

# Translines



**Inclement weather preparations**

## Traveler information services improved

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# KDOT well-positioned for transition



*By Secretary  
Deb Miller*

A lot of conversations are taking place throughout the agency these days about what to expect when the new administration takes office in January. Will there be changes to the new transportation program? Will there be changes in the size and makeup of the workforce? Who will be sitting in the Secretary's office?

I certainly can't give you answers to all of those questions right now. By the time my next column is published I'll probably be able to at least answer that last question. But, if the coming changes are keeping you awake at night, I can give you some advice and reassurance right now.

First, get your sleep. Second, relax. Third, it's going to be OK.

The great work we have done as an agency over the past eight years is well recognized by the new administration and transition team. I suspect that for most of you, your day-to-day job won't be any different next year than it is today.

In my 25 years in state government I've been through a lot of gubernatorial transitions. Every governor-elect is a new and different person with their own viewpoints, priorities and team around them. What I know with absolute certainty about how the new administration will run Kansas isn't enough to fill this column. But, based on what I know from past changes, what I know about Sen. Brownback and the people around him, and what I read in the papers, I can

offer a few observations.

Things may change in your world, but I don't think it will be a big change. I base that on the fact that KDOT has very high credibility. There's a high level of confidence in us. That's what I've heard from the Governor-elect and his staff. And I know our many friends in the consulting, contracting and engineering world have said to the new administration, "Please don't make big changes to KDOT." They tell me that the reaction they get from Sen. Brownback's team is, "why would we."

KDOT functions as well as or better than any agency in state government and I think there is a strong recognition of that. When you look at where we're headed, the work we do and the way we pursue our work, we've been on the right track. And that's recognized broadly across the state whether you're talking to a Democratic or Republican legislator or a city, county or state official.

I also know that one of Sen. Brownback's priorities is to grow the economy and he thinks that we should be leveraging our transportation investment in ways that help that happen. That, of course, is one of the key elements of T-WORKS and we're already moving in that direction.

While it's unrealistic to think that we won't see some new faces at KDOT, I don't think you're going to see big changes in the work we do or how we do it.

So, don't stress over this transition. My impression is that Sen. Brownback is very thoughtful. I think he will be guided by facts and will seek out many opinions. I think you can feel great about the way our agency is perceived.

The way you do your work every day is why KDOT is perceived as a good, quality, credible organization. You interact with the public every day and have proven that it's as much about how you engage people as it is about the work you do.

And that's why you should feed good about KDOT, what we do, yourselves and your future.



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## Calendar of Events

**Dec. 10** – 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

**Dec. 15** – 1 p.m. Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**Dec. 24** – State employees off for Christmas holiday.

**Dec. 31** – State employees off for New Year's Day holiday.

# Johnson retiring after career in Chief Counsel

By Stan Whitley

It was a much different world when Vicky Johnson walked in the door as an Attorney I for KDOT in 1983.

“When I started here there was frustration with past legal outcomes,” said Johnson. “Attorneys were not in the office full time and many of them had private practices on the side. Some of the engineers didn’t think we were capable of defending cases and it wasn’t worth talking to us.”

Johnson retires on Jan. 1 after 32 years at the state, with 28 at KDOT. During her career, she advanced through Legal and several times served as Acting Bureau Chief before being appointed Chief Counsel in November 2007.

“I think the biggest change I’ve seen is the relationship legal has had with the rest of the agency,” said Johnson. “It’s been a complete 180 and people actively

seek our advice on issues and cooperate when we’re involved in a case.”

Johnson said it was like walking on egg shells when she started working for KDOT.



Vicky Johnson

“I had three strikes against me – I was a woman, a lawyer and in my 20s,” she said. “Most of the women at KDOT were in clerical positions, so some people weren’t comfortable working with a young, woman lawyer.”

Johnson has stressed open and honest communication between lawyers and KDOT personnel during her tenure at the agency. She said it’s also imperative the technical aspects of KDOT are clearly communicated to assist lawyers.

