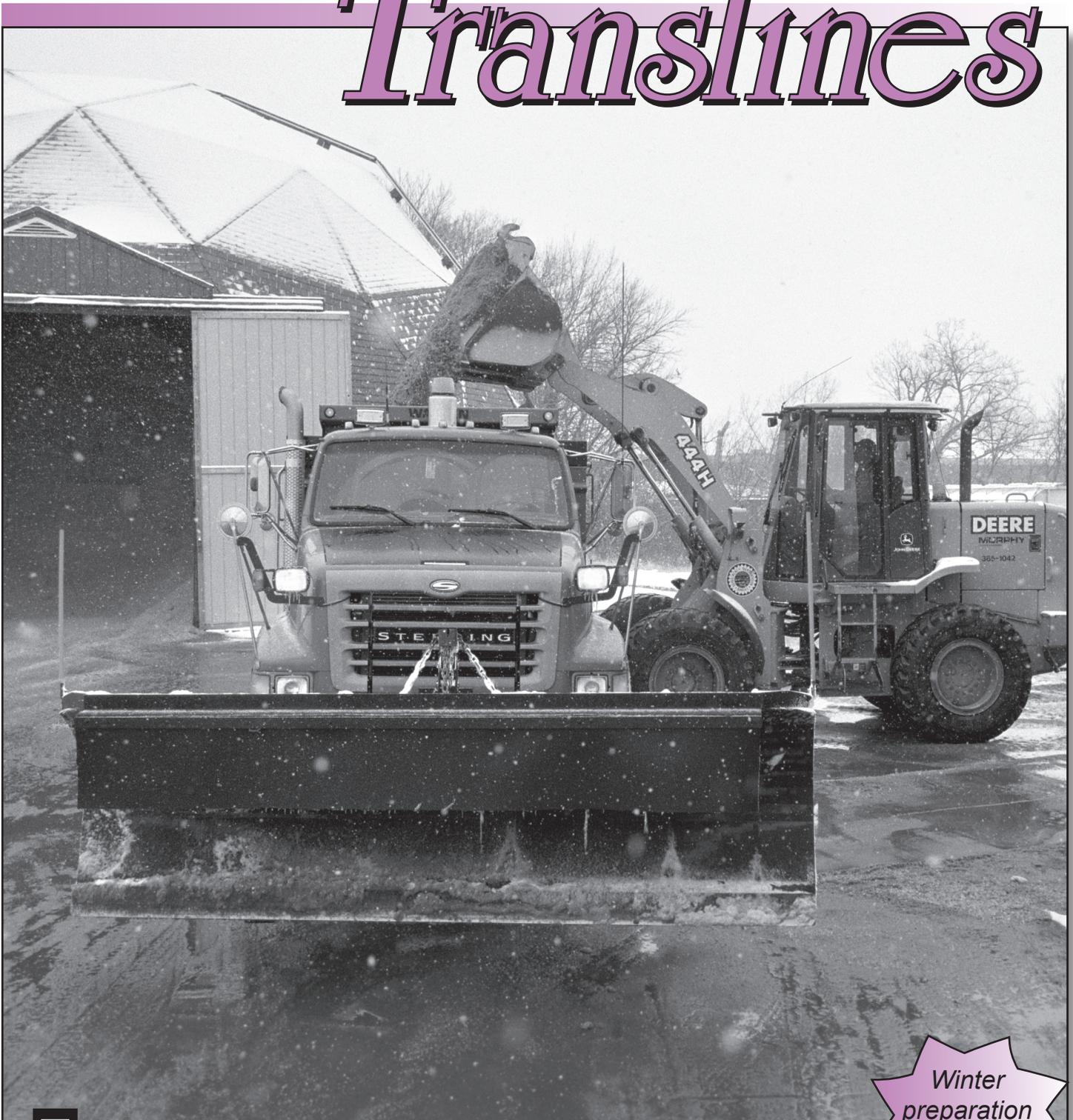


Translines



Winter
preparation
See page 4

Inside ...

- ◆ **Orange Heroes honored at Leadership Forum**
- ◆ **Ceremony marks Lansing project completion**
- ◆ **Volunteering provides rewards**
- ◆ **Safe Routes to School projects selected**
- ◆ **KDOT announces organization structure changes**



*By Secretary
Deb Miller*

A new way to celebrate

In April, most KDOT workers participated in the Employee Climate Survey. No doubt, the survey was greeted with skepticism by some, and, on a certain level, I understand.

