



Translines



| | |
|-------------|------------|
| AUKLAND | DOLE |
| BALLARD | GRANGE |
| BEAMER | GRANT |
| BENNETT | HARRIS |
| BROWN | HAYZLETT |
| BROWN | HENDERSON |
| BURRESS | JERRY |
| BURROUGHS | HOODE |
| CARLIN | HOLLAND |
| CARLSON | HOLMES |
| COLLIFTON | HOLMES M. |
| COVY | HUES |
| CRATT | HUESBERT |
| CRISP | HUMPHREYS |
| CRINE | HARTWICK |
| CRAWFORD | JOHNSON B. |
| DAVIS | KELLEY |
| DILLMORE | KELSEY |
| DONOHUE | KIEGELE |
| FABER | KING |
| FANST-GOOD | KONZER |
| FEUERBORN | KNOX |
| FLAHERTY | KUETLER |
| FLOSA | LANDWEHR |
| FROWNFELTER | LANE |
| FUNG | LEAT |
| GASCOIA | LOGANBILL |
| GATEWOOD | LORD |
| GEORGE | LUSSETT |
| GOICO | MAH |
| GORDON | MAST |

Inside ...

- ◆ **Being aware may have saved lives Dec. 2**
- ◆ **Governor proposes pay, longevity increases**

- ◆ **You can count on us**
- ◆ **Think communication**
- ◆ **2006 ends with massive storm in western Kansas**

Start 2007
with a
salute
See page 5



*By Secretary
Deb Miller*

You can count on us

The 2007 annual report is now being distributed and it includes some big changes from previous reports. It has a new look, a new shape and new content. And, it has a new theme, “you can count on us.”

If anyone had any doubts about the veracity of that phrase as it applies to KDOT, this season’s snow and ice storms should have put those to rest.

During the historic storms that hit twice during the holidays and paralyzed large portions of western Kansas, our road crews were out before the first snowflakes fell. As the snow piled up and was blown into drifts higher than our trucks, crews worked to reopen roads that the snow had closed. Many of our co-workers gave up sleep and time with their families so that tens of thousands of anxious travelers didn’t have to wait any longer than necessary to get back on the road.

We usually think of the equipment operators first when we think of our winter heroes. And that’s appropriate. Many of our crew members slept in Subarea offices and stayed with relatives so they would be available for their shift. Others traveled out of their areas to help fellow

employees battling the storm. But there are so many other people who work hard to keep travelers safe. Like the supervisors who monitor the weather, oversee the maintenance of vehicles and make sure there is an adequate supply of sand and salt. And the people in the field and at headquarters who make sure our traveler information services – 511 and KANROAD – have up-to-date information. Those people worked around the clock, too, and their efforts were essential in helping motorists make wise, even life-preserving decisions.

And there were others who did even more. Syracuse Superintendent Ron Munyan, and his wife, Ronda, opened up their home to a stranded couple who were trying to get home to Colorado from a Christmas trip to Chicago. A letter from the grateful couple about their reaffirming stay in Kansas appears on page 4 of this issue.

Also in this issue on page 5 is an editorial that ran in the *Rawlins Square Deal* newspaper saluting the city, county and state workers who worked during the storm to keep others safe and mobile. “If it’s true that ‘attitude is everything,’ then how about entering into a new year with an attitude of gratitude. . .,” the writer said about the effort of the road crews.

It’s not popular to close highways, even when it seems obvious why it has to be done. We heard from a number of people who didn’t care for that. Some of the written comments, put nicely, were too salty to run in this publication. But those were relatively few when compared to the many e-mails and phone comments we have received.

Storms never seem to strike when it is convenient. But these storms came at a most inconvenient time – the holidays. I’m proud to say that KDOT workers came through when they were needed the most – and when they most wanted to stay in the warmth, comfort and safety of their homes. I am so impressed with their dedication to doing their jobs the right way. I see it every day in the many people with whom I interact at KDOT.

And that’s why I’m very comfortable with a new annual report that tells readers, “you can count on us.”

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Information
Eisenhower Building, 2nd Floor, West
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, Ks 66603-3754



Governor: Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Transportation: Deb Miller
Chief of Transportation Information: Steve Swartz
Editors: Stan Whitley and Kim Stich

Phone/TTY: (785) 296-3585 FAX: (785) 296-0287

Calendar of Events

Feb. 9 - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

Feb. 13 – 11 a.m. KDOT employees’ Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

Feb. 21 - 1 p.m. Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.