“Are we being asked to defend something we did that was right or wrong?” said Johnson. “That’s a question we need to have answered before

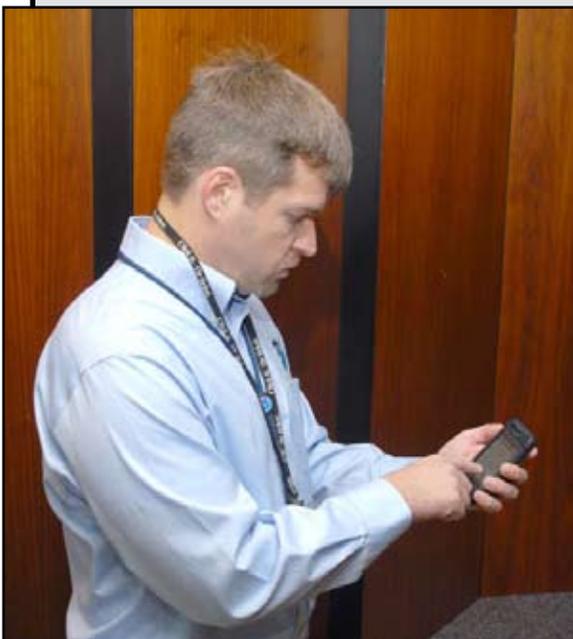
we go to court.”

Her standard spiel she’s lived by as an attorney is she doesn’t like surprises “unless it’s her birthday or Christmas morning and if I find one when I get to court I will be p-oed.”

The legal profession was not the first career choice for Johnson. She grew up on a farm and originally wanted to be a veterinarian until she found out she was allergic to formaldehyde. She changed her plans and earned both law and masters degrees in public administration from the University of Kansas.

She will have many activities during retirement. For starters, she and her husband, Hal, have six children, 14 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The couple owns a farm in Jefferson County where she will have time to enjoy her passion for horseback riding and gardening. Camping, hiking and kayaking at their Beaver Lake home in Arkansas will also keep her busy.



*Chad Omitt, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Topeka, uses some of the new traveler information services now available at the Nov. 17 news conference at the Eisenhower Building.*

## KDOT announces improved traveler information services

Secretary Deb Miller announced improvements to KDOT’s traveler information services at an event Nov. 17 in cooperation with the National Weather Service “Kansas Winter Weather Awareness Day.”

An enhanced 511 Mobile application now available at <http://511mm.ksdot.org> provides map, camera and electronic message sign views, road conditions, work zone and event information and links to weather. The site is accessible from multiple devices with text information available to any devices that are not compatible.

Other improvements include:

- ♦The voice recognition technology has been upgraded on the 511 phone system to improve user accuracy.
- ♦Enhanced camera views were added to KanDrive, [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org), the KDOT’s traveler information gateway for Kansas and surrounding states.
- ♦KDOT has also partnered with Traffiland to make live video from our cameras available to the media.

“Safety for travelers is KDOT’s top priority and providing traveler information services is certainly one very important way to keep travelers informed so they can make good travel decisions, especially during harsh winter driving conditions,” Miller said.

For more information, visit [www.kandrive.org/info.asp](http://www.kandrive.org/info.asp).

Secretary Deb Miller, front row, left, poses with members of the District Three, Area Two, Colby Subarea team after they received the Example of Excellence award.



# Team improves on-ramp for travelers

By Kim Stich

With the on-ramp at exit 54 on I-70 being built as a low volume exit in 1984, continual maintenance problems began to plague this exit when it became heavily used by trucks.

The District Three, Area Two, Colby Subarea team worked together to solve this problem and was recognized as an Example of Excellence for the third quarter of 2010. Secretary Deb Miller attended the ceremony on Oct. 26 in Colby.

“The Colby Subarea took on a task that had never been performed by maintenance forces in District Three,” said District Three Engineer Jeff Stewart.

To reconstruct the ramp, Thomas County loaned the crew a Bomag Recycler and an operator to assist with the full depth reclamation work. Two of the four trucks with fly-ash had flat tires on the way to the project site, but the KDOT workers stayed to get that part of the job completed on time, Stewart said. After many loads of asphalt were placed, the ramp was opened to traffic.

“Because of the hard work and dedication of all the KDOT employees involved, we were able to provide an on-ramp that will withstand the increased semi loads at exit 54 with the installment of Bosselman’s Truck Center,” he said.

Member of the team include: Troy Bell, Dan Bohme, Joe Capo, Justin Carver, Corwyn Chessmore, Michael Cook, Kirk Coulter, David Depperschmidt, Gerald Griggs, Ryan Maaske, Timothy Micek, Darla Nichols, Eric Oelschlager, Joseph Parker, Bradley Reeh, Jimmy Reyna, Michael Sheley, Michael Terry, Todd Tompkins, Kyle Winston and Kenneth Withington.



