



Open records requests can be huge undertaking

During his 39 years at KDOT, Jon Holley has helped fill numerous customer requests, but nothing like the one that came across his desk last year.

The request that particularly stands out in his mind was filed under the Kansas Open Records Act. Leslie Spencer Fowler, KDOT attorney and the agency Official Records Custodian, and Sherri Bouton, Legal Assistant and Designated Records Custodian, had a unique request for Holley.



Sherri Bouton, Legal Assistant and Designated Records Custodian, meets with Video Technician Jon Holley to review an open records request for KDOT's state-wide videolog system.

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Messages convey department's goals

A picture may be worth a thousand words but, based on the number of motivational and inspirational posters we see these days, a picture with words is an even more effective communication tool. The folks in KDOT's Bureau of Support Services (BoSS) want to customize those kinds of posters with a KDOT touch and they'd like your help.

"The messages on these 2-foot by 3-foot post

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CUSTOMER CARE...

"The growth of any organization is nurtured one customer at a time."

ATTITUDE...

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

QUALITY...

"The race for quality has no finish line."

I-135 project wins national award

The KDOT project that rebuilt I-135 from the Sedgwick County line to the Newton city limits was presented a Gold Award by The National Partnership for Highway Quality, at the NPHQ November 29 annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas.

This award was presented for innovative aspects related to construction schedule, public

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- ◆ MORE MOTIVATIONAL AND INSPIRATIONAL STATEMENTS



From
Where
I Sit

by E. Dean Carlson

Fighting for the CTP

As I write this, the opening gavel of the 2002 legislature has yet to fall, but it seems like the session has been going on for weeks already. There have been proposals and counterproposals on how to resolve the state's budget deficit and taking money from the transportation program has figured prominently in all of them. State Budget Director Duane Goosen has described the proposals as entries in an ugly pig contest - nothing pretty about any of them. My guess is that we'll be seeing more hideous hogs before the session ends - how much our bacon gets burned is the key question.

I'd like to tell you that we will come out unscathed, but that will probably not be the case. The Comprehensive Transportation Program is already limping going into the

session, facing a shortfall of about \$250 million by the end of the program (FY 2009). It could be hobbled even further this session with the possibility of the shortfall rising as high as \$400 million. What does that mean? It means we have to head back to the drawing table and pull out the calculators and do some "hard figur'n'," as the old farmer would say. Even if no further dollars are taken from the program, we will have to reevaluate the CTP. Our emphasis will be on the preservation of our system. We will find a way to give Kansans the most bang for their buck and to protect the investment they've already made in their transportation infrastructure.

The investment has had remarkable returns. The Road Information Project (TRIP) released a report recently that ranked Kansas roads the fourth best in the nation. You should be proud of that, because your effort helped us reach that ranking.

Our job in the coming months will be to convince lawmakers that having the fourth best roads in the nation is not only a distinction worth keeping but a cost-effective investment in the future. We will be stressing the safety of improved transportation infrastructure and the economic impact of construction. We will also be pointing to KDOT's excellent record of meeting and exceeding expectations.

Your job, and mine, is to keep doing just that.



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact the KDOT Bureau of Transportation Information, Docking State Office Building, Room 754, Topeka, Kan., 66612-1568, or phone (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/(TTY).

Calendar of Events

February 8 - 9 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting telephone conference call.

February 12 - 11 a.m., KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Seventh Floor Conference Room, Docking State Office Building.

February 17 - Employees' Council Crazy Bowl, Gage Bowl in Topeka. Deadline to sign up is noon on February 8. For information, contact Kim Stich at 785-296-3585.

February 20 - 2 p.m. - Construction Bid Letting at Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel.

KDOT helps get students on the right TRAC

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."

-Confucius

This is what the Transportation and Civil Engineering (TRAC) program is about – volunteer transportation professionals getting high school students actively involved in solving real-world transportation problems. In turn, this shows students practical uses for math, science, and other subjects in their future and encourages them to think about possible careers in the transportation field.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) created the TRAC program in 1991 to help increase interest in careers in civil engineering and the transportation field for high school students, especially women and minorities. Kansas is now one of 26 states involved in TRAC. KDOT joined the program last fall, and volunteers will start visiting classes this spring.

