

Translines EXPRESS

May 30, 2018

District Three

Storms affect roadways: Severe storms and torrential rainfall swept across parts of northwest Kansas on Memorial Day. District Three had several areas affected by flooding with areas of Graham and Trego counties seeing the most impact. In fact, WaKeeney had 5.5 inches of rain that afternoon and evening.

A portion of U.S. 24 between Hill City and Nicodemus sustained significant damage from flooding. The highway has been closed since Monday from the K-18 junction near Bogue to Stockton and will remain closed until repairs can be made.

U.S. 283 was closed from WaKeeney to Hill City most of the evening because of water covering the roadway. High winds also caused several semis to overturn on I-70 west of WaKeeney, and damaged the roof of the salt and sand shed at the WaKeeney Subarea.



The top and middle right photos show severe damage to U.S. 24 near Nicodemus in Graham County. Above, buildings at the WaKeeney Subarea were damaged by high winds.



KHP Trooper Tod Hileman shared KHP Trooper Cody Honas' photo on his Twitter page on May 29 showing flooded waters over Ellis Avenue a few miles north of the town of Ellis.

Trivia!

Led Zeppelin/50th anniversary

1. Who were the original members of Led Zeppelin?
2. What was the group's original name?
3. When did the group disband, and why?
4. When was the group inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?
5. One of the group's songs is often referred to as one of the greatest rock songs of all time. What is it?

Kudos

My husband and I traveled over 3,000 miles this past week including Memorial Day weekend. We traveled through parts of seven states, mainly east and south of Kansas. Hands down and no debate about it Kansas has the best roads. Our roads, especially I-70 and KS-156 are well-maintained. Thanks for keeping our roadways in such great shape!

Debbie, on KDOT Facebook

We have traveled I-70 twice each year for many years as we spend our summers in Colorado and our winters in Florida. Our main highways are I-70 and U.S. 75. The interstate through Kansas are in the best condition of any road we travel. Every time we cross Kansas, I say I'll send an email complimenting you on the roads. I finally did it! Please pass our compliments along and keep up the great job.

Bob, email sent to KDOT

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, John Paul Jones and John Bonham.
2. The Yardbirds.
3. The group disbanded in September 1980 after drummer John Bonham died.
4. 1995.
5. "Stairway to Heaven."

Run for the Wall



Around 600 motorcyclists came through Topeka on May 21 and stopped at the KTA's service area east of town as part of the 30th annual Run for the Wall event. More photos from the stop are in this edition. According to the organization's website, "Founded by Vietnam Veterans, Run for the Wall recognizes the sacrifices and contributions made by all veterans who have served our nation. Veterans of recent conflicts, those currently on active duty, non-veteran supporters and patriots are especially welcome to join and ride with us, as we ride for those who can't."

District Four



APAC Kansas Inc., Shears Division is contractor on the project to resurface a six-mile section of U.S. 69 in Linn County, starting north of K-52 and ending south of the Linn-Miami county line. Work includes placing an inch of reflective crack interlayer (RCI) mix on the driving lanes and applying an asphalt overlay to entrance and exit ramps along the corridor. The construction cost is \$5.4 million.

District Six



Crews have begun working on K-96 in Greeley, Wichita and Scott counties. The projects include a mill and overlay from the west city limits of Tribune to the east city limits of Leoti and a surface recycle from the east city limits of Leoti to just west of Scott City. APAC Shears of Hutchinson is the contractor on all four projects totaling \$4.9 million. Thomas Rhoads' road squad designed the project.



District Four



The morning of May 21 first graders at Park School in Columbus learned about safety around signs and equipment during a field trip to a lot just across the street. After Equipment Operator Senior Kevin Rodriguez explained how and why the various signs on display were used in work zones, the group gathered to watch crew members operate the lights and blades of a dump truck, front loader, motor grader and track hoe. Each child was then given the opportunity to climb into the cabs and briefly explore each piece of heavy equipment.

Scenic

KDOT employee Neil Croxton shared this photo of a spinystar in bloom that he saw in rural Clay County.



Kansas Transportation

Monday, May 28

Motoring Mondays

Saddle up and head west for a one of kind celebration of Kansas beef. Beef Empire Days in Garden City celebrates “BEEF... 50 years strong!” and will reflect 50 years of tradition, celebration and education beginning June 1 and wrapping up on June 10. Cattle have long been part of southwest Kansas history. In 1951 Earl C. Brookover, armed with a degree in civil engineering and experience in irrigated farming and feedlot inspections, established a feedlot just north of Garden City. This feedlot was the first commercial feed yard in the Midwest. As the beef industry continued to grow, John Dohogne, Plant Manager at Garden City’s Producers Packing Company, and Earl C. Brookover began planning an event to advance the production and quality of beef, improve

communications and provide continued education and promotion of beef. Together, they began the Beef Empire Days Live and Carcass show, which first took place in 1969.



Events have come and gone over the last 50 years, but with almost 30 events over 10 days, there’s something for everyone including a live and carcass show, a carnival, athletic events, concerts and music, a ranch rodeo, a children’s parade, a cattle crawl, chuck wagons, food trucks, barbecue and much more. Additional information and a complete schedule of all the events planned as part of this celebration are available at <https://beefempiredays.com>.



Numerous events take place as part of Beef Empire Days, including barbecues (above) and parades (below).

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



In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Joseph Martinez, who passed away on May 17 in Independence. Martinez turned 100 this past February. He retired in 1983 from the Independence office.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Larry Carlson, who passed away in Fort Scott on May 12. Carlson worked for KDOT for 25 years at the Pittsburg Construction office and retired in 2005.

Traffic Safety

Close call: A Greenwood County Deputy experienced firsthand why it's so important for motorists to pay attention and give people along roadways room to work. According to a May 26 post on the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office Facebook page, the video clip "shows a Greenwood County Deputy narrowly avoiding being killed by a driver who decided getting to his destination was more important than the safety of others on the roadway." The video shows the Deputy walking towards his vehicle, then running in the opposite direction to get out of the way as his vehicle is crashed into and pushed several feet.

District One

Olathe Superintendent Drake Jennings sent in this photo of Lamar Subarea employees cleaning a drain in mid-May at I-35 and Southwest Boulevard in Kansas City. Crews work to clean the numerous drains in the Metro area once a year.



As temperatures continued to rise last week, Lamar Supervisor Rick Looper sent in this photo showing Subarea employees working on another drain. With the increased exposure to high temperatures and usually no shade while working, Lamar Equipment Operators utilized a patio umbrella to give themselves shade while working.



Technology

New way to survey: Kirkham Michael and KDOT are working together to survey a passing lane on a two-mile section of U.S. 75 north of Topeka. Kirkham Michael is conducting the survey via a series of drone flights while KDOT is going through the normal survey process. This will allow KDOT to test the effectiveness of new technologies in advancing project design processes and improving worker safety on Kansas highway projects.

"We are very excited to be partnering with industry to improve our processes that will not only save taxpayers money in the project planning and design phases, but also improve worker safety," said Ron Feldkamp, KDOT Survey Coordinator.

Currently, road surveys for every road project are conducted by workers physically out on highway right-of-ways. The data that they collect is transferred to design programs and used by engineers to plan and design the project.

The use of drones to conduct the three-dimensional surveys can potentially save time, limit traffic impacts and significantly reduce the risks to employees.



Above, Kirkham Michael employee Wayne Scritchfield gets ready to launch the drone during a demonstration on May 22. At left, attendees watching the test flight talk about the benefits of surveying a road project with a drone.

District Six

District Six Subarea crews participated in tanker training with Brian Horner from E.D. Etnyre & Co. in April. Horner was on hand helping crews become familiar with the new tanker trucks that will be shared by several Subareas that did not already have tanker trucks.



Run for the Wall



Top left: Run for the Wall participants get gas at their stop at the KTA service area east of Topeka on May 21. Top right: Flags and motorcycles filled the parking lot. Above: Secretary Richard Carlson talks with a veteran riding in the event. Right and below: Riders line up and head out to continue the trip.

