

Translines EXPRESS

April 18, 2018

National Work Zone Awareness Week



KDOT Olathe Supervisor Brian Link shared work zone experiences at the National Work Zone Awareness Week statewide news conference in Topeka on April 9. Other speakers included, seated from left to right, KHP Col. Mark Bruce, KTA Highway Foreman Bruce Winkle, KDOT Wamego Superintendent Jeff Romine and State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick. Below, numerous city, county and state law enforcement and emergency responders brought their vehicles to the event and set up a display to show a variety of the vehicles that can be seen helping improve safety for the traveling public. More related photos are in this edition.



DUI Roadside Memorial Marker

Memorial markers:

The first DUI Roadside Memorial Marker in the state was unveiled on April 9 at the KDOT office in Ellsworth. The new Lost to DUI memorial markers are a part of the Kyle Thornburg and Kylie Jobe Believe Act that was approved by the Kansas Legislature and signed by former Gov. Sam Brownback in 2016.

The Kyle Thornburg and

Kylie Jobe Believe Act honors these two former Maize High School students from Wichita who were killed on March 23, 2011. Jobe and Thornburg were returning to Wichita from a Colorado ski trip during spring break. They were both killed in a crash on I-70 when a man entered the interstate going in the wrong direction and hit them head on. He was also killed and was later found to have a blood alcohol level of .23, almost three times the legal limit.

At the request of Barby Jobe Myers (Kylie's mother), former Rep. Mark Hutton brought forth legislation to create and install roadside signs to memorialize victims of drunk/impaired driving.

"We hope the memorial markers encourage people to reflect on the innocent lives lost to someone driving under the influence," said Jobe Myers. "We also



From left to right, Gov. Jeff Colyer, Barby Jobe Myers, Robin Thornburg and Doug Thornburg unveil the DUI Roadside Memorial Marker honoring their children who were killed in 2011.

believe the signs will create an awareness about personal responsibility and an understanding that some choices have consequences that affect more people than just themselves."

The legislation established and implemented a DUI memorial signage program on highways under the Secretary of Transportation's jurisdiction that are not city connecting links. A memorial marker was designed with a unique logo symbolizing the cycle of life and an individual thumbprint with the title, Lost to DUI. Below that, the names and ages of victims lost to a drunk driver are listed. The marker for Jobe and Thornburg was placed at the scene of the crash at mile marker 210 on eastbound I-70.

For more information about the memorial marker program, click [here](#).

Trivia!

Historical dates in Kansas

1. Newly-disked fields for wheat, followed by four years of drought, led up to the Dust Bowl. What day did winds of 60 miles per hour scoop up loose top soil into clouds of dust hundreds of feet high across the Great Plains?
2. When was the Kansas Territory officially established?
3. When did the constitutional amendment take effect

that prohibited "the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors" in Kansas?

4. When was the first load of cattle to be shipped via rail in Kansas?
5. When was the Kansas State Agricultural Society formed by the Kansas Legislature?
6. Brown v. Board of Education - When did the U.S. Supreme Court announce its unanimous ruling on Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka?

District Two



In the photos above and below, KDOT crews removed and replaced the asphalt overlay that delaminated from the I-70 bridge over Clarks Creek.

I-70 closed: I-70 near milemarker 303 was closed for about five hours on April 10 as a section of an asphalt overlay broke apart on the I-70 bridge over Clarks Creek.

The overlay was placed in 1997 and over the years had partly delaminated from the rest of the deck, said Clay Center Area Engineer Dale Hershberger. After

looking at it, Hershberger said they concluded that the mix of cold and hot weather affected it because of being delaminated - "it could expand faster than the rest of the deck and the only place it could go was up."

The incident was reported at 2:50 p.m.; engineers immediately went to the bridge and assessed that it was structurally sound. Then equipment or crews from the Clay Center, Washington, Abilene and Junction



City offices were mobilized to clean up and place a new asphalt overlay. During this time, KHP took care of rerouting traffic while traffic alerts were sent out to the public by KDOT and KHP.

The work was finished and I-70 was opened to traffic at 7:56 p.m. Hershberger said work will take place to develop plans to remove the rest of the deck and put a new overlay on at a later date.

Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT on May 1.