There have been other employee surveys over the years that didn't bring about much of a change, if any. It probably didn't take long for those surveys to wind up on shelves in a few headquarters offices. And, once out of sight, they were largely forgotten.

So, some might be wondering if this survey is any different. Does this survey really matter? The short answer is, "yes."

Before I explain that, here is a little background. KDOT has a dedicated workforce that takes pride in building and maintaining a safe and efficient transportation system. But, like many state transportation departments throughout the nation, our workforce is in continual fluctuation and is shrinking. Recruiting and retaining the technical staff is becoming more difficult as the pool of available workers shrinks and universities graduate fewer engineers. KDOT has taken steps to address turnover, retention and recruitment, and the Employee Climate Survey is one of those steps.

As the name suggests, the survey is intended to gauge the climate or general feeling in our agency. The people who study such things tell us that an important factor in employee retention is one's satisfaction with his or her supervisor and the resulting work place climate. The results have given us information about what our best supervisors are doing right and have established a baseline against which future survey results can be measured.

By now, all of you should have been in at least one meeting in which the results of the survey were discussed and action plans developed. You probably know that the overall results of the survey were positive. The only two areas that received fewer than 50 percent positive responses had to do with feedback or appreciation.

Throughout the agency, many action plans were developed to address this issue of how we celebrate our accomplishments. Some plans had food (always a good reward) as part of the celebration, and some called for off-hours social gatherings. While there are merits to both approaches, I was particularly impressed with an action plan developed in the Division of Engineering and Design.

Division supervisors will facilitate squad van trips to view completed work and discuss design details for education purposes. Staff from the districts will be invited to participate in the trips. Division Director Dan Scherschligt says he is confident that people will consider it a reward to spend a day out of the office touring a completed project. But, more importantly, they will be able to celebrate what worked well, make note of where improvement might be possible and maybe meet with some of our local partners to create a better understanding. That will help us improve on the next project we do.

I know this survey wasn't perfect, but I think it has led to something that will make a difference in the agency. It will not be left on a shelf to collect dust. We will revise it, make it more relevant and ask you to give us your opinions again next year because the real power of the Employee Climate Survey isn't what we learn from it once, but what we'll learn over a number of years. That's how we'll get better.

And that's worth celebrating.



KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

- Jan. 1** – State employees off for New Year's Holiday.
- Jan. 11** – 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.
- Jan. 16** – 1 p.m. Construction bid letting, Fourth Floor, West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.
- Jan. 21** - State employees off for Martin Luther King Holiday.

Safe Routes to School projects selected



The SRTS program empowers communities to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and routine activity. Photo by Larry Katsbulas

Twenty-four local sponsors have been selected to receive funding during the second year of KDOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program.

The SRTS program was created under the 2005 federal transportation bill – SAFETEA-LU. The intent of the program is to:

- ◆ Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk or bicycle to school;
- ◆ Make walking or biking to school safe and appealing;
- ◆ Facilitate projects that will improve safety, and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of school.

“The Safe Routes to School program has been very popular throughout

Continued on page 4

KDOT announces organization structure changes

Joe Erskine has been promoted to the new position of Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration at KDOT.



Joe Erskine

The move is part of a change in the organizational structure recently made at KDOT. Erskine will oversee the agency operation of the Division of Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Office of Chief Counsel and Office of Civil Rights.

Continued on page 8



Buffalo can be seen along a portion of the Prairie Trail Scenic Byway. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

Prairie Trail Scenic Byway chosen

McPherson and Ellsworth counties are home to the Prairie Trail Scenic Byway, the ninth byway in the state to receive official designation from KDOT.

“The state designation will create greater awareness of this area for visitors and spur an interest in the communities along the route,” said Scott Shields, Kansas State Byways Coordinator. “It’s another way we can promote tourism in an area abundant with natural and cultural importance.”

The 56-mile route begins in McPherson County at Canton and ends at

Continued on page 8

On the...

COVER

Many KDOT trucks have been filled with sand the past month with several snow and ice storms covering the state. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

Simulator provides experience plowing snow

By Kim Stich

Thirty-two KDOT Equipment Operators, most of them new to the agency this year, used state-of-the-art simulation technology to gain more experience on plowing snow from the highways.

The TranSim III Driver Training Simulator creates an environment that gives them virtual behind-the-wheel experience in inclement weather situations. District One Engineer Clay Adams saw it at a snow and ice expo in Ohio and thought it could enhance the training already provided.

“It gives them a hands-on feeling for what it’s like to drive a snow plow in slippery, ice conditions,” Adams said.

Joe Snyder, a new Equipment Operator from the Atchison Subarea, participated in the training session.

“It was good to get behind the



Equipment Operator Joe Snyder “drives” along an icy road while practicing on the Driver Training Simulator. Photo by Larry Katsbulas

wheel and practice. The main thing is just being aware of all your surroundings in addition to the road in front of you and trying to do a good, safe job,” Snyder said. “Nothing is like the real thing, but it helped prepare me to go

out and make sure I maintain my speed, be cautious and be aware of everything around me.”

Adams said this training simulator will be evaluated to decide whether to use it next year.

SRTS

Continued from page 3

Kansas and I’m encouraged with the number of excellent applications we received,” said Lisa Koch, KDOT Safe Routes to School Coordinator. “At its heart, the SRTS Program empowers communities to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and routine activity once again.”

Koch said demand for the program was high with about 40 percent of the submitted applications selected for funding.

There were 11 projects selected in Phase One of the program, which involves funding to create an SRTS Plan. In Phase Two, 13 projects were selected for funding to implement SRTS plans.

“We have seen obesity rates among children more than double in the past 20 years,” said Koch. “It’s probably not a coincidence that only 15 percent of all school trips are made

by walking or bicycle so this program can play a vital role in the health of our children.”

The following cities and school districts will receive Phase I funding:

City of Abilene, \$10,850; **City of Andale**, \$11,425; **Elkhart School District**, \$14,697; **City of Fort Scott**, \$14,999; **City of Garden Plain**, \$11,425; **City of Junction City**, \$13,265; **City of McLouth**, \$7,450; **City of Oxford**, \$15,000; **Salina School District**, \$13,100; **City of St. Paul**, \$8,000; **City of Wellington**, \$15,000.

The following cities, schools and other entities will receive Phase II funding:

Baldwin City, \$206,630; **Bridging the Gap-KC Metro Area**, \$170,210; **Kansas City-Banneker**, \$230,500; **Kansas City-Pearson**, \$230,500; **Louisburg**, \$174,297; **Lyons**, \$250,000; **Marion**, \$250,000; **Minneapolis**, \$250,000; **Neodesha**, \$250,000; **Newton**, \$250,000; **Overland Park**, \$14,525; **Stafford**, \$146,282; **Sterling**, \$250,000. – S.W.

My 2008

New Year's resolution is ...

"To make the mere 16-block round trip to and from work on foot at least 3 times a week, and to spend a minimum of 20 minutes per day on the guitar." -**Brandon Weis, District Three**

"To learn something new, buy a Chrysler 300 and continue to take lots of trips with my family especially my elderly parents who are so much fun to be with on vacations, especially trips to Las Vegas, Nev." -**Nancy Shepard, Headquarters**

"To exercise and lose weight."
-**the ladies in the District Five office**

"To keep my woodworking shop cleaned up in 2008. I can't find anything. Also, to win the lottery."
-**Doug Severt, District Four**

"Be more deserving to receive the rights our soldiers are fighting for." -**Danny Campbell Sr., District Six**

"To keep a better eye on my family finances – by resolving to stick to a monthly budget and to quit carrying around a checkbook and credit card." -**Angel Fitzgerald, District One**

"To quit using credit cards." -**Shad Lohman, District Two**

"I want to beat my son Jerry in football, playing X-Box 360 - that is." -**Eric Oelschlager, District Three**

"No resolutions after 55." **Glenn McCall - District Five**

"To figure out how to convince Mother Nature to keep the water off the highways – and keep the winters snow-free." -**Marcus Leck, District Four**

"To expedite all those little jobs that were so easy to procrastinate on last year!"
-**Fred Holthaus, Headquarters**

"I've resolved not to make a New Year's resolution." -**Malia Rich, District Six**

"To be a kinder and gentler store keeper." -**Dale Thompson, District Two**

"To be healthier," and also for all those who surround her to have a happy and prosperous year. -**Dianna Martin, District One**





By

**Dennis
Slimmer**
**TRANSPORTATION
TALK**

Volunteering provides rewards

A major benefit of working at KDOT is the opportunity to give back to the public and be part of an effort that is bigger than any one of us.

