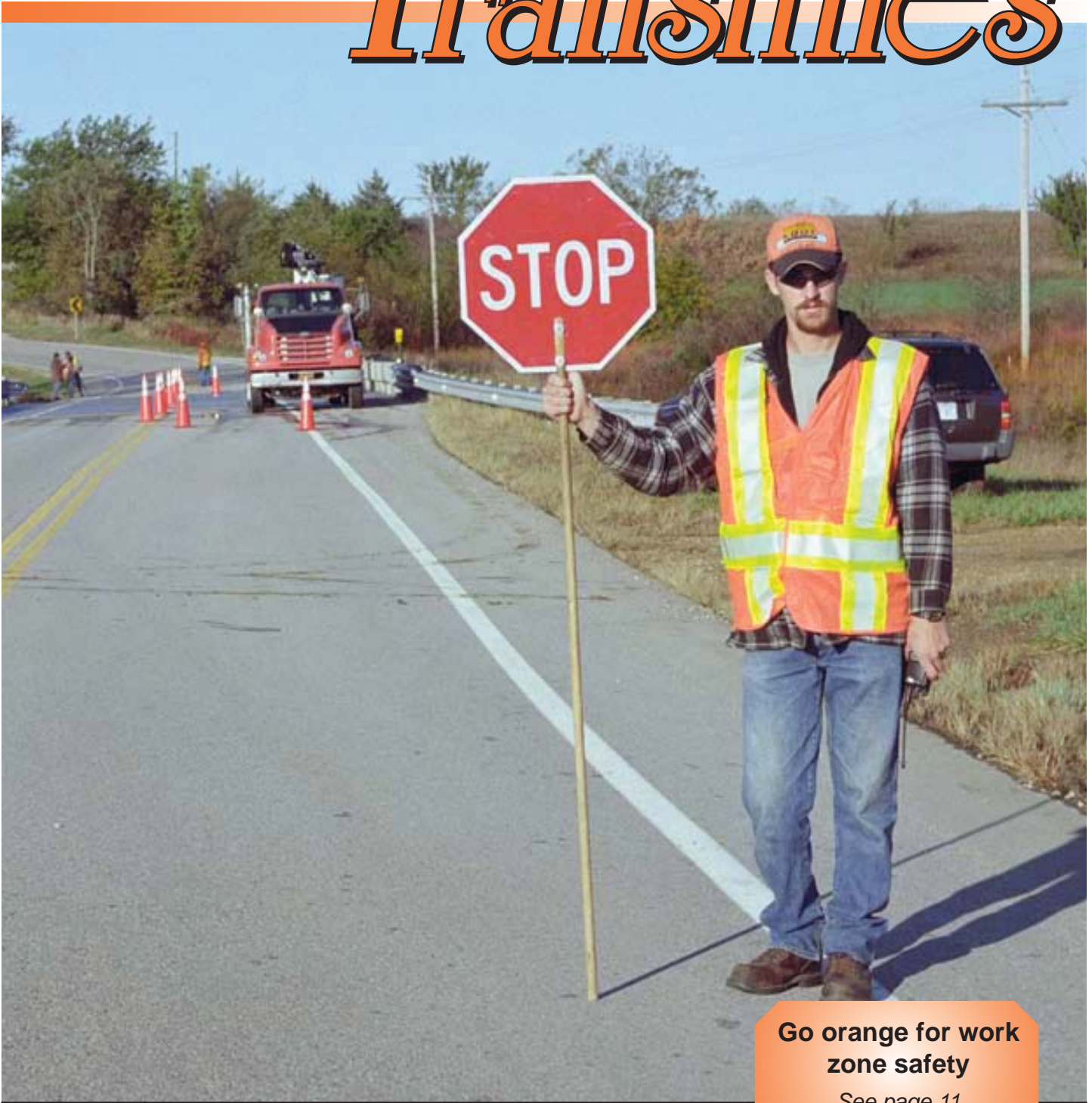


# Translines



**Go orange for work zone safety**  
See page 11

## Inside...

- ◆ Partnering with KHP saves time and money
- ◆ Kansas youth can compete for scholarships
- ◆ KDOT continues to advance ITS in Kansas
- ◆ KDOT Research Engineer playing key role in study
- ◆ Motorist praises action of KDOT workers



By Secretary  
Deb Miller

# Go Orange for work zone safety

Ask anyone who works on a highway crew about close calls and they'll likely have a few stories to tell you.

In my years at KDOT I've heard plenty of those scary stories. And, sadly, I've also heard the stories that have tragic endings.