Do you know of a KDOT group, team, unit, or office that has gone above the call of duty? Then nominate them for the Example of Excellence award. All KDOT employees are encouraged to suggest ideas and can now fill out Form DOT 1204. Once it is filled out, the nomination is then sent to the selected Division Director, Bureau Chief, District Engineer, Area Engineer, or Subarea Supervisor who can then sign the form and submit the nomination to Transportation Information.

Hard copies of the form are still available by calling Transportation Information at 785-296-3585 and require the signature of one of the supervisors listed above.

The award is given quarterly with nominations for the fourth quarter due to the Bureau of Transportation Information by Dec. 31.

On the...

COVER

*KDOT crews handle inclement weather on the roadways throughout the winter. When a storm hits, there are several options for motorists to receive the latest road and weather information. See story on page 3.*

## Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in January.

### Headquarters

**LeaAnn S. Curtis**, Bureau Chief of Personnel Services

**Vicky S. Johnson**, Bureau Chief of Chief Counsel

**Donald F. Sims**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design

### District Two

**Stephen G. Ash**, Engineering Technician, Junction City

**Larry L. Disney**, Storekeeper Specialist, Salina

**Frank Railsback**, Equipment Operator Senior, Mankato

### District Five

**Harold E. Havens**, Equipment Operator, Newton

The following employees officially retired from KDOT in November.

### District One

**Daniel W. Casper**, Engineering Technician Senior, Bonner Springs

**Teresa J. Gulick**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Eureka

### District Five

**Harrison D. Sims**, Engineering Technician Senior, Wichita

### District Six

**Jimmy D. Gilbert**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Garden City

*Employees who choose to have retirement reception information shared on the Internet can be found at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), under News and Announcements.*



*The new concrete surface of K-61 about four miles south of McPherson is smoothed.*

## Four lane K-61 expansion project taking shape

A new four-lane K-61 roadway between McPherson and Hutchinson is starting to take shape, but there's still plenty of work ahead before the long anticipated \$105.6 million project is completed.

"This project is like a jigsaw puzzle working on different phases in two counties," said Kelly Heitmann, K-61 Project Manager for the general contractor Koss Construction Company. "We hope to have motorists traveling on one new lane of southbound K-61 in McPherson County before the season is over."

The 14.5-mile McPherson County portion of the project was let for construction in April 2009. The \$64.2 million project completed KDOT's commitment to the Comprehensive Transportation Program, thanks to an infusion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

Heitmann said about 70 percent of the bridge work and 40 percent of the paving work have already been completed. He anticipated the McPherson County work would be done by November 2011.

The Reno County portion of the project was let for bids in February 2009. Total

construction cost of the 8.6-mile project is \$41.1 million.

"We've got about 50 percent of the bridge work done in Reno County and the majority of the paving work left," said Heitmann. "If the weather cooperates we could have the Reno County work completed by the third quarter of 2012."

Reno County interchanges are being constructed at 56th Street and the Medora exit. In McPherson County, a modified interchange will be built at K-153 and a new interchange at Inman.

A major benefit of the four-lane project will be enhanced safety when it's completed. A maximum of 7,300 vehicles per day travel the roadway in Reno County and every year approximately 300,000 trucks, hauling primarily agricultural products, travel through the corridor.

Hutchinson is the largest city in Kansas not served by an interstate and K-61 is a direct link to I-135. The four-lane roadway will also improve access to the southwest corner of McPherson to accommodate increased traffic from industrial development in the area. **-S.W.**

# District News...

## Saving dirt saves money

And now for the "rest of the story" - the dirt being stored off U.S. 69 at the College Boulevard interchange area is excess dirt that is being removed from the current U.S. 69 reconstruction project north of 103rd Street.

A future project that is currently scheduled to be let in spring 2011 in the I-435 area will require the addition of tons of dirt for project construction.

As a cost savings measure, the excess dirt from the U.S. 69 project will be stored at the U.S. 69 and College Boulevard interchange area and also at the U.S. 69 and Blue Valley Parkway area.

The stockpiled dirt at both locations will be stored a safe distance from the roadway. The dirt at the U.S. 69 and College Boulevard interchange area will be regraded and then seed will be added for erosion control purposes. The dirt will be stored through late 2011 or possibly longer if needed.