"The program is a triple winner – it's good for KDOT, it's good for the students,

and it's good for the state of Kansas," said Terry King, Kansas Regional Center Coordinator for TRAC at KDOT.

TRAC sends volunteer transportation professionals into the schools with a "TRAC

'Everything they do in the classroom involves solving a real world transportation problem, and when the engineers come in, they make it come alive by telling about real situations they've worked with.'

Terry King

PAC" consisting of a computer, electronic data collection and analysis instruments, hands-on modeling materials, and activities based on real-world transportation problems. Students can build a magnetic levitation train that actually works, measure the impact of collisions, or use a computer program to create a city and watch it grow.

Whether working in teams or individually, they formulate new ways of solving problems and learn that working in transportation can be challenging and interesting.

"Everything they do in the classroom involves solving a real world transportation problem, and when the engineers come in, they make it come alive by telling about real situations they've worked with," King said.

King said four high schools in Topeka – Topeka High, Topeka West, Highland Park, and Shawnee Heights – are currently participating in the program. King hopes to expand the program throughout the districts as other schools and KDOT transportation professionals get involved.

The eight KDOT employees participating in the program now are Corky Armstrong, Bob Bowden, Chris Hluz, Julie Lesslie, Dan Mabry, David Nagy, Mike Stock, and Linda Voss. If you are interested in learning more about the program or becoming involved, contact King at (785) 291-3014. -K.S.



Engineering and Design Division Director David Comstock, Secretary E. Dean Carlson, and Federal Highway Division Administrator David Geiger pose with Chief of Local Projects Larry Emig (second from left) in honor of an award from AASHTO. Emig received a special award of merit in recognition of his "vision and hard work in conceiving and in bringing to reality the first annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day."

Retirees

The following employees officially retired from KDOT on January 1.

Headquarters

Dolly T. DeLong, Administrative Assistant in Fiscal Services - 15 years of state service.

District One

Robert Flores, Equipment Operator II at Olathe - 14 1/2 years of state service.

PrePass benefits motor carriers, enhances safety

Motorists may be thinking Big Brother is watching them at six locations along highways in the state. Actually, what motorists are mistaking for cameras are transponder readers above the roadway on Interstate 35 and Interstate 70 are benefiting qualified motor carriers.

It's all part of PrePass, a national system for bypassing motor carrier inspection stations, using radio frequency technology similar to the Kansas Turnpike's K-TAG electronic toll collection system. Since early November, some Kansas motor carrier inspection stations have allowed qualified motor carriers to avoid stopping for inspections as their safety ratings and credentials are read electronically.

"It's a win-win situation for all the parties involved," said Matt Volz, KDOT's ITS Coordinator. "The system saves commercial vehicle operators time and the fuel used in stopping for inspections and credential checking. It also allows inspectors to focus their enforcement effort on those carriers who may need more thorough inspections."

When a qualified carrier's commercial vehicle approaches a PrePass equipped station, the device over the road reads carrier information from a transponder in the truck's cab. If the credentials and safety rating meet or exceed the established standard, a green light and audible signal from the transponder direct the driver to bypass the inspection station at highway speed.

On the other hand, if there is a problem with the credentials, a red light and audible signal will instruct the driver to pull into the station. Trucks also randomly receive red lights to double-check the system and the carrier's credentials.

"Motor carrier involvement is strictly voluntary, but carriers must have a high safety and credential record to participate," said Volz. "The carriers pay a nominal fee for each successful bypass. Many carriers are choosing to comply electronically with weight,



Road devices, like the one above on I-35 in Johnson County, have been installed over the highway for the new PrePass stations in six locations across the state.

safety, and credential requirements at a normal highway speed, instead of stopping at an inspection station."

Ken Gudenkauf, Assistant Bureau Chief in Traffic Engineering, said PrePass handles the transponder administration and installs their equipment at state facilities with no investment of Kansas funds.

