

Translines EXPRESS

June 19, 2019

District Six

The Garden City bridge crew and Subarea crew have been working together to remove and replace cracked concrete panels on westbound U.S. 50 approximately one mile east of Holcomb.



Above, crew members work together to break up and remove the concrete panels. At left, crew members use a concrete saw to cut the concrete panel without damaging the adjacent concrete panels.

Headquarters

KDOT retirees: Two KDOT Bureau Chiefs, each with nearly 28 years of service, have retired recently.

Rob Stork, Chief of Right of Way, retired in mid-June. Stork started at KDOT in 1991 and served his entire career in Right of Way.

"I had a background in real estate sales and I came in as a Right of Way Agent so it was a good fit for me," he said.

He then served as a Compliance Officer, followed by appraisal work and then was in charge of the Acquisition Section. Stork was named Operations Assistant and then became the Bureau Chief in 2014. Stork said he enjoyed attending public meetings in the past. "The agency is more public minded and looking for input as part of the process," he said.

Stork plans to take a cruise around Australia and New Zealand and also spend time bicycling.



Rob Stork



Rick Kreider

Rick Kreider retired as the Chief of Research on May 31. Kreider started in 1991 in the Bureau of Materials and Research at KDOT's central laboratory. He served in three different positions before being named the Assistant Bureau Chief in 2000. He became the Bureau Chief in 2007. Following the reorganization in 2013, he was the Chief of Research.

"I had the opportunity to visit 35 states on behalf of KDOT," Kreider said, as he attended various regional and national meetings.

"It was a great opportunity to meet other people from across the nation and get information to bring back to KDOT," he said.

Kreider plans to take a little break and then hopes to find another job and continue working for a few more years.

New Password Requirements

New IT Security Policy: In today's world, security is becoming more and more important. To meet new threats, KDOT must adjust its approach in protecting the agency's technical resources.

In response to this, the Kansas Information Technology Executive Council (ITEC) has modified an existing policy – Information Technology Standards Policy 7230A. The effective date is July 1 and KDOT has 90 days after that to become compliant. This new version changes the requirements for passwords to better protect the state's agencies and employees from current and emerging threats. ITEC is following recommendations from the federal government and other organizations specializing in IT security.

HOW IT IMPACTS KDOT EMPLOYEES - The first time you change your network login password after Aug. 1, you will have different requirements for building your password. Even though the password now must be longer, it will last for 180 days rather than 30 days as we now require.

New password construction requirements:

- ♦ A minimum of 12 and no more than 127 characters in length.
- ♦ Contains three out of four of the following categories:
 - ♦ Uppercase,
 - ♦ Lowercase,
 - ♦ Numeral,
 - ♦ Non-alpha numeric character,
- ♦ Must not contain the user ID,
- ♦ Must not have a lifespan that exceeds 180 days,
- ♦ Must be different from the previous 24 passwords.

"We realize the longer password will take some time to become accustomed to, but recognize the need to protect our environment," said Jeff Neal, Chief, KDOT Office of IT Services. "We appreciate your understanding as we all work to safeguard the safety of our systems and data."

Headquarters

New leaders: KDOT has two familiar faces and a new one to lead offices at Headquarters. It's a little like coming home again as Bill Haverkamp is returning to his former Bureau. However, now he will lead the office as he was named the Chief of Right of Way. Haverkamp retired as the Survey Coordinator in March 2017 after 39 1/2 years at KDOT. He spent two years in another job but the hours were not conducive to spending time with grandchildren. "It wasn't anything foreseen, it was just a unique opportunity," he said. "When I saw it advertised, I thought I've always liked doing preconstruction activities, surveys and right of way development." Haverkamp started on June 3 and replaced Rob Stork, who recently retired.



Bill Haverkamp



Gelene Savage



Jeanny Sharp

Savage replaces Barb Rankin who left the agency in January.

Jeanny Sharp has been named the Director of Communications.

Previously she was Public Affairs/Communications Director for the Kansas Department of Corrections. Before joining the State of Kansas, Sharp served as editor and publisher of The Ottawa Herald for more than 16 years. Most recently she was the marketing solutions director for The Hutchinson News as well as Regional Sales Director for GateHouse Media.

