

# Translines EXPRESS

Sept. 20, 2017

## District Three

*A project that closed a portion of K-23 from the Gove city limits to I-70 in Gove County since early April has been completed.*



*The closure was necessary for the reconstruction of two bridges located approximately three and six miles north of Gove. L&M Contractors was the primary contractor for the project with a total contract cost of \$1.3 million. Ryan Barrett's road squad and Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad designed the project.*

## KTA

**Phishing scam:** KTA recently learned of a phishing scam email that appears to be about travel on the Kansas Turnpike. The email is from "Toll Pass Customer Service Center." Even though the correspondence uses the K-TAG logo, it is not from KTA.

K-TAG statements are emailed at the beginning of the month and typically KTA does not send emails about past due accounts or toll violations. If you receive such an email, please delete it and do not click on any links



**Phishing scam**

Dear customer,

You have not paid for driving on a KS-Tag toll road. This invoice is sent repeatedly, please settle this account before the due date of July 13th.

found within the email.

If you have questions, please contact the K-TAG Customer Service team at 800-USE-KTAG (800-873-5824.)

## Trivia!

### Coaches –

1. During his 39 seasons as the University of Kansas basketball head coach, his teams won 24 conference championships and three national titles.
2. Don Gambriel, who was born in Altamont, was a Hall of Fame swimming coach who coached several well-known Olympic swimmers. Name as many as you can.
3. This coach, who was born in Emporia, played on the varsity basketball and varsity baseball teams at the University of Kansas and spent 36 years as the basketball coach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
4. This coach, who is from Silver Lake, is one of only two coaches ever to lead five different programs to the NCAA tournament.
5. This New York Yankees manager, who is from Lawrence, won three consecutive American League pennants and the 1961 and 1962 World Series championships.
6. This coach, who grew up in Stilwell, is the current quarterbacks coach for the Indianapolis Colts and his father was formerly the head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs.

## Kansas State Fair



**Above, Kent Davis, Welder at the Hutchinson office, speaks with several fair attendees who visited the KDOT booth at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. KDOT has had a booth at the state fair for 25 consecutive years. At right, Ryan Wallace, Equipment Operator Specialist at the Wichita-west office, tells visitors about the state maps, brochures and other items available at the KDOT booth.**



## Kansas Transportation

Monday, Sept. 11

### #IAMKDOT

This month's #IAMKDOT feature is **Ciro Chavez**. Chavez began his career with KDOT as an Equipment Operator Trainee at the Lakin Subarea in southwest Kansas in October 2015. He earned his CDL in December of 2015 and transferred to the Garden City Subarea in April of 2016. He was then promoted to Equipment Operator in

April 2016 and transferred to the District Paint Crew in July of 2017.

When Chavez is not at work he enjoys several outdoor activities including four wheeling and fishing. He is a music fan, a son and role model. Many would also describe him as a fighter and survivor.

Prior to his employment at KDOT, Chavez was an EMT but he never thought he'd be the one to call 911. Last year, he was involved in a head-on collision. His recovery may have taken several months, but he's here to tell his story. And his story is one of 20 stories that will be shared from people telling why traffic safety is so important to them.

The four-week series begins this Wednesday



and will continue until Oct. 10. Please read everyone's blogs that are part of the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety campaign that focuses on reducing all types of traffic fatalities. Whether you are in a vehicle, on a bike/motorcycle or walking, the goal is for you to safely get where you are going.

*#IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to keep Kansans moving. This series also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath those neon vests are individuals with families, friends and hobbies waiting for them at home.*

To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

## Scenic Byway

### **Native Stone Scenic Byway extended:**

KDOT, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) and the Kansas Historical Society (KHS), has extended the Native Stone Scenic Byway in northeast Kansas.

The extension increases the byway's length from 48 miles to 75 miles.

The byway was originally established in 2005 when it followed portions of K-4 and K-99 in Shawnee and Wabaunsee counties and took travelers through Dover, Keene, Eskridge and Alma. It ended at the K-99 and I-70 interchange. The extended byway continues along K-99 north from I-70, turns west onto K-18 and goes through Wabaunsee. It then goes west into Riley County through Zeandale to K-177 at the edge of Manhattan, turns south on K-177, passes into Geary County and ends at the I-70/K-177 interchange.