"Prepass is a public/private partnership that has made it possible for Kansas to have electronic screening at all interstate weigh stations," said Gudenkauf. "The program enhances transportation safety by providing incentive for motor carriers to be safe and legal."

PrePass stations across the state are: the north and southbound Olathe stations on I-35 in Johnson County, the northbound South Haven station on I-35 in Sumner County, the east and westbound Wabaunsee stations on I-70 in Wabaunsee County, and the eastbound Kanorado station on I-70 in Sherman County.

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Dear KDOT,

I travel in the state of Kansas regularly and it is always a pleasure to travel the roads and find a convenient rest stop available. Not only that, but the fact that most if not all have been improved to the point to make most other states envious. Separate of the turnpike, the numerous ones that are found along the US highways is great. Living in Oklahoma, I am embarrassed that my state

is incapable of following your lead but I will be telling them exactly what I am telling you, that your state knows how to take care of the tourist or casual traveler. Again thanks for all the time and money you have invested in this endeavor.

Sincerely,
William R. Porter
Moore, Oklahoma



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feedback on the Westgate bridge web site:

I think you did a great job. I live on 52nd and Brickyard and it was great being able to keep up on what was happening. I think the contractor did a great job on the bridge. I sure hope the next project goes as well as the bridge did.

Thanks for your hard work.

Siemon has excellent adventure in London

By Kim Stich

After eight years, Chad Siemon, Project Engineer in the Wichita Hillside office, finally got to spend the holidays with his brother, Jason. But it wasn't your normal trip to visit the relatives, and Jason Siemon and his wife, Lara Logan, aren't your average brother and sister-in-law.

First, Chad boarded a plane Christmas Eve and arrived in London on Christmas Day in time to celebrate the holiday with the family. His trip lasted two weeks with a new adventure almost every day.

Second, Jason and Lara don't have your typical jobs. Jason is a member of the Milton Keynes Lions and has played professional basketball overseas for the past eight years, and Lara is a television correspondent originally from South Africa. The two met in England while she was covering Princess Diana's death.

"Every where we went I felt like I was with celebrities because she's an award winning journalist with the GMTV morning news show in London and he's a professional basketball player," Chad said.

Chad attended three of Jason's games, one in Milton Keynes, one in Birmingham, and one in Edinburgh, Scotland. Edinburgh is a beautiful city, Chad said. "The Edinburgh castle is always in the horizon," he said. "The castle is on a mountain in the middle of the city, and there's a big cannon that goes off every day at 1 p.m."

Even though Jason scored 22 points in one game and 21 points in another, his team lost all three games. "I felt like a jinx," Chad joked.

Jason also hosts a radio sports show in the mornings and Chad went with him to the studios one day. "I was a special guest and even got to read some of the sports," he said. "But every time I mispronounced a name they would ding the bell."

Other adventures for Chad included ringing in the New Year on a big riverboat on the Thames River; visiting Camden Town in London, a retro/grunge area where everyone "has neon-colored spike hair and 10-inch platform shoes;" and attending his first theatrical performance,



Chad Siemon, Project Engineer in Wichita, poses with his brother, Jason, and sister-in-law, Lara, after Jason's basketball game in Edinburgh.

"Phantom of the Opera." They also stayed at a bed and breakfast called Hargate Hall up in the mountains and went sledding. It was Lara's first time sledding, Chad said, since she's from South Africa. "It was like a winter wonderland up there, the trees were flocked with snow," Chad said.

Chad also enjoyed just spending time with his family and got to celebrate his birthday on December 26 by partying with a professional hockey team at the Waxy O'Conner's pub in Milton Keynes. He also got to hear some of the adventures Lara has had as a journalist. Lara spent nine weeks in Afghanistan last fall covering the news events. She did live interviews on CBS in the morning with Bryant Gumbel and in the evening with Dan Rather.