District Two

Ralph Finley, Engineering Technician, Junction City

District Five

Daniel Stafford, Equipment Operator Specialist, Great Bend

Roger Wilcoxon, Engineering Technician Senior, El Dorado

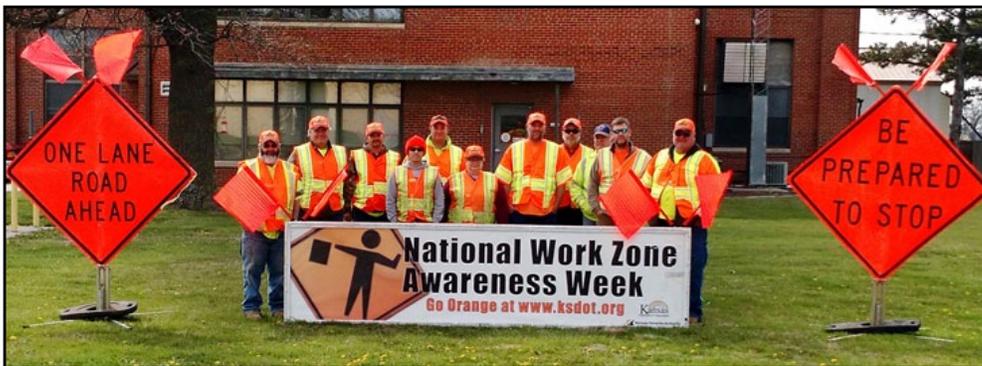
TRIVIA ANSWERS

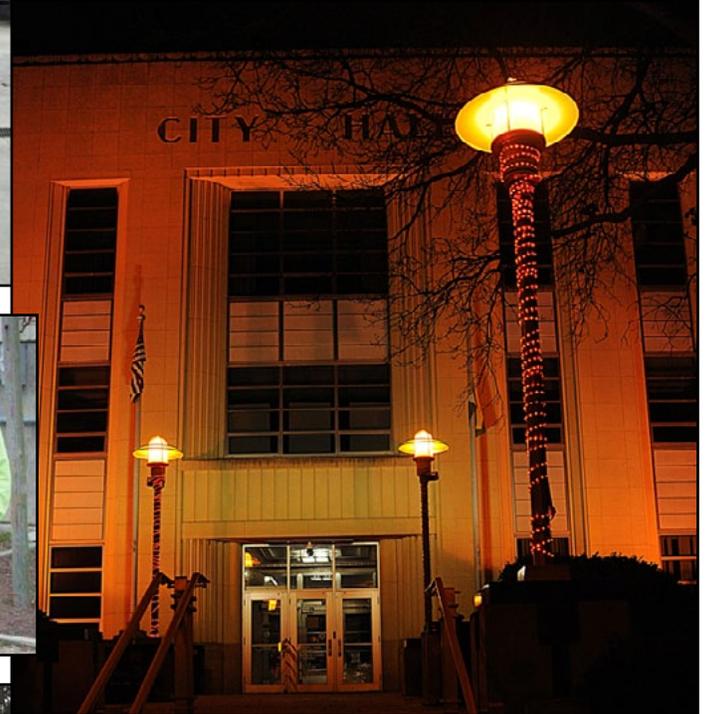
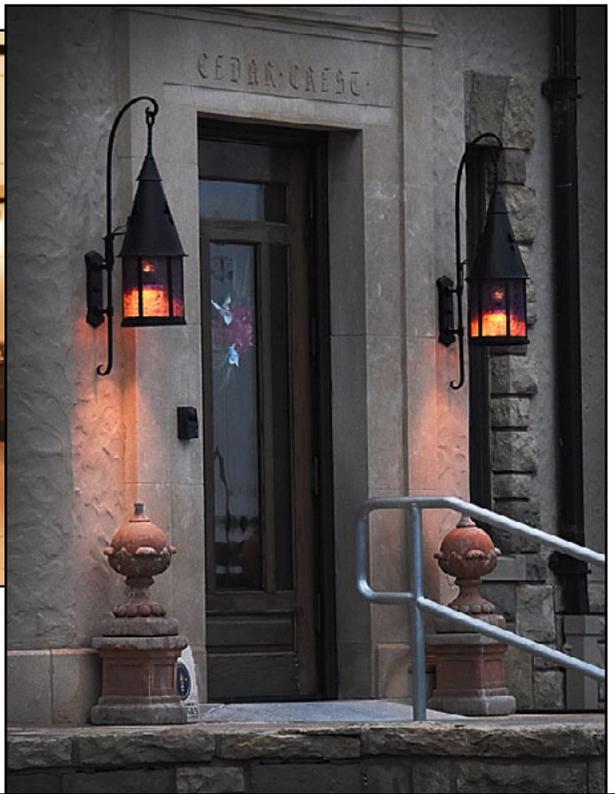
1. April 14, 1935.
2. May 30, 1854, when President Franklin Pierce signed into law the Kansas-Nebraska Act.
3. Jan. 1, 1881.
4. Sept. 5, 1867.
5. March 5, 1862.
6. May 17, 1954.