It's painfully evident that many of the motorists who drive through our work zones are oblivious to the risks their driving poses to those who are working just an arms-length away. And if those drivers aren't thinking about the workers, they certainly aren't thinking about all the people who depend on those workers to come home safe and sound at the end of the day.

To help raise awareness of the inherent risks highway workers face every day, we are planning a number of activities as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 4-8. We will have a media event at KDOT's new area office in Topeka where Shirley McDonald, a contractor and Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent Ernest Garcia will speak. Throughout the week, work zone safety blogs will be posted on KTOC.

On April 6, there will be a very bright way for you to show your support for our road workers – go orange. Search

the corners of your closet and the bottoms of your clothes drawers to find those orange items that may not be in your usual wardrobe rotation. If you can't find those orange articles that make you a fashion leader in any crowd, please wear the orange ribbons that all of you should already have. You will be in good company.

As part of this campaign, we are distributing 4,000 ribbons (paid for with federal transportation safety funds) to KDOT workers, every member of the Legislature and others. I hope you will wear the ribbon to show support for our road crews and to promote work zone safety awareness among your fellow Kansans.

If you are asked about the ribbon, please share that work zone safety isn't just for workers – it's for motorists, too. More than 85 percent of the time, motorists are the ones who are injured in work zone crashes due to inattention, following too closely, driving too fast or not yielding the right of way.

In addition to the above activities, please check the KDOT website to see your co-workers and others (including a few Kansans you'll all recognize) decked out in orange. For the past month we have been receiving photos of many of you wearing your orange. The photos will also be posted on KDOT's Flickr account, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kansastransportation>. In addition, we have made a go orange video and you can view it on the agency's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/kansastransportation>.

While we intend to have some fun wearing orange and promoting work zone awareness week, this is serious stuff. We depend on highway workers – including law enforcement and all first responders – to keep our families safe and to keep our economy moving. These workers deserve our respect and our undivided attention when we enter a work zone.

So start searching for that perfect orange something to wear April 6. And as employees of the agency that maintains the state's highways, please do what you can to promote work zone safety every day of the year.



Kansas Department of Transportation

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On the...

**COVER**

*Equipment Operator Allen Ansberry in Topeka flags traffic in a work zone on K-4 near Dover as repair work gets ready to start on the highway. Work zone safety is a top priority at KDOT. See page 11 for more details.*

# Miller honored as Conservationist of the Year

Secretary Deb Miller has been named Conservationist of the Year by the Kansas Wildlife Federation.

The award was presented to Secretary Miller during the Federation's 2010 Conservation Achievement Program banquet Feb. 26 in Great Bend. Secretary Miller was recognized for her efforts to improve conservation at KDOT and particularly with a new roadside management program.

In 2008, KDOT staff and partners from conservation groups and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks formed an Aesthetics Task Force to develop a better way to manage the more than 150,000 acres of state-owned highway right-of-way.

What emerged was a roadside management policy that not only saves money and fuel, but also enhances roadside beauty. The changes allow for a more naturalistic management of right-of-way along the state's 10,000-mile highway system, an issue which had been advocated by conservation groups.

Some important changes included limiting the frequency and timing of mowing, spot spraying of herbicides rather than broadly applying chemicals and shifting seed mixtures selected for planting of new or reconstructed right of way in rural areas to only native prairie grasses and wildflowers. – S.W.



*Secretary Deb Miller's efforts to implement conservation practices at KDOT were recognized by the Kansas Wildlife Federation.*



*KHP employees inspect the helicopter after KDOT employees help remove the rotor head.*

## Partnering with KHP saves time and money

By Kim Stich

When the Kansas Highway Patrol asked for assistance to remove a 300-pound rotor head from a helicopter, KDOT answered, saving time and money on a needed inspection.

It's important to get inspections done quickly on the helicopter so that it's operational and ready to accept calls for service across the eastern half of the state, said Eric Pippen, KHP Commander of the Air Support Unit and Emergency Operations Section.

KDOT District One crew members George Brown III, Jake Bausch and Charles Kincade took an Altec bucket truck to the KHP hanger at Billard Municipal Airport on Feb. 18 for a couple hours to help remove the rotor head. The KDOT crew utilized chains and hoists attached to the truck so precise movements could be made while lifting and lowering the rotor to line up the bolts, Pippen said.

In the past, the KHP had rented a vehicle costing nearly \$3,000, but it wasn't available. "The time was crucial," Pippen said. "We need to get it in, get it fixed and get it out so we could get back out and do our job, and KDOT allowed us to do that."

It worked out really well, he said. "We love working with KDOT," Pippen said. "There are so many paths we cross working together. It's just a wonderful relationship."



