

# Translines EXPRESS

Oct. 30, 2013

## District Five



*Progress on the I-235 and 13th Street project in west Wichita is easier to see from the air since the new bridges are spanning the Wichita – Valley Center Floodway. In the foreground is 13th Street as it turns north and becomes Windmill Road. I-235 is in the background. When the project is completed in late 2014, the south bridge (on the right) will give eastbound traffic access to southbound I-235. The north bridge ties northbound I-235 to westbound 13th Street.*

### In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of former employee Francine Werly who died Oct. 17. She worked in KDOT's Fiscal and Transportation Planning bureaus.

**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)**

### State Employee Health Plan

**It's no trick:** All state employees must enroll online through the Employee Self Service Center at [www.kansas.gov/employee](http://www.kansas.gov/employee) by tomorrow, Oct. 31, and according to the State Employee Health Plan, there are no exceptions. Once you have completed and submitted your online selection, you should see "The changes you selected have been saved successfully" at the top of the page - print this page for your records.

You can go in and change your selections as many times as you want before the end of Oct. 31, and your last change is what will be saved after open enrollment is over.

A reminder - every year you must re-enroll in Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and re-apply for HealthyKids.

If you have any questions, contact your Human Resource staff.

## Trivia!

### Halloween

1. Where does the holiday Halloween come from?
2. What foods were originally carved before pumpkins and what were they used for?
3. Consumers are predicted to spend about how much per person on Halloween-related items in 2013?



4. What is the top children's costume for 2013?
5. What is the top adult's costume for 2013?
6. What is the top pet costume for 2013?

*From CNN and the National Retail Federation*

*Answers below*

## KTA

The grand opening of the Dunkin' Donuts and Hardee's at the Towanda Service Area on the Kansas Turnpike was celebrated last Thursday. Afterward, Transportation Secretary and Director of the Kansas Turnpike Mike King joined employees at the new facility to greet customers. For more photos, go to the KTA's Flickr page at <http://goo.gl/xLrqr>.



## Traffic Safety

### Big fines for texting/driving:

According to an article in Better Roads, states have implemented bans on texting while driving, and steep fines come with several of them (only four states have no ban and five states impose limited bans).

These 11 states have a maximum fee of \$200 or more

for a first offense of texting while driving:

1. Alaska: \$10,000
2. Utah: \$750
3. Indiana: \$500
4. Maine: \$500
5. Oregon: \$500
6. New Jersey: \$400
7. Wisconsin: \$400
8. New York: \$243
9. North Carolina: \$230

10. Hawaii: \$200

11. Nebraska: \$200 (Kansas' fine is \$60)

To see the entire list of states and other statistics involving texting and driving, go to <http://www.motherjones.com/media/2013/10/numbers-texting-and-driving>

## District One



*The third and final blast of the former Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge demolition at Atchison took place Monday morning to remove bridge pier 10 in the Missouri River. Charges were set to implode the pier, which was 52 feet under the water. The first blast on Oct. 9 removed the high truss steel across the entire bridge. The second blast on Oct. 11 removed bridge pier 9.*

### TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. An ancient pagan festival celebrated by Celtic people more than 2,000 years ago.

2. Beets or turnips, used as lanterns  
3. \$75 per person (candy, costumes, indoor/outdoor

decorations, etc.)  
4. Princess  
5. Witch  
6. Pumpkin

## District Three



*Twelve-year-old Kallie Lieker of Hays, second from right, receives her bike and helmet for being a District Three regional winner in this year's Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest. Kallie was recognized at a school presentation at Hays Middle School last week for her artistic efforts and personally spoke about her poster entry to her peers, which discourages texting and driving as well as drinking and driving. Kallie also was a statewide winner and received a Great Wolfe Lodge stay and \$50 gas card from QuickTrip Corporation.*

## District Five



**KDOT Road Design Engineer Amy Rockers, left, and Michelle Winkelmann from Parsons Brinckerhoff, right end of table, show four landowners aerial views of the proposed improvements of the K-96/K-14 project.**

**Informing the public:** Kitchen Table Meetings for the K-96/K-14 Modernization/Expansion project in Rice and Reno counties are taking place this week with officials and land owners in Sterling (Rice County project section) and Nickerson (Reno County project section). The meetings provide project background, develop awareness of project goals, identify potential areas of concern or special needs and inform property owners regarding the right-of-way process.

This project is scheduled for letting in October 2016 and will construct 15 miles of two-lane freeway on a four-lane right-of-way, which will allow for a possible four-lane freeway in the future.

KDOT staff involved with these meetings are Great Bend Area Engineer Barry McManaman, Road Design Special Requirements Engineer Jonathan Marburger, Road Design Engineer Amy Rockers and Public Affairs Manager Martin Miller.

## District Two

A project on southbound U.S. 81 in Ottawa and Cloud counties is under way to replace failed concrete panels in the driving lane. The project begins 6.6 miles south of the Ottawa/Cloud County line then north about seven miles. Addressing irregularities in the road including cracks, heaving of panels and pot holes in the highways surface has been an ongoing challenge for several years. The underlying cause is a failure in the drainable base road bed lying



**Repair work takes place on sections of U.S. 81.**

beneath the visible problems.

Traffic will be restricted to the one lane and the speed reduced to 60 mph. The work should be completed by Nov. 22.

## District Five



*Eighty-five people are now certified as trainers in Traffic Incident Management after a recent FHWA SHRP2 Solutions training session in Wichita. Representatives from local police, highway patrol, sheriff, fire, EMS, KDOT maintenance, tow services and the motorist assist program gathered for the 12-hour training sponsored by KDOT's ITS unit and hosted by the Wichita Fire Department at their training center. The new trainers will present the traffic incident clearing program in four hour sessions to members of their agency or organization. In fact, the Wichita Fire Department will present it to all 400 of its field staff during November.*

## District Six



*A snow plow out of Garden City clears a stretch of U.S. 83 in Finney County during an Oct. 18 snow storm. Much of western Kansas got an early taste of winter, with some locations reporting up to four inches of snow. Warm surface temperatures kept the snow from staying long and all the roads were dry by the end of the day.*

2010



2011



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	
<b>Total Paid:</b>			

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