

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities

### Improving safety can help put the brakes on fatalities:

Thousands of teens die in car crashes every year in the U.S. NHRA drag race legend Doug Herbert knows this all too well.

"This statistic became a reality for me in January of 2008 when my two boys, Jon and James, ages 17 and 12, were killed in a car crash," Herbert said. Thunder Ridge High School teacher Denise Miller experienced a similar tragedy when she lost her daughter in 2015.

"Nothing prepares you for standing at the edge



**NHRA drag race driver Doug Herbert shares about losing his two sons in a car crash at the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day news conference on Oct. 10 at the Capitol. Also speaking were (seated, from left to right) Logan O'Dea, Denise Miller, Secretary Richard Carlson and KHP Officer Don Hughes.**

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## Headquarters

**Floberg to lead new division:** Mike Floberg has been selected to lead the newly-created Division of Innovative Technologies for KDOT.

"In this position, I'm going to help lead the agency and the state into the future – working to bring in innovative technologies that relate to transportation as well as management and data," Floberg said. "We're also looking at ways to bring businesses and upstarts of new technology to expand the systems in Kansas."

The technologies could include autonomous



**Mike Floberg**

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## Headquarters

**KDOT welcomes Randall:** Nicole

Randall was named KDOT's new Communications Director on Oct. 16. Randall has been serving as the District One Public Affairs Manager. Randall has a variety of experience in the communications, marketing and legislative affairs arenas at the state agency level in Kansas. She previously served as the Director of Communications at the Kansas Department of Commerce, as an Executive Producer with KSNT in Topeka and as a journalist with the United States Army. Randall holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Plattsburgh State University and Master of Arts in Diplomacy from Norwich University. She lives in Lawrence with her husband and son.



**Nicole Randall**

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities



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of a field, held back by rescue workers, as you scream, cry, react,” Miller said. “That realization that comes over you when you comprehend they are doing nothing to free your precious baby from her vehicle. Because there is nothing that can be done. It’s already too late.”

Herbert and Miller were joined by Secretary Richard Carlson, KHP Officer Don Hughes and recent Kansas State University graduate Logan O’Dea at the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day news conference at the Capitol on Oct. 10. The campaign strives to decrease traffic fatalities.

Logan O’Dea of Topeka shared how important wearing his seat belt was when driving while it was raining and he hit standing water. “I was wearing my seat belt. If I hadn’t been, my body would have been with the back-window glass they found



**Above, Denise Miller speaks at the news conference about the loss of her daughter. At left, students participate in the mock seat belt relays.**

flung 50 feet away from the car,” he said. Students from Topeka and surrounding areas, as well as other transportation safety partners and law enforcement officials, attended the event.

### **In Memory**

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Wes Banning who passed away on Oct. 10 in Winfield. He worked for KDOT for 44 years, retiring as the Subarea Supervisor in Sedan.

### **Headquarters**

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vehicles, roadside data collection, telecommunications and other coordination systems.

Since 1988, Floberg has worked at KDOT – he spent 11 years in bridge design and inspection, eight years in the Intelligent Transportation System unit and one year as the Topeka Metro Engineer. He has served as the Transportation Safety and Technology Bureau Chief since 2008.