*Dynamic Message Signs, such as this one along I-70, provide real-time travel information for motorists that alerts them of road closures, crashes, work zones, inclement weather and other emergency information.*

# KDOT continues to advance ITS in Kansas

**By Stan Whitley**

The use of integrated technologies is making travel safer, faster and more convenient for the traveling public. It's a goal that is being accomplished in Kansas thanks to KDOT's expanding Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) program.

"It's really amazing the enhanced travel information we have made available to the public by installing Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and cameras in the past three years," said Leslie Spencer Fowler, ITS Program Manager. "We're utilizing our statewide fiber optic network as well as using wireless communications in order to communicate important information to motorists in both rural and urban areas.

"KDOT field staff have indicated they believe lives have been saved by the ITS system and have found the signs and cameras to be very valuable, not only during storms, but during maintenance and construction work."

In 2007, KDOT began offering camera views online at eight statewide Road Weather Information System (RWIS) locations to assist motorists. Then in December of 2008, 25 ITS cameras were added along I-70. In 2009, KDOT launched the KanDrive web portal.

The online portal at [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org) incorporates

KDOT's 511 road condition map as well as other travel information links including links to surrounding states. The portal was developed through the work of KanRoad, 511, ITS and public information staff. The enhanced system has added a

combination of camera views and sign message information including:

- ♦ 25 ITS camera views updated every two minutes
- ♦ Eight Road Weather Information System camera views updated every 15 minutes
- ♦ Nine camera views on the Kansas Turnpike updated every 15 minutes
- ♦ 25 permanent Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) that provide real-time travel information including road closures, crashes, work zones and other emergency information.

"We currently have construction projects on-going that will add 36

ITS cameras and 29 permanent DMS statewide," said Shari Hilliard ITS Engineer, who has worked closely with Fowler in developing the Kansas system. "These additions will mostly be made in Wichita, on the Kansas Turnpike between Topeka and Kansas City and on rural entry points into the state."

**Editor's Note:** *This is the first of two stories about KDOT's Intelligent Transportation System.*

---

***'KDOT field staff have indicated they believe lives have been saved by the ITS system and have found the signs and cameras to be very valuable, not only during storms, but during maintenance and construction work.'***

**Leslie Spencer Fowler**

---

# Kansas youth can compete for Sobriety Rocks scholarships

KDOT is sponsoring its fifth-annual arts contest that encourages Kansas youth to resist pressure and abstain from drinking alcohol until reaching the legal age of 21.

The contest allows Kansas' youth to express themselves creatively through music, art or writing in hopes of winning as much as \$3,000 in scholarships. Kansas residents, ages 14 through 20, are encouraged to enter the competition by logging onto [www.sobrietyrocksk.net](http://www.sobrietyrocksk.net). Entries are due April 15.

Three separate \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in June for best music, best art and best writing. It is possible for one contestant to win in more than one category. Potential topics could include:

- ♦ peer pressure to drink alcohol
- ♦ finding more to life than drinking
- ♦ problems that are created or made worse by alcohol
- ♦ why waiting until age 21 to drink is smart.

Entries will be judged by instructors and professionals in the three categories, KDOT representatives and youth advocates from across the state. Judging will be based on creativity, originality, craftsmanship and the passion of the message.

Log onto [www.sobrietyrocksk.net](http://www.sobrietyrocksk.net) for additional contest information, a complete set of rules or for inspiration on the KDOT 2011 Sobriety Rocks Scholarship Contest.

***Three separate  
\$1,000 scholarships  
will be awarded***

## Deaths

**Robert R. "Buck" Jones**, 79, died Feb. 28 in Topeka. Jones retired in 1991 as Bureau Chief of Program Management. He is survived by his wife, Janet, his mother, two daughters, one sister and two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 S.W. 29th St., Topeka 66611 or the Grace Hospice, 3715 S.W. 29th St., Suite 100, Topeka, 66614.

**Donald L. Richardson**, 77, died Feb. 17 in Stockton. Richardson formerly worked for KDOT in the surveying section. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, one brother and one sister.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association or the Stockton Medical Clinic and may be sent in care of the Smith-Moore-Overlease Funeral Home, 723 N. First, Stockton, Kan., 67669.

## Calendar of Events

**April 4-8** – National Work Zone Awareness Week.

**April 5-6** – Traffic Safety Conference, Hyatt Regency, in Wichita.

**April 6** - "Go Orange" day - everyone is encouraged to wear orange in support of Kansas highway workers.

**April 8** – 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

**April 12-13** – Traffic Engineering Conference, Kansas State Union in Manhattan.

**April 12** – 11 a.m. KDOT employees' Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**April 20** – 1 p.m. Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

## Getting taller



*Construction activities have increased as spring weather arrived. Pile driving for a bridge on U.S. 81 over a small creek in south Wichita is part of the I-135/47th Street South interchange project. Photo by Tom Hein*

# District News...

## K-10 plan begins

In early January, KDOT began work on a new Area Transportation Plan for the U.S. 40/West 6th Street and K-10 interchange in Lawrence. The study will gather information about future development in the area and develop a list of transportation improvements to accommodate this growth.

The plan area includes a 1.5-mile segment of U.S. 40/West 6th Street beginning at George Williams Way proceeding west to East 800 Road as well as the K-10 interchange ramps and an area approximately one-half mile on either side of U.S. 40/West 6th Street.

**District One**

KDOT has partnered with the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, and the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization to develop this area transportation plan. The plan partners anticipate a seven- to nine-month plan development process. The final report is anticipated to be completed by late summer 2011.

## Repair work begins

Repair work began on three projects in District Two in March. The first is on a K-4 bridge just east of the K-4/K-141 intersection in Ellsworth County. The bridge rails will be replaced and the deck will be patched as needed and will receive a silica fume overlay to extend the life of the bridge.

During the project traffic will be restricted to one lane and will be controlled by traffic lights. The eastbound lane will be addressed first. Construction is scheduled to be completed and the bridge reopened by mid September, weather permitting. Bridges Inc of Newton is the prime contractor. Total cost of the project is \$287,000.

**District Two**

The other two projects involve an asphalt overlay over the concrete roadway on U.S. 50. The overlay will extend from the Harvey/Marion county line east to Florence west city limit then continues on from just east of the U.S. 77/U.S. 50 junction east to a point 8.8 miles east of the Marion/Chase county line. In total 27.3 miles of U.S. 50 in District Two will be overlaid.



*The K-4 bridge in Ellsworth County is currently being repaired. Photo by David Greiser*

## Where's Waldo?

This summer, a bridge replacement project in Waldo will certainly put the tiny town of 45 people on District Three's construction radar. A project to remove the existing span bridge, which was built in 1936, and replace it with a new span structure will start this spring. The structure is located along U.S. 281/K-18 in northern Russell County and spans the west fork of Wolf Creek. While under construction, a temporary shoo-fly detour will be in place for travelers.

Area Three Engineer Kevin Zimmer reports that on several occasions, holes have developed in the bridge deck – and required KDOT maintenance forces to install steel plates. “Those maintenance actions have helped us buy the time needed to get a replacement project in the works,” Zimmer explains.

KDOT plans to implement a large cost-savings effort for the agency by utilizing stockpiled pipe, stored within the district, into the bridge project's design plan. Zimmer reports that the used pipes

will be moved to the construction site by KDOT forces. Prior to construction, the prime contractor will then install the pipes as temporary drainage structures under the shoo-fly detour.

**District Three**

After the project is complete, KDOT retains ownership of the pipe. Using the inventoried items prohibits the contractors from having to buy all-new material

for that bid item.

“If using materials that we already have saves KDOT a potential of \$8,400 – then that make sense,” says Zimmer.

## Sharing mementoes

While serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan last year, 1st Sgt. John Short found time to shop at bazaars and mail finely crafted mementoes to his stateside family and friends. To fellow employees at the KDOT Pittsburg Area Office, Short sent keepsake knives.

The Pittsburg construction office repaid the favor during the annual district construction and materials meeting. On behalf of the office, Engineering Technician Jim Peterson presented Short with a custom-made Case knife. The knife's handle is inlaid with coral, pearl, jade and jet. Short has proudly added it to his collection.

1st Sgt. Short is a member of the 226th Engineering Company of Augusta. The company deployed to Afghanistan

## District News

Continued from page 6

from January through December 2010. The 169-member company completed 61 projects, including 39 buildings, at different locations in Afghanistan.

June 5 will mark Short's 32nd anniversary of military service. Prior to Afghanistan, he served in Iraq in 2005-2006.

**District  
Four**



*John Short displays the custom-made Case knife given to him by Pittsburg Construction. Photo by Priscilla Petersen*

## Public meets on project

A public meeting took place recently in Newton at the Chisholm Trail Outlet Mall for the I-135 and 36th Street interchange design project. The meeting provided an opportunity for the public to view and give input concerning the multiple design options considered for this interchange project and KDOT's preferred design.