Governor proposes pay, longevity increases

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius recently released her proposed FY 2008 budget and it provides for a 4 percent pay increase for state employees.

The increase for classified employees includes a 1.5 percent cost of living adjustment and a step movement on the pay scale (2.5 percent). These salary proposals are effective at the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1, 2007)

In addition, the Governor has proposed an increase in Longevity payments to \$50 per year of service for employees with 10 or more years of service, \$10 more than the \$40 per year of service currently paid to qualifying employees.

Health insurance costs are expected to continue at current rates for the next year. Though there are a few areas of the state that may see

Continued on page 8

Driving Force looks at ways to reduce fatalities

The Driving Force, a statewide citizen task force that examined ways to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries, released a series of recommendations Jan. 16 at news conferences in Garden City, Topeka and Wichita.

Over the last 11 months the task force has met in cities throughout the state to hear presentations by experts and develop solutions. The task force is made up of concerned individuals from a wide range of professions across the state.

The Driving Force identified 11 major areas for detailed study that affect traffic safety, including:

- ◆ Occupant protection (including

Continued on page 10

On the...

COVER

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius presents the State of the State address at the Capitol in Topeka.

Photo by Kurt Weaverling



Kansas celebrity Danni Boatwright reviews information on the Kansas Child Passenger Safety Act script with Kansas Highway Patrol Media Director Will Downing. Photo provided by the Kansas Highway Patrol

Video will help officers enforce new Booster Bill

KDOT's Bureau of Traffic Safety and the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) are working together to provide law enforcement across the state the latest information on the Kansas Child Passenger Safety Act.

A roll call video outlining the act, also known as the Booster Bill, will be distributed across the state at the beginning of February. A roll call video is a training tool to be shown during daily roll call meetings for officers coming on shift, said Lt. John Eichkorn with the KHP.

"With the recent amendment to the Child Passenger Safety Act, officers will gain a better understanding of what the changes entail and how to effectively enforce the amended law," Eichkorn said.

An added bonus for this project is the video's spokesperson, who is Kansan Danni Boatwright.

"Not only is she the winner of "Survivor Guatemala" and host of ESPN2's "The Fantasy Show," she is also a daughter of a Kansas law enforcement

Continued on page 7

2006 ENDS WITH MASSIVE STORM IN WESTERN KANSAS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Secretary Miller:

My wife and I were on our way back to Westcliffe, Colorado, after spending Christmas in Chicago with our family. We were driving because the not very concerned folks at United Air Lines cancelled my flight.

We left Lincoln, Neb., early morning 12-29 after watching many reports about the approaching winter storm. We thought we might skirt the storm by driving south before heading west to Pueblo via Route 50. It rained constantly until we were just west of Garden City where the temperature suddenly dropped to the upper 20s, the wind became strong and gusty and the rain changed to sleet and freezing rain.

We fought the weather to the western border of Syracuse when we came upon the ROAD CLOSED sign. We were devastated. What do we do? The local motel was already full so we checked with local sheriff, Mike Keating, a very friendly, helpful guy, who recommended a local church that was taking in other stranded motorists.

When we got to the church a lady called to us from her car, said that she heard on her scanner that we were looking for shelter. The lady, Ronda Munyan, offered to take us in until we could get back on the road. Little did she know we'd be her guests for the next several days. Ronda, her husband Ron, a KDOT Area Superintendent, and two dogs, Pounder and Shelby, provided us with a warm bed, tasty meals and friendly conversation. We were finally on our way home Monday morning. What courage it took for these wonderful people to open their home to these two strangers. Ron and Ronda, thank you. You will be long remembered.

We did venture into town Saturday morning despite the foul weather. It was immediately obvious that KDOT had been hard at work while we slept. And when we left on Monday morning, New Year's Day, the Kansas roads were safe and mostly clear. As a Colorado resident I'm disappointed to report that the same was not true for Colorado ... I'm sure there were a lot of hard working CDOT folks doing their best, but for whatever reason, Route 50 was in much worse condition in Colorado than Kansas.

Jack and Liz Rivers
Westcliffe, Colorado



Clearing US-40 east of Sharon Springs after the storm.

