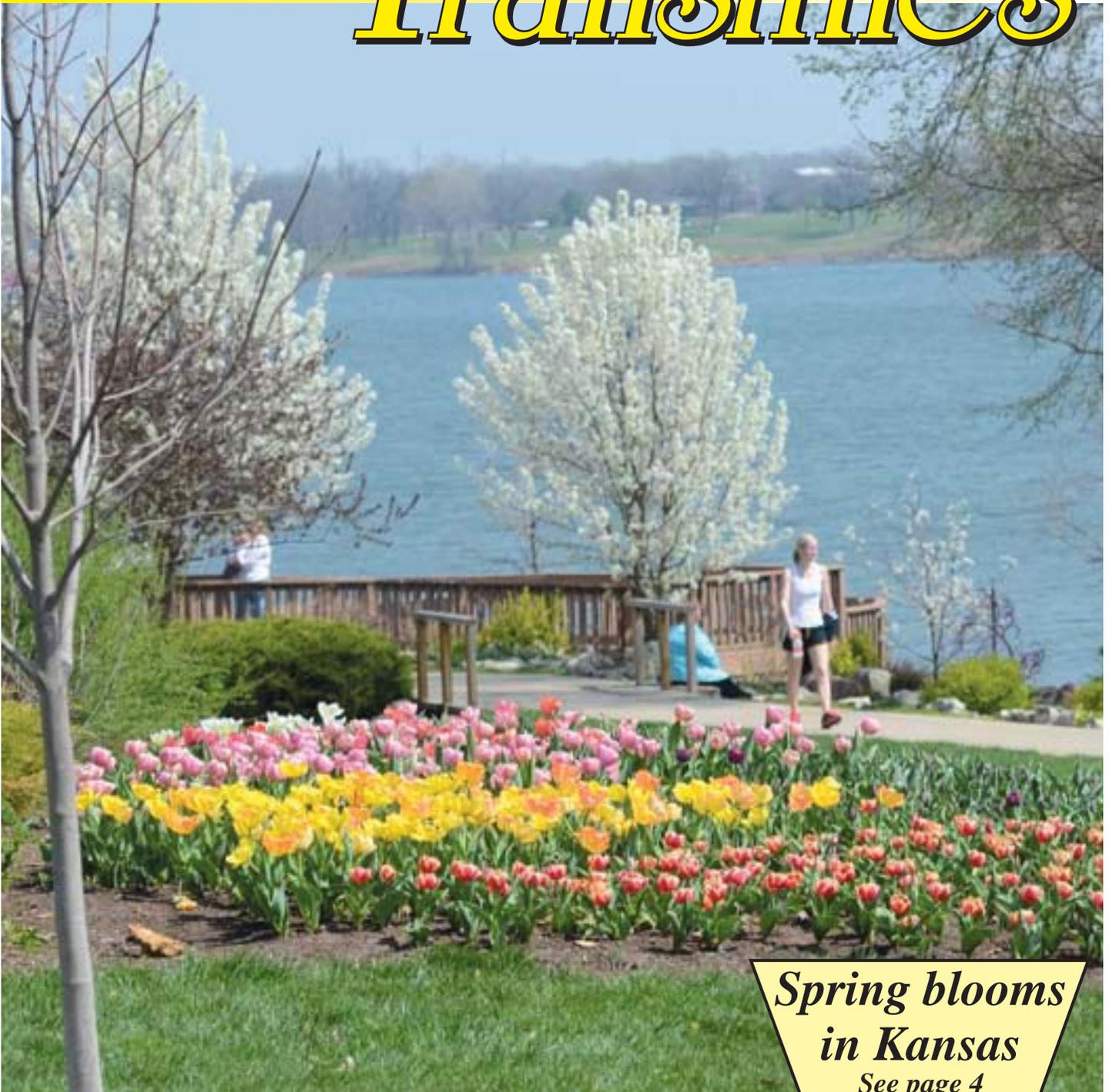


# Translines



*Spring blooms  
in Kansas  
See page 4*

## **I**nside...

- ◆ **KDOT continuing to advance ITS across Kansas**
- ◆ **Lives depend on safety in work zones**

- ◆ **Participants learn new ways to improve traffic safety**
- ◆ **Highways may be king but other modes contribute**
- ◆ **Trio receives national public service award**



By Secretary  
Deb Miller

# Highways may be king but other modes make royal contribution

In the world of Kansas transportation, highways have always been king. And that likely won't ever change, given the fact that our state ranks third in the nation in the number of public road miles.

