

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

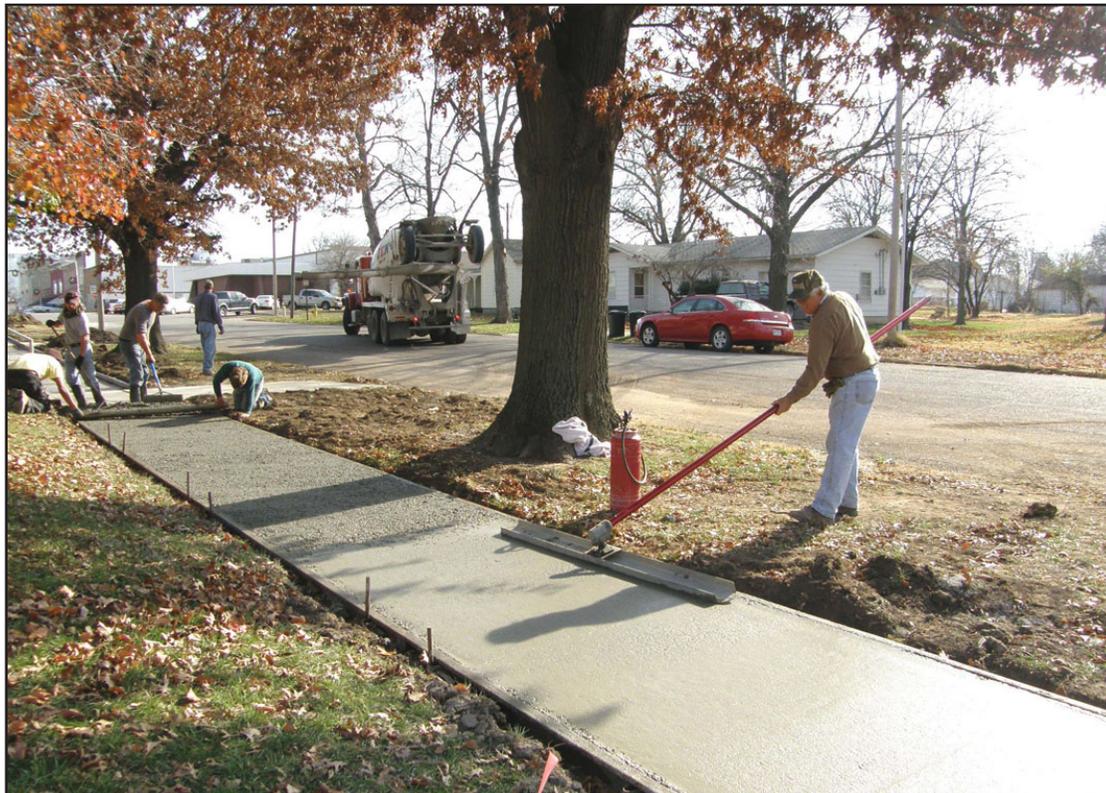
Answers are below

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.

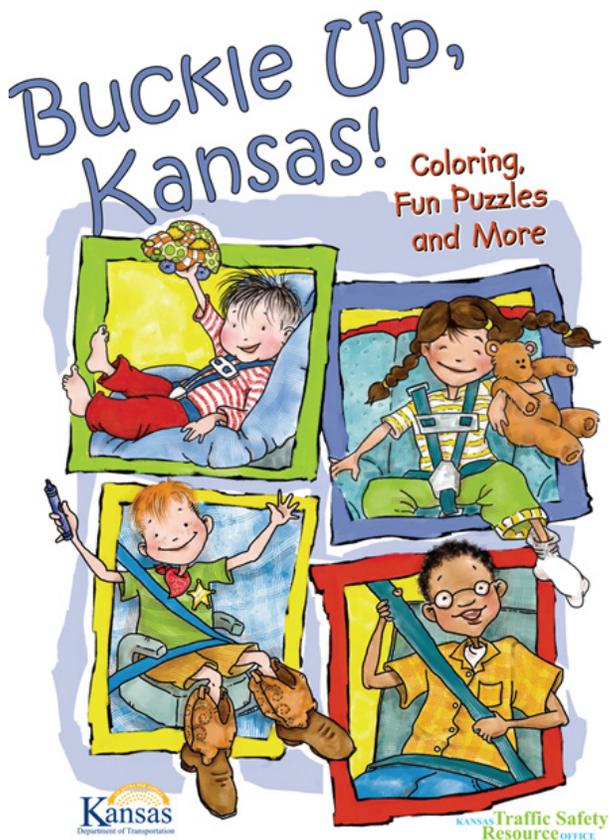
◆ **Track Stars award.** Salina Subarea Crew, presented by Col. Ernest Garcia of the Kansas Highway Patrol. When the Salina airport could no longer be used to train new troopers on the operation of a patrol car, KDOT staff worked hard to prepare an area at the Waterwell Road facility – a great example 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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Since 1950, Wakeeney transforms its downtown business district into a holiday wonderland between Thanksgiving and New Year's. It is known as the "Christmas City of the High Plains" and features about three miles of electrical wiring, 1,400 pounds of fresh greenery and 1,100 yards of fresh greenery roping. This annual tradition is considered the largest Christmas tree and lighting display between Kansas City and Denver. It's also a part of the Smoky Valley Kansas Byway.