The recent establishment of the Kansas Logistics Park northeast of this interchange and wind energy equipment manufacturing companies planning to locate in this new industrial park, has led to the need to provide an interchange that will accommodate the oversized trucks that transport this equipment. Additionally, traffic uses this interchange to access the Chisholm Trail shopping center along with other

**District  
Five**



*Attendees at the public meeting for the I-135/36th Street interchange project look at displays showing the details of the project. Photo by Martin Miller*

businesses and residents in the area.

Participating in this meeting for KDOT was Scott King, Jon Marburger and Kelly Cool from the Road Section; Josh Powers from Headquarters Public Involvement; and Martin Miller, District Five Public Affairs Manager. TranSystems is the engineering design consultant for this project.

## Partnering awards

District Six construction offices in Ulysses and Syracuse earned partnering awards along with their contractor counterparts presented by the Kansas Contractors Association and KDOT at a partnering workshop recently.

The Ulysses Construction office shared an award in the under \$500,000 category for their efforts on a half-mile long project on U.S. 160 in Ulysses. The project replaced five inches of asphalt with concrete pavement and replaced a railroad crossing.

It was the railroad crossing that added to the challenge with the primary contractor, Klaver Construction Company, Inc., of Kingman assisting the Cimarron Valley Railroad to replace the crossing on a weekend in order to keep the project on schedule.

The Syracuse

Construction office shared an award in the \$500,000 to \$3 million category for their collaboration with contractors and the city of Tribune on a project on K-27 that also replaced the existing asphalt pavement with concrete. The work also added a storm drain, curb and gutter and

**District  
Six**

ramps compliant with the American with Disabilities Act. The project was delayed by weather, which

forced the contractor, APAC-Kansas, Shears Division of Hays, Kansas, to carry the work over into the next spring and required additional coordination with Tribune and downtown businesses through the winter months. According to Larry Meyer, Construction Manager in KDOT's Syracuse office, the communication between his office, APAC-Kansas and the city of Tribune "kept the patience level of everyone in and around the project at the calm level as this project lasted longer than anyone wanted."



*This project on U.S. 160 in Ulysses earned a partnering award from the Kansas Contractors Association and KDOT. Photo by Chuck Oldaker*



*This view to the northeast along K-156 shows the existing alignment of the intersection with Mary Street in the foreground and Jennie Barker Road in the background. The reconfiguration now under construction will replace these two intersections with a single point intersection at a right angle to the highway.*

## Work starts to reconfigure busy intersections

A multi-million dollar project to re-align the intersections of K-156 and two crossroads on the east side of Garden City is under way. With increasing commercial development along the K-156 corridor, city officials had identified the need for a new alignment more than a decade ago, but the necessary funding wasn't available until recently.

K-156 travels northeast from Garden City and the two crossroads, Mary Street and Jennie Barker Road, intersect the highway diagonally, making it difficult for drivers to check for traffic on

the highway before entering or crossing K-156. In addition, the two intersections are only 400 feet apart. About 5,000 vehicles a day pass through the corridor, with many of them making turning movements at the crossroads.

The joint city-county-state project will re-align Mary Street and Jennie Barker Road and create a single right-angle intersection with K-156. Smoky Hill LLC of Salina is the primary contractor on the almost \$4 million project, which should be finished by the end of the year.

## Promotions/Transfers

### Headquarters

**Chrishundra Mitchell**, Management Systems Analyst II, Planning and Development

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for promotions/transfers to Translines.*

## Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

### Classes at Headquarters

- ♦Best Week 2, April 11-15
- ♦Business Writing I, April 28
- ♦Business Writing II April 28
- ♦Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, May 5
- ♦Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts Training, May 10
- ♦New Employee Orientation, May 12
- ♦Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, May 17
- ♦ART Day 1-3, May 24-26
- ♦Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts, June 21
- ♦Best Week 1, June 27-30

### Classes at District Offices

- ♦Whale Done, April 7, District One, Topeka
- ♦Dealing With Difficult People, April 5, Hutchinson
- ♦Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, April 6, Horton
- ♦Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, April 18-19, Norton
- ♦Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, April 20, Salina
- ♦Difficult People, May 4, District One, Topeka
- ♦Leadership Basics, May 24-26, Hutchinson
- ♦Dealing with Difficult People, June 7, District One, Topeka
- ♦Transition to Leadership/You'll Catch on, June 13-17, Chanute

## Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in April.

### Headquarters

**Sandra K. Flickinger**, Human Resource Professional III, Personnel Services

**Raymond P. Flores**, Computer Operator II, Computer Services

**Suellen W. Markley**, Governmental Affairs Analyst, Planning and Development

### District One

**John D. Mah**, Engineering

Technician Senior, Topeka  
**Mitchell D. McGee**, Applications Developer II, Topeka

**Jolynn M. Sweet**, Administrative Assistant, Emporia

### District Three

**John W. Allacher, Jr.**, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Atwood

**Gregory L. Arehart**, Equipment Operator Senior, Norton

**Anthony H. Hirsh**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Kinsley

**Roy L. Meier**, Engineering Associate III, Oakley

### District Five

**Edward L. Schaben**, Equipment Operator, LaCrosse

**Larry D. Sangals**, Engineering Technician, Hutchinson

*Employees who choose to have retirement reception information shared on the Internet can be found at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), under News and Announcements.*

**Welcome  
new KDOT  
employees!**

**Headquarters**

**Christian DeVoe,**  
District Safety  
Specialist, Construction  
and Maintenance

**Marvin Edwards,**  
Electronics Technician  
Senior, Transportation  
Planning

**Shane Etzold,** District  
Safety Specialist,  
Construction and  
Maintenance

**Deana Merryman,**  
Procurement Officer  
IV, Fiscal Services

**Sharon Watson,**  
Procurement Officer I,  
Fiscal Services

**District Four**

**Kevin Calley,**  
Equipment Mechanic,  
Garnett

**Marty Easley,**  
Equipment Operator  
Trainee, Altamont

**Cade Myers,**  
Equipment Operator  
Trainee, Erie

**Shelby Phillips,**  
Equipment Operator  
Trainee, Altamont

**District Five**

**Kenneth Steadfast,**  
Equipment Mechanic  
Senior, El Dorado

*The Bureau of  
Personnel Services  
and Districts supply  
information for  
new employees to  
Translines.*

# KDOT Research Engineer playing key role in study

A KDOT Concrete Research Engineer is playing a key role in a study aimed at reducing cracking in concrete bridge decks by using better design, construction and material specifications.

Heather McLeod, KDOT Concrete Engineer, has been involved in the study since 2002 when she was working on her doctorate at the University of Kansas. Her thesis was incorporated as an FHWA report on the development and construction of low-cracking, high performance concrete (LC-HPC) bridge decks.

The pooled fund study for the construction of crack-free concrete bridge decks is being implemented in two phases under the direction of KDOT in conjunction with 18 other state departments of transportation, the FHWA and the University of Kansas Transportation Research Institute.

“Cracks in concrete bridge decks provide easy access for water and deicing chemicals that shorten the life of the deck due to freeze-thaw damage and corrosion of reinforcing steel,” said McLeod. “We’re looking at measures that can be taken so we don’t have to repair or replace bridge decks as often, saving both money and time.”

The first portion of the project involved laboratory work. McLeod said in Kansas that involved the evaluation of 33 individual

concrete batches and 123 test specimens. The second portion of the study describes the specifications for the LC-HPC and control bridge decks in Kansas.

The final portion of the study details the development and construction of LC-HPC and control bridge decks. In Kansas, that involves 14 LC-HPC and 12 conventional bridge decks. These decks are now being evaluated and compared with conventional decks for cost and cracking performance.

Overall, 40 LC-HPC bridges will be constructed in states that are involved in the study.

“The purpose of the study is to work with participating states, the Transportation Research Institute, concrete suppliers, contractors and designers to use new materials and modified construction techniques in the construction of crack-free bridge decks,” said McLeod.

Results indicate that successful LC-HPC bridge construction is possible and that clear and consistent communication between the contractor, owner and testing personnel is vital for successful construction of LC-HPC decks.

McLeod said that preliminary evaluation of cracking indicates that at early ages, LC-HPC decks are performing significantly better than the control decks.

The 10-year long study is expected to be completed in 2014. – S.W.



**Step  
Back in  
Time**

*Construction  
work on  
the U.S. 24  
bridge near  
Lecompton  
in 1954.*

*Fun Facts  
and Trivia*

**Do you know?**

**Kansas Fun Facts**

1. A 30-foot tall statue of Johnny Kaw is in what Kansas town?  
A. Manhattan B. Hays C. Goodland D. Park City
2. The rocks at Rock City are huge sandstone concretions. In an area about the size of two football fields, 200 rocks, some as large as houses, dot the landscape. Where else can you find a similar amount and size on concretions? A. Ontario, Canada B. Redruth, Great Britain C. Greater Reykjavik Area D. None of the above
3. What famous botanical scientist, who discovered more than 300 products made from peanuts, graduated from high school in Minneapolis in 1885?  
A. John Bartram B. Robert Bentley C. George Washington Carver D. Ibn Bassal
4. True or false: The First United Methodist Church in Hutchinson was built in 1874 during the time of the grasshopper plagues. The grasshoppers came during the construction of the churches' foundation but the pastor continued with the work. As a result, thousands of grasshoppers are mixed into the mortar of the original building's foundation.
5. A hailstone weighing how much once fell on Coffeyville?  
A. 1.5 pounds B. 2.6 pounds C. 3.8 pounds D. 6.1 pounds
6. Name as many historic trails as you can that pass through Kansas.

