

# Translines EXPRESS

March 20, 2013

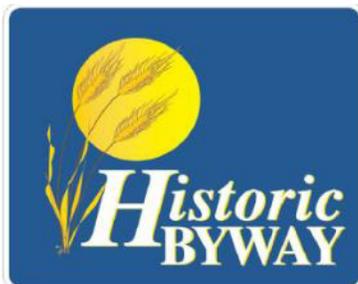
## District Four



***Congratulations to the Eureka Subarea team members who were honored for their efforts as an Example of Excellence for the fourth quarter of 2012. Secretary Mike King and Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger made the presentation Friday in Eureka. The Eureka***

***Subarea team members worked together and also with the adjacent landowner to greatly improve a section of KDOT right of way along U.S. 54 in Greenwood County. Nomination forms for the first quarter of 2013 are due by March 31.***

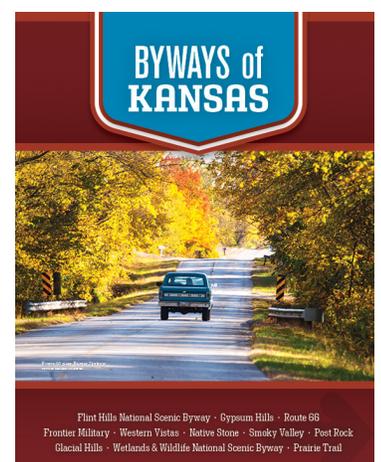
## Kansas Byways



**All about the byways:** New Kansas Byway guides are now available. The guides highlight the 11 byways located across the state. Individual orders can be placed at [www.TravelKs.com/ksbyways](http://www.TravelKs.com/ksbyways) or bulk orders can be placed through the Travel Industry link at the bottom of the page.

New Kansas Byway signage is almost complete on the Frontier Military Historic Byway from Leavenworth to Baxter Springs, replacing the original brown signs placed more than 20 years ago. The change of the byway designation from a scenic to historic byway along with the deterioration of the old signs necessitated the update. The new blue signs designating the military trail in Kansas feature the byway logo of a "dragoon" soldier on horseback.

Kansas Route 66 Historic Byway signage is complete along the newest byway that runs from the Missouri to the Oklahoma state line following the original Route 66 on county roads, K-66 & U.S. 69A. State funds were used to purchase the signs erected by KDOT and city employees.



## Legislature



**T-WORKS funding** Secretary King's statement released earlier this week on the effect of a House proposal to divert sales tax away from the T-WORKS program got widespread coverage in Kansas media. The proposal would divert the four-tenths-cent sales tax scheduled to begin flowing to KDOT in July for T-WORKS.

"Loss of the sales tax revenue will reduce the agency's anticipated revenues by nearly \$382 million over the next two years. This is in addition to proposed transfers from the State Highway Fund of nearly \$300 million. So, clearly, the loss of sales tax revenue will have serious consequences for the T-WORKS program as early as this summer. Highway projects will be cut or delayed. At this time, we haven't analyzed which projects may be affected, but we will consider all categories of projects – preservation, modernization and expansion that are scheduled to be let in fiscal year 2014 and after." The House is expected to debate the bill this week.

*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](mailto:translines@ksdot.org)*

## Condolences

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Harold Jones who died March 7 in Topeka. He worked at the Headquarters office as a Photographer.

## Headquarters

**Project Topeka:** KDOT employees in the Eisenhower building donated nearly 3,300 pounds of food as part of the Can-Do contest for Project Topeka. Other events, such as the pancake feed and putting contest, raised \$300. Project Topeka is a community food drive to help feed people in Topeka and Shawnee County.



*KDOT's Rail/Freight Manager John Maddox takes a swing at a marshmallow during the putting contest for Project Topeka.*

## Challenge

How is your KDOT team doing with the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge?

Halfway through the competition and two of KDOT's teams are in the top 10. According to the Weight Loss Challenge website, team Belly Dumpers, is sitting in the number three overall spot and has lost 119.60 pounds or 10.22 percent of their weight. Team number 51, is at the number six spot and has lost 107.50 pounds or 9 percent of their weight.

KDOT Secretary Mike King gave a recent video update of his challenge that can be seen on the Kansas Transportation channel on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/yLwYx2w-Mrw>.

The competition goes through May 15.