"I'm excited to be part of the talented communications team at KDOT, which is essential to keeping Kansans informed on transportation highways, byways and ways to keep them safer while navigating the Sunflower State," Sharp said.

She is a board member of the Kansas Newspaper Foundation and is a past president of the Kansas Press Association (KPA). She was honored with the Gaston Mentoring Award from the KPA in 2012.

Gelene Savage was recently named KDOT's Chief Counsel.

She has spent her entire career at the agency - Savage started as a Law Clerk in April 1991 and became an Attorney in September 1992.

"The office of Chief Counsel and Office of Civil Rights are staffed with dedicated and skilled people and it is an honor to lead them," she said.

Savage has spent many years working with past and present KDOT employees across the state on various issues.

"I want to express my gratitude to everyone who took the time to teach me about what KDOT does and why we do it because this job would be impossible without that," she said.

Trivia!

25th anniversary of movies

1. This movie tells the story of a young lion and his challenges to succeed his father as King of the Pride Lands.
2. This movie features several decades of a kind man's life and unusual highlights like meeting the President, saving many soldiers, fulfilling his friend's dream and falling in love.
3. This movie features a police officer rescuing civilians on a city bus rigged to explode if the bus slows down below 50 mph.
4. This movie follows two friends who set out on

5. This movie follows a U.S. government agent who struggles to balance his family life and his life as a spy as well as his wife who accidentally gets in the middle.
6. This movie follows the adventures of a man and his friends through a number of social situations as they encounter romance.
7. This movie focuses on the process of one man turning another man into a vampire, then later they turn a girl into a vampire.

District One



Projects along the I-35 corridor through south Johnson County are expected to have economic benefits as well as increase safety and relieve congestion, like this project on Sunflower Road (below) and the bridge extension project on I-35 (left). Thomas Rhoads' road squad and Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad designed the projects.

The bridge repair and associated improvements on Sunflower Road over I-35 will improve access to and from the city of Edgerton, the intermodal facility at Logistics Park Kansas City, and surrounding communities, as well as maintain safe travel through the I-35 corridor. The bridge extension project on I-35 over the BNSF railroad between Old 56 Highway and 151st Street will connect Mahaffie Street with U.S. 56, improve access to and from Garmin HQ, and establish another important north-south connection through the center of the city of Olathe.



Emergency Response

Nolan Fisher, Corps of Engineers at Wilson Lake Reservoir; and Col. Larry Leupold, Kansas Army National Guard (left to right standing); talk with KDOT's Jim Frye and Larry Rohr (left to right seated) about flooding concerns while working in the state Emergency Operations Center.



KDOT is ready: If the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated by the Adjutant General's office in Topeka because of snowstorms, flooding or other natural disasters, KDOT's Emergency Manager Jim Frye and Maintenance Quality Assurance Manager Larry Rohr are on call around the clock. When something involves transportation, they look to KDOT, and Frye and Rohr are there to help coordinate the agency's response efforts.

With the recent flooding, Rohr and Frye were on call from May 20 to June 7.

"This storm was very dynamic, so every day was a different emergency," Rohr said.

There were numerous needs across the state that KDOT assisted with such as hauling materials and debris, providing staff and equipment, moving trailers, flagging traffic, supplying barricades -- anything that has to do with transportation.

"KDOT is a big puzzle and everybody has their little piece. Once everything is put together, the puzzle looks good," Rohr said. "We made lots of calls to staff and the cooperation we got from everybody was just phenomenal. Everybody was on the same page."

Frye and Rohr said their job is also to assist KDOT field staff.

"We are there to support our field folks in everything they do. We try to coordinate all the resources for

them, find out where things are to pick up or haul and we also do entries to KanRoad," Frye said. "We're already there, we're in front of our computer, so they don't need to call somebody that needs to drive into the office, we'll do it for them."

"We're able to provide an important service between the field staff and the emergency management staff," Rohr said. "Lots of phone calls, lots of talking on the radio, working with numerous agencies and organizations."

In the middle of that was the tornado that hit in Douglas and Leavenworth counties on May 28.