Lara had a body guard and an interpreter with her at all times in Afghanistan, but it was still dangerous. Once in Kabul when walking from one building to another, three Northern Alliance soldiers were behind Lara and her bodyguard, and the third soldier from her was shot by a sniper. Another time, Lara's bodyguard stepped on a land mine, and she had to take shrapnel out of his leg and bandage it.

She has covered many other events around the world as well. In mid January, she flew to New York for a movie premiere and interviewed Richard Gere. After that, she will be heading to India and Pakistan to cover more news stories.

Chad may have not attended a premiere, but his adventure in London was in his words, "So cool. I had a 'brilliant holiday' as they say in the U.K. I've been abroad three other times, but this was my most memorable. It was out of this world!"



Chad saw several unusual signs in London such as this one pictured above.

Messages

Continued from page 1

ers are solid and will create an inspiring culture and help reinforce many of our core values," said Raúl Guevara, Bureau Chief of Support Services. "But, we think the messages would be even stronger if the pictures connected more clearly with our mission, vision, values, goals, and our state CTP projects.

"Our Graphic Designers are able to decorate your entryways, hallways, conference rooms, offices, and more with impressive, quality framed prints that showcase our KDOT logo with motivational themes and timeless messages."

What makes all of this possible is some equipment recently acquired by the BoSS: a six-color large format printer, laminator, and perimeter trim system capable of laminating prints up to 44 inches wide.

"We can laminate the prints directly to the foam board eliminating a step in the mounting process while encapsulating the image with UV protection," Guevara said. "Our Perimeter Trim System allows us to frame your prints to protect them from dents, damaged edges, or edge lift. This system gives us the capability to protect and beautify your final project with up to six color choices (Gloss Black, Matte Black, White, Red, Blue, Chrome & Gold) in 3/16-inch and 13/16-inch edge trim sizes and lengths

up to 98 inches. We can use a laminated print, and add clear acetate film for up to 1/16-inch clear Plexiglas."

The 60-inch large format printer is capable of resolutions of 1,200 dpi using UV - protected inks that produce superior image quality. It also means that prints used outdoors can expect a good 24 months minimum without fading. Guevara points out that the superior image quality, UV protection, and flexibility to print on various materials makes just about any project idea possible.

How can you help? Some of the motivational and inspirational statements that BoSS would like to use are listed on these two pages. If you have ideas for KDOT-oriented pictures that would work well with the statements, please let BoSS know. The pictures can be ones that already exist or ideas for KDOT's professional photographers to take in the future. If Districts or Areas have specific shots from their regions that they would like used in posters for their offices, that can also be done.

If you'd like to see some examples of the posters to get those creative juices flowing, there will be some adorning the walls of the basement conference rooms in Topeka's Docking State Office building beginning in late January.

For a complete list of available statements, or for more information, you can contact Shawn Hillebert, Multimedia Director, at 785-296-3293 or via email at Shawnhi@ksdot.org

MOTIVATIONAL AND INSPIRATIONAL STATEMENTS

Above & beyond... "When a team of dedicated individuals makes a commitment to act as one... The sky's the limit." Achievement... "Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow." "The true reward of a thing well done is to have done it." Attitude... "A positive attitude is a powerful force" "Our life is what our thoughts make it. Do the best you can, where you are, with what you have." Believe & succeed... "Courage does not always roar; sometimes, it is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'" "We cannot change yesterday. We can only make the most of today and look with hope toward tomorrow." Brilliance... "When a collection of brilliant minds, hearts, and talents come together...expect a masterpiece." Challenge... "Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others

doing it."

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

"Challenges can be stepping stones or stumbling blocks. It's just a matter of how you view them."

Change... "If you're not riding the wave of change...you'll find yourself beneath it."

Character... "Reputation is made in a moment; character is built in a lifetime."

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of freedom."

Commitment... "Commitment is a line you cross...it's the difference between wishing and doing."

"We will not waver; we will not tire; we will not falter; and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail."

Communication... "Build bridges, not

walls."

"Communication is the secret to success...pass it on."

Courage... "It's not where you start but where you finish that counts."