I take pride in saying I work for KDOT because, as an organization, we affect people's lives in a positive way. It is easy to see the benefits of our work as you travel across the state. In a similar way, I have taken pride in the work I have done as a volunteer with youth basketball programs. These programs have benefited the players and their families and have helped shape the character of those players, coaches, and volunteers who have participated.

My first experience as a volunteer with youth basketball was as a member of the Southwest Optimist Club of Topeka. Our club teamed with the YMCA to organize a basketball program for grade school kids. Members of my club ran the clock and officiated the games. I began by officiating the younger kids games and found it was much easier to watch a game as a fan than to call fouls and violations. Things happen quickly on the court and it's easy to get confused. It helps to not take yourself too seriously.

The rules were designed to encourage learn-

ing and good sportsmanship. As referees, we would stop play and explain a call to players so they understood what violation had occurred. Players were required to have similar playing times with everyone getting a chance to participate. We didn't keep score during the games but it was a running joke that we were the only ones in the gym who didn't know the score.

I was active with our Optimist basketball program for several years until my club dropped out of the program. Our dwindling membership and aging members made it difficult to get volunteers to cover the games. I missed the camaraderie our members shared during this time. Additionally, I missed seeing the kids who came back each year to participate in the program.

I wasn't associated with any youth sports for several years. Then, out of the blue, one of the pastors at my church talked to me about his desire for a ministry that focused on youth basketball. After I thought about it for a while I decided it was a calling I shouldn't ignore. As a result, I've taken a leadership role in the Upward basketball program at First Baptist Church in Topeka. We have teamed up with Countryside Methodist Church and share facilities and involve members from both churches. The unique rules for the Upward program are similar to the Optimist/YMCA program so I had less to learn than those who were new to the program.

We are beginning the fourth year of this program. While there have been numerous challenges and a significant amount of time is required, I have again been rewarded in many ways. To begin, I feel privileged to work with others who are focused on a goal that has such a positive impact on participants. It is amazing to see the young people in the program grow and develop in character and skills. Additionally, the relationships that have been developed with players, coaches, parents, and other volunteers are important and will be valued for years to come.

If you get the opportunity to volunteer your time and talents to an effort that benefits others, I urge you to consider putting forth the effort. You may be surprised how much you receive in return.

Dennis Slimmer is the Assistant to the Director of Planning and Development

Orange Heroes honored at Leadership Forum

By Caroline Gencur

At KDOT's annual Leadership Forum, Nov. 28-29 in Topeka, Secretary Deb Miller presented the Orange Hero Award to 25 agency employees. The award – a statue resembling an Oscar and adorned with an orange vest – was given to each winner.

The award focused on the teamwork aspect of employees at KDOT. "Kansas was faced with more than our share of disasters and emergencies this year," said Secretary Miller. "I am pleased to present the following Orange Hero awards to the people who represent the many employees and teams who truly put responsible and responsive into action this year."

The 2007 Orange Heroes and their accomplishments were:

★ **Shawnee Savior** – Carmen Bakarich, Bureau of Construction and Maintenance. Bakarich was an integral asset in the settlement of a construction claim case against KDOT and the City of Shawnee.

★ **Safety Model** – Lisa Koch, Bureau of Traffic Engineering. Koch's work as Coordinator for the Kansas Safe Routes to School has earned the Kansas program national recognition as a "model program" for the rest of the United States.

★ **Syracuse All Stars** – District Six Area Superintendent, Ron Munyan and Subarea Supervisor, Neil Schroll. Munyan, Schroll and the employees of District Six were recognized



Secretary Deb Miller (center) presents Orange Hero awards to Area Engineer Steve Schlagel (left) and District Two Highway Maintenance Superintendents Duane Bender at the Leadership Forum in Topeka. Photo by Larry Katsbulas

for their leadership and coordination with the Syracuse Sheriff's office and for their dedication to the safety of roads in Kansas.

★ **Helping Hands Heroes** – Doug Driggs, District Three Area Maintenance Superintendent; employees of Norton and Phillipsburg. Driggs and the area city crews were instrumental in the repair of a major sewer problem experienced by the City of Norton under the surface of U.S. 283 Highway- a major thoroughfare that

runs through the center of the city.