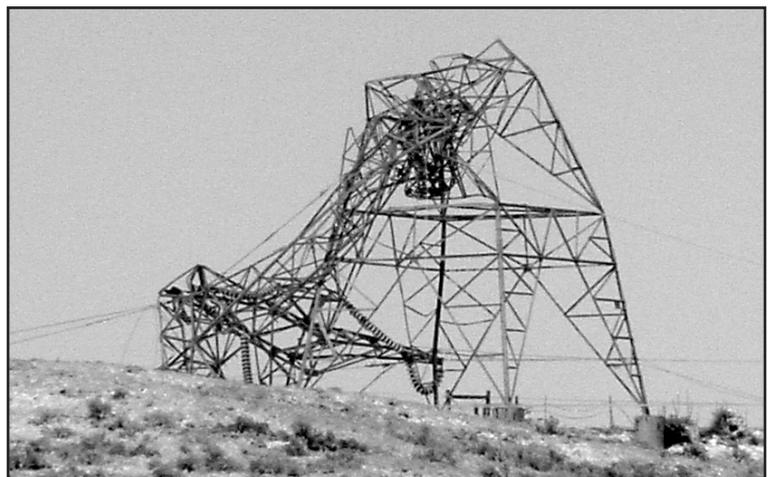
Howdy!

My mother and I traveled through Kansas on I-70 on Dec. 23-24 heading to Denver to spend Christmas with my brother and on Jan. 4-5 returning home to Kentucky. We just wanted to compliment the plow crews on their efforts.

We had delayed our trip both ways because of the snow/ice storms, but were VERY impressed at how dry the highway was when we did travel through (particularly given the amount of ice still hanging onto the fencing along the highway). The fact that there were still plow crews out keeping the snow banks from creeping out onto the highway after the main portion of the road was clear was amazing.

Thanks for doing such a great job! Could you host a "how to properly plow" workshop for the Kentucky DOT plow crews? They need a few tips on how to properly clear the roads when we do get snow here.

Thanks again!
Stephanie Lechert



Power transmission tower east of Garden City near US-50/US-400.

Photos by KDOT field employees

Starting 2007 with a salute

From the Jan. 4 Square Deal newspaper in Atwood
By Kathy Davis-Vrbas

If it's true that "attitude is everything," then how about entering into a new year with an attitude of gratitude, starting with appreciation for our friends and neighbors in city, county and state jobs who set family celebrations aside this past week to keep us safe and mobile during this holiday of snowstorms?

In these recent drought years, we have become accustomed to winters with few snowstorms. We made up for it this Christmas season with a couple of doozies. Atwood and the surrounding area got roughly 17 inches, enough to bring general transportation to a freezing halt for a couple of days.

Those of us who spent the holidays happily snowed in with our families do well to remember the road crews who spent their holidays — and nights — clearing the streets and highways for us. They have families, too. How many of those folks ended up with New Year's dinner warmed up in the microwave the next day? How many of them would have liked to be sitting at the table playing Pictionary with their kids instead of plowing snow or hauling hapless travelers out of the ditch in the middle of the night?

So, for those city, county and state workers who left your homes to drive the maintainers or man the radios, who went without sleep, who missed out on holiday fun or rest time in order to serve us: Our new year starts with a great big salute to you.

We receive such good services that we're spoiled and demanding and we have unrealistic expectations. City, county and state crews do not come equipped with magic wands to wave at the snow: "Poof, all gone." It's easy to lose sight of the fact that moving this much snow is a very big job. It's hard work and it takes lots of hours.

It's also easy to dismiss people's contributions by saying,

"That's their job. They get paid for it." Come on, folks. It was the holidays! Paycheck or no, these people have gone the extra mile for us and they deserve our thanks, right along with their hard-earned dollars. We all appreciate the many kind acts of volunteerism by those who help each other in pure neighborliness. Let's also acknowledge the faithful efforts of public employees for whom this

lovely white Christmas meant mostly just a lot more hard work and disrupted family time.

So, for those city, county and state workers who left your homes to drive the maintainers or man the radios, who went without sleep, who missed out on holiday fun or rest time in order to serve us: Our new year starts with a great big salute to you.



An aerial view of snow drifts in western Kansas. Photo by the Kansas Highway Patrol

TCF helped KDOT employee, wife after losing child

By Stan Whitley

The death of your child is a devastating experience. Gary and Susan Chan know first hand the pain that accompanies such a loss, but they have also learned to cope with the suffering thanks to The Compassionate Friends (TCF).