District Four

A Very Happy Ending: A Kansas City area woman was excited and 'a little shocked' to have her cell phone returned after it was lost for more than a year along U.S.69 in Miami County. According to Kevin White, an Equipment Operator Senior at the Louisburg Subarea, the woman figured the phone was gone along with her phone's cache of digital family photos. The woman, a member of the U.S. military who served in Afghanistan for the past year, lost her phone on June 11, 2011. She and her daughter returned to search along U.S. 69 but were unable to locate the phone themselves. In early November of this year, Louisburg Equipment Operator Cody King was repairing a highway delineator when he discovered the phone on the right-of-way just

south of 335th Street. King brought the phone to White, who took it home and ran a recovery on the media card. White described the phone as wet, busted and waterlogged. In spite of the damage, White was able to recover 9,000 digital photos and a file containing the owner's email address. White sent her an email on Nov. 14 and finally on Nov. 27, a week after the woman returned from Afghanistan, she replied with a text that read, "wow- that is my phone!" The woman recently visited the Louisburg Subarea to retrieve her phone. "Needless to say she was glad to have her pictures back," White said. "That phone sat out there for 17 months. I'm sure it's been mowed over many a time."

Office of Public Affairs

New PIO. Ann Williamson has joined KDOT as the Public Information Officer. Williamson comes to the agency after more than 10 years at the Topeka Capital-Journal, where she was a photographer and most recently a content producer. She wrote stories, produced videos and shot photographs for the newspaper and its website. She is a journalism graduate of the University of Montana and is married to Alex Wiebel, sports director at Kansas First News in Topeka. She replaces Steve Swartz who is now Chief of the Office of Public Affairs.



Ann Williamson

Reminder

This Friday, Dec. 21 is the last day to use your 2012 Discretionary Day. Don't forget - it's use it or lose it.

District Two

The Minneapolis Subarea crew includes, from left to right, (front row) Supervisor Paul Mutschler, James Struble, Gayle Allen, Dave Bergman, (back row) Brion Rensink, Cole Malmberg, James Koster and Clyde Thrush.



Minneapolis Subarea Achieves Goal: The Minneapolis Subarea crew has achieved the distinction of becoming the first crew in District Two to reach 100 percent Equipment Operator Seniors. "They all worked hard, following the guidelines of the EO Senior program," said Subarea Supervisor Paul Mutschler.

The Equipment Operator Senior program was developed and completed in July of 2000.

The goal of the program was to provide a career path for

Equipment Operators and to develop and maintain a well trained staff.

The program is voluntary and employee driven with the support of their Supervisor.

In order for the Equipment Operator to be promoted to Equipment Operator Senior, the employee must have 4 1/2 years as an Equipment Operator, fulfill all program requirements and have a current performance evaluation of at least "meets expectations."

In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Don Sims who died Dec. 5 in Topeka.

The Rest of the Story: Tim Weigel is a member of the Snow Angels team that received an Orange Hero award. His name was left out the last Translines Express. Here is the corrected information - **Snow Angels award.** Mark Davis, Max Dirks, Jerry Glassman, Dave Marsh, Ron Munyan, Larry Kjellberg, Burke Koehn, Jason Lawrence, Jason Gerstner and Tim Weigel. Employees from different offices worked together to carry 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.

Traffic Safety

Learning the Right Way to Buckle Children in Car Seats:

The Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office has a new searchable database for car seat inspection stations in the state. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children, due in large part to the nonuse or improper use of child safety seats and seat belts. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that more than 85 percent of all car seats are improperly installed. Located in the "Child Passenger Safety" tab of the website, anyone can search for the nearest station by agency name, city or county. Simply go to <http://www.ktsro.org/child-passenger-safety> and click on "Find a Car Seat Inspection Station in Kansas."



KDOT Metropolitan Planning Manager Davonna Moore buckles her daughter Lanie in to her rear-facing car seat.

Trivia!