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*Dirt being stored along U.S. 69 will be used on a future project, saving money and materials.*

America and South America. Originally conceived in 1923 as a single route, the road grew to include a great number of designated highways in participating countries. The Inter-American Highway, from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, to Panama City (3,350 miles), is a part of it.

## Bridge work finishing

Work is finishing on a bridge project located north of Lebanon on U.S. 281 in Smith County. The Area One Office in Phillipsburg is overseeing the project to replace an older span bridge with a new box bridge.

The highway was scheduled to be opened to unrestricted traffic in late November, said Area One Construction Engineer Jim Riener. But earthwork,

**District Three**

seeding and cleanup will continue in the next few months to complete the project.

Traffic had been controlled by a traffic signal and routed onto a shoofly detour while the driving lanes were under construction.

Klaver Construction of Kingman is the prime contractor in charge of the \$919,276 job.

## Rail yard relocated

A \$10.2 million federal Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery II (TIGER II) grant is providing funds toward the relocation of a rail yard in southeast Kansas. The new South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) switching yard is under construction several miles north of the existing yard at Cherryvale. Five of the SKOL subdivisions come together at Cherryvale, making it the hub of the rail system.

The relocation project began last June, following a groundbreaking ceremony with Secretary Deb Miller and local officials. The grant funding will complete the second phase of the new yard, including construction of a me-

**District Four**

**Continued on page 7**

## West speaks at meeting

Randy West, District Two Engineer, spoke at the Pan American Highway Association meeting Nov. 8 in Yankton, S.D.

West spoke on the current condition of U.S. 81 and efforts being made to maintain the four-lane expressway. He showed several before-and-after photos of recent projects to stabilize sections of the roadway to improve the ride for those traveling U.S. 81.

The Pan-American Highway is a network of highways connecting North

**District Two**



*A TIGER II grant is providing funding for the second phase of a project to relocate the SKOL switching yard from Cherryvale to a rural area several miles north of town. Photo by Priscilla Petersen*

## District News

Continued from page 6

chanical shop that will provide services to a fleet of over 40 locomotives.

The switching yard's rural location will enable SKOL to eliminate stationary rail cars within downtown Cherryvale and reduce potential interactions with schoolchildren. Crossing interruptions will also be dramatically reduced in downtown Cherryvale, and train switching movements will be removed from at-grade crossings in the city.

In addition, the TIGER II grant will fund improvements on SKOL tracks between Cherryvale and Neodesha, Humboldt, and Tulsa, Okla. The federal government provides 80 percent of the project cost, with KDOT and SKOL each providing \$1.7 million.

Watco Transportation Services, Inc., of Pittsburg owns and operates SKOL.

## U.S. planning efforts

The U.S. 54 Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and Interstate Transportation (SPIRIT) organization, representing the interests of communities and businesses in promoting the four-lane expansion of U.S. 54 between Wichita and El Paso, held its annual conference in Greensburg on Oct. 14-15. The conference provided the opportunity for representatives from KDOT,



*The newly-renovated Sublette Subarea provides more than 11,000 square feet of space, plenty of room for trucks, motor graders and other equipment. Photo by Kirk Hutchinson*

Oklahoma DOT and Texas DOT to discuss plans for U.S. 54 improvements in their states.

KDOT speakers at the conference included Secretary Deb Miller discussing the Kansas T-WORKS Transportation Program, Deputy Secretary for Engineering & State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger participating in a panel discussion on how the DOTs in the different states work together, and District Six Engineer Larry Thompson outlining U.S. 54 improvements in southwest Kansas.

Bob Cook, District Five Engineer, provided details about U.S. 54 four-lane projects currently under construction in Pratt and Kingman counties and future U.S. 54 improvements in south

central Kansas, including the new U.S. 54 alignment developed for the City of Greensburg after the 2005 tornado.

## New KDOT building

The Sublette Subarea crew recently moved into a new building without having to build one. Five years ago, KDOT acquired a large metal building that had once been used for grain storage just north of the subarea facility in Sublette. The building offers more than 11,000 square feet of space. Renovation began last year and included adding a new metal skin to the outside of the building, insulating the structure and constructing office space at one end at a cost of just under \$500,000.

