

Translines EXPRESS

Oct. 29, 2014

District Five

Governor announces improvements:

Highway expansion that will reduce congestion, increase capacity and improve traffic flow on the city's east side was announced on Oct. 16 by Gov. Sam Brownback. The work, which is being planned and funded by KDOT, the City of Wichita and the KTA, will

include new U.S. 54 interchanges at Webb Road and Greenwich Road and new KTA ramps at U.S. 54. "This is a great collaborative effort between the city, state and turnpike authority," said Gov. Brownback.



Gov. Sam Brownback speaks with the media about the highway expansion project in Wichita.

"Everyone will benefit from this project."

The work that will begin in 2015 is an expansion of a city/state interchange project at Webb Road for which bids came in over budget earlier this year. That prompted discussions between the city, state and KTA about alternative design and cost-sharing

approaches to benefit travelers on all three systems. The cost of these U.S. 54 corridor improvements is expected to exceed \$300 million and be completed in 2019.

District Three

Nifty 50: It's no trick - KDOT has been treated to 50 years of service from Administrative Specialist Bobby Gassmann as she celebrates her golden anniversary with the agency in October. Gassmann began her career with KDOT, then known as the State Highway Commission, in 1964 as a Clerk Typist I and was promoted to Clerk Typist II eight years later. In 1979, she was selected to serve as the Oakley Area Office Manager, the position she currently holds. In her position, Gassmann oversees the fiscal and human resource responsibilities for the Oakley Area office and its Subarea offices.

Gassmann has seen many changes throughout her career and says that some of the biggest challenges have been transitioning from manual typewriters to computers and learning new computer programs. She also says that one of her fondest memories is traveling to Topeka with Mike Crow to bring back the first computer



Administrative Specialist Bobby Gassmann has served KDOT for 50 years at the Oakley office.

for use in Area Four.

She and her husband, Martin, live in Oakley and have three children and seven grandchildren.

Retirees

The following employees retired from KDOT in October and November.

October Headquarters

Michael Carlyle, Applications Development Supervisor, Information Technology Services
Conrad Walter, Public Service Administrator III, Construction and Materials

District One

Earl Bosak, Professional Civil Engineer II, Topeka

District Two

Gerald Baxter, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Clay Center
Richard Martinitz, Equipment Operator Senior, Abilene
Leonard Schraag, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Junction City

District Three

Bradley Howard, Equipment Operator Senior, Grainfield

District Four

Alan McClure, Engineering Technician Senior, Pittsburg

District Five

Tim Herrman, Equipment Operator Senior, Great Bend

November

District One

Mark Scott, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Horton

District Two

Richard Eggers, Equipment Operator Midpoint, Lindsborg
Jackie Freeborn, Equipment Operator, Marion

District Three

James Weber, Equipment Operator Senior, Oakley

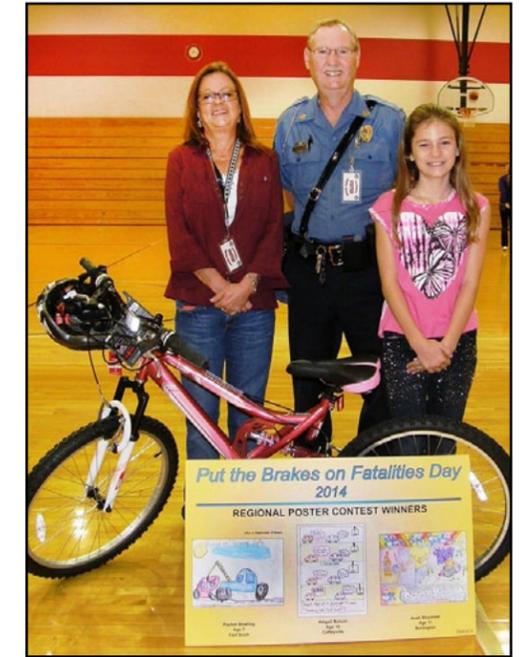
Trivia!

Ice Hockey

1. When did the first goaltender wear a mask?
2. Who was the first player to accumulate more than 300 penalty minutes?
3. Who broke that record of penalty minutes the next year?
4. What country is known as the birthplace of hockey?
5. What does a Zamboni do?
6. What were the first hockey pucks made of?

Answers below

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day



Winning artists in the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest have been presented their prizes across the state. A few of the presentations are shown. Left photo: Ethan Hirschfeld shows his winning poster and prizes in Dodge City. Right photo: Avah Shacklett, poster winner in Burlington, poses with her grandmother Melodee Iles and KHP Trooper Rick Wingate.

KDOT/KTA



Left: KDOT Emporia Subarea employees are shown at the new KDOT/KTA field office. Below left: Secretary and Director of the Kansas Turnpike Authority Mike King speaks at the grand opening of the combined KDOT and KTA field office in Emporia on Oct. 16. The Emporia field office is the first co-located KDOT/KTA facility and symbolizes the formalized partnership between KDOT and the KTA enacted during the 2013 Kansas legislative session. Below: Secretary King is interviewed by junior reporter Liam Murphy, 7-year-old son of Emporia Gazette reporter Jesse Murphy (right) after the grand opening.



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. In 1959, a shot broke Jacques Plante's nose and he decided to wear one. He was made fun of at first, but now every goaltender wears a mask.
2. Philadelphia Flyer Dave "The Hammer" Schultz had 348 in 1974.
3. Schultz again, with 472 minutes.
4. Canada
5. Reconditions the ice, leaving a smooth surface behind. It scrapes the loose shavings off and lays down a layer of hot water that takes just a few minutes to freeze. The machine was invented by Frank Zamboni.
6. Wood

At right: Eleanor Rodriguez holds her new helmet and poses with KHP Trooper Gary Warner and KDOT's Martin Miller. Below: Students attend the presentation for the poster contest winner in Hutchinson.



District Five



Above: a truck left the northbound lanes of I-135 near the north junction (I-135/I-235/K-96/K-254 interchange) in Wichita and struck a 110-foot high mast light tower. Left: a 70-ton crane was brought in to lower the pole to the ground for later removal. The semi-truck driver was cited for driving too fast for conditions, it was rainy at 4:30 a.m. in a construction zone.

District Five

Residents and business owners in east Wichita affected by future improvements on U.S. 54/400 from Webb Road to the K-96 junction heard details on the new two-mile freeway section. Design consultant Brett Letkowski of TranSystems explains how the project will create more efficient system-to-system movements, especially onto the Kansas Turnpike. About 200 people attended the public meeting hosted on Oct. 27 by the City of Wichita, KTA and KDOT. Jim Richardson and Mark Hurt are the KDOT contacts for this KTA/ City of Wichita project. The project is being managed by the KTA.



District Five



Above, employees learn about putting on chains and overall tire maintenance, while at right, they focus on the installation and upkeep of front plows.



KDOT Basic Snowfighter training took place at the District Five office Oct. 27-28 for new employees hired within the last year to educate them on all aspects of roadway snow/ice removal. This training is provided through a combination of classroom presentations and hands-on equipment maintenance and operation training.

KanPlan

KanPlan, a new and improved GIS web portal, allows you to discover, use, make and share maps from any device (desktop applications, web browsers, smart phones and tablets as well as embedded and runtime clients) anytime, anywhere. The new web portal replaces KGATE. Benefits of KanPlan include:

- One stop shop for KDOT Maps, Apps and Data
- Ability to map, enrich and perform analysis on your business data
- Collaborate and share information with groups inside and outside KDOT in a safe and secure environment

Check out KanPlan at ksdot.maps.arcgis.com/home.

KTA



On Nov. 1, you'll be able to use K-TAG on the Oklahoma Toll roads. If you have both a K-TAG and PikePass, take a moment to visit www.myktag.com and use the interactive decision tool to help you decide which tag to use.

Harvest



Fall harvest is a busy time at grain elevators like the one above in Pawnee Rock and in fields around the state like the one at left.

KTA

Repairs began on the Kansas Turnpike Authority's cattle pen crossing at milepost 110 on Oct. 17. This consists of general repairs and maintenance to the bridge deck, including the concrete overlay. The area will remain open for travelers to pull over to take pictures until work begins on raising the deck, sometime in November. The project is expected to be completed a week before Thanksgiving.



In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Darwin Ferguson, who died Oct. 13 in Parsons. Ferguson retired as Supervisor of the Chanute KDOT Shop in 2003.

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Linda Tuttle, who died Sept. 19 in Lawrence. Tuttle worked in the Bureau of Personnel Services and retired in 1997.

District Six



The 428-foot-long superload travels on K-96 west of Leoti on Tuesday.

Slow going: One of the longest and heaviest superloads to travel in Kansas entered the state on Oct. 24 at the Liberal Port of Entry. The total weight of the 428-foot long, 18-foot high transport and demethanizer is nearly 1.2 million pounds. According to Bridge Evaluation Engineer John Culbertson, it took about two weeks to find a suitable route. "Our routers tried every route that might have been feasible, only to determine that only one route would

work, and the carrier would have to wait until road construction was complete to move through," Culbertson said. "We even had to run a special non-standard gage analysis on a couple of bridges because our normal analysis did not pass." The load started in Broken Arrow, Okla., on Oct. 19. The route in Kansas traveled along U.S. 83, to U.S. 54, to U.S. 160, to U.S. 83 and K-96. The load is now in Colorado and will end up in Ft. Lupton, Colo.



On Monday afternoon, the transporter stopped in Leoti.

Open Enrollment for 2015 health insurance elections closes this Friday, Oct. 31.

---- DON'T MISS OUT! ----

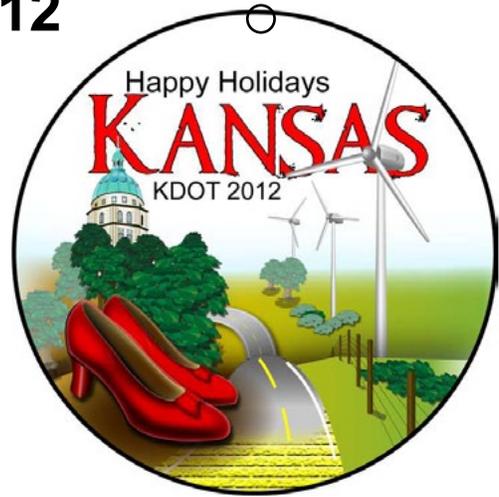
Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express?

Please e-mail your suggestions to translines@ksdot.org

2010



2012



2013



2014

New!



Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

To order:

Headquarters: Contact your Employees' Council rep.

Districts/Retirees: Mail completed form and check to -

Ruby Hilton, KDOT, 700 SW Harrison
13th Floor/Bridge Design
Topeka, KS, 66603

Ornament	Quantity	Cost Each	Total
2010		\$5.00	
2011	----- SOLD OUT -----		
2012		\$5.00	
2013		\$5.00	
2014		\$5.00	
Total Paid:			

Please Print -

Name: _____

Address: _____

Retirees only - home address)

Work phone: _____

Checks payable to
Employees' Council

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

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