote. “Due to the building’s underutilization, the decision was made to move the park office to this building.

“By moving over there, we hope to increase our outdoor store, have an aquarium filled with different species of fish that inhabit the lake, and have an informational kiosk filled with information about the history of the Park, wildlife and plants of the Park,” he noted.

Park staff has also assigned an area for visitors to store certain types of outdoor vehicles, according to Trujillo.

“We will be providing a dry dock storage area.” he said. “The location will be on the North side of the Park. We will have 10 sites that will be available to rent for $50 a month. The spaces will be big enough to store your camper, RV or boat.

Staff will be hosting an open house on March 29.

“This will be your last chance to buy your State Park permits at a reduced rate. Permits are now on sale for 2014,” Trujillo noted. “Remember, whenever you renew your vehicle tags, you have the opportunity to buy a Parks Passport for $15.50. This covers your annual vehicle entrance.

“You can still purchase it at the Park office for $25,” he added.

For more information, feel free to contact the Park Office at 620-873-2572. Office hours will vary from now until April.