Creativity... "An organization that is committed to creative collaboration will ride the wave of the future. They will go beyond the realm of assumptive thinking and welcome the dawn of innovation...because there is nothing more empowering than an idea whose time has come."

Customer service... "Always give the customer more than they expect."

Dare to soar... "Your attitude almost always determines your altitude in life."

Diversity... "Great achievements are not born from a single vision but from the combination of many distinctive viewpoints. Diversity challenges assumptions, opens minds and unlocks our potential to solve any problems we may face."

Effort... Some people dream of worthy accomplishments while others stay awake and do them.

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Excellence... "Many times the difference between failure and success is doing something nearly right...or doing it exactly right."

"Excellence always endures...it remains long after cost is forgotten."

Focus... "If you chase two rabbits, both will escape."

Goals... "You measure the size of the accomplishment by the obstacles you had to overcome to reach your goals."

Innovation... "The best way to predict the future...is to create it."

Integrity... "Integrity is one of several paths. It distinguishes itself from the others because it is the right path, and the only one upon which you will never get lost."

Keys to success...

"Expect more than others think is possible; dream more than others think is practical; risk more than others think is safe."

L.E.A.D. ... Learn, educate, appreciate, develop

Leadership... "The task of a leader is to take his followers where they have not been."

"Leadership is about capturing the imagination and enthusiasm of your people with clearly defined goals that cut through the fog like a beacon in the night."

Make it happen... "Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it – but sail we must, and not drift, nor lie at anchor."

Never give up... "Go over, go under, go around, or go through. But never give up."

Opportunity... "You'll always miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

Persistence... "Now that we've exhausted all possibilities...let's get started."

"The race goes not always to the swift...but to those who keep running."

Power of one... "A bright attitude is the right attitude. It is a source of empowerment that can move everyone in the right direction."

Pride... "Pride is a personal commitment; it is an attitude which separates excellence from mediocrity."

Pull together... "The challenge for every organization is to build a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one

helping others become successful."

Teamwork... "Many hands, many minds, one goal."

"Coming together is a beginning...keeping together is progress...working together is a success."

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

Think change... "What seems like only a ripple today... Can become the wave of the future."

Vision... "Vision is the art of seeing things invisible"

"Vision is not seeing things as they are, but as they will be."

The essence of leadership... "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the quality of his actions, and the integrity of his intent. In the end, leaders are much like eagles...they don't flock, you find them one at a time."

The essence of teamwork... "Teamwork means that we share a

common ideal and embrace a common goal. Regardless of our differences, we strive shoulder to shoulder, confident in one another's faith, trust and commitment. In the end, teamwork can be summed up in five short words... 'we believe in each other.' "

The power of attitude... "Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst...a spark that creates extraordinary results."



CHALLENGE

"Do Not Follow Where The Path May Lead Go Instead Where There is No Path And Leave A Trail."
South Lawrence Halfway Trail in Douglas County (Outside of Lawrence)

another...because the question is usually not how each person works, but how well they work together."

Quality... "Countless, unseen details are often the only difference between mediocre and magnificent."

Risk... "A ship in the harbor is safe...but that's not what ships were made for."

Service... "The high road to service is traveled with integrity, compassion and understanding...people don't care how much we know until they know how much we care."

Success... "Success is a journey, not a destination."

"Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out."

Team... "We become successful by

Communications Resolutions

By Ron Kaufman

I decided recently that I should make a few New Year's resolutions sometime soon. That is something new for me. Usually I make New Year's resolutions between August and November. That way, I can honestly claim a lack of time for failing to fulfill any of them before the end of the year. Of course, if you think about it, you can make a resolution anytime and just give yourself a year to accomplish it. Somehow, though, it seems like a resolution just isn't a serious matter unless it begins with the words "New Year's." A fitting October 3rd resolution, for instance, might be "to carefully arrange my cotton swabs at least monthly so they all lay the same direction." See what I mean? That one just lacks flair. My New Year's resolution last August was to make my resolutions in a timelier manner. I am proud to say that I am close to fulfilling that goal. It will be wrapped up in a month or two – excluding weekends, holidays, and vacations.

It is much easier, on the other hand, to make up resolutions for somebody else. An alarming number of pundits do so. You can find suggested New Year's resolutions for just about everyone from aardvark* herders to zymologists**. Herewith is my list of resolutions for people who are resolute to improve their communication skills when dealing with the public:

1. Lose weight – lighten up on the heavy content of your words and phrases. Avoid acronyms and use common terms for technical jargon.
2. Exercise more – repeat this exercise many times daily... listen attentively, listen attentively, listen attentively. It is not painful and you will likely gain knowledge and support from the person to whom you are listening.

3. Stop smoking – don't let fiery defensiveness or anger drive your conversations. People often criticize a situation and it comes across like a personal attack. Let the smoke clear from your head before you respond. Often, criticisms aren't personal.

4. Save more – use economy of words. Stay focused on the points you want to make and avoid taking long diversions that might confuse your listener.

5. Smile more – it can help diffuse an otherwise tense situation or enliven a dull speech.

6. Be more caring – empathize with the other person. Listen not only with your ears, but also with your heart. Think about what you would do if you were in their shoes. You just might discover what really is behind the other's comments.

7. Relax more – take a deep breath when confronted with hostility. It will help quell your anger and help take the stress from your voice.

However, avoid telling the other person to "just chill."

8. Get organized – if possible, organize your thoughts before you have to speak with

someone. It will help you stay focused and ensure that your entire message is conveyed.

Some of these are easy; others are more challenging. Each one is something we can resolve to start (or continue) at the next opportunity. They can help us and those with whom we communicate have a happier New Year. I hope you'll start making these resolutions today. Don't wait until August like someone else we know.

* Yes, there is an aardvark. Imagine a cross between a jackrabbit, a pig, and an anteater. Now try to imagine herding one.

** This is a person who studies the fermentation process – like that used in brewing. Many of you might qualify to be an armchair version of this. If you are good at it, you could probably even imagine herding aardvarks.

**Communication:
A Key to Success**



Kansas Department
of Transportation

District Four maintenance employees design new lift

Deer season in southeast Kansas has become less of a hassle for KDOT maintenance crews, thanks to the invention of a Dead Animal Lift (DAL) by a group of District Four employees.

The DAL comes in two styles. The chain type attaches to the back of dump trucks, and the popular scoop model fits into the snow plow bracket on front of the trucks. A district committee formulated both designs for the DAL in response to a subarea's request for a device that would conveniently lift dead animals off the roadway. Four DAL units were built and distributed to each area in the district for testing and evaluation. At the end of the trial period last year, District Shop Superintendent Robert Jack asked for additional orders from each area – and received 12 more requests for DALs.

Using a DAL, members of a road crew may not even have to touch an animal, according to Jack, but can push the body into the DAL with shovels. The scoop has eliminated the need to hoist the animal up into the truck bed, and it is no longer necessary to call in a loader or perhaps even a pick-up truck to haul away a sizable deer, he added.

Jack said another plus is that the scoop has been designed to enclose the dead animal so that passing motorists won't be able to see the "bloody mess." The 16 DAL units in District Four cost \$498.53 each, and fit all district dump trucks.

Members of the committee that developed the DAL, in addition to Jack, were: Welder Dave Riebel and Equipment Operator III Ronnie Driskill, District/Chanute; Equipment Operator II Carl Maley, Garnett Subarea; HMS Roger Mace, Garnett Maintenance; Equipment Operator II Lynn Ging, Altoona Subarea; and Equipment Operator II Charles Mallams, Columbus Subarea. -By Priscilla Petersen, District Four Public Involvement Liaison

Deaths

We extend condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Betty J. Oliver who passed away Dec. 14 at Topeka.

Oliver had worked for KDOT 32 years and was an Auditor in Fiscal Services.

She is survived by her husband, Richard, one stepson, six sisters, a brother, and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, Kansas Chapter, 1602 E. Waterman, Wichita, 67211.

Former KDOT employee Verne J. Martin died Dec. 1 in Topeka.