"The night of the tornado, you want to talk about deafening, there were a lot of people talking to a lot of people," Frye said.

The two agree that their combined 50-plus years in the field help them with the tasks at hand.

"When they ask for equipment or other things, we know who to call and if we have it," Frye said.

"It's important to pay attention to what your needs are and find the right people to do the job in the right location," Rohr said.

"To me it's a privilege to go down there and represent KDOT to the state, Frye said. "I enjoy being down there and being able to answer all the questions."

District Four

Before and after: A stretch of K-47 west of St. Paul was flooded and closed to traffic during the rains in late May. A driver who chose to go around the barricades met a waterlogged fate, along with a traffic fine. After the water had subsided, the Pittsburg Area and Subarea crews placed new underdrains along the highway and were able to reclaim much of the shoulder rock. The crews used 17 loads of new rock to dress the existing aggregate, and hauled away eight truck loads of driftwood. Also assisting in the effort were the Pittsburg administrative staff who placed the materials orders.



In Memory

- ♦Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Arlen Tappen, who passed away on June 14 in Topeka. Tappen started in 1954 and worked for KDOT for 42 years, retiring in 1996. He was the State Traffic Signing Engineer in the Bureau of Traffic Engineering.
- ♦Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Roy Dean Thompson, who passed away on June 5 in Lansing. Thompson worked for 36 years at KDOT, retiring in 2011 as the Area Shop Supervisor in Bonner Springs.
- ♦Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Richard "Dick" Tinsley, who passed away on May 29 in Topeka. Tinsley retired in 2004 after 30 years of service. He was an Equipment Operator in the Waverly office.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Lion King
2. Forrest Gump
3. Speed
4. Dumb and Dumber
5. True Lies
6. Four Weddings and a Funeral
7. Interview with a Vampire

Retiree

The following employees will retire on July 1.

- District Two**
Michael Vincent, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Salina
- District Six**
Sheila Yardley, Engineering Technician Specialist, Garden City

General

Honoree:

KDOT's Catherine Patrick was named Government Engineer of the Year by the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers at the annual conference in June in Wichita. Patrick has served in various roles in District One and Headquarters since she joined the agency in 1989. She was the first female District Engineer, Director of Operations and State Transportation Engineer. In January, she was appointed as Special Assistant to the Secretary. Patrick was named Government Engineer of the Year by the Topeka KSPE chapter in February.



Catherine Patrick

District One

New Subarea office: Visitors to the Alma Subarea office's open house will see unique features of the new building that make it more cost efficient and user friendly for years to come.

People are invited to attend the open house from 1-2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3. The new office stands where the former office was - just north of the I-70/K-99 junction at mile marker 328.

The Alma office will serve as a prototype for future modernization projects as it was the first to be constructed as an entirely new building, said Robert Fuller, KDOT Staff Engineer in the Bureau of Maintenance. The design features an economical rectangular frame and continuous roof line.

The building has four heated, drive-in-back-out bays that can fully accommodate dump trucks with plows and spreaders mounted. Wamego Superintendent Jeff Romine said this will be very helpful as employees had to repair and work on trucks mounted with snowplows outside as they wouldn't fit inside the building.

"It's awesome - it's a lot better building," Romine said. "Now they can change plows inside and also work



From left to right, Alma Subarea office crew members are Brian Varnadore, Robert Rickstrew, Highway Maintenance Supervisor Jerry Cox and Ross Buchanan.

inside," Romine said.

The 136-foot by 50-foot building provides about 1,500 square feet of office space for KDOT and KHP personnel and 5,000 square feet for vehicle storage with 18 feet of usable overhead space. The KHP also has a separate bay area to check vehicles.

Cheney Construction of Manhattan was the contractor on the \$995,000 project that began in May 2018. It is the 36th in the on-going Subarea Modernization Program.

Bridge Inspection



While conducting a routine bridge inspection on I-70 about 30 miles west of Topeka recently, KDOT Bridge Inspectors John Kingsley and Luke Rosdahl saw a turtle while crossing a stream under the bridge. Rosdahl said most turtles are startled and move, but this one was very calm. They also realized it was not a snapping turtle like usual. After a little research, the bridge staff believe it is a Chinese Softshell Turtle. "It's definitely not anything even the veteran inspectors have seen out in Kansas before," Rosdahl said.

