

# Translines EXPRESS

June 13, 2018

## District Five



*The journey of an F-35A test article from Houston to Wichita piqued the interest of many Kansans, several of whom joked they thought it was a UFO (and a few people insisted it was). It was the second of three such fighter jets District Five Engineering Technician Specialist Barry Santee has helped route from Texas to the National Institute for Aviation Research. Area Engineer AJ Wilson took a photo of the engineless jet with his drone in Winfield, seen at right. A post on the District's Facebook page about the jet was quite popular, reaching more than 60,000 people and shared 466 times and counting.*



## In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Roy Ottensmeier who passed away in Lawrence on June 2. Ottensmeier retired as an Equipment Operator Senior at the Oskaloosa Subarea office in 2007. He worked for KDOT for nearly 31 years.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Paul Gray who passed away in Garden City on June 1. Gray retired as the District Six Superintendent in 1988. He worked for KDOT for 44 years.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree George Powell who passed away on May 19 in Garden City. Powell retired in 1988 as the Equipment Body Mechanic in Garden City after a 35-year career. He also worked in Dighton and Scott City.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Willie Valdery who passed away in Topeka on Dec. 22, 2017. Valdery retired as an Equipment Operator at District One in 2013. He worked for KDOT for nearly 25 years.

## Trivia!

### John Deere - part one

1. John Deere was born in 1804. He began the company in 1837 and it originally became famous for improving this piece of equipment.
2. Deere and Company celebrated a 100-year anniversary in 1918. What did Deere & Company purchase to accomplish this?

3. Since 1837, Deere & Company has had how many CEO's?
4. The slogan, "Nothing Runs Like a Deere," was originally created for what vehicle?
5. How long has the leaping deer trademark been used for the company?

## Retirees

### *The following employees retired in April.*

#### **Headquarters**

**Joseph Wakefield**, Engineering Technician, Road Design

**Cindy Cook**, Technology Support Consultant II-Hutchinson, Information Technology Services

#### **District Two**

**Michael Strait**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Belleville

### *The following employees retired in May.*

#### **District Two**

**Ralph Finley**, Engineering Technician, Junction City

#### **District Five**

**Daniel Stafford**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Great Bend

**Roger Wilcoxon**, Engineering Technician Senior, El Dorado

### *The following employees retired in June.*

#### **Headquarters**

**John Lauer**, Engineering Technician Senior, Structures & Geotechnical Services

#### **District One**

**Larry McGraw**, Equipment Operator, Leavenworth

### *The following employees will retire in July.*

#### **Headquarters**

**Linda Cox**, Administrative Specialist, Personnel Services

**Christopher Meyer**, Professional Civil Engineer I, Structures & Geotechnical Services

#### **District One**

**Catherine Cates**, Administrative Assistant, Olathe  
**Charles Stephens**, Engineering Technician, Bonner Springs

#### **District Two**

**Steven Bohnert**, Equipment Operator Senior, Mankato

**Michael Thompson**, Equipment Operator, McPherson

#### **District Three**

**Michael Cooper**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Atwood

**Jeffrey Jones**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Norton

**Arlin Phelps**, Engineering Technician Senior, Norton

**Francis Wahrman**, Equipment Operator Senior, Atwood

#### **District Four**

**Marcos Alonzo**, Equipment Operator Senior, Chanute

**Robert Hardwick**, Network Service Technician III, Maintenance - Chanute

**Scott Samuelson**, Equipment Operator Senior, Eureka

#### **District Five**

**Dan Ferrin**, Equipment Operator, Coldwater

**Darin Oller**, Equipment Operator Senior, Hutchinson

**Frank Smith**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Hutchinson

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Steel plow.
2. It purchased the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company and its Waterloo Boy tractor line and began producing tractors.
3. Nine, and five of the nine have been members of the Deere family.
4. A snowmobile.
5. For more than 135 years.

**Do you know a KDOT retiree not receiving the electronic Translines newsletter?**

**Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)**

## District One



*The westbound I-70 Lewis and Clark Viaduct bridge in Kansas City was dropped the morning of June 2 as these three photos show it hitting the water. The bottom photo shows the structure in the river after the smoke had cleared. All concrete and removable pieces of the original structure have already been removed from the bridge. The effort was part of a long-term construction project to demolish and rebuild the bridge.*



*After the fallen structure is removed, work will continue to build the new bridge, which will be 2,980 feet long, have 20 new spans and 18 new piers. American Bridge Company of Coraopolis, Pa., is the prime contractor on the approximately \$65 million project. It is scheduled to be complete in December 2019. Debbie Tanking's road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.*



## KTA



Above, the gantry is placed for the new eastbound KTA entry for open road tolling at East Topeka. At right, the KTA's State Farm Safety Assist Program has begun. During the summer months, an additional vehicle patrols the Topeka to Kansas City corridor and one vehicle patrols the route from Wichita to Oklahoma to provide free roadside assistance to Turnpike travelers. Learn more [here](#).