★ **Emergency Idols** – Mark Krentz, KDOT Emergency Coordinator; Jason Bryant, Communications on Wheels operator. Krentz and Bryant were crucial to the various disaster responses in 2007. Krentz manned phones and coordinated efforts between KDOT and other state and federal agencies; Bryant provided the communications link to emergency personnel working the recovery and clean-up efforts.

★ **The Rapid Responders** – District Five Area Superintendent Gene Watts and Greensburg Supervisor Gary Jarvis; District Six Area Superintendent Mark Davis and Senior Equipment Operator Roy Trisler. These men provided great leadership after the Greensburg tornado, coordinating cleanup and rescue operations.

Continued on page 9

Deaths

Condolences to the family and friends of three former KDOT employees who recently passed away.

Donna Prebyl, 76, died Nov. 27 in Topeka. Survivors include one son, one daughter, one sister and three grandchildren.

Richard W. Pfortmiller, 73, died Nov. 9 in Topeka. Survivors include his wife, Janice, two sons and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions

may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 5350 SW 19th St., Topeka, 66604.

Donald E. Legler, 52, died Oct. 17 in Topeka. Survivors include his parents, a brother and a sister. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association and sent in care of the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, 124 S. 7th St., Hiawatha, 66434.

Erskine

Continued from page 3

“This new position will be able to sharpen our agency’s focus on financial management and transportation finance issues and will ensure that our administrative functions are well-coordinated,” said Secretary Deb Miller.

Erskine has worked at KDOT since mid-March when he accepted the position of Chief Counsel. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas law school and completed his undergraduate and master’s degrees at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, focusing on finance and economics.

His professional career began in a corporate office for Mutual of New York before moving to H&R Block Financial Services as a Transition Coordinator.

Erskine then spent time at Sprint Corporation in corporate finance, handling strategic initiatives before accepting a position with Foth and Orrick, LLP, in Overland Park. His main duties involved handling real estate acquisition, relocation, condemnation and eminent domain litigation.

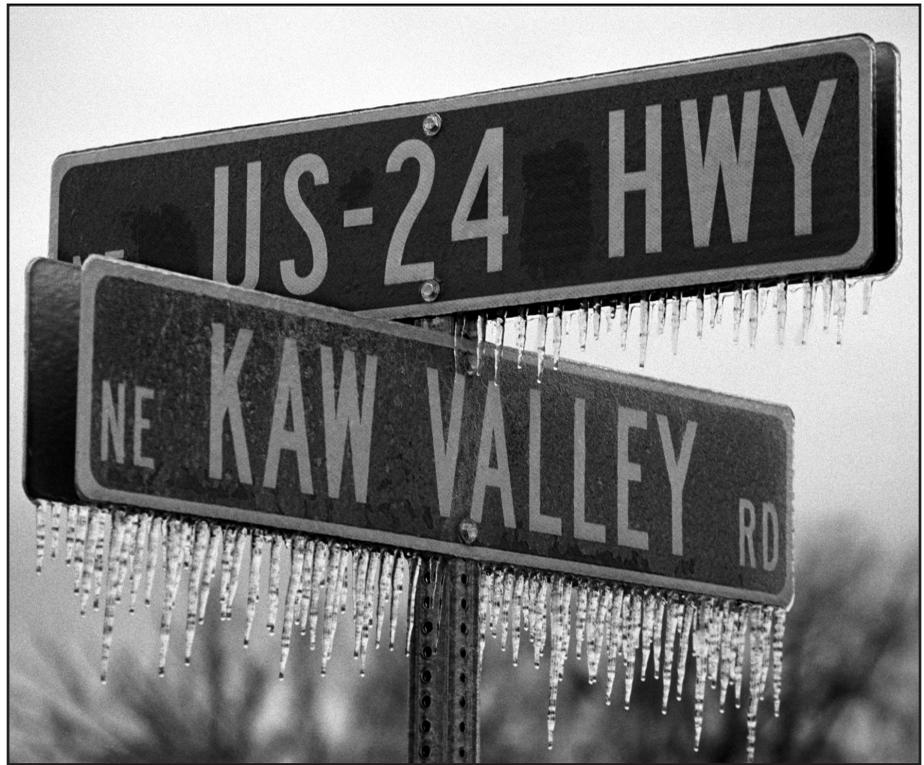
Vicky Johnson has been promoted to Chief Counsel at KDOT. Johnson has worked at KDOT for 24 years in the Office of Chief Counsel. Before being promoted, Johnson was a Staff Attorney responsible for litigation and condemnation issues.