Tornado



Clean-up efforts have continued in the Linwood area after a tornado struck the area on May 28. The KDOT crews wrapped up these efforts last week and are now installing permanent signs and will take care of right of way grading.



KTA



Briefs:

- ◆ At left, earthwork continued for new cash lanes at Southern Terminal on I-35/KTA near mile marker 17 and overhead signs for traffic direction were moved.

- ◆ A contract for a two-year project in Chase and Lyon counties has been awarded. The project includes ramp improvements and paving at the Emporia service area and drainage and bridge repairs in the area. Learn about the project in the news release [here](#).

District Six

Work continues on the U.S. 50/83 bypass in Garden City. Concrete was placed recently on the overpass and will be placed on the main line later this month. **At right**, crews distribute and spread concrete after it is poured on the deck. **Below right**, crews work behind the paver to smooth out edges and mist the concrete so it doesn't dry out. **Below**, KDOT employees Kelly Warren, John VanDoren and Craig Schlott test the first batch of concrete being placed on the bridge deck. Koss Construction Company is the contractor on the project and it is expected to be completed in December. Aaron Frits' road squad and Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad designed the project.



District Four

Coordinating with KDOT and the South Kansas & Oklahoma (SKOL) Railroad, the City of Independence closed a small section of Pennsylvania Avenue (U.S. 75) for several days in June while a civic group known as R-Turn decorated both sides of a SKOL trestle with colorful panels featuring community attractions. Southbound traffic can view depictions of nearby Elk City Lake, Independence playwright William Inge and the Little House on the Prairie.



Kansas Transportation

Monday, June 10

Motoring Monday - Eisenhower Park & Rose Garden

Abilene is well known for its historical roots as it is the former home of five-star General and 34th President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower. But did you know Abilene also has another hidden gem dedicated to him?

Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and Works Progress Administration was the basis for beginning the construction of a rose garden located at northwest Fourth

and Pine Street in Abilene. In June 1944, the 40-acre park was dedicated to Eisenhower and has since been known as the Eisenhower Park & Rose Garden. It was from the park stadium on June 6, 1952, that General Eisenhower announced his candidacy for President.

The park contains several facilities for park visitors including walking trails, shelter houses, restrooms, the Abilene skate park, Abilene Municipal swimming pool, Bill Gravette Sports Complex, lighted volleyball courts, tennis courts, basketball courts and the Ted Power baseball diamond.

The best time to see and visit this park is around July 1, when the flowers are in full bloom.



The Eisenhower Park & Rose Garden has lots of scenic areas.



See more stories on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

District One



Work on westbound K-10 over Woodland in Olathe is continuing and should be wrapped up by the end of July. In the last 10 years, the annual average daily traffic count on this roadway has grown from 56,600 to 75,250.

General

Buying a bridge: According to a story in Better Roads, when 6-year-old Kai Baldwin of Utah was watching TV news accounts of the devastating flooding in Nebraska in March that had wiped out farms, bridges and roads, he decided with tears in his eyes to raise money to buy a bridge to help the victims.

He ended up collecting \$285.28 – more than enough to buy a bridge, which he estimated would cost about \$60, his mother told the Omaha World Herald.

His mom sent the money to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund. Though obviously his collection was not enough to buy a bridge, word of Kai's kindness struck a chord with Culpeper, Va., farmer and scrap yard owner Jerry Wise. It so happened he had a 43-foot, 22-ton steel bridge the Virginia DOT had disposed of.

Wise called the disaster relief fund, which contacted Craig Bartels, a county commissioner in Coleridge, Neb. Bartels said they'd take the bridge.

So Wise, owner of Wise Services and Recycling, got in



Photo credit: Read Transportation & Logistics

touch with Pete Read of Read Transportation & Logistics of Culpeper, and they split the cost of sending the bridge 1,200 miles to Nebraska.

Bartels told the World Herald he doesn't know yet where the bridge will end up, but it would be put to use in some way.

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

Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to Kim.stich@ks.gov