## Trivia!

**1. The Boston Corbett monument is near Concordia. What is he famous for?**

- A. Inventing bubble gum
- B. Being the first resident of Concordia
- C. Killing President Lincoln's killer, John Wilkes Booth
- D. Both A and B

**2. Where was the largest hairball in the world found?**

**3. What did Kansan Omar Knedlik invent in 1961?**

- A. the hula hoop
- B. the first carbonated drink machine
- C. cable television
- D. flip flop shoes

*Answers are below*

## Thanks

### **KDOT Employees:**

Thank you for your conscientious and exemplary work during the two recent snow storms, and throughout the year. Too often state legislators lose sight of the fact that we do not provide services to constituents, state employees do. As a citizen who benefits from your work, thank you. As a citizen who believes state employees are under appreciated, I doubly salute you for your conscientious work on our behalf.

Tom Sloan  
45th District Representative

***Additional comments regarding KDOT's efforts during the two snow storms that hit the state in February have been sent in - to view all the comments, go to [http://www.ksdot.org/pdf\\_files/Comments.pdf](http://www.ksdot.org/pdf_files/Comments.pdf)***

## Spring

Known as the Vernal Equinox in the northern hemisphere, today the sun will cross the celestial equator moving northward (it varies year to year whether it's March 20 or 21).



### **Fun Facts -**

- ◆ If you were standing on the equator during either the vernal or autumnal equinox, you would see the sun pass directly overhead, the only two times in the year when that is true (today it happened at 6:02 a.m. central time).
- ◆ The two equinoxes are also the only times during the year when the sun rises due east and sets due west.
- ◆ In spring, the Earth's axis is tilted toward the sun, increasing the number of daylight hours in the northern hemisphere.
- ◆ Equinox can occur on any planet with a significant tilt to its rotational axis - it happens twice a year on Earth; on Saturn it happens every 15 years.

## Go Orange!



***Above, KDOT employees from the Columbus Subarea at the Marsh Arch bridge on the Historic Route 66 Byway, and KDOT employees from the District One shop in Topeka all Go Orange in support of work zone safety.***



**Let's Go Orange!** Everyone across Kansas is encouraged to wear orange and send in photos to bring attention to the need for safety in work zones. And if you have a sign or a landmark that you can include, that helps to show this is a statewide effort. National Work Zone Awareness Week is coming up April 15-19, and KDOT will have lots of photos safety blogs, videos and various information highlighting work zone safety as well as a statewide news conference on April 16 in Topeka at 10 a.m. at the KDOT Oakland Subarea Office. Please send your Go Orange photos to [Kimberly@ksdot.org](mailto:Kimberly@ksdot.org) to thank our highway workers who strive to make work zones safe for everyone all year long.

## District Three

District Three's annual Construction and Maintenance meeting on March 12 in Hays gave employees an opportunity get updates on district and statewide issues from District Engineer Jeff Stewart, Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, Operations Director Catherine Patrick and several others. Some of the topics included storm water compliance, CDL self-certification and equipment needs.

District Three Safety Specialist Gary Schilowsky presented safety awards as well as awards to Turk Lacey and Francis Wahrman for winning District Three's backing safety training competition. Partnering awards went to Engineering Technician Senior Holly Richards (for the Phillipsburg Construction Office) for a box replacement project on K-18 west of Plainville, and to Engineering Technician Senior Kegan Hemel (for the Atwood Construction Office) for an I-70 reconstruction project in Sherman County.



**Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger speaks at the District Three meeting in Hays.**

## District Five



**Work continues on bridge pier forms and footing concrete pours at the 13th Street project on I-235 in Wichita. The results of the two-year project will include access to I-235 for Wichitans driving to and from the west side of the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway. The project is financed by the City of Wichita and inspected by KDOT's Wichita West construction office.**

## District Two

**I-70 projects honored:** Two of the four I-70 rehabilitation projects completed in 2011-2012 by the District Two, Area Four office received the MO/KS American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA) award for best Portland Cement Concrete Pavement highway overlay project in 2012. The construction office is overseen by Construction Engineer Jean Istas and the projects inspection was led by Greg Rietcheck. The recognized projects involved milling out six inches of asphalt and replacing it with six inches of concrete. This was the first time inlaying concrete over asphalt has been attempted in District Two. Much time and expense was saved by taking this approach. The awards were presented at the 33rd Annual MO/KS Portland Cement Concrete Pavement Conference in Kansas City. Both projects have been submitted for consideration for the national ACPA awards.

The projects recognized were two of four projects in Ellsworth and Lincoln counties. The other two completed projects received recognition last year.

### TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. C. Killing President Lincoln's killer, John Wilkes Booth
2. In the stomach of a cow in Garden City
3. B. the first carbonated drink machine