National Work Zone Awareness Week



Top left: Industry partners donate to Give 'Em A Brake. Above: Olathe Supervisor Brian Link speaks at the work zone safety event. Left: A big crowd attended the news conference. Two photos bottom left: KDOT employees in Iola and District Six crews. Below: A "cone man" at the El Dorado Office.





Top left: Visitor's Center at the State Capitol. Upper left: KDOT employees in Wichita. Lower left: KDOT employees in Marysville. Bottom left: KDOT employees in Salina. Top right and middle right: The Governor's Mansion and the Topeka City Hall are lit in orange. Above: The Travel Information Center near Goodland.

FHWA



FHWA Acting Administrator Brandye Hendrickson, seated third from left, and FHWA Kansas Division Administrator Rick Backlund, seated second from left, are joined by other FHWA employees at the Kansas office as they all Go Orange for work zone safety awareness.



Focus on Kansas: Acting Federal Highway Administrator Brandye Hendrickson was busy during her visit to Kansas on April 9 and 10. Hendrickson joined in observance events as part of the work zone awareness, then met with KDOT staff to discuss current administration initiatives and federal funding. She also spoke at the 100th Annual Kansas Transportation Engineering Conference in Manhattan. Previous to her working for the FHWA, Hendrickson was Commissioner of Transportation of the Indiana Department of Transportation and also served as Director of INDOT's Greenfield District.

At left, Hendrickson gives an FHWA update at the Transportation Engineering Conference in Manhattan on April 10.

District Five

Chance Hayes, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the U.S. National Weather Service in Wichita, was the keynote speaker at District Five's annual spring conference on April 12 and gave employees several tips to avoid being caught in dangerous weather. He talked about ways employees can recognize signs of impending bad weather. And he noted that tornado season in Kansas is yearlong.





Wildcat Construction, lead contractor on the East Kellogg/Wichita project, set girders for the new eastbound East Kellogg bridge across the Turnpike near Plaza 50.

KTA brief: During National Work Zone Awareness Week



Bruce Winkle

last week, five people shared their personal stories and experiences in work zones, including KTA Highway Maintenance Foreman Bruce Winkle. He shared his story about his vehicle being struck not once, not twice, but seven times. Read his story and all of the 2018 work zone safety blogs [here](#).

KTA brief: Your voice helps make customer-driven changes, like open road tolling and improved K-TAG account management. Take our 2018 Customer Satisfaction Survey [here](#).

2018 WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

DRIVE WISE

so no one dies

- Put away distractions
- Control your speed
- Watch for workers

Congratulations to Spencer Vail of Topeka who was named the winner of the KTA's 2018 Work Zone Awareness Week design contest. He won first place out of 95 entries. To view the six other finalists, click [here](#).

Engineering Conference

100th anniversary: The Kansas Transportation Engineering Conference celebrated its 100th annual event April 10-11 in Manhattan.

“The event lasted two days, and was an excellent forum for professionals in the transportation industry. Participants learned and discussed developing trends and technology,” said District One Engineer Leroy Koehn. “Subject matter has grown to encompass not only highway construction topics but also emerging transportation industry components such as intelligent traffic solutions (ITS) and use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/ Systems (UAV/S) as well as automated/autonomous and connected vehicles.”