Martin, 84, is survived by two sons, one daughter, one brother, and two sisters.

Memorial contributions for Martin may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1315 S.W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, 66604, or to the American Diabetes Association, 3625 S.W. 29th St., Topeka, 66614.

What they're saying about us...

From the January 3 Salina Journal:

From behind the wheel, the quality of our roads is obvious. Travel in any direction from Salina and it's smooth sailing, except in construction zones. It's the same across the state. Cross into Missouri and you'll see just how good Kansas roads really are.

It's the Kansas taxpayers who get the credit for this. They have shouldered the costs of two massive highway construction initiatives - a \$7 billion program in 1989 and a \$12.9 billion program in 1999.

In turn, Kansans also have endured all of the ubiquitous orange barrels set out to mark the progress of construction.

Good highways are more than just pleasant drives. They are vital to our state, providing the links our communities need to be connected with commerce.

That's especially so for rural areas. The marching band of economic vitality parades only on good roads.

The state's two highway construction programs have put Kansas in a good position to move its grain, its cattle, its people, and merchandise of all sorts. That's a foundation we need for growth.

But with highways, we can't rest on our laurels. An increasing volume of traffic is continually eroding what we have built.

Lawmakers, who convene January 14, must bear that in mind as they pore over the budget imbalance.

As we have proven to ourselves in the past, deferred maintenance is costly - not costly in the sense of the big construction bill we eventually must face, although that is a concern, but costly because of the harm we inflict on our communities as we rob them of the transportation network they desperately need.

We mustn't allow that to happen.

From the January 3 Parsons Sun:

There are those who like to say Kansas roads are good enough and that striving to improve them further is overkill. But that only fits if the highway that's not good is in someone else's community, or if the dangerous bridge is on someone else's route.

Good roads are about more than a couple of extra cents per gallon in taxes. Good roads help transport school children more safely. Good roads help prevent accidents and protect people whose cars have broken down. Good roads are easier to travel and encourage development of the economy. Good roads speak of a state's pride and concern for its residents.

Maybe Missouri's gasoline is cheaper, but its roads look like it.

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters

Wilma Birdwell, Office Assistant III, Fiscal Services
Jennifer Distlehorst, Engineering Associate I, Materials and Research
Scott Gebhart, Industrial Hygienist, Construction and Maintenance
Michael Havenstein, Storekeeper Senior, Support Services
Amy Hawk, Office Assistant, Materials and Research
Jessica Kralicek, Engineering Associate I, Design
Janice Long, Engineering Technician, Planning
Matthew Preston, Management Systems Analyst I, Construction and Maintenance
Jamie Sueper, Engineering Associate I, Design

District One

Tammy Wilson, Engineering Technician, District One

District Five

Chad Timken, Geologist II, El Dorado

District Six

Marc Mayfield, Installation Service Technician III, Garden City
The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new employees to Translines.



Step Back in Time

Workers perform sandblasting on a bridge near Chanute during construction activity in April of 1953.

Open records

Continued from page 1

Geographic Data Technology, Inc., (GDT) an industry provider of map data to the business, consumer, and internet community, was seeking a visual record of the entire 9,600-plus mile State Highway System.

"We've had previous request for portions of the videolog, basically to assist Planning, Design, Traffic Engineering, and for litigation uses," said Holley, KDOT Videolog Technician. "We've never had a request for every mile on our videolog system. When the request came in I knew it would take a lot of time and a combined effort to complete the project."

Bouton worked closely with Holley to coordinate the extensive request. The request required burning 334 CD-ROMS detailing the roadway in each of KDOT's six districts. A total of 111 man hours were required to finish the project.

"The request that Jon and Sherri worked together to handle highlights the effort that often goes unrecognized, but contributes to KDOT's high level of public response," said Fowler.

KUDOS to KDOT employees

KDOT's Drug and Alcohol program in the Bureau of Transportation Planning coordinated by Janet Blue, Program Consultant, received a perfect ranking in the Federal Transit Administration Drug and Alcohol audit in December. KDOT is the first state agency in the nation to have zero findings on the audit which includes all the rural general public transportation providers in the state.