Gary, a Senior Squad Leader in the Bureau of Design, and his wife lost their daughter Rachael in 1992. The 18-year-old high school senior was killed in a motorcycle crash, forever changing their lives.

As parents, they mourned and began the long process of bereavement. Those who have had a child die often experience shock, numbness, denial, disbelief, anger and even guilt. The Compassionate Friends have helped them deal with their emotions and reach out to help others since the passing of their daughter.

"We want to spread the message to all KDOT employees and their families that The Compassionate Friends is a self-help support organization which offers friendship and understanding to families who have experienced the death of a child," said Gary. "This is regardless of the age of the child or the circumstances of the death."

Gary and Susan have been leaders at the Topeka Chapter of TCF since 1993. The mission of TCF is to assist families toward a positive resolution of grief following the death of a child and provide information to help others be supportive. The vision is that everyone who needs TCF will find them and everyone who finds them will be helped.

"It's a magical experience to put a group of grieving parents in a room and see them work together at rebuilding their lives," said Gary. "People in our group can freely express their emotions and fears as they work through the healing process. We recognize that grief is not an event, but a journey, which is as individual as each person experiencing it."

Susan has been on the national board of directors for TCF the past six years. The Topeka Chapter meets monthly, publishes a newsletter, has a web site and has special programs during the year for bereaved families. Nationwide, there are 600 TCF chapters, including 19 in Kansas.

"There is nothing quite as empowering as being with



Gary and Susan Chan have learned to cope with the suffering of losing a child thanks to The Compassionate Friends. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

someone who really does understand what you are going through because they too have walked this path," said Susan. "We offer families a safe harbor where they can express themselves in a nonjudgmental atmosphere."

TCF is nondenominational and is not affiliated with any religion. Participation requires no dues or fees.

The grief process is emotional, physical and spiritual.

Dealing with the grief helps TCF members understand they can't change what has happened, but can influence how it impacts their lives.

"Most people feel helpless because you never get over the death of your child," said Susan. "There are constant reminders with birthdays and holidays. It's important to recognize that letting go of the pain does not mean letting go of the love you have for your child. We want people to remember their lives and not just the circumstances of their death."

More than 150,000 infants, children, teenagers and young adults will die this year. Nearly 27,000 families will face a stillbirth and 900,000 an early pregnancy loss. A child's death at any age can be a shattering experience and the TCF helps by providing the emotional support needed during the long grief journey.

You can find additional information about TCF and chapters near you by calling toll-free at 877-969-0010 or on the web at www.compassionatefriends.org.

'There is nothing quite as empowering as being with someone who really does understand what you are going through because they too have walked this path.'

Susan Chan

Being aware may have saved lives Dec. 2

By Priscilla Petersen
District Four Public Affairs Manager

Plowing through heavy snow on US-166 last Dec. 2, David Pillar noticed smoke blowing out from under the eaves of a house about a mile west of Chetopa. "I knew something was wrong," he recalled.

Pillar, an Equipment Operator at the Altamont Subarea, pulled over and immediately radioed Subarea Supervisor Larry Robinson to call 911.

"First I was kind of scared," Pillar said, as he ran to the residence to determine if anyone was inside. Pillar was relieved when a man answered the door, and swiftly evacuated the man and his three dogs from inside the house to safety. The fire department was on the scene within a matter of minutes. Crews were able to save enough of the structure that the house has since been repaired.

According to Pittsburg Area Engineer George Dockery,

Pillar's attention to his surroundings and quick actions may have saved the man's life, as it appeared that he had been asleep in the house. Pillar, who has been with KDOT at Altamont for 10 years, rejects any suggestion that he is a hero for saving another person's life.



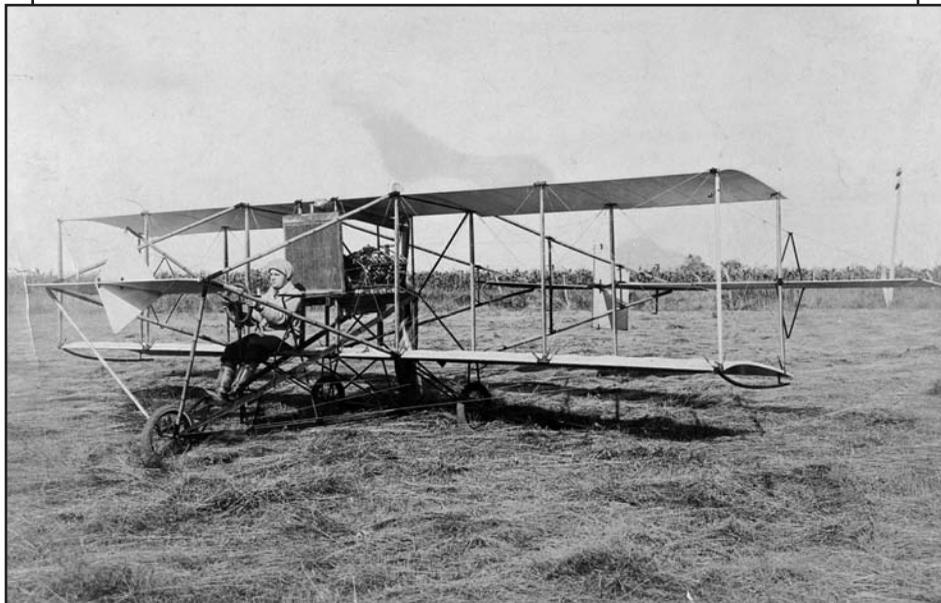
"Anybody would've done the same thing," Pillar said. "When you're plowing snow, you always have to look around you."

"David is quiet and doesn't want a lot of recognition, but he did something good," said Robinson. "This type of action should show people that not only are we clearing the roadways for their safety, but are also keeping an eye out for other kinds of hazards that might be out there."

Pillar plans to continue his careful scoping of the surroundings while at work on the highways.

"You've always got to be aware of what you're doing," he said.

Step Back in Time



An experimental aircraft is tested during early aviation in Kansas.

Welcome
new KDOT
employees!

Headquarters

Spencer Applehantz, Engineering Technician Associate, Design

District One– Northeast

Kevin Kellerman, Engineering Associate I, Bonner Springs

Kimberly Qualls, Program Consultant II, Topeka

District Two – Northcentral

Robyn Erickson, Engineering Technician Associate, Belleville.

Video

Continued from page 3

officer," Eichkorn said. "So it seemed appropriate that she would be able to convey the message to law enforcement officers in an effective way."

After outlining the provisions of the law, the video ends with a serious message from Boatwright.

"We know Kansas' Child Passenger Safety Act will help to reduce death and injuries on our roadways," she said. "But how much it helps and how well it

works depends on you."

The new law is a combination of an existing law and new amendments. It went into effect July 1, 2006. After a one-year grace period, the fine will increase from \$20 to \$60 plus court costs starting July 1, 2007. -K.S.



By

Sally
Howard

TRANSPORTATION

TALK

Think communication

“No man is an island, entire of itself...any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.”

I don’t know if this is true in many families, but as the only girl in a family of five, it many times seems that if I didn’t initiate contact with my brothers we would drift apart -- five separate islands. Living so far apart, it’s sometimes easy to forget about each other. We each have our own small circle of people, whether spouses, children, or those we work with, that naturally dominate our lives. The holidays, with cards bearing pictures of my nieces and nephews getting impossibly taller and older; phone calls from brothers who live across the country; remind me of our connections with each other.

Since coming to KDOT, I discovered a common refrain among people here that we’re a big family. I’ve seen this aspect of KDOT, when co-workers have retired, or have fallen ill, gotten married, had babies, or had loved ones pass away. We join together on those occasions, to express sympathy, concern, congratulations, and wishes for a speedy recovery. Still, it seems we’re sometimes like my family—we forget about those of us who we don’t regularly see.

I’ve been guilty of forgetting to make sure that I pass information on to people in the field who ought to know about things happening in their area. It’s not intentional.

They’re just like my brothers who I don’t see every day. Even within the Eisenhower building, it sometimes seems we forget those we don’t routinely see. We forget to ask ourselves, “who should know about this?”

In spring of this year, Secretary Miller and Assistant Secretary Younger announced the desire for our designers and area engineers to begin working together more on all aspects of their projects. This project manager approach heightens the need for us to reach out to our long distance relatives to make sure they are kept current on important decisions that are made on a project. One squad leader described his approach as making sure his co-manager in the field knew what was happening, when it was going to happen, and why the decision was made.