But more and more, we are counting on other modes of transportation to play a greater role in meeting the state's transportation needs and boosting the economy. Under T-WORKS, the combined annual funding for rail, aviation and transit will more than double to \$21 million beginning in 2013. When the T-WORKS bill was being debated by the Legislature last year, we could make a strong case for the increased role and funding of the non-highway modes because of the positive impact they had during the last decade. For example:

**Rail** - Since it was started in 1999, KDOT's Rail Rehabilitation Program has played a key role in restoring short line railroads. The short lines provide individual shippers and manufacturers a vital link to the national rail network. Through the program, more than 1,050 miles of track were rehabilitated in the last decade.

About 14.5 million tons of freight is transported on Kansas short line railroads each year. That keeps shipping costs low for businesses, reduces truck traffic, enhances highway safety and reduces congestion and pavement wear. We calculate that the rail program saves the state more than \$40 million annually in highway damage and maintenance

costs.

Under T-WORKS, funding for the rail program will be boosted to \$5 million annually and we will consider funding rail improvements at industrial parks for the first time. While the program once was primarily about rehabilitation, it will now have a focus on economic opportunities.

**Aviation** - Under the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) of the CTP, more than 200 projects were funded that improved safety and generated new economic development opportunities for Kansas communities. Under T-WORKS, the annual program funding will be increased to \$5 million from \$3 million. A more strategic approach to project selection will be used. We will consider how a proposed improvement fits into the strategic plan for the state's aviation network, and not simply consider a project on a community-need basis.

A study completed last year found that Kansas airports annually support more than 47,000 jobs, generate \$2.3 billion in payroll and produce \$10.4 billion in economic activity. With that kind of impact, why wouldn't we increase our investment in aviation?

**Transit** - The irony of public transit in Kansas is while there are a whopping 200 rural transit providers in the state, there are still some 20 counties with no access to public transit services. Under T-WORKS, which will boost annual funding to \$11 million from \$6 million, I hope that will no longer be the case. By encouraging a regional approach (which is already happening), we will help providers move to one-call dispatching and increase coordination among other providers. And that makes it easier for our rural population to get to doctor's appointments, work, school and all those other places that one must go for the errands of day-to-day living. We are also improving our funding formula for urban providers in a way that better reflects transit needs.

What I really love about the way we approach the non-highway modes under T-WORKS is that it allows us to go beyond simply improving facilities or providing basic services (which was an appropriate approach at the time of the CTP). We can now use our precious funds to support economic growth opportunities, to make decisions in more timely fashion and invest in a way that strategically assesses the state needs.

I think that's what Kansas taxpayers expect of us and its why, a year after T-WORKS passage, I'm still excited about the impact our non-highway modes will have on the state's economic recovery and prosperity.



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**Secretary of Transportation:** Deb Miller  
**Chief of Transportation Information:** Steve Swartz  
**Editors:** Stan Whitley and Kim Stich

# Lives depend on safety in work zones

By Kim Stich

Inattention was the main cause of nearly 80 percent of all work zone crashes in Kansas last year.

"It's painfully evident that many of the motorists who drive through our work zones are oblivious to the risks their driving poses to those who are working just an arms-length away," said Secretary Deb Miller. "And if those drivers aren't thinking about the workers, they certainly aren't thinking about all the people who depend on those workers to come home safe and sound at the end of the day."

Secretary Miller was joined at a statewide work zone safety event on April 6 in Topeka by Kansas Highway Patrol

Superintendent Ernest Garcia, Dustrol Vice President Brian Hansen and Shirley McDonald, whose son, KDOT employee Scotty McDonald, was killed in a 2005 work zone crash. The event was part of National Work Zone Awareness Week, an effort to raise awareness of the dangers highway workers face every day.