A theme of the conference in this commemorative year was to celebrate the past, present and future of the transportation industry in Kansas. Members of the conference’s planning committee were from KDOT,

KTA, Kansas State University, Kansas University Transportation Center, Kansas Division of Federal Highway Administration and Kansas Chapter of the American Public Works Association.



State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick gave opening remarks at the 100th annual Transportation Engineering Conference in Manhattan.

Traffic Safety

Safety award winners: KDOT honored six Kansans with Transportation Safety Recognition Awards for their efforts to improve traffic safety at the Transportation Safety Conference.

The People Saving People Award recipients were:

Jeff Collier, Fort Scott

– Collier served as state coordinator for the Drug Recognition Expert program and the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing training program. He organized and established standards for both programs. Collier recently retired from the KHP.

Kevin Gamble, Columbia, Mo.

– Gamble advanced traffic safety issues in Kansas through his position with State Farm Insurance. He managed and distributed more than 58 State Farm grants to traffic safety programs, including the SAFE program, for more than \$560,000.

Christopher Mann, Lenexa – Mann provided legal representation to drunk driving victims and their families in lawsuits against the drunk drivers. He also

helped pass drunk driving legislation in Kansas.

Kendall Schoenekase, Overland Park –

Schoenekase shared her personal story to help promote the “Don’t Text and Drive, Just Drive” pledge campaign across the state during her year as Miss Kansas 2016.

The Hero Award recipients were:

Deputy Jason Klepac, Johnson County – While off duty, Klepac observed a car slowly traveling through an intersection that appeared to not have a driver. He ran after the vehicle and found an unconscious driver with no

pulse. Klepac performed CPR, saving the man’s life and possibly preventing a multi-vehicle crash.

Lt. Tom Reddin, Johnson County – Lt. Redden entered a vehicle that had flipped on its side and had smoke coming from its engine. He climbed on the car to remove a passenger, removed a baby from a car seat and assisted the driver.

KDOT’s 24th annual Transportation Safety Conference

The conference helps safety officials across the state share and get updated information to improve and address various safety concerns. The event took place yesterday and today in Topeka.

The program featured sessions on injury control, law enforcement, roadway safety and youth issues. Topics on autonomous vehicles, pedestrian and bicycle safety, officer safety and distracted driving were also addressed.

District Three

U.S. 283 repair: Work is complete on a slope repair project along U.S. 283 in Norton County. KDOT installed a tied concrete block mat product along a flood-damaged area at the North Fork Solomon River drainage bridge. The product consists of concrete blocks poured onto a grid with various types of backing material based on expected vegetation growth at the installation location. The flooding had done substantial erosion damage, removing rip-rap stone and washing out soil on the bridge berm. Crews replaced soil in areas as needed and used the tied concrete mats to help prevent future erosion. Some of the rip-rap stone was also replaced adjacent to the mats and traditional erosion control mats were installed around the bridge where the existing ground had been disturbed. Bridges Inc. was the primary contractor for the project with a total contract cost of approximately \$234,000.



Above, work takes place to repair the slope along U.S. 283, and below shows the project finished.



District Four

U.S. 169 section to close: During the week of April 23, KDOT will close a seven-mile section of U.S. 169 in Allen County to through traffic. The closure is necessary to start a pavement reconstruction project from Minnesota Road south to Delaware Road. Project activity consists of replacing the concrete pavement on the mainline and interchange ramps and reestablishing a new subgrade base.

Once this part of U.S. 169 is closed, the highway will remain closed until the project is finished in the spring 2019. The detour for southbound traffic - from U.S. 54 at Iola proceed west on U.S. 54 to U.S. 75, travel south on U.S. 75 to K-39, then proceed east on K-39 to U.S. 169 at Chanute. Northbound U.S. 169 traffic should follow the same detour route in the opposite direction. Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., of Columbia, Mo., is the contractor on the \$16 million project.

General

Georgia DOT to build first truck-only lanes: According to Better Roads, the Georgia Department of Transportation is moving forward with plans to create interstate lanes designated solely for commercial vehicles. The truck-only lane project would be the first of its kind in the United States, GDOT says. GDOT plans to hire a general engineering consultant by the end of 2018 to manage the project development, according to GDOT Planning Director Jay Roberts.