She is a graduate of the University of Kansas law school and has a master’s degree in Public Administration from KU. Johnson has an undergraduate degree from Emporia State University in public affairs.

Jerry Younger, formerly Assistant Secretary and State Transportation Engineer, has a new title in the agency. Younger now serves as the Deputy Secretary for Engineering and State Transportation Engineer.

Younger has worked for KDOT 21 years. He has a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from the KU in civil engineering. – S.W.

Cold signs



Ice hangs from the U.S. 24/Kaw Valley roadway signs in Topeka after the ice storm in mid December. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

Scenic Byway

Continued from page 3

the intersection of K-140/K-141 in Ellsworth County. The scenic byway passes through the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, Roxbury, Lindsborg, Marquette and past Kanopolis Lake Reservoir along several county roads, K-86, old U.S. 81, K-4 and K-141.

The byway offers opportunities for visitors to experience Swedish culture in Lindsborg and Marquette. It also provides opportunities to experience natural Kansas through viewing the bison and elk at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and the natural scenery at Kanopolis Lake and nearby Mushroom Rock State Park.

The state designation will result in the placement of route markers along the byway, creation of a promotional brochure and a page on the www.ksbyways.org Web site. It will also be placed on the national www.byways.org Web site. The byway will be eligible for National Scenic Byway grants to enhance the route for visitors.

Members of the Prairie Trail Scenic Byway Committee who worked on the application included Della and Owen Meier, tour directors for Friends of Maxwell Wildlife Refuge; Thelma Everhart, Friends of Canton Tourism and Canton City Council; Pat and Larry Weibert, McPherson County land owners; Maleta Forsberg, McPherson County landowner and owner of Olive Springs Schoolhouse Gallery; Ken Branch, Lindsborg City Council and Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce; and Fred Peterson, City of Marquette City Clerk.

Also working on the application were consultants to the Committee. They include Rick Martin, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks at Kanopolis; Cliff Peterson, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and McPherson State Lake; and Nolan Fisher, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Kanopolis State Lake.

The Kansas Scenic Byways program identifies scenic routes and preserves, enhances and promotes the routes through a cooperative grassroots partnership. -S.W.

KDOT Computer Training

– from the *KCTC*

Increase your efficiency!

Office 2007 Tips & Tricks: Word

◆ TIP 1: You can enable formatting marks in Word 2007 from the Home ribbon. In the Paragraph section, simply click the paragraph symbol. Clicking it again will disable the formatting marks.

◆ TIP 2: Word 2007 will add a space between paragraphs by default. This space cannot be removed by using the backspace key. And, it can be difficult to find the option to remove the space. To turn off the space between paragraphs, follow these steps:

1. On the Home ribbon, find the Paragraph section
2. In the bottom right corner of the section, click the button to show the Paragraph dialog box
3. Select "Don't add space between paragraphs of the same style"
4. Click OK. You can remove space between paragraphs you've already typed in your document. Select the paragraphs and then follow the above steps.

Please contact the KCTC regarding Office 2007 Roll-out and training: kctc@ksdot.org, or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993 directly.

Orange Heroes

Continued from page 7

District Three Area Superintendents Jerry Glassman and Joe Capo took the lead to tackle the roads that were buried in snow following last year's holiday blizzard.

District Two Highway Maintenance Superintendents Duane Bender and Area Engineer Steve Schlagel; District Four District Supervisor, Doug Vogel and Sub-area Supervisor, Russ Brandt. These men provided great guidance and leadership during the flooding that hit Kansas that required numerous road closings and debris removal in many areas.

★ **Champion Communicators** – Ron Kaufman, Bureau Chief of Public Involvement; Kristen Brands, District Three Public Affairs Manager; Martin Miller, District Five Public Affairs Manager. Kaufman helped handle KDOT's 511 phone system during the disasters. Brands communicated the many road closings and conditions during the winter storm and Miller was crucial in KDOT's communication response in Greensburg.

★ **Bridge Over Troubled Waters** – Don Whisler, Bridge Management Engineer, and Steve Swartz, Public Information Officer at

Headquarters. Whisler and Swartz and their agency employees were instrumental in responding quickly to the deluge of public attention to bridges in Kansas following the bridge collapse in Minneapolis. Whisler responded quickly to requests for past bridge inspections on the thousands of bridges in Kansas and Swartz sent out press releases, gave interviews, scheduled press conferences and took many phone calls.