And the danger isn't just an issue for highway workers - seven people were killed and more than 500 people were injured in work zone crashes in Kansas last year. All the fatalities and most of the injured people were motorists.

For more information on work zone safety both in Kansas and nationwide, go to KDOT's website at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org).

**To see photos of work zone safety events across Kansas, see pages 8-9.**



## Improved communications

*Secretary Miller leads the ribbon-cutting at an April 15 event in Augusta to celebrate the modernization of the Butler County communications system. Joining the Secretary from left are County Commissioner Dan Woydziak, Jack Molloy of Motorola, Sheriff Kelly Herzet, Kansas Highway Patrol Lt. Col. Alan Stoeckline, Secretary Miller, Rose Hill Police Chief Bob Sage and County Commission Chairman Bruce Harris.*

On the...

## COVER

*A variety of flowers and trees are in full bloom along the walking path near Lake Shawnee in Topeka. To see more spring photos, see page 4. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman*

## Trio receives national public service award

Secretary Deb Miller, State Senator Dwayne Umbarger and Executive-Vice President of Kansas AAA Jim Hanni have been given the National Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) award for Public Service.

The three were honored March 28 during the NHTSA awards luncheon in Phoenix. Umbarger, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, Miller and Hanni were instrumental in getting a primary seat belt law passed in Kansas during the 2010 legislative session.

"Kansas is experiencing the lowest number of total highway fatalities since 1950, the highest seat belt usage rates in history and more than a 7 percent reduction in alcohol-

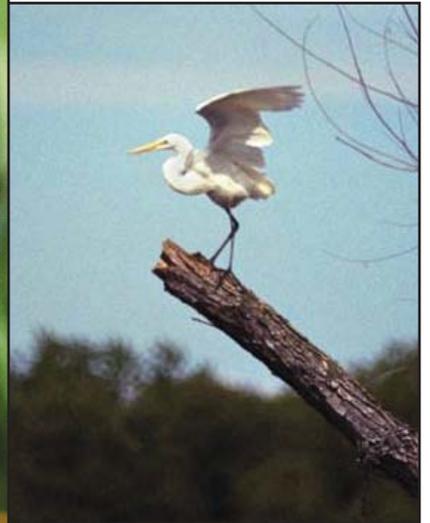
impaired driving fatalities," said David Strickland, NHTSA Administrator. "These accomplishments are in large measure the result of the commitment of highways safety leaders like you."

Since Secretary Miller took office in 2003, KDOT has made great strides in reducing deaths and injuries on state roadways. In 2008, there were 385 fatalities on Kansas roadways - the lowest ever recorded in the state.

Other significant safety achievements include a continual rise in safety belt usage to an all-time high of 82 percent in 2010 and passage of a booster seat law in 2006. - S.W.



# Spring blooms in Kansas



# KDOT continuing to advance ITS across Kansas

**Editor's Note:** *This is the second of two stories about KDOT's Intelligent Transportation System*

**By Stan Whitley**

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology has seen a continued emergence the past three years and the good news for Kansas motorists is there's more on the way.

KDOT has focused on adding Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and ITS camera views to provide motorists real time travel information, including roadway views, closures, crashes, work zones and other emergency information.

Wichita is in the middle of a multi-year project to develop its ITS system. In early 2009, six temporary cameras and six portable message signs were installed and the Wichita Traffic Management Center (TMC) became operable as a long-awaited ITS system started.

***'It's a wise investment because a recent cost-benefit analysis for the KC Scout program has shown that for every \$1 we spend on ITS, the program has provided about \$8 in returns.'***

**Leslie Spencer Fowler**

will be installed by KDOT and maintained jointly by KDOT and the KTA, while the other four signs will be installed by KTA and be under their jurisdiction. The KDOT project is scheduled for an FY 2012 letting.

Other current ITS improvements include the addition of 10

Then in September of 2010, KDOT awarded a \$5.2 million contract for Phase One expansion of the TMC.

When the Phase I project is completed in the fall of 2011, there will be 28 permanent cameras and 20 DMS to assist motorists and 36 radar detectors that will provide travel times in the metro area. The system will continue to expand when Phase II is started in 2013 at a cost of approximately \$5 million.

On the KTA, a project is under design to install six permanent DMS between Topeka and Kansas City. Two of the signs



**Workers place conduit for a closed-circuit camera along U.S. 54/400 as part of the ITS development project in Wichita.**

more cameras on the Kansas City Scout traffic management system around the Village West entertainment district to better accommodate I-70, I-435 and K-7 traffic and a DMS and several cameras near the K-10/K-7 interchange.

“Our technological advancements are allowing motorists to make informed decisions before they travel and along the way so they can plan an efficient trip,” said Leslie Spencer Fowler, ITS Program Manager. “It’s a wise investment because a recent cost-benefit analysis for the KC Scout program has shown that for every \$1 we spend on ITS, the program has provided about \$8 in returns.”

Those benefits include reduced travel times and congestion, lower crash rates, savings in fuel and other operating costs.

Records show that during the past five months the existing cameras on the KanDrive web portal have had almost 185,000 online hits.

# District News...

## Inspector award given

An awards ceremony took place posthumously on March 11 at the Horton Area Office for KDOT's District

One 2010 Inspector of the Year Kenneth "Go-Rat" Slocum. He also was awarded Inspector of the Year for District One, Area One-Horton Construction.

The ceremony took place in his memory as he was killed in an auto accident in late November 2010.

An excerpt from his nomination letter, "He truly was an

MVP (most valuable person), both as a person and as an inspector. No one had a better ability to accept additional responsibilities on the Atchison River bridge project than him. He was a born leader. Ken was a true asset to this (Horton) construction office and a very large void is now left in KDOT at this passing."

**District One**

More than 50 people attended the ceremony as well as his family who received the two plaques in his honor. He was a 20-year veteran at KDOT.

## Repair work under way

Repair work is under way on two highways in District Two. The first is a project to mill and replace 1.5 inches of asphalt on U.S. 56. The overlay extends from the Rice-McPherson county line east to the west city limit of McPherson, then resumes at the U.S. 56/I-135 interchange continuing east to the U.S. 56/K-15 (north) intersection.

**District Two**

The second project is an overlay on U.S. 77 in Geary County. An ultra-thin

bonded overlay is being applied and new pavement markings are being placed. Work began at the Geary/Morris county line north to the U.S. 77/I-70 inter-



At left, Area Engineer Leroy Koehn presents inspector awards on behalf of Kenneth Slocum to his wife, Barb, and the rest of his family.

change. Work will then pick up at the Geary-Riley county line and move south to the U.S. 77/I-70 interchange.

## Atwood receives award

The Area Two Construction Office in Atwood was awarded the 2010 State Road Winner during the 31st Annual Portland Cement Concrete Pavement Conference Awards luncheon on March 3 in Kansas City, Mo.



Atwood Construction Engineer Matthew Withington and Scott Erickson with Smoky Hill, are presented awards for their inspection efforts.

The award was presented to the Atwood office for their inspection efforts on the reconstruction of K-27/U.S. 24 Business in Goodland between I-70 and the U.S. 24 intersection.

The project (split into three separate jobs) was funded by 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, Geometric Improvement funds and the city of Goodland. The work, which occurred last construction season, replaced the deteriorating asphalt with new concrete driving lanes. Each directional lane was constructed in phases, so a detour was not necessary. Smoky Hill, L.L.C., of Salina, was in charge of the \$1.4 million project and received at plaque at the March 3 awards luncheon as well.

**District Three**

## Focusing on safety

To kick off National Work Zone Awareness Week, District Four Safety Specialist Shane Etzold invited maintenance staff from Chanute and Erie to an April 4 ceremony on the grounds of the District Four office complex.

Etzold organized the ceremony to demonstrate KDOT's commitment to work zone safety and to honor the 33 KDOT employees who lost their lives while serving in work zones. "Our hope for this brief assembly is to promote awareness and recommit ourselves to safety," he explained. Following a moment of silence, those attending walked through an aisle of 33 cones - each with a name - and paid their respects.