- 1. Clyde Tombaugh of Burdett is famous for discovering this in 1930.**
A. A new species of gophers
B. Ionization
C. Wind energy production
D. Pluto
- 2. Ottawa County is named for:**
A. Ottawa, Canada
B. Joseph Ottawa
C. The Ottawa Indians
D. Ottawa, England
- 3. What year did the one-room country school become a thing of the past in Kansas?**
A. 1946
B. 1956
C. 1966
D. 1976

Answers are below

Local Consult summaries: Summaries of this fall's eight Local Consult meetings have been posted on the KDOT website. Participants provided input on highway projects, revenue sources and modal programs. Go to <http://www.ksdot.org/divPublicAff/default.asp> to view the summary of the meetings as well as the list of highway projects Kansans identified as their top priorities.

District Three



District Three Engineer Jeff Stewart, second from right, talks with meeting attendees about future transportation needs in Colby.

State and local officials as well as area residents came together to discuss an area transportation plan last Friday in Colby. The plan asks Colby residents, landowners, businesses and community leaders what the current and anticipated future needs are for their transportation system.

At the meeting, the plan and its purpose were outlined. The study area was shown to a crowd of about 40 attendees, with zoning and future land uses also outlined. Existing traffic conditions were displayed on a simulated computer model, and areas of congestion or concern were identified.



Installation of seven new camera poles on K-96 in Wichita should be completed by Christmas. The holes are 42 inches wide and 13 feet deep. At one of the sites, the water table was discovered at 12 feet.

Legislature

Transportation chairmen: Legislative leaders last week announced the new chairmen for the two transportation committees. In the House, Richard Proehl of Parsons was named chairman and Ron Ryckman Sr. of Meade was selected as vice chair. In the Senate, the new chair is Mike Petersen of Wichita and the vice chair is Kay Wolf of Prairie Village.

Revenue

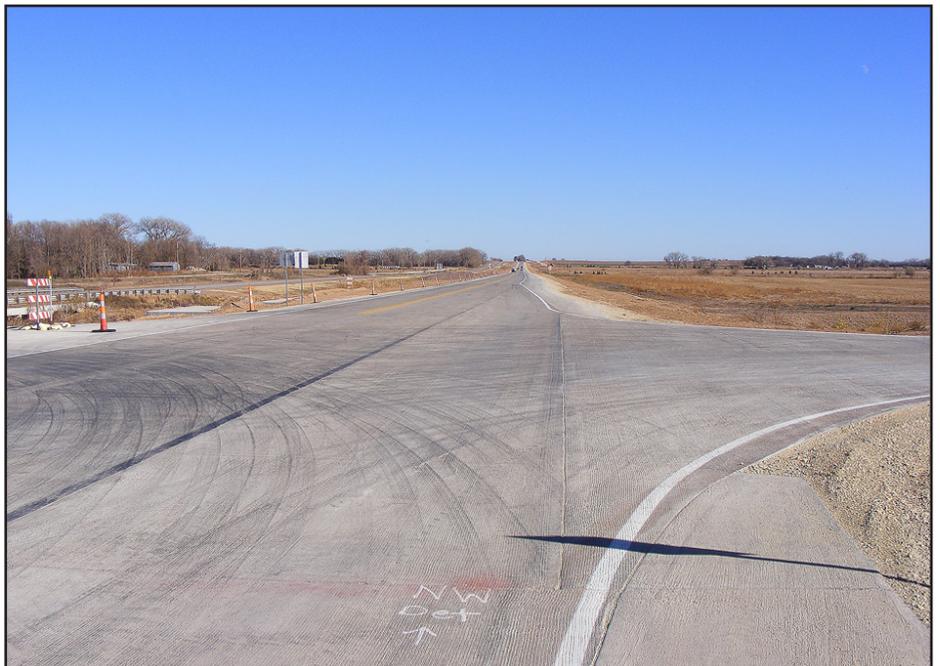
Bonds sold: KDOT sold \$200 million of Series 2012C tax-exempt bonds through a competitive sale Dec. 6. The bonds were purchased by Bank of America Merrill Lynch at a low total interest cost of 2.15 percent. The proceeds of the issue will be used for highway projects.

TRIVIA ANSWERS -

1. D. Pluto
2. C. The Ottawa Indians
3. C. 1966

Challenge

Less is more: Secretary Mike King has been handpicked by Gov. Sam Brownback to be a member of the Governor's "Weight Loss Challenge" team. The Governor recently challenged state employees and other interested groups to form teams of five to start eating healthier and to become more active in an effort to lose a greater percentage of weight than the Governor's team of five. Other members of the Governor's team include Acting Labor Secretary Lana Gordon, