

Translines EXPRESS

Dec. 5, 2012

Open to Traffic



Above, state and local dignitaries cut the ribbon to officially open the bridge at the Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge ceremony in Atchison Tuesday. At right is a scenic view of the tied arch structure.



New Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge Opens: The new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge in Atchison officially opened Tuesday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the bridge and will serve as an iconic gateway for travelers crossing the Missouri River between Kansas and Missouri. The celebration took place under the signature arch span and included comments by Gov. Sam Brownback; Secretary Mike King; Missouri DOT Director Kevin Keith; Kansas Rep. Jerry Henry; Atchison Mayor Allen Reavis; and Atchison County Commissioner Jeff

Schuele. The event also included Ann Birney as Amelia Earhart and a ceremonial bike ride across the bridge by students from the Atchison area. The bridge, a four-lane, tied arch structure stretching nearly 2,500 feet over the Missouri River, is distinguished by its double steel arches on the main river span and special aesthetic lighting. It replaces the existing two-lane structure built in 1938. Construction of the bridge began in the spring of 2009. The removal of the existing bridge is set for early 2013.



Above, students from the Atchison area gave the thumbs up after being the first ones to ride across the new bridge. At right, Ann Birney, an Amelia Earhart impersonator, spoke from the aviator's perspective at the ceremony in Atchison on Dec. 4.



Trivia!



1. On average, how much grass will a buffalo eat in a day?

- A. 15 pounds
- B. 25 pounds
- C. 35 pounds
- D. 45 pounds

Bonus – what year was the buffalo declared the Kansas state animal?

2. What Kansas aviator crashed the monoplane he built on his first attempt at flight?

3. Kansas author Rex Stout wrote 33 novels and 39 short stories on this fictional detective.

- A. The Avenger
- B. Mary Russell
- C. Harry Devlin
- D. Nero Wolfe

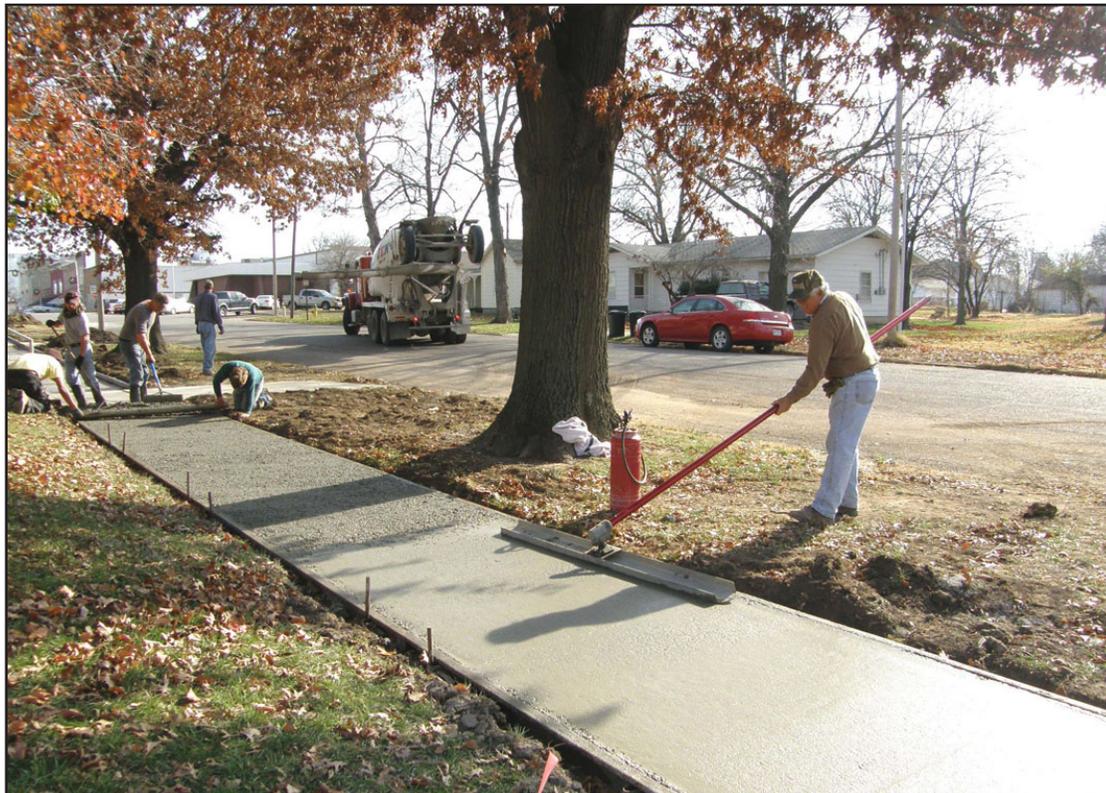
Answers are below

U.S. 50



District Six maintenance crews from the Garden City Subarea and Area One recently partnered with local contractors to perform a mill and overlay operation on the approaches to two bridges on U.S. 50/83/400 locally known as the Garden City Bypass. KDOT provided the trucks to haul the asphalt and some of the manpower. The bridges over K-156 and Mary Street in Garden City are part of an extended diamond interchange. The work took two days to complete and traffic was diverted onto the interchange ramps without major snarls. The result of the effort is a smoother ride for the 10,000 drivers using the bypass every day.

SRTS



Workers from Mission Construction of St. Paul, Kan., place and smooth new concrete sidewalk along Prairie Street in Girard. The city was awarded federal funding for new sidewalks, crosswalks and signals under the Safe Routes to School Program. The SRTS project started in early November. The project's many concrete pours are being helped along by unusually warm fall weather in southeast Kansas.



Prime contractor B & B Bridge Company of St. Paul sets girders for the superstructure of the new Neosho River Bridge on K-47 west of St. Paul. K-47 traffic is continuing to use the existing steel truss bridge adjacent to the new structure (far left). Weather permitting, the \$4 million bridge replacement should be completed early in 2013.

Above and Beyond

Orange Heroes: Secretary Mike King and Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger presented employees from across the state Orange Hero awards at the Leadership Conference in Topeka last week. The award honors employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. The 2012 Orange Hero winners were:

◆ **Good Stewards award.** Clay Adams, Rex Flinn, Rod Kaus, George Dockery, Gene Watts, Ron Hall, Dana Majors, Jeff Tice, Peter Carttar, Sandra Tommer, Tim Cunningham and Troy Whitworth. This group was tasked with determining the critical equipment for the agency's operation and finding a logical method to access equipment needs in preparation for the KDOT efficiency auction.

◆ **Going Once, Going Twice, Sold! award.** Joe Kitchen. Kitchen manages the huge tasks of organizing the agency's annual surplus action, including the efficiency auction. In March, the surplus auction brought in a record \$1.7 million.

◆ **Taking Lemons and Making Lemonade award.** Oswald Dwyer and Sharron Holliday. When a grass fire that resulted from a KDOT crack sealing operation damaged fences, power lines, crops, trees and an elderly woman's home, O.J. and Sharon were tasked with handling the many claims for damages. They took on the extra work willingly and without complaint, they fostered good relationships with the affected landowners and minimized the negative feelings.

◆ **Turning a Sow's Ear Into a Silk Purse award.** Travis Scott and Stuart Withington. Along with retired Road Design Leader Bob Hirt, these heroes are recognized for their outstanding efforts to identify a stretch of K-25

for a practical improvement project and see it through to completion.

◆ **Gate Keepers award.** Clay Center Area Crew, the District Specials Crew, the Junction City and Abilene maintenance forces, the Junction City construction office and the District Surveyor. Due to the return of Big Red One troops to Fort Riley, as many as 3,000 vehicles now use the Henry Drive Gate off I-70 to get onto the post every morning. That created a morning traffic backup that extended onto I-70. Working in cooperation with the Army and Geary County, it was decided that our crews would do the earthwork on a lane addition project to speed up the fix to the daily traffic backup.