**District Four**

Retired KDOT employee Don Beckman was a guest at the event. After the ceremony, Beckman paused beside the cone honoring his late father, Arnold Beckman. On Oct. 28, 1976, Arnold Beckman was mowing



*KDOT retiree Don Beckman participated in the National Work Zone Awareness Week ceremony in District Four on April 4. His father, KDOT employee Arnold Beckman, was killed in a work zone in 1976.*

## District News

Continued from page 6

along U.S. 59 north of Erie when his tractor rolled, killing him.

Don Beckman did go on to become a state employee himself. He joined KDOT as an Equipment Operator at Pittsburg in 1978. Working through the ranks to become supervisor at the Pittsburg Subarea shop, he retired in 1999. He continues to have fond memories of his time here.

## Partnering efforts

Partnering was the topic of the day at the District Five/Kansas Contractors partnering workshop on March 31.

Three projects were highlighted for partnering. The Great Bend Construction Office, Klaver Construction Co., and the City of Hoisington was honored in the under \$500,000 category for reconstruction of U.S. 281/Main Street in Hoisington. Klaver proposed

### District Five

a construction phasing that sped construction and saved money, and working with KDOT maintained access to the businesses.

In the \$500,000 to \$3 million category, the Hutchinson Construction

Office, APAC Kansas Inc., and Reno County received the award for the two-mile reconstruction of 82nd Avenue west of Buhler. APAC delayed the start of this project by two weeks to allow harvest trucks to use this major local road, but APAC still completed this project 50 days ahead of schedule, preventing a winter shutdown that would have kept this road closed for an extended period.

The Wichita Metro Office and Wildcat Construction Co. received the award in the over \$3 million category for the I-135/U.S. 54 interchange bridge and ramp reconstruction project. Changes in plans and reconstruction of some newly completed work were obstacles overcome by the active partnering.

Also at the event, John Gatz was named the District Five Inspector of the Year for 2010. He is currently in charge of the Pratt County U.S. 54 four-lane expansion project. This project is one

of the largest projects that the Pratt Construction Office has undertaken and is also the first QC/QA concrete paving project that this office has done.

## Fire destroys bridge

A grass fire on April 3, possibly caused by sparks from a passing train, burned thousands of acres of land in Stevens and Haskell counties, destroyed more than a dozen buildings and a railroad bridge, caused KDOT to close highways due to excessive blowing smoke and forced the evacuation of Satanta, a town of 1,100 residents, for a few hours. According to media reports, a handful of people suffered minor injuries from smoke inhalation.

### District Six

The fire began along the Cimarron Valley Railroad in Stevens County around noon on April 3, and continued well into the evening, as the fire was pushed by 25 to 35 mph winds that were gusting to 50 mph or higher throughout the day. The blaze followed the railroad tracks through northeastern Stevens County into Grant and Haskell counties all the way to the western edge of Satanta. KDOT closed U.S. 56 from Moscow to the U.S. 56/U.S. 83 junction around 5 p.m., reopening the highway after 10 p.m. that night. K-25

between Ulysses and Hugoton and K-190 north of Satanta were also closed.

The fire destroyed a railroad bridge over the Cimarron River in Haskell County, about a mile north of U.S. 56 and five miles west of Satanta.



*This bridge over the Cimarron River in Haskell County was destroyed by a grass fire on April 3.*

*Information for the District news briefs section is provided by the District Public Affairs Managers.*

# Work zone safety events in Kansas

as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week that took place April 4-6



Top right: Safety event in Salina. Top left: Safety event in Hutchinson. Middle right: Shirley McDonald speaks at an April 6 safety event in Topeka. Middle: KDOT employee Gary Burroughs and Mabel Cunningham take a moment to remember her husband, Richard, who was killed in a work zone crash. Middle left: Secretary Deb Miller speaks at the Topeka event. Right: Secretary Miller poses with industry partners who contributed to the work zone enforcement program. Above: Safety event in Chanute.