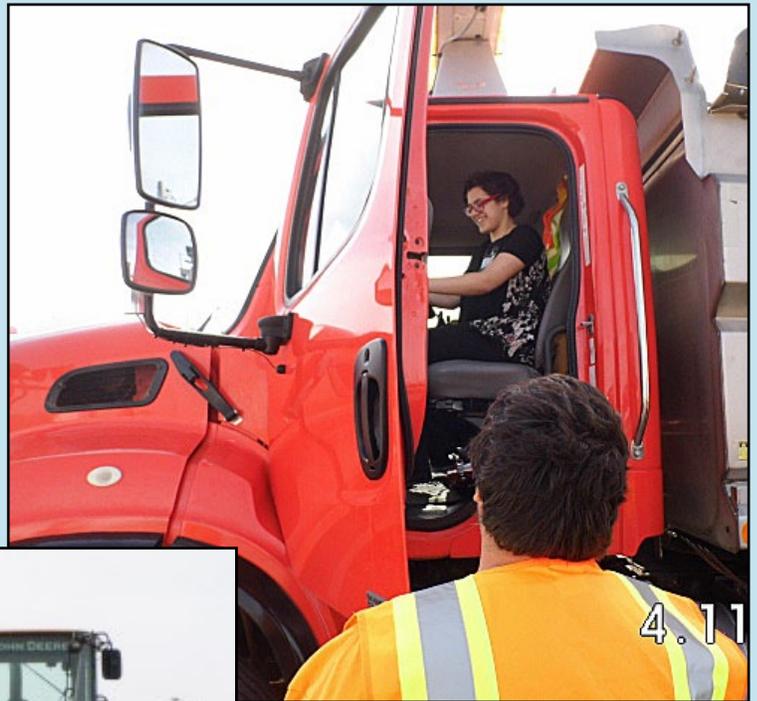
Two commercial-vehicle-only lanes would be added to northbound Interstate 75/475 from Macon to McDonough, southeast of Atlanta, at a cost of \$1.8 billion. The 40 miles of non-tolled lanes would have their own entrances and exits and be separated from the regular lanes by a barrier. GDOT estimates the lanes will reduce delays 40 percent on I-75 North in 2030.

GDOT expects truck traffic to double by 2040 on the I-75 North corridor, as the Port of Savannah continues to expand. The Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is also expanding cargo operations, and the state's population continues to grow, Roberts notes.

District Five

Job opportunities: The Pratt Subarea Office helped out Wednesday with Prairie Independent Living Resource Center and South Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative's Job-a-Thon 2018.

Highway Maintenance Supervisor Leroy Lewis said the subarea has been involved with the Job-A-Thon since its start. The event helps students with disabilities learn more about how to fill out a job application and about local job and career opportunities.



Above: Students at the job fair learned more about how to fill out job applications and got to see KDOT's equipment up close. At left: Equipment Operator Kevin Mazzanti, Equipment Operator Steven Walters, Equipment Operator Tristan Younkman and Equipment Operator Specialist Dennis Oller staffed the job fair in Pratt.

Traffic Safety

Reduce distracted driving: KDOT is encouraging everyone to participate in the Red Thumb Challenge to raise awareness of the risks of distracted driving. Until the end of April, simply paint a thumbnail red and share on social media using #RedThumbChallenge.

"Every single day, you see it on the roads. You notice someone veering into your lane or driving slower than everyone else, only to see that driver looking at their phone and not focusing on the road," said Chris Bortz, KDOT Traffic Safety Program Manager.

"Distracted driving has no place on our roadways. Not only are you putting you and your passengers in jeopardy, but you're endangering others as well."

By painting a thumbnail red, it serves as an instant

reminder not to text while driving. Participants are encouraged to challenge everyone they know who gets behind the wheel to take the Red Thumb Challenge pledge.

Distracted driving is an increasing danger: since 2011, vehicle crashes in Kansas known to be related to cell phone distractions have increased by 31 percent, and fatalities have doubled. In 2016 alone, 633 car crashes were the result of a cell phone distraction. Of these, 267 people were injured and seven people were killed.

In addition to the Red Thumb Challenge, KDOT has created a special lock screen image to download

to their cell phones. For the Red Thumb Challenge lock screen, other participation tools and more information, go to @DriveSafeKansas on Facebook.