Answers on page 12



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Motorist praises action of KDOT workers**

I want to send a big thank you to the five KDOT workers who were working on the bridge located in Herington on the U.S. Business 56 loop.

You see we went by them when they were working during a funeral procession for my grandmother on 2-21-2011. When we went by them every one of them turned towards the procession, stopped working and took their hats off.

What an honor it was to see the KDOT workers show their respect for our grandmother. I feel that these folks

showed their respect for her I wanted to show the same respect back and honor them.

I also feel that these men should be recognized and a time off award given to them. They did a fantastic job representing the State of Kansas. Thank you to all.

Respectfully,  
Scott Melcher, Herington

**Editor's Note:** The workers, all from the Marion Subarea, were Greg Clothier, EO Senior; Dean Baldwin, EO Specialist and Equipment Operators Dennis Adkins, Jack Freeborn and Donald Shipman.

**Section of K-18 designated as Donald Ross Memorial Highway**

The Kansas Legislature has approved the designation of a section of K-18 for Medal of Honor recipient Donald Ross.

Ross, serving aboard the U.S.S. Nevada in the U.S. Navy, earned the Medal of Honor during the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He was a machinist who kept the ship's dynamo room in operation despite danger to his own life. He was among the first to receive the medal during World War II.

Ross was a native of Beverly, a Lincoln County town near the stretch of highway. He served in the military until 1956, retiring as a captain. He died in 1992.

The section of K-18 to be named in memory of Ross runs from north of Salina west 47 miles.

In February, the Legislature saluted the World War II veteran in the presence of two fellow Medal of Honor winners - retired Col. Donald Ballard, formerly of Topeka, and retired Col. Roger Donlon, of Leavenworth. Both received the nation's most distinguished medal for bravery in combat while fighting in Vietnam.

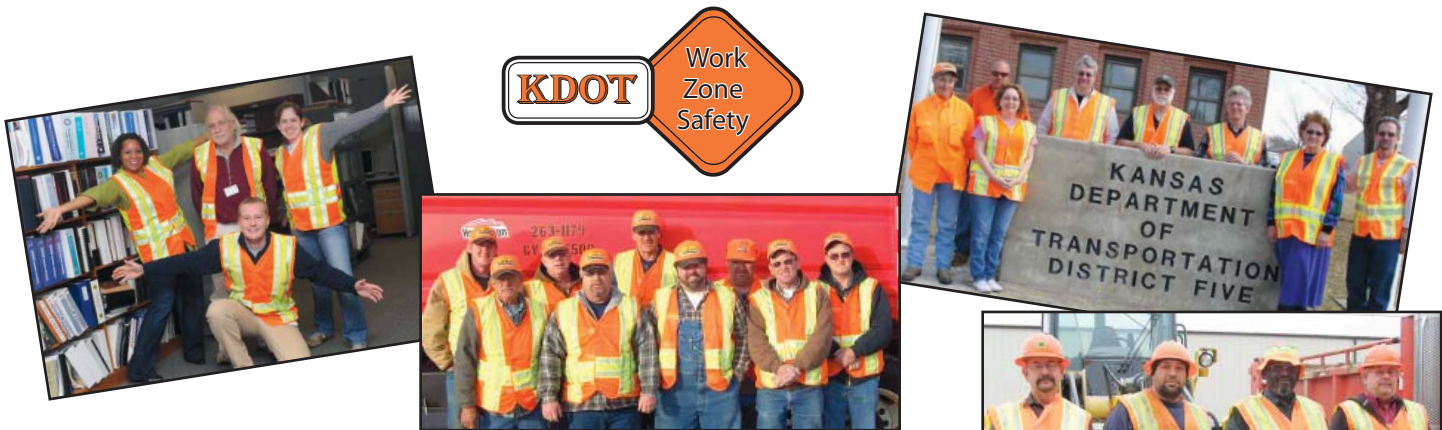
The Legislature said the designation honors Ross and all Kansans who have received the Medal of Honor for their military service. – S.W.



*KDOT would like to recognize its employees who have returned home from military service. Employees are listed by district and their branch of service.*

**John Short**, Engineering Technician Senior, District Four, Army

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.*



# Go orange for work zone safety

Fashion advice for April 6: Go orange!