## Promotions/Transfers

### Headquarters

**Thomas Allen**, Right of Way Property Appraiser I, Right of Way

**Joel Davidson**, Applications Development Supervisor, Computer Services

## Retirees

The following employee officially retired from KDOT in April.

### District Two

**Wanda J. Vanderpool Tobin**, Administrative Specialist, Minneapolis

The following employees will officially retire from the Kansas Department of Transportation in May.

### District Two

**Robert A. Graham**, Equipment Operator Senior, Clay Center

### District Four

**Lonnie G. Riley**, Storekeeper Specialist Senior, Chanute

*Employees who choose to have retirement reception information shared on the Internet can be found at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), under News and Announcements.*

# CELEBRATE

*May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month*

“Heritage reminds us of who we are, the values and the culture.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month promotes understanding of various cultures and strengthens the awareness in the workplace.

This awareness campaign is important – it also shows that KDOT is truly an organization that recognizes and appreciates diversity in the organization and diversity in the population that it serves.”

**Elsit Mandal**, Road Systems Engineer in Transportation Planning, has worked for KDOT for four years.



## Go Orange!

*KDOT employees in Wichita (top left), Garden City, (top right), Topeka (left) and Oakley (above) are just a few of the many who wore orange on April 6 for Orange Day. To see more photos, go to KDOT's website at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org).*

*Fun Facts  
and Trivia*

**Do you know?**

**Kansas Fun Facts**

1. What is Russell Springs located in Logan County otherwise known as? A. Second home of Russell Stover's B. Cow Chip Capital of Kansas C. National Trail Ride Center of Kansas D. first official settlement west of the Mississippi
2. What world famous fast-food chain opened its first store or was founded in Wichita? A. Pizza Hut B. Taco Tico C. White Castle D. All of the above
3. Sumner County is also known as what? A. Home of The National Rodeo Association B. Wheat grass central C. Chicken Coop Central D. Wheat Capital of the World
4. Where is the Fick Fossil and History Museum located? A. Oakley B. South of Fick C. Greeley D. Cimarron
5. Name at least one nickname for Kansas.
6. Who founded the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad? A. Cyrus K. Holiday B. Doc Holliday C. Charles Koch D. Charles Curtis
7. What University of Kansas coach invented the game of basketball? A. William Jewel B. James Naismith C. Dennis Horkenback D. Luther Gulick

Answers on page 12



*Students who attended the Transportation Safety Conference in Wichita wear fatal vision goggles while trying to navigate an obstacle course to help illustrate dangers of driving while impaired.*

## Participants learn new ways to improve traffic safety

Kansas youth, law enforcement and others in the traffic safety field participated in various activities at the 17th annual Kansas Transportation Safety Conference on April 5-6 in Wichita.

In addition, Katy Vinson, Tamara O'Connor, Trooper Bryan Clark and ThinkFirst of Greater Kansas City VIP Speakers Injury Prevention Program were honored for their efforts to improve traffic safety.

Katy Vinson, SADD faculty advisor at Salina High School South, started a S.A.F.E. (Seatbelts Are For Everyone) campaign as a project for the SADD student group, to improve student safety through increased seat belt usage and better driving decisions. She also began to solicit interest from the other Saline County high schools, and the program has evolved into a county-wide safety education campaign.

Tamara O'Connor has helped educate

the public on auto safety issues since 2003 in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Most recently she has been a key player in turning S.A.F.E. from a pilot project in Crawford County in 2008, to an actual movement by fall 2010.

ThinkFirst of Greater Kansas City has been providing traffic safety education since 1987. It addresses these issues through its VIP Speakers Injury Prevention Program, providing traffic safety education to K-12 students and drivers age 24 and under. This program reaches more than 30,000 youth through 200 assemblies a year.

Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Bryan Clark had an outstanding record during 2010 in promoting traffic safety through DUI, moving hazardous violations, seatbelt, child seat and criminal enforcement. Trooper Clark rearranged his schedule in order to increase his effectiveness in this work.

