

Deer/Vehicle Crashes

Fast Facts: Between 2002 and 2011, there were 93,400 reported deer/vehicle crashes, 28 human fatalities and 3,175 people injured.

During this time, the primary deer accident peak, also known as D-Day (Deer Day), was on Nov. 13 with an average of 891 crashes, while the secondary average peak occurred on May 26 at 389 crashes. On the other hand, deer crashes were at their lowest on Aug. 22 with an average that day of 121.



Be on the Lookout: Deer breeding season peaks in mid-November, and this marks the period when deer-vehicle collisions are highest. That's why the KDOT, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism work together to raise awareness and help drivers avoid collisions with deer.

Safety tips -

- Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk when deer are particularly active;
- Watch for more than one deer. They seldom travel alone, so if one crosses the road, others may follow;
- Reduce speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces such as parks or golf courses and near water sources such as streams or ponds;
- Don't swerve to avoid hitting a deer – the most serious accidents occur when motorists swerve and collide with another vehicle or run off the road and hit an obstacle;
- Heed deer crossing signs, slow down whenever the reflective eyes of deer are spotted; and
- Most importantly, always wear a seat belt.

Award

Working Together: The Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association has recognized the U.S. 54 Corridor Study with the Pioneer Award. This award honors creative and innovative planning efforts that address community needs and solve public problems. This study was a collaborative effort between KDOT, City of Andover and the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization along with Sedgwick and Butler counties.



Pictured (left to right): Mike Moriarty, KDOT; Kristen Zimmerman, WAMPO; Sara Copeland, APA-KS; Les Mangus, Andover Public Works Director; Carline Hale, Andover City Council; and Sasha Stiles, Andover City Manager.



Jeff Shewmaker (second from left) with Brifen USA, the company that manufactured the cable median barrier system, instructs KDOT Equipment Operator Specialist Randy Schimmel (center) and other KDOT employees on how to adjust the cables and replace the post so that they can maintain the cable median barrier system. Installation of the cable median barrier along K-10 near Eudora in Douglas County is nearing completion. The section in Johnson County is nearing completion as well.

U.S. 24



Pavement work is progressing on U.S. 24.

Making Progress: A pavement reconstruction project is continuing on a 5.3-mile section of U.S. 24 from west of the Muddy Creek Bridge in Grantville to east of K-237 in Jefferson County. Pavement on the existing U.S. 24 is deteriorating and maintenance crews have been kept busy keeping the existing roadway pavement in driving condition. Project work includes nine inches of new concrete pavement on two 12-foot lanes with three-foot paved shoulders in each direction. The existing roadway is narrower with rock shoulders on either side. Currently, 5.25 miles of the new eastbound lanes on U.S. 24 are completed. Crews plan to have the new eastbound lanes open to traffic later this month. Work on the westbound lanes will begin next spring. Ideker, Inc., is the prime contractor on the \$8.2 million project. The project is scheduled to be completed in July 2013.

Trivia!

Update: In the last T-Express edition, the trivia said the largest blue catfish caught on record was 94 pounds in 2000. But trivia buff and KDOT retiree Norman Stahl let us know the record had been broken in August as a 102.8-pound blue catfish was caught on the Kansas side of the Missouri River by Rob Stanley of Olathe. According to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), he had a 40-minute battle that required pulling anchor to follow the fish downstream and prevent it from taking all the 80-pound-test line from the reel. The fish was 56.75 inches long and had a girth of 39 inches. After KDWPT weighed it, Stanley released the fish back to the Missouri River.



A new state record blue catfish - this big fish weighs a whopping 102.8 pounds. Photo courtesy of Rob Stanley.

1. What famous Kansan had the slogan – “If you don’t want the laws enforced, then don’t vote for me.”

- A. Charles Curtis
- B. Wyatt Earp
- C. Carry Nation
- D. Robert Docking

2. Black Sunday was otherwise known in Kansas history as this.

3. Kansan Lumen Martin Winter was commissioned to design a mural and the official medallion for this historic event in 1969.

Answers below

Example of Excellence

Teamwork: This summer, all state DOTs with federal projects that had unexpended balances of more than \$50,000 and no expenditures in the last year were given one month's notice by the Federal Highway Administration to get that number down to two projects. KDOT had 32 projects with those criteria, said Chief of Fiscal Services Rhonda Seitz. Several people worked together on this effort to knock that number down to two, and the group achieved its goal by the Aug. 17 deadline. The Inactive Federal Project Review team was selected as an Example of Excellence for their work for the third quarter and was honored at a ceremony in Topeka by Secretary Mike King on Nov. 1. Team members include: Pam Anderson, Gary Farlow, Ami Fulghum, Shawn Hennes, Brian Gower and Ed Thornton.



Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, left, and Secretary Mike King, right, pose with members of the Inactive Federal Project Review team at the Nov. 1 ceremony.



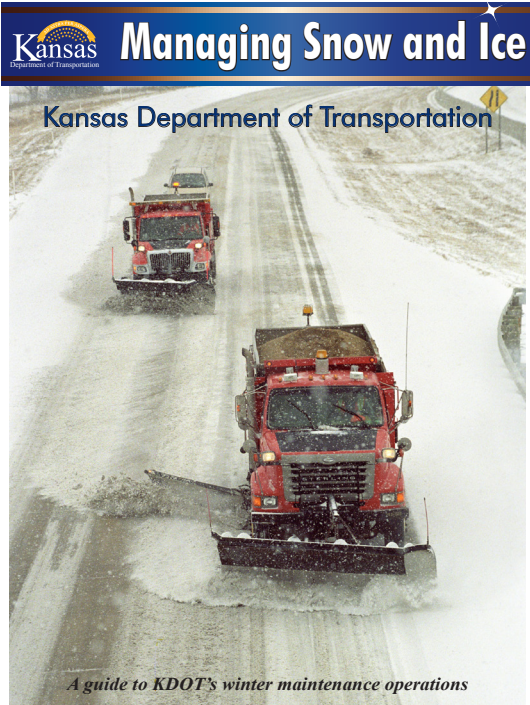
A crew from Dustrol, Inc., grinds in center line rumble strips on U.S. 50/56 near Spearville in Ford County. The center line rumble strips were added as part of a resurfacing project.

Hurricane Sandy

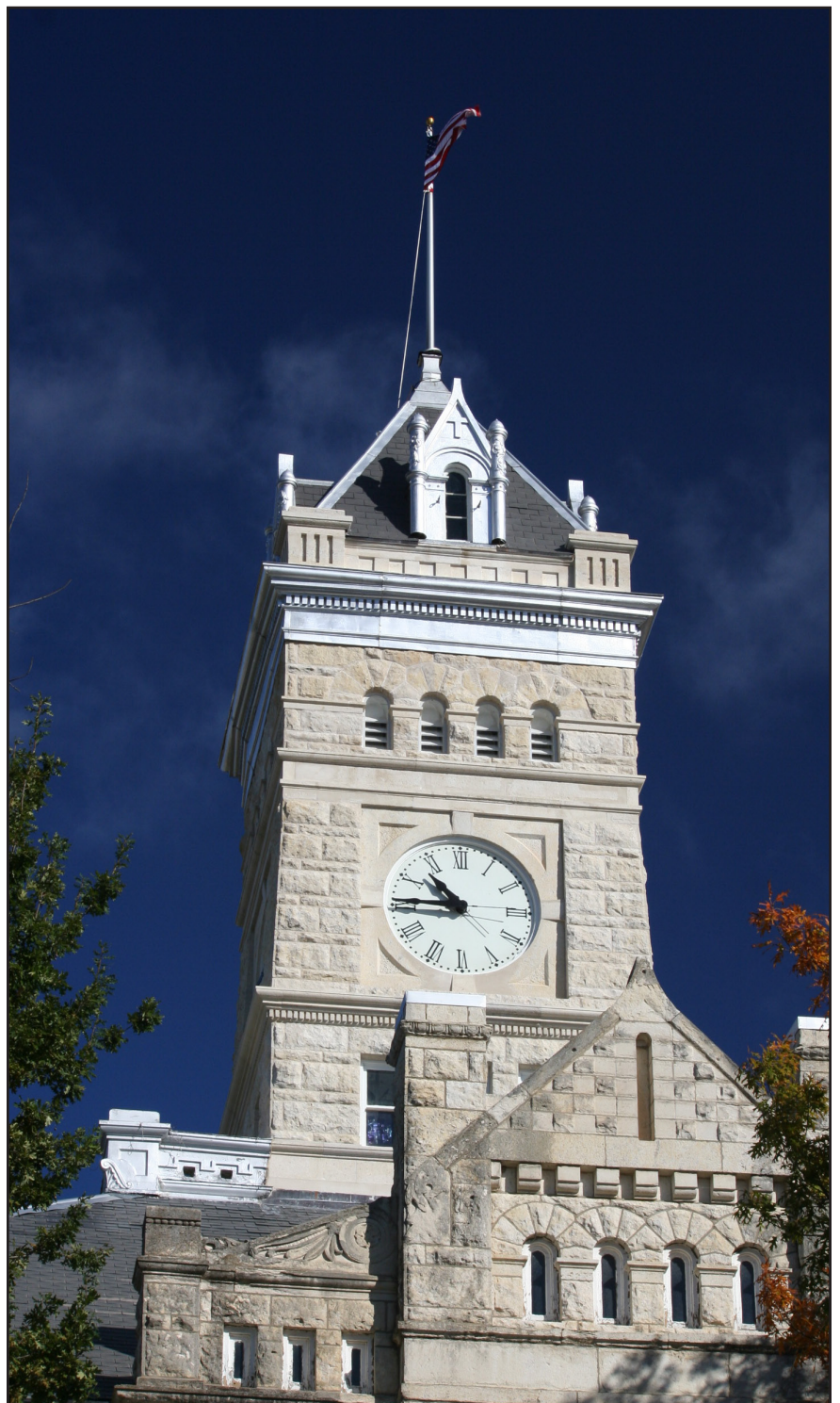
Records Broken: According to a CNN report, the hurricane-turned-cyclone broke several records on Oct. 29:

- ♦Sandy's strength and angle of approach combined to produce a record storm surge of water into New York City. The surge level at Battery Park topped 13.88 feet at 9:24 p.m., surpassing the 10.02 feet record water level set by Hurricane Donna in 1960.
- ♦New York Harbor's surf also reached a record level when a buoy measured a 32.5-foot wave. That wave was 6.5 feet taller than a 25-foot wave churned up by Hurricane Irene in 2011.
- ♦When hurricane hunter aircraft measured its central pressure at 940 millibars that afternoon - 27.76 inches - it was the lowest barometric reading ever recorded for an Atlantic storm to make landfall north of Cape Hatteras, N.C.

KDOT Maintenance Efforts



Ready for Winter: Three million gallons of salt brine, 85,000 tons of salt and a team of dedicated KDOT employees are just a part of what it takes to keep Kansas highways open for travel during an average winter season. KDOT maintenance crews' experience and knowledge are important for the safety of the traveling public and to keep commerce moving with more than 9,500 miles of Kansas highways that include more than 25,000 lane miles. Every storm is unique and can have combinations of rain, sleet, snow, ice and wind – they require a coordinated effort in parts or all of the state. The publication “Managing Snow and Ice” outlines these activities, the necessary teamwork, the various tools used and other vital maintenance duties throughout the year. Check it out on KDOT’s website, www.ksdot.org - the link looks like the cover above and is on the main page.



A picturesque view of the Clay County Courthouse in Clay Center, which was built in 1900-01. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo by Neil Croxton.

National News

Stay Off the Sidewalk: According to an Associated Press news story in the Kansas City Star, a woman caught on camera driving on a sidewalk to avoid a Cleveland school bus that was unloading children will have to stand at an intersection wearing a sign warning about idiots. Court records show a Cleveland Municipal Court judge on Monday ordered 32-year-old Shena Hardin to stand at an intersection for two days next week. She will have to wear a sign saying: “Only an idiot drives on the sidewalk to avoid a school bus.” The judge ordered her to wear the sign from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. both days. Hardin’s license was suspended for 30 days and she was ordered to pay \$250 in court costs.

Maintenance

Are We Ready for Winter? That's the question that Mark Davis, Dodge City Area Superintendent, wanted to address recently at a training session held in Dodge City for equipment operators and supervisors, along with area and district staff. Equipment operators, many of whom have never plowed snow, spent time getting acquainted or re-acquainted with the tools of the trade (pictured above). During a morning session, Jeff Hutton, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Dodge City, talked about trends in



Meteorologist Jeff Hutton of the National Weather Service office in Dodge City talks to a group of District Six Equipment Operators and Supervisors about what the upcoming winter may hold during a winter training session at Dodge City.

weather patterns and the coming winter season. The upshot of his comments: this winter might be colder; it might be warmer; it might be wetter; it might be drier.

Southeast Kansas



Work continues on construction of a new mechanical shop at the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad yard north of Cherryvale.

Railroad Improvement Project: The South Kansas & Oklahoma (SKOL) Railroad yard was relocated from downtown Cherryvale to a few miles north along U.S. 169. The shop and SKOL track and bridge improvements in southeast Kansas and north-east Oklahoma are funded by a \$10.2 million federal Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery II (TIGER II) grant. The federal grant was awarded to KDOT in 2010 to help fund the Great Plains Freight Rail Service Improvement Project. Once completed, the shop will provide inspections, maintenance services, and light and heavy repairs to a fleet of more than 40 road and switching locomotives.

KDOT and SKOL are each providing \$1.7 million toward the SKOL shop and corridor improvements, with 80 percent of the project costs funded by TIGER II. Crossland Construction Company of Columbus is the contractor on the approximately \$4 million shop/rail yard project.

In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree George A. Trout, who died Nov. 1. He worked at the Pittsburg Subarea office.

TRIVIA ANSWERS -

1. A. Charles Curtis
2. The Dust Bowl – on Sunday, April 14, 1935.
3. The Apollo 13 mission

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