## General



Above, KDOT Employees' Council President Leslie Fisher, back row in the middle, hangs out with her family before the June 2 Kansas City Royals baseball game. At right, Isabel Ruiz, Administrative Assistant in Garden City, gave family members tickets to the game as a present, and they took a group photo. Discounted tickets were offered by the Employees' Council.



At right, Isabel Ruiz, Administrative Assistant in Garden City, gave family members tickets to the game as a present, and they took a group photo. Discounted tickets were offered by the Employees' Council.

## Kansas Transportation

Monday, June 11

### Motoring Mondays: Bartlett Arboretum

The Bartlett Arboretum might not be able to cure what ails you, but it certainly will give you a restorative respite from the hustle and bustle of life.

The grounds in Belle Plaine were first nurtured in 1910 by Walter Bartlett, a doctor, naturalist and civil leader, and now are in the hands of steward and musician Robin Macy and her devoted band of Soil Sisters and Brothers.

“The Arb,” as it’s called by its fans, features several state-champion trees as well as show-stopping buds and blooms. Add in the lush Zoysia lawn, and it’s a great place to forget your worries for an afternoon or evening.

Open by appointment or by accident, as Macy says, the Bartlett Arboretum regularly puts on concerts, art fairs and other events. A \$75 season pass gets people into the gate for all concerts, salons and open days. Information about season passes as well as the cost of admission for individual events is available at [www.bartlettarboretum.com](http://www.bartlettarboretum.com).

Macy, an original founding member of the Dixie Chicks, is a small but mighty force who is dedicated to preserving and honoring the piece of paradise just a short drive south of Wichita.

Upcoming concerts include Driven, a bluegrass band, which will perform on Father’s Day, when



*The Bartlett Arboretum has beautiful flora and fauna. Photos courtesy of John D Morrison and Randy Bradbury*

barbecue will be served. Nashville Americana singer and songwriter Nora Jane Struthers is on tap July 1 with The Party Line. Willis Alan Ramsey, described by Macy as an iconic Texas songwriter, plays July 15. Reservations are needed for a house concert July 29 featuring Bruce Forman and the Red Guitar.

A Story Walk featuring HWY 55 is free and open to families Aug. 19.

The Outside Track will provide a “Winfield warmup” with Celtic songs and stepdance on Sept 9.

All events are listed on the website.

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



## Headquarters

**Exchange rates increasing:** Gov. Jeff Colyer announced on June 11 that KDOT is increasing the exchange rate for local public agencies seeking to fund local projects with state funds through the Federal Fund Exchange Program, returning the exchange rate to \$.90 in state funds made available for every \$1.00 in federal funds awarded a local agency, upon that agency's request. "By participating in the Federal Fund Exchange Program, we are hoping to increase the control that localities have over their transportation projects and make sure that funds are available when they need them," said Gov. Colyer. "It is important to me that local governments have access to resources for local projects with less federal regulation and bureaucratic red tape. We want Kansas solutions for Kansas transportation issues." The Federal Fund Exchange Program is a voluntary program allowing local public agencies the option to sell all or a portion of their federal funds for state transportation dollars, which provides greater flexibility of use and allows local agencies the opportunity to fund larger projects that may



**Secretary Richard Carlson answers questions about the change in the Federal Fund Exchange Program.**

not have been possible with federal funding. To read more of the story and comments from transportation partners around the state, click [here](#).

## District Two



***In the photos above and at right, a U.S. 36 resurfacing project is under way from the east city limits of Washington east nine miles to the two-lane/four-lane divide. Other work along U.S. 36 in District Two is planned to begin later this summer. Tom Rhoads' road squad designed the project.***



## District Five



*Crews recently wrapped up replacing and repairing several sections of guard rail on U.S. 54 from the Ford/Kiowa county line to the U.S. 54/U.S. 183 junction. Venture Corporation of Great Bend was the primary contractor for the \$424,000 safety improvement project. Steve King's road squad designed the project.*

## Scenic



*Interesting gasoline-related creatures, such as the Mobil Pegasus above and the Sinclair Dinosaur at right, can be seen at a gas station on K-14 at the south end of Beloit. Photos by KDOT employee Neil Croxton.*

**Transportation and safety messaging:** Miles is a new face around KDOT and is ready to get to work as the official mascot of KDOT.

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi mascot was created by KDOT staff to help create content that will reach Kansans on social media. The dog breed was chosen due to its hard-working nature and because they can be orange and white, like the safety equipment that can be seen along roadways.

Last month a contest took place on social media to name KDOT's new mascot and "Miles" won by a mile. Miles is pulling at the leash to share important messaging with you - stay tuned for more content. Mascots are everywhere. They are used by sports teams, food brands, restaurants, businesses, government agencies and even education programs. We all grew up with friendly faces who helped provide information on a variety of topics.

Transportation safety can be taught at any age and important lessons can be shared in fun and creative ways. KDOT plans to use Miles to help share safety tips, safer driving advice and provide a healthy dose of fun activities for kids and their loved ones.