The crew moved into the building in October and has already taken advantage of the additional space. Billy Bell, Subarea Supervisor, says "I can have all my trucks and motor graders parked in here out of the weather, fully loaded and outfitted to fight a storm, so all we have to do is start up and go."

The original subarea building is currently used for storage. Haskell County has expressed interest in acquiring the building for use as its Emergency Medical Services facility.

**District Five**

**District Six**



*District Six Engineer Larry Thompson speaks at the U.S. 54 meeting in Greensburg. Photo by Martin Miller*

*Information for the District news briefs section is provided by the District Public Affairs Managers.*

# New intercity bus service begins

By Steve Swartz

Bus service that will connect Wichita and Salina and provide southwest Kansas a link to the national intercity bus network began Nov. 9.

The service, called the Beeline Express, provides two round-trips daily between Salina and Wichita and one round-trip daily between Wichita and Pueblo, Colo. The new lines are operated by Prestige Bus Lines of Wichita. Both routes are the result of agreements between KDOT and Prestige, with an additional agreement on the Wichita-to-Pueblo route between the Colorado Department of Transportation and Prestige.

“These routes will restore intercity bus service to southwest Kansas, which has lacked a connection to the national bus system for years,” said Joel Skelley, State Multimodal Planner for KDOT. “This route, along with the Wichita-to-Salina route, will provide an important service to Kansans who have no other travel options or simply prefer to ride, rather than drive.”

Federal funding is being used to purchase two new buses for each route and to assist with operating expenses such as fuel, personnel and maintenance. A portion of the funds come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Under the Recovery Act, 15 percent of the rural transit allocation in each state must be used for intercity transit. That figure in Kansas is about \$2 million.

According to Dave Rockey, owner of Prestige Bus Lines, the two new



Riders on the Beeline Express take a break in Garden City on the first day of service. Photos by Kirk Hutchinson

routes have been carefully planned with the goal of meeting both passenger comforts and freight hauling needs.

Cities that are served by the Beeline Express include:

**Wichita-Pueblo, Colo., route** - (In Kansas) Wichita, Hutchinson, Dodge City, Garden City, Syracuse; (In Colorado) Granada, Lamar, Las Animas, La Junta, Rocky Ford, Fowler, Pueblo.

**Wichita-Salina route** - Wichita, Newton, McPherson, Lindsborg, Salina.

For more information about the service, routes and travel times, visit [www.Beeline-Express.com](http://www.Beeline-Express.com).



The Beeline Express cruises along U.S. 83 in southwest Kansas.

**Kansas Economic Recovery Jobs Report**

*The three-month numbers at right illustrate jobs thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.*

October 2010	Non-KDOT	KDOT Only	Total
Employees	2,836	229	3,065
Hours	158,079	10,183	168,262
Payroll	\$3,785,959	\$211,778	\$3,997,737
September '10	Non-KDOT	KDOT Only	Total
Employees	2,857	285	3,142
Hours	151,480	10,338	161,818
Payroll	\$3,437,882	\$214,549	\$3,652,431
August 2010	Non-KDOT	KDOT Only	Total
Employees	3,684	319	4,003
Hours	189,715	14,415	204,130
Payroll	\$4,889,024	\$300,560	\$5,189,58

Dear Editor

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Dear KDOT:**

I have no idea to whom I should address this, but I owe a long overdue Thank You letter to the men and women of the Kansas DOT. Hopefully someone reads this and is able to pass on my sentiments.

On Christmas morning, 2009, I left Omaha on my way to Dallas in order to catch a plane to New York to see my children. You may remember the blizzard that tore through the Midwest that day and, according to Fox news, caused 500 accidents and killed 18

people.

Long story short, I inched my way through Missouri in my little Volkswagen hatchback with barely any visibility or signs of life around me, losing hope that I would get to the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport in time to spend Christmas holiday with my children. By the time I came to the Kansas border and I-35 I had decided I'd probably stop in KC rather than spend Christmas in a ditch.

I decided to tell my kids I couldn't make it because of the storm, but fortunately, and against all odds as far as I was concerned, your portion of the Interstate was clear. You guys had clearly spent hours and hours, on Christmas

morning, making sure the Interstate was clear even though the likelihood of any traffic on it was very, very low.

I cannot thank your Department enough. If your portion of I-35 had been anywhere near as bad as I-29 in Iowa and Missouri, or Oklahoma's portion of I-35, I would not have seen my kids for Christmas before I deployed to the war, and I would have gone a year without seeing them at all.