## Welcome new KDOT employees!

### District Three

**Jordan Baker**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Atwood

**Dustin Bell**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Hoxie

**Cody Bredemeier**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Norton

**Danielle Cliff**, Engineering Technician Associate, Norton

**Geovanni Eller**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Phillipsburg

**Chad Hammons**, Engineering Technician Associate, Phillipsburg

**Jonathan McClung**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Goodland

**Anthony Thomas**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Norton

### District Four

**Cody Adams**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Ottawa

**Matt West**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Pittsburg

### District Five

**Kenneth Standfast**, Equipment Mechanic Senior, El Dorado

*The Bureau of Personnel Services and Districts supply information for new employees to Translines.*

## Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

### Classes at Headquarters

- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, May 5
- ♦ New Employee Orientation, May 12
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, May 17
- ♦ ART Day 1,2,3, May 24-26
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts, June 21
- ♦ Best Week 1, June 27-30
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts, July 13
- ♦ New Employee Orientation, July 14

### Classes at District Offices

- ♦ Difficult People, May 4, District One, Topeka
- ♦ Leadership Basics, May 24-26, Hutchinson
- ♦ Dealing with Difficult People, June 7, District One, Topeka
- ♦ Transition to Leadership/You'll Catch on, June 13-17, Chanute

## Step Back in Time



*Center striping on U.S. 24 near Belvue in June 1953.*

## Calendar of Events

**May 10** – 11 a.m. KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**May 13** – 9:30 a.m. Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

**May 18** – 1 p.m. Construction bid letting, fourth floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**May 19** – 8-11:30 a.m. KDOT Blood Drive Fourth Floor Auditorium A, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**May 30** – State employees off for Memorial Day holiday.

# KDOT Computer Training

- from the KCTC

## Software downloads:

### A friendly reminder from BCS

Downloading and installing software on your KDOT computer may seem innocent enough but the truth is that it can potentially cause unforeseen issues with your machine, according to the Bureau of Computer Services (BCS).

Applications like Google Toolbar, Google Chrome, and Weather Bug tend to cause randomly occurring issues with Microsoft Office; Outlook in particular, and the Approve It software.

Performing an uninstall does not necessarily mean the issues these applications cause will just go away. Google Chrome, for example, requires the registry to be manually altered to remove the remnants of the install.

The problems caused by installing these programs can interfere with your day to day responsibilities or even leave your machine unusable.

To avoid any disruptions, please contact the IT Service Desk at 785-296-0315 before installing software from the internet to make sure that it will not interfere with any state software.

Check out the shared calendar: KCTC for on-going classes. Contact the KCTC at [kctc@ksdot.org](mailto:kctc@ksdot.org) or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993.

## Kansas Department of Transportation

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Topeka, KS 66603-3754

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# M I L E S T O N E S

## KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in May

### 10 YEARS

Glen Bennett . . . . . Winfield  
Andy Brungardt . . . . . Catharine  
Daniel Crosland . . . . . Topeka  
Linda Guillen . . . . . Wichita  
Rodney Hammarlund . . . . . St Marys  
LaTikka Moore . . . . . Topeka  
Karen Rahberg . . . . . Topeka  
Gregory Schieber . . . . . Topeka  
Dustin Shepart . . . . . Topeka

### 20 YEARS

Lonnie Engle . . . . . Liberal  
Ralph Finley . . . . . Chapman  
Edwin Geer . . . . . Eskridge  
Mark Maddux . . . . . Carbondale  
Paul Mutschler . . . . . Delphos  
Kriston Norton . . . . . Lawrence  
Roger Yost . . . . . Dighton

*State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services. Employees and home towns are included in this list.*

Grasshopper State, Central State, Wheat State, Garden of the West  
6. A. Cyrus K. Holliday  
7. B. James Naismith

5. Just a few include - Sunflower State, Jayhawk State, Squatter State, Cyclone State, Bleeding Kansas, Midway State, The Battleground of Freedom, The

1. B. Cow Chip Capital of Kansas  
2. D. All of the above  
3. D. Wheat Capital of the World.  
4. A. Oakley

**Answers**