★ **Silence is Golden** – Chris Herrick, Bureau Chief of Transportation Planning; Catherine Patrick, Director of Division of Operations; Jim Kowach, Bureau Chief of Design. These three were honored on behalf of the PE-only project teams for a successful project selection process. Their collaborative effort made a difficult process – picking eight projects from a list of 400 – go very smoothly.

Do you know someone at KDOT that represents the agency in a positive light, accepts additional responsibilities, fosters good partnerships or develops a new approach to enhance efficiency? If so, nominate them for a 2008 Orange Hero award. Nominations and supporting information can be sent electronically to Steve Swartz in Transportation Information, stevesw@ksdot.org or by calling 785-296-3585.

Step Back in Time



It was a festive event in 1958 when employees and their spouses gathered for the District Five Christmas party at Hutchinson.

*Fun Facts
and Trivia*

Do you know?

1. What U.S. Highway crosses Lake Michigan by ferry and continues in Michigan?
2. Between 2001 and 2003 the average roadway delay per person increased 81%. How many hours a year (in 2003) did an individual spend in roadway delay?
3. How long does it take an average automobile to consume one gallon of gas?
4. How many motorcycles fit in one automobile parking space?
5. In 2006 how many vehicle miles were traveled in the U.S.?

Answers:
1. U.S. 10
2. 47
3. 22 minutes
4. 3 to 5
5. 2.7 trillion



Secretary Deb Miller (center) celebrates with local and state officials after cutting the ribbon at the Main Street System Enhancement Project in Lansing. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

Ceremony marks Lansing project completion

LANSING – A project to enhance safety, traffic flow and economic development on Main Street was celebrated at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 28.

The Main Street System Enhancement Project, which cost an estimated \$17 million, includes the widening of the roadway, a bridge replacement, rehabilitation of the street, curb and guttering, sidewalks, lighting and some traffic signals. Medians were added in some locations on Main Street, which is also K-7/U.S. 73, and turning lanes in others. Some side streets were realigned.

“Instead of congestion, exhaust and exasperated drivers along Main Street, you can now expect efficient traffic flow and fewer fumes to breathe,” said Secretary Deb Miller.

“The improved flow along the 2 ¼-mile-long project also will allow customers safe and smooth access into and out of Main Street businesses.”

The project, which got under way in June 2006, was funded through KDOT’s System Enhancement Program and required a 20 percent match from the city of Lansing.

“The amount of traffic along Main Street is expected to nearly double in the next 20 years from the current 25,000 vehicles a day,” said Mayor Ken Bernard. “This project not only has important safety benefits, it provides the infrastructure needed for continued growth and economic opportunity.”

Leavenworth Excavating and Equipment Co. was the prime contractor for the project.

KDOT employees graduate CPM Program

A number of KDOT employees have completed the Certified Public Managers (CPM) Program that is offered through Kansas University. KU’s program is nationally recognized and its goal is to provide a foundation of knowledge and skills in management practices for those in government as well as foster these practices in government organizations. The year-long course concluded with a graduation in December.

The following are KDOT employees who have recently completed the CPM program:

- Richard A. Gardner, District One - Osage City;
- Shane Isle, District Four - Independence;
- George L. Meisner, District Five - Hutchinson;
- Daniel Ochs, District Five - Hutchinson;
- Kirk D. Meyer, Headquarters - Transportation Planning;
- Lindsey R. Stephens, Headquarters - Personnel Services;
- Ronnie E. Swogar, District One - Emporia;
- Becky L. Welsh - Materials & Research;
- Laurence Robinson, District Four - Pittsburg;
- Clayton Hort, District Six - Garden City;
- Todd T. Toman, District Three - Norton.

Transportation Briefs

WSDOT to use robots

Washington State DOT has added automated flagging devices to the ranks of its construction crews. Remotely controlled by a human flagger behind safety barriers, the device has red and yellow lights and a gate arm that lifts and lowers. It is the latest tool being used to make work zones safer for drivers and crews by removing crews from the direct line of traffic. The devices will be particularly valuable when crews are working at night and visibility is low. The automated flaggers are another measure in attempting to reduce work zone injuries and deaths. —*Public Roads, October 2007*

New program allows U.S. trucks into Mexico

USDOT officials have announced that U.S. trucks will, for the first time, be allowed to enter Mexico under a yearlong pilot program intended to expand cross-border trucking operations. Additionally, a select group of Mexican trucking companies will be allowed to make deliveries beyond the 25-mile commercial zone currently in place along the U.S.-Mexico border. The pro-

gram is designed to simplify a process that requires Mexican truckers to stop and wait for U.S. trucks to arrive at the border and transfer cargo. The current process is inefficient, wastes money and increases the costs of goods.