That's the day KDOT is encouraging all Kansans to wear orange as a show of support for Kansas highway workers who risk their lives working on road projects and to raise awareness of work zone hazards. The Go Orange day is part of National Work Zone Awareness Week – April 4-8.

"It can be easy to overlook the importance of highway workers. But the work they do contributes significantly to the safety of travelers and the flow of commerce, and at times their work is done at great personal risk," said Secretary Deb Miller.

"Wearing orange on April 6 is a way to show our support for highway workers and to raise awareness of the hazards of work zones for both workers and travelers."

More than 85 percent of the time, it's motorists who are injured in work zone crashes due to inattention, following too closely, driving too fast or not yielding the right of way. Last year, more

than 450 people were injured and eight people were killed in work zone crashes in Kansas.

Go orange on April 6 and remember to drive safely in work zones all year long.

**Pictures of Kansans who have gone orange can be viewed on KDOT's website at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), at KDOT's Flickr page, [www.flickr.com/photos/kansastransportation](http://www.flickr.com/photos/kansastransportation) and on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUNtSqC71fs>.**



*KDOT Executive Staff and employees from Headquarters and each KDOT District wear orange to celebrate work zone safety and show appreciation to all Kansas highway workers as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week.*

## Awareness week events in Kansas:

Many activities focused on improving safety are scheduled for National Work Zone Awareness Week. They include:

- ♦ Orange Day on April 6, with a safety news conference at the Oakland Subarea in Topeka – Shirley McDonald, Secretary Deb Miller, KHP Superintendent Ernest Garcia and Brian Hansen, Kansas Contractors Association President/Vice President of Dustrol Inc. are scheduled to speak.
- ♦ Photos and a video of Kansans

who have gone orange to show their appreciation to all Kansas highway workers (see story above).

- ♦ Safety blogs from KDOT employees, contractor partners and the Kansas Highway Patrol on KTOC, <http://bit.ly/gW1jUo>.
- ♦ Safety messages on electronic message boards across I-70.
- ♦ Orange ribbons and computer screen alerts for all KDOT employees
- ♦ Public Services Announcements distributed statewide.

# KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

Increase your efficiency!

## Netiquette-What is that?

Netiquette is email etiquette. As the KCTC creates new Outlook manuals, we thought we would re-cap a few guidelines to help your emails be considered proper and accepted in polite society:

- ♦Type a subject for every email.
- ♦Writing in all caps is like SHOUTING!
- ♦Be careful on the ‘tone’ of an email. Something that you may mean jokingly may not be taken that way.
- ♦Keep attachments small and do not ever forward anything offensive.
- ♦If you must forward something, delete the previous email addresses.
- ♦If you forward something to a lot of people, put the email addresses in the Bcc field. (However, if a recipient clicked Reply to All, the email addresses would then be visible.)
- ♦Acronyms like LOL and ROTFL have become common. In business writing, you should explain an acronym the first time: KDOT Computer Training Component (KCTC). In any formal communication leave out the abbreviations.

BTW, here is a list of some common acronyms:

### Acronym - What it means

LOL - Laugh out loud

ROTFL - Rolling on the floor laughing

TTFN - Ta ta for now

FWIW - For what it’s worth

IMHO - In my humble opinion

FYI - For your information

IDK - I don’t know

BTW - By the way

J/K - Just kidding

LMK - Let me know

THx - Thanks

YW - Your welcome

## Kansas Department of Transportation

Bureau of Transportation Information  
Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 SW Harrison, Second Floor, West  
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

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**NOTE:** This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, KS, 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

# M I L E S T O N E S

## KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in April

### 10 YEARS

James Adee . . . . . Abilene  
Shelly Hancock . . . . . Hutchinson  
William Harris . . . . . Florence  
Jefferson Neal . . . . . Topeka  
Curtis Smith . . . . . Oakley  
George Weber Jr. . . . . Great Bend

### 30 YEARS

Richard Krotz . . . . . Belleville  
Lonnie Matthews . . . . . Lakin  
Anthony McGill . . . . . Hutchinson

### 20 YEARS

Gelene Savage . . . . . Topeka

*State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services. Employees and home towns are included in this list.*

1. A. Manhattan, the statue represents the importance of the Kansas wheat farmer.
2. D. None of the above, there is no other place in the world where there are so many concretions of such giant size.
3. C. George Washington Carver
4. True
5. A. 1.5 pounds
6. Christolm Trail; Lewis and Clark Trail; Pony Express Route, Oregon/California Trail; Santa Fe Trail; Smoky Hill Hill Trail

**Answers**