I hope this emphasis on communication is expanded beyond the designers and area engineers working on a project. In the field, there’s a natural break between construction and maintenance. Yet if the two don’t talk, we can end up with a road that’s constructed in a way that makes maintenance more difficult, or depends on a level of maintenance that is beyond our ability, which will shorten the life of the road. Similarly, failing to talk to the contractor on a project can lead to problems snowballing instead of getting resolved.

Here in legal, we’ve found ourselves in a bad position when defending a lawsuit because one person had information that should have been passed on to someone else. Had the information been passed on, there would have been an opportunity to fix the problem that resulted in a lawsuit being brought. For whatever reason, the right people didn’t know about the potential problem, and so the chance to solve the problem was missed.

We may be experts in engineering, but not appreciate the impacts of our decisions from the perspectives of others whose experience lies outside engineering. There are so many bright people working in a wide range of disciplines here at KDOT. Anymore, our work touches many parts of the agency, even if we typically don’t. We can’t afford to be islands like my brothers and I tend to be.

Note: Sally Howard was KDOT’s Chief Counsel when this article was written. She has since been chosen to serve as Chief Counsel for Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Legislature

Continued from page 3

minimal increases due to changes in plans, the majority of employees should experience little change to their health insurance costs.

“Both the pay and longevity bonus increases are a welcome surprise,” said Secretary Deb Miller. “This is a positive sign that the economy and state revenues are looking up.”

In addition to pay increases, the Governor has included \$2.7 million for replacement of moratorium vehicles and \$7.3 million for the agency’s building budget. The agency’s building budget had averaged \$3-4 million per year for the past few years.

The Governor’s proposal is the just the beginning of the process. As always, these proposals are subject to change by the Legislature.

Also, early in the Legislative ses-

sion two proposals were recommended for passage this year involving KDOT. The two proposals introduced in the Kansas Legislature on January 16 were:

◆ A standard (primary) safety belt law for all occupants and imposition of a \$60 fine;

◆ Strengthening of the Kansas graduated driver’s licensing system to protect the youngest and most vulnerable drivers.

KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

CLASSES ARE ON THE CALENDAR AT ESOB

Check out the Shared Outlook KCTC Calendar for class postings through April. Misty is providing training “on the road” for most of the first quarter. Microsoft Project is back in February due to demand!

DID YOU KNOW?

Tips & Tricks:

◆ Did you know in Outlook you can proofread all e-mail before you send it out and avoid spelling errors? Click “Tools,” selecting “Options.” When the “Options” multi-tabbed dialog box appears, click the “Spelling” tab. Check “Always check spelling before sending.” Click “OK” to close the dialog box.

◆ Did you know in Outlook you can request for return receipts upon sending email? Select “Tools” then “Options.” When the “Options” multi-tabbed dialog box appears, click the “Preferences” tab.

Click the “E-Mail Options” button. When the “E-Mail Options” dialog box appears, click “Tracking Options.”

When the “Tracking Options” dialog box appears, check the “Read receipt” and/or “Delivery receipt” checkboxes, as desired. Click “OK” on the three dialog boxes to close them. Note: A recipient can disable this feature. These tips are from the Bureau of Computer Services.

Enroll by e-mail kctc@ksdot.org or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993. **Questions are welcome!** Supervisor’s approval to enroll is necessary.



KDOT survey crew members Dave Reamer and Kara LaRiviere, Survey Party Chief, set up a GPS base antenna to map a bridge replacement site in Brown County. Photo by Larry Katsbulas

New career path leads LaRiviere to surveying

By Kim Stich

Kara LaRiviere was working as a hostess in a hotel restaurant in California about 21 years ago when a pamphlet came in the mail that changed her life.

The pamphlet said if you like to work outdoors and like math, to look into a career in surveying.

LaRiviere decided to give it a try and as they say, the rest is history. She was recently named the first woman Survey Party Chief for KDOT.

“I didn’t have a clue what surveying was, but I just never found my niche before this,” she said.

She took a refresher math course, then started her survey career with the Operating Engineers Union in California. After three years, LaRiviere, who grew up in Kansas, decided to move back. She worked for a private surveyor in Salina for 11 years before coming to KDOT two and a half years ago.