## District Five



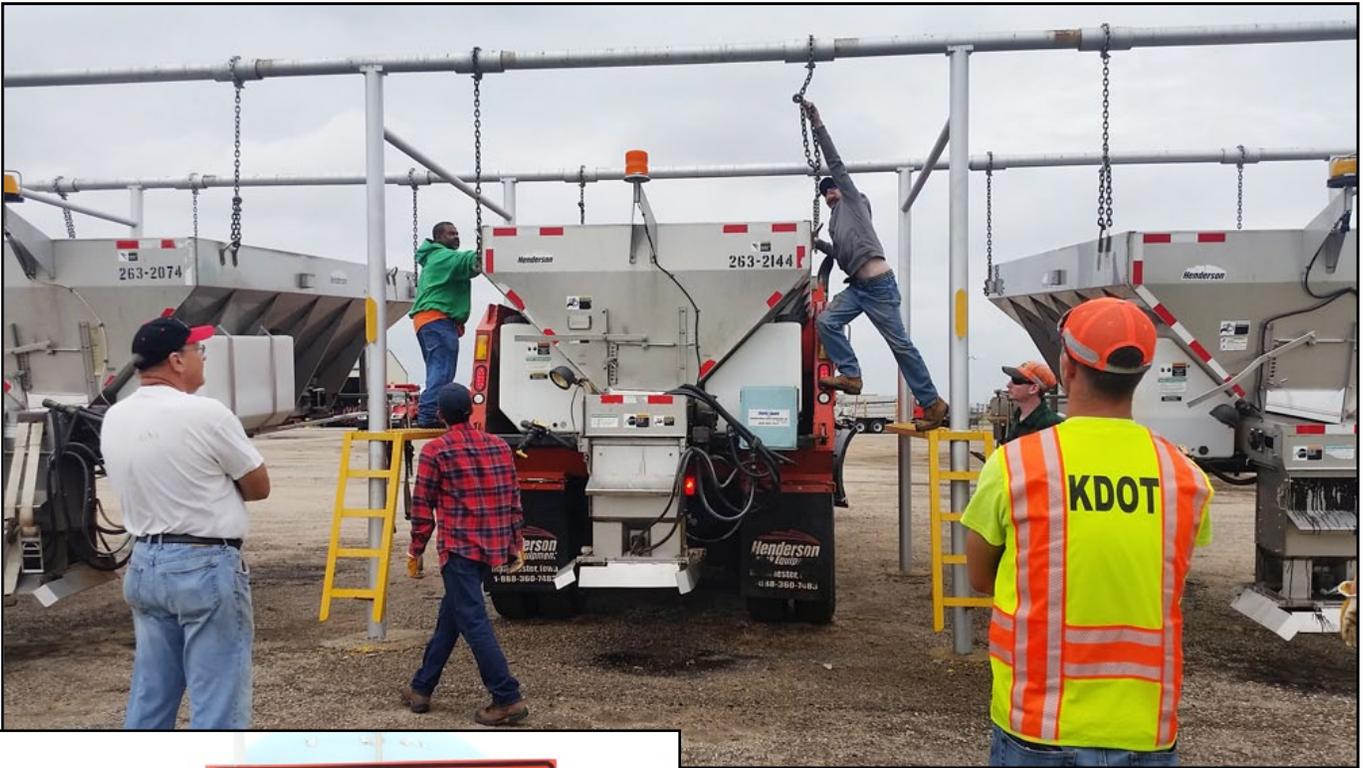
*From Oct. 6 to 9, construction crews on the I-235/U.S. 54 interchange project in Wichita completely closed the two highways at that intersection so that 12 120-foot steel bridge beams could be installed over traffic lanes. The beams are part of the two-lane flyover ramp from southbound I-235 to eastbound U.S. 54. Mark Hurt's bridge crew worked with TranSystem on the bridge designs. Dondlinger Construction Company is the prime contractor on the project and the Wichita West Construction Office is inspecting the work. The Red Project (the first of four phases of the interchange improvements) is on schedule for a summer 2019 completion.*

## Trivia!

### Musicians

1. This Topeka-born singer is the former lead singer of British pop rock band Katrina and the Waves.
2. This country singer, who was born in Sharon in 1966, has sold more than 14 million albums in the U.S. and has won the Country Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year award four times.
3. This country singer, who grew up in Wellsville, was named Top New Female Vocalist by the Academy of Country Music in 1995.
4. This country singer, who was born in Atchison in 1965, was part of a duo for several years and also has written songs for several artists.
5. Danny Carey, who was born in Lawrence in 1961, is a drummer and instrumentalist. He performs several genres of music – name them.

## District Two



*During District Two snow-fighter training at the Salina Subarea recently, new staff members received hands-on training to learn different techniques such as making brine as well as loading brine and other materials used in winter storms.*

### TRIVIA

### ANSWERS

1. Katrina Leskanich
2. Martina McBride
3. Chely Wright
4. Rory Lee Feek
5. Progressive metal, progressive rock, jazz, art rock, alternative metal

### KTA

**Safety:** In honor of Teen Driver Safety Week, the KTA encourages everyone to watch the latest videos made by the Put the Brakes on Fatalities video contest winners. The winning videos were created by Eudora High School, Andrew Tabb from Shawnee Mission West High School and Kodi Rogers and Aly Tarrango from Scott City High School. To read the full release and watch the videos, click [here](#).



## KTA - Topeka Toll Plazas



As seen above, the South Topeka toll plaza reconfiguration has been completed and all lanes are open. Work is now underway on the East Topeka toll plaza located at exit 183 on I-70/KTA. The commuter parking lot at the east location will close on Oct. 31 to accommodate the conversion of the plaza to open road tolling. Learn more about the reconstruction project [here](#).

## Aviation



At left, Secretary Richard Carlson speaks at the event in Wellington on Oct. 11 celebrating the Kansas Airport Improvement Program grant of \$400,000 to help with a 1,000-foot runway extension and sewer work. The new runway length will allow for carriers and operators faced with high temperature and high density altitude days to land and take off at the airport. Above, Aviation Director Merrill Atwater, Secretary Carlson and other officials participate in the groundbreaking ceremony.

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

**Kansas kids win poster/video contests:** Winners of two Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day statewide contests have been announced.

**Poster contest** – Nora Ackermann of Andover, Austin Lamb of Osage City and Alyson Welch of Overland Park are the statewide winners. Each student was first selected as a regional winner and will receive a bicycle and a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas at presentations at their schools. A total of 1,048 Kansas kids ages 5 to 13 participated.

