

Employee Recognition



Secretary Mike King is pictured with KDOT employees from the Wamego office and Headquarters who worked as part of the K-18 Team to make the expansion project a success. Team members were honored on Nov. 15 before the ribbon cutting ceremony for the K-18 project in Manhattan.

Trivia!

Thanksgiving

1. Who wanted the turkey to be the national bird of the United States?
2. What President declared Thanksgiving a national holiday?
3. What are some of the foods thought to have been on the menu for the Pilgrims first Thanksgiving?
4. How much did the heaviest turkey ever raised weigh?
5. What year did the National Turkey Federation begin presenting a live turkey to the President that is "pardoned" and lives out its days on a historical farm?



Answers below

Bridges

Bridging time: Article from Better Roads publication - In bridges, there's American old and then there's old. The Pont Vieux (literally "old bridge") had been in use for 657 years when the oldest surviving roadway bridge in America, the 73-foot Frankford Avenue Bridge in Pennsylvania, was constructed in 1697.

The 500-foot long Pont Vieux in Albi, in the Midi Pyrenees region of southwest France, is still carrying its fair share of traffic over the River Tarn nearly a millennium after it was built in 1040.

The original Pont Vieux was an eight-arch crossing ordered by Viscount Trencavel and officials of neighboring religious dioceses in 1035. It was originally too narrow for carts to cross, and goods had to be carried either by hand or on the backs of animals.

But, as traffic grew, the bridge was redeveloped and widened in the 13th and 14th centuries to allow carts to cross. Originally built in stone, and with a sandstone core, the bridge was clad in brick and the road section widened again in 1820 to cope with the rapidly rising levels of traffic of the Industrial Revolution in Europe. Ownership of the construction had passed from the viscounts of old to the city's bishops – but, unable to bear the rising cost of maintenance, they "gifted" the bridge to the city.

The Pont Vieux was declared a French historic monument in 1921.

District Three

New kiosk: An informational kiosk showcasing the stunning views and history of the Western Vistas Historic Byway, located approximately 27 miles south of Oakley along the west side of U.S. 83, is now complete.

Scott City artist Jerry Thomas illustrated the historic scenery, which couples narratives and maps associated with the Western Vistas Historic Byway. The historic byway features seven National Historic sites and six museums that explore the various cultures and events that played a role in America's western expansion. It also highlights Scott State Park. Thomas' illustrations and photographs by Marilyn See are showcased on six interpretive panels. The kiosk is on land donated by the family of Gerald Bean with native limestone from the property being used as a seating/staging area near the kiosk.

The contractor on the \$109,754 signing project was



Jerry Thomas and Mathew Withington from the Oakley office place one of the signs at the new informational kiosk.

Bridges Inc., of Newton. The project started during the first week in October. A ribbon-cutting is being planned for next spring to mark the project's completion.

The Western Vistas Byway is Kansas' first historic byway and the 10th of 11 Kansas byways. For more information on Kansas Byways, go to <http://www.travelks.com/ksbyways/>.



Views of the wide open and historical areas can be seen around the new kiosk.

District Five



Wichita Area Superintendent Sammi Ford took this photo from K-96 of the 747 cargo plane getting ready to take off.

Double take: A one-mile section of K-96 in northeast Wichita was closed for an hour on Thursday to allow a 747 cargo plane to lift off from nearby Jabara Airport. The plane had landed Wednesday night when the pilots mistook Jabara's 6,101-foot runway for that of the McConnell Air Force Base's 12,000-foot runway, nine miles to the south. The runways at McConnell and Jabara are in close alignment.

There are four of the 235-foot-long modified 747 planes, the largest cargo planes in the world, and Boeing uses them to shuttle parts from suppliers to their factories. The highway was closed to monitor possible debris from the jet blasts since the tail of the plane was only about 1,300 feet from K-96 when the take-off began. The Dreamlifter's lift-off and 15-minute flight to McConnell was successful.

District One



Strike two - The same pair of I-35 signs were tagged again with graffiti in mid-November in Kansas City. The first incident occurred in early August. The ladder was removed, now the catwalks will also be removed.

District One

NOW OPEN: The K-18 improvement project was unveiled at a ribbon-cutting event in Manhattan at the Westview Community Church on Nov. 15. Officials from Riley and Geary counties, cities of Manhattan, Ogden and Junction City, Fort Riley and K-State helped KDOT cut the ribbon on the project. The project has converted about seven miles of K-18 between Ogden and Manhattan into a four-lane freeway with multiple bridges, interchanges, major flood control measures and rail and utility location. The new freeway is designed to connect rapidly-growing Fort Riley to Manhattan, site of the new National Bio Agro-Defense Facility at K-State, and provide a new connection to the Manhattan Regional Airport.

Construction on the \$135.7 million project began in 2010 and was completed in three phases.



A view of the four-lane K-18.



Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 15 were, from left to right, Secretary Mike King; K-State Chief of Staff & Director of Community Relations Representative Jackie Hartman; Colonel Frank M. Muth, Fort Riley Deputy Commanding Officer for Support; City of Ogden Zoning Administrator Richard Faulkner; Geary County Commissioner Florence Whitebread; Manhattan City Commissioner Karen McCulloh; Riley County Commission Chairman Dave Lewis.

Letter to the Editor

(Posted on Northeast Kansas Facebook page on Nov. 22)
I would like to send a very heartfelt thank you to all those men and women in the snow plows/ salt trucks that worked their butts off from the Oklahoma state line all the way to Lawrence so me and my lil semi that could..... made it home without incident. Thank You Very Much!!!!
De Jay Barta

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Benjamin Franklin
2. Abraham Lincoln
3. Lobster, rabbit, chicken, fish, squashes, beans, chestnuts, hickory nuts, onions, leeks, dried fruits, maple syrup and honey, radishes, cabbage, carrots, eggs and goat cheese.
4. 86 pounds
5. 1947

District Two



Work took place on the eastbound lanes of I-70 in Dickinson County this past year.

Dickinson County wrap up: The mill and overlay project on I-70 eastbound in Dickinson County was completed last week and traffic restored to four lanes for the winter. The project begins just west of the I-70/K-15 interchange and extends 2.3 miles east of the I-70/K-43 interchange. Temporary ramp closures took place at interchanges,

including the K-15 interchange at Abilene. The project also included the replacement of the eastbound bridge at the K-43 interchange. Next spring, traffic will be moved to the eastbound lanes while the westbound lanes, ramps and bridges are completed. Plans call for all construction to be completed in November 2014.

District Five



After the sign support structure was installed (above), two new dynamic message signs (DMS) were installed on U.S. 54 in east Wichita (shown at right). The latest deployment of WICHway's Intelligent Transportation System includes these two DMS plus six new cameras and will be installed over the next few months. See Wichita's camera views, traffic speeds and DMS messages at www.WICHway.org.



2010

2011



**MAKE
GREAT
GIFTS!**

2012

2013



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		\$5.00	
2012		\$5.00	
2013		\$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) 296-0603

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