“I know more about Kansas now and of the roads and little towns than I ever have,” LaRiviere said. “I like being on the road and getting to meet a lot of

interesting people.”

Survey work in the Olathe area recently was a big change from other parts of Kansas. With the high traffic volumes, she said local KDOT employees came out with attenuator trucks to protect them while the crew was measuring highway elevations on K-10

“It’s a fast-paced area – it’s just a whole different world there,” she said. “It feels a little like California.”

When people see her and other members of the survey crew near the roadway in various areas of the state, they want to know what is going on and if their road is getting worked on.

“I haven’t ran into many people that don’t want the improvements,” she said.

LaRiviere enjoys the different aspects of being a Survey Party Chief, from researching section corners at the county courthouse to all the paperwork that goes along with it.

“It’s definitely a challenge,” she said. “But the guys have been great – very supportive.”

*Fun Facts
and Trivia*

Do you know?

Congestion Facts
PART 1
*from the Federal
Highway Administration*

- ◆ In Kansas City, Mo., a signal timing effort along a one-mile stretch of Bannister Road resulted in improved traffic flow, including an annual reduction in delay of 101,000 hours, saving 91,000 gallons of fuel.
- ◆ In 2003, according to the Texas Transportation Institute in the area studied -
 - Congestion added up to 3.7 billion hours of delay, or an annual delay per person of 43 hours. Congestion also cost more than \$63 billion or \$384 per person in wasted time and extra fuel. In addition, incidents caused an estimated 52 percent of the delay, or about 1.9 billion hours of delay.
- ◆ Signal timing improvements in Chandler, Ariz., have reduced morning peak-period delays by 30 percent and afternoon peak-period delays by 7 percent.
- ◆ Models estimate that traffic signal control systems can reduce fuel consumption by as much as 13 percent.



Trooper Gary Warner explains the difference between a primary seat belt law and the current Kansas law to KFDI radio reporter Jared Cerullo after the news conference in Wichita. Photo by Tom Hein



Secretary Deb Miller outlines the recommendations of the Driving Force that have been developed to increase safety for all motorists on Kansas roadways during the news conference in Topeka. Photo by Larry Katsbulas



Bob Prewitt (left), Finney County EMS and Driving Force Task Force member, points out pertinent data to assembled members of the media at the news conference in Garden City. Photo by Kirk Hutchinson

Driving Force

Continued from page 3

- safety belts, child passenger restraint, motorcycle helmets)
- ◆ Novice drivers (primarily teenage drivers)
 - ◆ Impaired driving (driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol)
 - ◆ Trauma care
 - ◆ Emergency medical services
 - ◆ Older drivers
 - ◆ Judiciary process
 - ◆ Roadway
 - ◆ Commercial motor vehicles
 - ◆ Distracted driving
 - ◆ Data (including traffic and crash data)

The Driving Force identified 28 recommendations that require a significant amount of time and effort to implement. The task force members decided that the recommendations should be phased into a three-year plan so that sufficient effort and resources could be concentrated on each issue to ensure their implementation.

Two legislative proposals recommended for passage this year include:

- ◆ A standard (primary) safety belt law for all occupants and imposition of a \$60 fine;
 - ◆ Strengthening of the Kansas graduated driver's licensing system to protect the youngest and most vulnerable drivers.
- For more details, contact Maggie Thompson at (785) 296-5613 or maggiet@ksdot.org.
- The Driving Force is a part of Kansas' Safer Driving, Safer Roads campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to inform and change driver attitudes and behavior to create a safer environment for all.

KDOT announces Local Partnership Program projects

Local partnership projects designed to enhance economic development opportunities and improve safety in communities across the state have been announced by KDOT.

State and local funds totaling \$26.8 million were approved for 19 construction projects in fiscal year 2010 through KDOT's Local Partnership Program. The program financially assists local governments in making needed road improvements on city and county roads. Projects were awarded under the categories of Geometric Improvements and Economic Development.

"The Local Partnership Program has funded important projects all across the state," said Secretary Deb Miller. "These improvements couldn't have happened without local partners and KDOT working together. Communities care about these projects and show that by providing a share of the funding to make them possible."

Local units of government must provide at least 25 percent of the total project costs for economic development

projects and up to a maximum of 25 percent of total geometric improvement costs based on city population.

Economic development projects are intended to enhance economic development in the state. Geometric improvement projects are designed to help cities widen pavements, add or widen shoulders, eliminate steep hills or sharp curves and add needed acceleration and deceleration lanes.

All cities with City Connecting Links of the State Highway System within their boundaries are eligible to apply for Geometric Improvement funds. Any local unit of government or state agency may be considered for Economic Development funds for a highway or bridge construction project that has the potential to enhance and increase the area's income, employment and land values.

"The impact of the Local Partnership program has been dramatic throughout Kansas and we hope funding will become

Continued on page 12

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in January

10 YEARS

Anthony Alrobaire Lawrence
 Eva Bauer Wichita
 Jeffrey Bronson Lyndon
 Robert Forster Meriden
 Shane Frazer Kendall
 Linda Fritton Topeka
 Tony Glessner Council Grove
 Tim Herrman Great Bend
 William McDaniel Meriden
 Steven Murphy Macksville
 Angel Sifuentes Ulysses

40 YEARS

Bruce Miller Everest

20 YEARS

Nelda Buckley Auburn
 Alva Hoag Leroy
 Michelle Laroche Topeka
 Steven McGlasson Topeka
 Bernadette Meek Lenexa
 Christopher Meyer Topeka

30 YEARS

Mike Montgomery Topeka
 Richard Spielman Hoyt
 Duane Utley Piqua
 Thomas Wendell Beloit

State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services.

---- PLEASE NOTE ----

The Milestones information will be changing slightly with the January 2007 employees celebrating service anniversaries. The listing will continue to feature employees reaching 10, 20, 30 and 40 years of service but it will all list state service. In addition, home towns will be listed in place of towns where employees work.

The Bureau of Personnel Services is providing this information to Translines, which is also used for news releases that are sent to local media.

If you do not want your named published in this listing or the news release, please contact Transportation Information at 785-296-3585 six to eight weeks before the date of your state service anniversary.

Retirees

The following employees have officially retired from KDOT.

Headquarters

Rebecca J. Crawl, Human Resource Professional II in Personnel Services – 30 years of state service.

District Two

Fred D. Woods, Equipment Operator at Ellsworth – 30 years of state service.



KDOT would like to recognize its employees who have returned home from military service in support on the war on terror. Below are employees listed by district and their branch of service.

District Five

Patrick L. Murphy, Equipment Operator at Wellington, Army Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Lynn Couch, Professional Civil Engineer I, Construction and Maintenance

Kellie McCain, Engineering Technician Senior, Program and Project Management

Sherri Perry, Special Investigator I, Chief Counsel

William Simmons, Program Consultant II, Right of Way

District One – Northeast

Tom Allen, Publications Writer I, Materials and Research, Topeka

Albert Oyerly, Professional Civil Engineer I, Materials and Research, Topeka

District Four – Southeast

Bruce Myres, Equipment Operator Specialist, Iola

Curt Graham, Equipment Operator Specialist, Waverly

Projects

Continued from page 11

available for its continued success in the future,” said Miller. “We have been able to provide funding for 434 economic development and geometric improvement projects during the existence of this partnership program.”

Since 1987, 287 Geometric Improvements have been funded in 137 communities and 147 Economic Development projects have been funded in 83 Kansas communities. A total of \$347 million in funding - \$232 million in state funds and \$115 million in local funds – have been allocated to make improvements during the program.

The approved cities, roadways and Local Partnership Program projects are on KDOT’s Internet site at <http://www.ksdot.org/offtransinfo/>. -S.W.

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

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 TOPEKA, KS
 PERMIT No. 157

It's Wild, It's Wacky, It's Crazy!

CRAZY BOWL

■ When: **Sunday, February 11, at 1 p.m.**

■ Cost: **\$6.50 per person, free shoe rental**

■ **Deadline to sign up: NOON, Wednesday, February 7**

To sign up: **Bring/send team money (\$26) to Kim Stich in Trans. Info.**

■ Who: **Teams consisting of 4 people** (KDOT employees, friends and family members are welcome to participate - it is just for fun)

■ Where: **Gage Bowl** (On Huntoon Street in Topeka)



For more details or to sign up, contact Kim Stich at 296-3585.

What is “Crazy Bowl?”

The first two games are normal. The third is the “crazy” part - you bowl backwards, you bowl on one leg, etc. And the only rule is that you relax and have fun!

NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or phone (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/(TTY).