USDOT is implementing a rigorous inspection program to ensure the safe operation of Mexican trucks crossing the border. The program will include measures such as roadside inspections, safety ratings and compliance reviews in addition to satellite tracking technology to ensure that Mexican companies are complying with U.S. safety regulations. —*Public Roads, October 2007*

Peters releases I-35W bridge funding

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters announced that \$123.5 million in emergency relief funding would be released to help pay for rebuilding the I-35W bridge that collapsed in August. This new funding addition brings the total federal transportation investment in the recovery and rebuilding effort to \$183.5 million.

Secretary Peters says the Department is committed to paying the full cost of eligible repairs to rebuild the

bridge and reimburse Minnesota as additional costs are incurred.

—*www.fhwa.dot.gov*

MoDOT using beets to fight icy roads

To reduce the amount of salt used each winter season to keep the roads clear, MoDOT is getting creative and using a new product made from sugar beets called Geomelt.

When mixed with either rock salt or liquid salt brine, beet juice effectively works to help prevent the formation of ice on the roads and melt snow and ice that has already formed on roads. The mixture also has fewer corrosive properties than salt alone and reduces the damage to roads and vehicles. The beet product can also be used at colder temperatures because the freezing point of the mixture is much lower than salt.

At a \$1.66 per gallon, MoDOT hopes Geomelt will help cut costs as it spends approximately \$43 million a year on snow and ice prevention and removal. There have been successful tests of the product in the northwest and Springfield areas and MoDOT is planning to use the beet juice across the state of Missouri in the coming years. —*www.modot.org*

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in December

10 YEARS

Carol Dick Garden City
Corey Dobson Plainville
Wilbur Phelps Dodge City
LeRoy Werth Jr. Hays

30 YEARS

David Boyd Holton
Harold Kooser Topeka
Nancy Shepard Hoyt

20 YEARS

Diana Hewitt Topeka
Charles Oswald Horton

40 YEARS

Norman Carr Jr. Garden City

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

Promotions/Transfers

District One – Northeast

James Helm, Engineering Technician Senior, Olathe

District Four – Southeast

Jerod Kelley, Engineering Associate III, Iola

District Five – Southcentral

Kerry Hullet, Safety and Health Specialist, Hutchinson
The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for promotions/transfers to Translines.

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters

Lanny Campbell, Applications Developer II, Computer Services

Caroline Gencur, Program Consultant, Public Affairs

David Herman, Engineering Associate I, Planning

Lawrence Sage, Applications Developer III, Computer Services

Doria Watson, Public Service Executive II, Civil Rights

District One

Ravi Shankar Balpalli, Engineering Technician Associate, Olathe

Brett Barnes, Equipment Operator Trainee, Lamar

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new hires.

Robert Jahr Jr., Engineering Technician Associate, Bonner Springs

Mark Jeffries, Equipment Operator Trainee, Gardner

Robert Poff, Equipment Operator Trainee, Wamego

Joshua Randolph, Engineering Technician Associate, Bonner Springs

Sarah Rooney, Engineering Technician Associate, Bonner Springs

Richard Stripling, Equipment Operator Trainee, Overland Park

Nicholas Withington, Engineering Technician, Bonner Springs

District Five

Jorge Alvarado-Romero, Equipment Operator Trainee, Wichita

District Six

Charles Seabolt, Equipment Operator Trainee, Ulysses

Connan Tallant, Equipment Operator Trainee, Ulysses

Linda Waggoner, Equipment Operator Trainee, Ulysses

Terry Williamson, Equipment Operator Trainee, Sublette

Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in January.

Headquarters

Kelly L. Badenoch, Acting Bureau Chief in Computer Services

District One

Phyllis Loun, Administrative Assistant at Shawnee

District Two

Milton R. Bledsoe, Highway Maintenance Supervisor at Washington

District Five

Sandra S. Anderson, Custodian at Hutchinson

Employees who are retiring and choose to have retirement reception information shared on the KDOT's Internet can be found at www.ksdot.org, under News and Announcements.

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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