Thank you. Please thank the men and women who work thanklessly and tirelessly every day to keep the Kansas roads safe and clear.

Respectfully,  
Robert C. Davis,  
San Angelo, Texas

## Whitlock honored for safety efforts

Darlene Whitlock, co-chair of the Driving Force safety task force, was honored as the 2010 recipient of the Bal Jeffrey Award.

Whitlock serves as the Trauma Services Education Coordinator for Stormont-Vail HealthCare in Topeka. She has spent many hours advocating safety



**Darlene Whitlock**

improvements for all types of traffic issues such as child safety, booster seats, seat belt use and trauma care.

"There may be no one more committed to improving the health and well-being of Kansans than Darlene," said Secretary Deb Miller. "Because of her work in both the emergency room and in the committee rooms of the Statehouse, families have benefitted from Darlene's contributions to public health."

The Bal Jeffrey Award is named for Stormont-Vail's longest tenured board member and recognizes distinguished contributors to health care in northeast Kansas.

## Celebrating 40 years of service



**KDOT employees celebrating 40 years of service in 2010 are pictured with Secretary Deb Miller (back row, second from left). The honorees include (first row) Dennis Slimmer, Suzanne Domme, Gregory Doyle, (second row) Nancy Kratzberg, Secretary Miller, Daniel McGinty and Leland Tice. Not pictured are Rickman Burton, James Jasper, Louis Thompson. Photo by Kurt Weaverling**

*Fun Facts  
and Trivia*

**Do you know?**

**Kansas Fun Facts**  
Part Three

- ♦ Cedar Crest is the name of the governor's mansion in Topeka, the state capital.
- ♦ Barton County is the only Kansas County that is named for a woman; the famous volunteer Civil War nurse Clara Barton.
- ♦ The Arkansas River may be the only river whose pronunciation changes as it crosses state lines. In Kansas, it is called the Arkansas (ahr-KAN-zuhs). On both sides of Kansas (Colorado and Oklahoma), it is called the Arkansas.
- ♦ Civil War veteran S.P. Dinsmoor used more than 100 tons of concrete to build the Garden of Eden in Lucas. Even the flag above the mausoleum is made of concrete.
- ♦ Handel's Messiah has been presented in Lindsborg each at Easter since 1889.
- ♦ A monument to the first Christian martyr on United States Territory stands along U.S. 56 near Lyons. Father Juan de Padilla came to the region with the explorer Coronado in 1541.

Source: <http://www.50states.com/facts/kansas.htm>

★ ★ ★  
**KDOT salutes our troops**  
★ ★ ★

*KDOT would like to recognize its employees who have returned home from military service. Employees are listed by district and their branch of service.*

**Ryan Lynch**, Engineering Associate II, Transportation Safety & Technology, National Guard

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.*

**Construction begins**



*Numerous state and national dignitaries broke ground for the new visitor center and administrative office buildings at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve near Strong City on Nov. 12. Photo by Kurt Weaverling*

**Deaths**

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

**Ronald J. Fulton** 69, died Nov. 10, in Topeka. He worked at KDOT for 35 years before retiring in 1995.

Survivors include his wife, Courtney, two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be given to the American Diabetes Association, 837 S. Hillside, Wichita, KS 67211 or to Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church, 6020 S.E. 44th St., Tecumseh, KS 66542.

**Melvin C. Kroemer** 73, died Nov. 7 in Topeka. He worked for many years in the Design Coordinating Section. Survivors

include his wife, Jeanette and one son.

Memorial contributions may be made to Loving Hearts Training Center or Central Park Christian Church and sent in care of the Davidson Funeral Home, 1035 N. Kansas Ave., 66608.

**Bob Moran**, 81, died Nov. 5 in Wichita. He worked as a mechanic in Chanute for 19 years before his retirement in 1996.

Survivors include his wife of the home, one daughter, five grandchildren, one brother and one sister.

Memorials may be made to the Salvation Army or First United Methodist Church and sent to Penwell-Gabel-Johnson Chapel, 101 North Highland, Chanute, Ks., 66720.