As statewide winners in their age categories, they will also receive a Kindle Fire tablet from the Kansas Turnpike Authority, a \$50 Amazon gift card from the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas, a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart and movie passes from AAA Kansas.

**Video contest** – Students from Eudora High School won first place. The class will receive their choice of an iPad, GoPro or Osmo Steadicam along with a \$500 donation to the school. Andrew Tabb from Shawnee Mission West High School captured second place. Kodi Rogers and Aly Tarrango from Scott City High School placed third in the video contest. Each will receive one of the remaining prizes listed above. More than 50 entries from teens in 25 Kansas schools participated.

**Statewide winning posters by Nora Ackermann (top left), Alyson Welch (top right) and Austin Lamb (right).**



At left, KHP Trooper Chad Crittenden poses with Nora Ackermann who was a south central regional winner as well as a statewide winner in her age group.

At left, southwest Kansas poster winner Jennicah Pinchon with her parents, Patrick and Jesse.

# KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

# 2017

Headquarters: Contact your Council Rep.

Districts/Retirees: Mail form to -  
Ruby Hilton, ESOB - 13th Floor,  
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
<b>2017</b>		<b>\$5.00</b>	
2016		\$3.00	
2015		\$3.00	
2014		\$3.00	
2013		\$3.00	
2012		\$3.00	
2010		\$3.00	



**Great Gift Ideas!**

Please Print -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Retirees only - home address)*

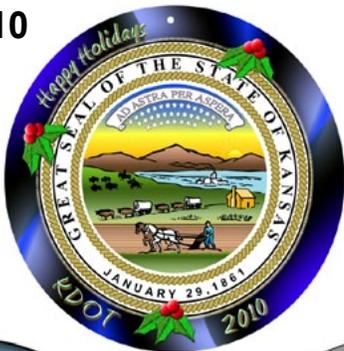
Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable  
to KDOT Employee  
Council

For more details, call  
Ruby at (785) 291-3980

## ----- Past Ornaments Still Available -----

2010



2012



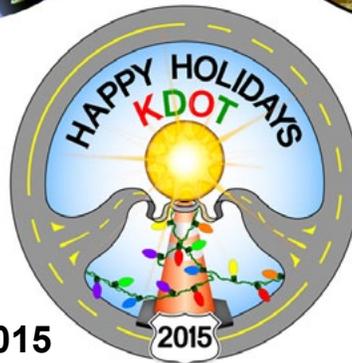
2013



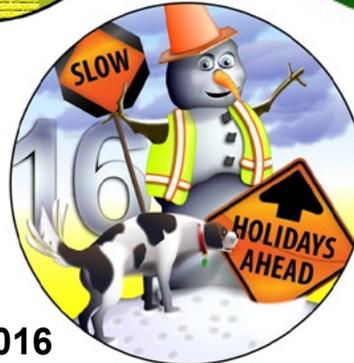
2014



2015



2016



Supply is  
limited on  
ornaments  
from  
previous  
years - first  
come, first  
serve



Give the Gift  
of Kansas



FROM THE LAND OF  
**KANSAS**

Order online at [shop.fromthelandofkansas.com](http://shop.fromthelandofkansas.com)  
by Dec. 10 for guaranteed holiday delivery.

\$25



### The Konza Gift Box

Bring the beauty of the Konza prairie home for the holidays with these one of a kind Kansas made products. Your gift includes products from across the state: Schlaegel's Homegrown Popcorn, Cranberry Trail Mix, Grandma Hoerner's Big Slices, Kansas Wildflower Honey, chocolate covered sunflower seeds, specialty orange cookies, Sand Hill Plum jelly, Grannie's Homemade Mustard, and traditional German Peppernuts! Feel the joy of supporting local Kansas businesses as you enjoy the holidays.

\$50



### The Ad Astra Gift Box

Celebrate this holiday with plenty of Kansas products to go around (or save for yourself, all season long!) Your gift includes products from across the state: Kansas Wildflower Honey, Louisburg pumpkin butter, Wright Enterprises Sunflower Oil, specialty orange cookies, chocolate covered sunflower seeds, "Sticky Spoons" homemade jelly, traditional German peppernuts, and a From the Land of Kansas mug made in Manhattan, KS! Know that your purchase helps Kansas businesses to grow!

\*\*Prices do not include tax and shipping.

\*\*To guarantee delivery by Dec. 25, your order must be placed by Dec. 10. If you are ordering a quantity of more than 15 gift boxes, please call 785-564-6759 to ensure your delivery can be fulfilled by Dec. 25.

Packaged By: **Prairie Harvest**

From the Land of Kansas is the state trademark program, promoting and celebrating agricultural experiences and products grown, raised, or produced in Kansas. Shop online at [shop.fromthelandofkansas.com](http://shop.fromthelandofkansas.com) for more great Kansas products!