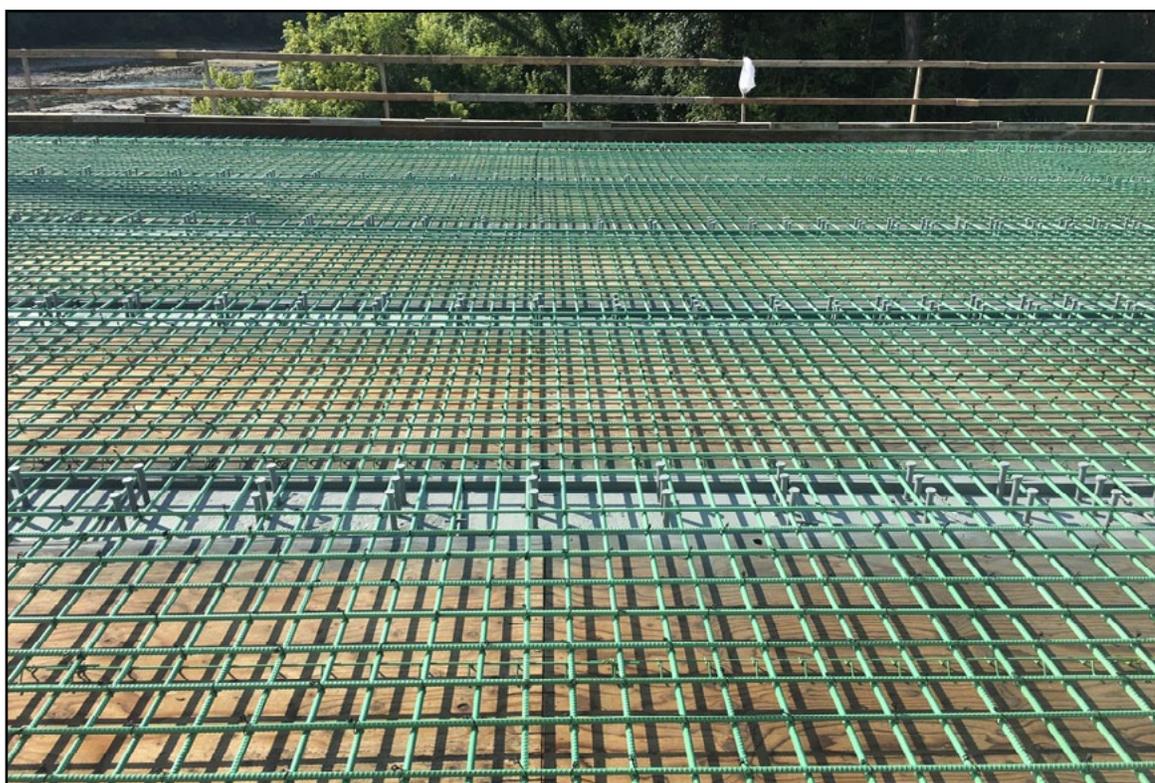
"We are excited to extend the Native Stone Scenic Byway north of I-70," said Secretary Carlson. "The extension will help broaden awareness of the Flint Hills and the important role that native limestone plays in



*A view of the Native Stone Scenic Byway.*

the scenic beauty and history of the region. It is sure to spur interest in the communities along the route." The new extension adds the Underground Railroad history of Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie along K-99 just south of K-18 and the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church in the community of Wabaunsee. Also featured along the new extension are the Konza Prairie, Pillsbury Crossing and waterfall on Deep Creek, the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan and a hilltop overlook on K-177.

The Kansas Byways program is a cooperative partnership of the Federal Highway Administration, KDOT, KDWPT, KHS and local grassroots committees.



**KTA**

*Kansas Turnpike crews place the steel mat for Arkansas River bridge in Wichita.*

## Safety Blog Series

*From the Sept. 18 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety blog series -*

**Did we just crash?:** It started off a morning just like any other. I headed down K-10 toward Olathe with two of my children in tow - my 5-year-old son, Micah, was seated in the third row of our mini-van, and my 2-year-old daughter, Ruby, in the second row. As we do most mornings, we were chatting and listening to music, when I noticed a deer cross the highway. He got clipped by a passing car, but seemed to be ok as he hopped into the woods. Having married a man from rural Kansas, I'd learned long ago that deer rarely travel alone, and although I knew this, I had no chance to process the thought.

It happened so fast, the loud sound of impact, feeling my head hit something hard, and the shower of glass that rained into the car. Everything seemed to happen in slow motion and all at once. I tried to stay calm and managed to bring the van to a stop on the shoulder of the road. That's when I noticed the blood spattered across the inside of the van, but I didn't feel like I'd been hurt. I began to panic and immediately turned to check on the kids. They were alert and fine, except for the glass that covered us all. Micah calmly asked me, "Did we just crash?" I'd never felt so relieved to hear him talk in my life.

Finally after I put two and two together, I realized that we must have hit a deer, whose blood and antlers now covered the inside of the car. As I surveyed the situation, I realized that my children were both ok because they'd been sitting in their car seats. When it comes to car seats, I've always been that mom. You know the kind that doesn't move the car until everyone is seated and fastened. Maybe it was all those videos that they showed us in high school, or the crumpled car they parked in front of school before prom - whatever it was, it worked. Later, when I was pregnant with my first child, my husband, Dustin,



**Smith's vehicle after the crash.**

and I knew that purchasing a car seat would be one of the most important decisions we could make. We did our research and carefully chose one to protect the life of our new baby.

My daughter, Johanna, who is 9 years old, was the first grandchild on my side of the family, and the new grandparents

were somewhat baffled with this new contraption. I could tell that they questioned the necessity of the car seat, once even asking if it was ok to let the baby ride in their lap for a short trip. Naturally the answer was a resounding, "No!"

My husband and I now have four children, and I am still that mom. I'm generally easy going, but when it comes to car seats, there is no discussion. All the kids ride in car seats or boosters, including the 10-year-old, whose eye rolling hasn't gotten her out of her high-back booster.

I hit the buck going 70 miles per hour, and yet my son, daughter and I walked away with minor bumps and scratches. I have no doubt that if my children had not been safely secured in their car seats the outcome would have been very, very, different.

*Sarah Smith is a Project Manager for Johnson County Public Works in Olathe.*

To read all of the blogs in the **Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety series**, [click here](#).



**Sarah and Dustin's children - Ruby, Johanna, Micah and Emery.**

## Flooding

According to a Better Roads article, part of the Highway 96 bridge between Jasper and Beaumont, Texas, that crosses Village Creek collapsed Aug. 31, as a result of flood damage from Hurricane Harvey. According to KJAS, Emergency Management confirmed that a portion of the northbound lane of Highway 96 between Silsbee and Lumberton collapsed due to the erosion from flood waters. Luckily, there was no traffic on the bridge when it collapsed, so there were no injuries. The Texas Department of Public Safety and officials in Hardin County are determining the extent of the damage and what they will have to do to repair or replace the structure. Click [here](#) to see the video posted showing the collapsed part of the bridge, as well as flood waters in the surrounding area.

## Retiree

The following employee will retire in October.

### District Four

**Alan Hougardy**, Equipment Operator Senior, Chanute

*Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express? Please e-mail your suggestions to [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)*

## Scenic



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Forrest "Phog" Allen
2. Mark Spitz, Sharon Stouder, Gunnar Larsson (Sweden), Matt Biondi, Nancy Hogshead, Jonty Skinner (South Africa), Hans Fassnacht (Germany) and Mary T. Meagher.
3. Dean Smith
4. Lon Kruger
5. Ralph Houk
6. Brian Schottenheimer



*Above, along I-70 in Wabaunsee County, Common Sunflowers can be seen along the right-of-way. Varieties of sunflowers can be found in every county in the state. At left, is a Painted Lady butterfly near one of the flowers. Painted Lady's can cover up to 100 miles per day during their migration and they are capable of reaching a speed of nearly 30 mph.*