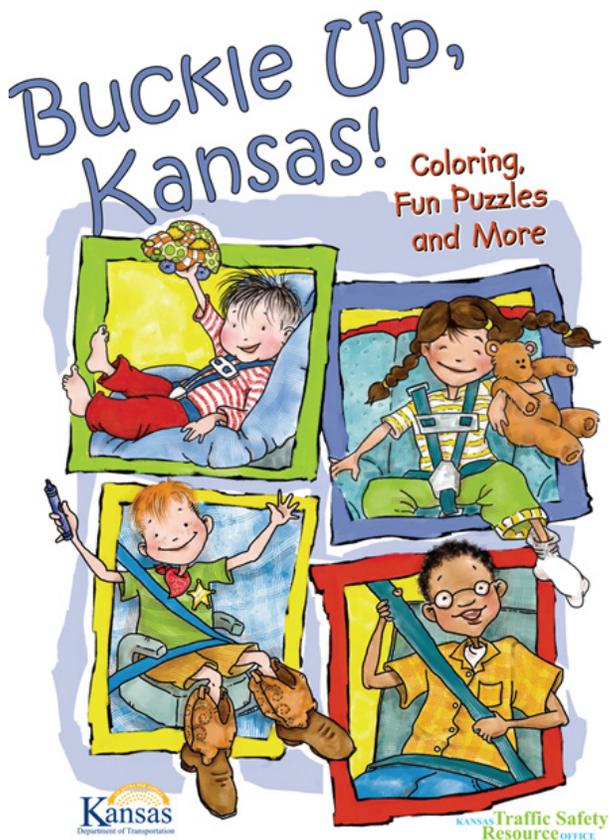
◆ **Track Stars award.** Salina Subarea Crew, presented by Col. Ernest Garcia of the Kansas Highway Patrol. When the Salina airport could no longer be used to train new troopers on the operation of a patrol car, KDOT staff worked hard to prepare an area at the Waterwell Road facility – a great example of partnership.

◆ **Real Heroes award.** Brandon Holt, Steve Cox and Richard Martinitz. While they were at the Solomon rest area, a semi slammed into a parked recreational vehicle where a couple was sleeping. The workers pulled them out before the vehicle was consumed by flames and also got the truck driver out. Unfortunately the crash itself killed one of the people but the others were safe.

◆ **Snow Angels award.** Mark Davis, Max Dirks, Jerry Glassman, Dave Marsh, Ron Munyan, Larry Kjellberg, Burke Koehn, Jason Lawrence and Jason Gerstner. Employees from different offices worked together to carry

Continued on following page

Traffic Safety



Thinking About Safety: The Buckle Up, Kansas activity book is much more than just a “coloring book.” With a puzzle or rhyme on each page, it provides parents and children the buckle-up message in a fun and interactive way. The publication is also bilingual as it has information in English on one side and Spanish on the other. Originally developed by Texas Department of Transportation, KDOT’s Support Services modified the graphics for Kansas. The activity books are being printed in-house using federal safety funds. Free copies may be ordered from the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office at ktsro.org – click on the Order Forms tab at the top.

Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express? Please e-mail your suggestions to translines@ksdot.org

TRIVIA ANSWERS -

1. A. 25 pounds (Bonus - 1955)
2. Clyde Cessna
3. D. Nero Wolfe, created in 1934

Orange Heroes (continued)

out a snow plow relay to escort an ambulance in white-out conditions from Scott City to Hays. Because of their efforts, the patient is alive and well today.

◆ **Smartest Guy in the Room award.** Brian Engelke. Brian initiated, developed and enhanced an Excel spreadsheet that is used as a bridge inspection data template to automate the QC/QA bridge inspection review for county and city bridges.

◆ **Superload Super Heroes award.** Doug Brunner, Carl Gile, Theodore Quast and John Culbertson. With a more than 100 percent increase in oversize/overweight permits, processing them efficiently and accurately is essential.

◆ **Well-Rounded Solution award.** Brian Gower and Joe Palic. After a fatality crash, they developed alternatives, gathered input, facilitated meetings and concluded a roundabout was the best option.

◆ **Eco Devo Eagles award.** Mike Moriarty, Jessica Upchurch, Brandy Sutherland and Alison Bell. This group assumed responsibility for the Economic Development Program and they have done an outstanding job.

◆ **Go-To award.** Bill Hughes and Tina Cramer. They took on the task of moving information from the State System strip map into the CANSYS database to maintain and preserve this essential function.

Transportation Enhancement



Above, the grand opening of the Buffalo Bill Cultural Center took place Nov. 30 in Oakley. The center received Transportation Enhancement funds to assist with the construction. It's located three miles south of I-70 on U.S. 83. At left is one of the many paintings on display at the center.



Naughty or Nice?
 Santa Claus (KDOT employee Mike Rogers from Phillipsburg) has what appears to be a serious chat with three-year-old Grace Smith, daughter of KDOT employee Corene Smith from Norton. They all were at the Winterfest event in Stockton on Nov. 23. What actually happened was that Grace was excited to see Santa at first, but when she sat on his lap, this is the look she gave him.



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