BROWN BAG LUNCH

Topic: Topeka Area Projects
 Speaker: Jerry Younger
 Date: Wednesday, February 6
 Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
 Place: Room 481, Docking
 All employees are invited to attend.

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involvement, and for the overall quality of construction. The project had previously received a "National Award for Excellence" from the American Concrete Pavement Association.

The NPHQ Gold Award plaque was presented to Bob Cook, District Five District Engineer, by Dean Carlson, as President of AASHTO. Additional KDOT representatives present at the ceremony were Warren Sick, David Comstock, Martin Miller, and Dennis Slimmer. David and Cindy Wittwer representing The Wittwer Group, the project contractor, also received a Gold Award plaque.

NPHQ's award nomination process permits one entry from each of the fifty states. In 2001, 26 states submitted projects for consideration. Each is judged on a comprehensive set of criteria, including: the overall quality of the finished project; the partnership exhibited between state departments of transportation and private contractors; technical and materials innovations; the effectiveness and creativity of public involvement; whether and how projects met or exceeded expected



deadlines, costs, and deliverables; responsiveness to environmental needs and opportunities, and adherence to principles of quality management, among other factors.

The National Partnership for Highway Quality is the only nationally formed organization that combines public and private highway expertise to keep the nation's highway system in the highest quality condition and to improve its safety and service to the public.

NPHQ partners include: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), American Concrete Pavement Association, American Consulting Engineers Council, American Public Works Association, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, American Traffic Safety Services Association, Associated General Contractors of America, Asphalt Institute, Federal Highway Administration, National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, National Asphalt Pavement Association, and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. - By Martin Miller, District Five Public Involvement Liaison

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes its employees celebrating anniversaries in January

10 YEARS

Richard Reigle Wamego
 James Richling Horton
 Daniel Romine Osage City

20 YEARS

Jack Stiles El Dorado

30 YEARS

Gary Biber Topeka
 Edward Halter Kansas City

This information is compiled by each Office, Bureau, Division, and District.

Correction:

On question two of last month's trivia quiz, the years in which Charles Curtis served as Vice President of the United States should have been from 1929 to 1933. The years listed, 1893-1907, were the years he served in Congress.

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Albert Davis, Engineering Technician Senior, Traffic Engineering
Ron Holthaus, Information Resource Specialist III, Computer Services
Eileen Shea, Administrative Assistant, Personnel Services

District One

Kenneth DeLong, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Topeka

District Three

Jeff Stewart, Professional Civil Engineer II, Norton
Bruce Wasia, Equipment Mechanic Specialist

District Four

Joseph Maple, Engineering Technician Senior, Chanute

District Six

William Bell, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Sublette

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Training Opportunities

- New Employee Orientation, February 7, and March 7.
 - Basic Effective Supervisory Techniques, March 12-15; April 9-12, Topeka.
- All classes, except BEST, are available to non-supervisors with supervisory permission and where space is available. A comprehensive training calendar is on the KDOT Intranet under Personnel, Training.

PrePass

Continued from page 4

The South Haven station and southbound Olathe station also employ high-speed weigh-in-motion scales to electronically screen vehicles for possible overweight violations while the overhead scanner verifies credentials.

"PrePass will bring Kansas trucking companies and shippers improved effi-

ciency, while simultaneously enhancing highway safety for all motorists," said Tom Whitaker, Executive Director of the Kansas Motor Carriers Association. "It could improve safety by reducing back-ups on highways and the number of times trucks must slow down and change lanes."

KDOT is one of several agencies that have been involved in PrePass development in the state with Gudenkauf serving as chairman of a steering committee. Besides

KDOT, the committee includes the Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Turnpike Authority, the Kansas Department of Revenue, Kansas Motor Carriers Association and Kansas Corporation Commission.

Motor carriers interested in the system should contact PrePass at 1-800-PRE-PASS or contact them on the web at www.prepass.com. - S.W.

KDOT
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Topeka, KS 66612-1568

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