## Step Back in Time



*A Kansas Turnpike Authority feasibility report is presented to government officials in February 1954. Ground was broken for the 236-mile system on Dec. 31, 1954, and it was opened to traffic on Oct. 25, 1956.*

## Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

### Classes at Headquarters

- ♦Ouch! Supervisor Training, Dec. 21
- ♦PE Review, Jan. 9-13
- ♦ART Day 1,2,3, Jan. 18-20
- ♦Ouch! Supervisor Training, Jan. 20
- ♦Transition to Leadership/You'll Catch on/Ethics, Jan. 24-28
- ♦Ouch! Supervisor Training, Feb. 15

### Classes at District Offices

- ♦Transition to Leadership & Ethics, Dec. 7-9, Hutchinson
- ♦You'll Catch on, Dec. 14-15, Hutchinson
- ♦Ouch Supervisor Training, Dec. 7, Pittsburg
- ♦Ouch supervisor Training, Dec. 8, Independence
- ♦Diversity Training, Feb. 25, Chanute

## Promotions/Transfers

### Headquarters

**LeAnn Oblander, Senior**  
Administrative Assistant, Right of Way

### District One

**Shawn A. Gessner, Equipment**  
Operator Specialist, Kansas City

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.*

# M I L E S T O N E S

## KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in December

### 10 YEARS

Jared Beary . . . . . White City  
Robert Bidwell . . . . . Topeka  
Jeanette Branam . . . . . Topeka  
Tammi Clark . . . . . Topeka  
Vernon Hess . . . . . Wichita  
Ruth Malloy . . . . . Silver Lake  
Kevin Offutt . . . . . Healy  
Britton Rice . . . . . Hutchinson  
Douglas Williams . . . . . Wilsey

### 30 YEARS

Debra Artzer . . . . . Topeka  
Lynn Gormley . . . . . Horton  
John Rosacker . . . . . Topeka  
Charles Scott . . . . . Anthony

### 40 YEARS

Nancy Johnson . . . . . Topeka  
Robert Kennedy . . . . . Topeka

### 20 YEARS

Michael Ayala . . . . . Leoti  
Jacob Bausch . . . . . Mayetta  
Charles Brobst . . . . . Scott City  
Richard Gardner . . . . . Osage City

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

# KDOT Computer Training

*– from the KCTC*

Increase your efficiency!

## Another Space Saving Tip!

### How to package email and save in a PDF portfolio

Important emails and their attachments can be permanently saved. This allows the emails to be removed from Outlook, saving server space.

When you convert the emails to PDF, the attachments are attached to the adobe PDFs in their native formats. So any Word docs, for example, would still be Word docs after the conversion.

Here's how:

- Go to Outlook
- Select the email(s) you want to add to the PDF package/portfolio
- Click the Adobe PDF menu, then point to Convert Selected Messages
  - Click Create new PDF to create a new one
  - Click Append to Existing PDF if you already have a PDF and you want to add the selected emails to it (or, if you see the one you want to append it to right there in the list, just click it)
- Next, the PDF portfolio should open, and you'll see the message(s)
- To see the attachments, click the paper clip button in the lower left corner or click View, Navigation Panels, Attachments

Check out the shared calendar: KCTC for on-going classes. Contact the KCTC at [kctc@ksdot.org](mailto:kctc@ksdot.org) or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993.

**Kansas Department of Transportation**  
*Bureau of Transportation Information*  
Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 SW Harrison, Second Floor, West  
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

PRE-SORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TOPEKA, KS  
PERMIT No. 157

**NOTE:** This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, KS, 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

## Welcome new KDOT employees!

### Headquarters

**Stacey Lowe**, Professional Civil Engineer II, Materials and Research  
**Leah Morris**, Engineering Associate III, Design  
**Mia Warlick**, Right of Way Property Appraiser I, Right of Way

### District Two

**Diane Davis**, Administrative Assistant, Marion  
**Misty Klima**, Administrative Assistant, Clay Center

### District Three

**Jocelyn Bencken**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Oakley

**Tyler Flipse**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Oakley  
**Keith Mannis**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Colby  
**Michael Parsons**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Russell  
**Jesse Wilkie** Equipment Operator Trainee, Hays

### District Four

**Cody King**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Louisburg

### District Five

**Colet Richardson**, Administrative Assistant, Wichita

### District Six

**Greg Adams**, Engineering Associate III, Liberal  
**Joyce Mullenbruch**, Engineering Associate III, Dodge City  
*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new employees to Translines.*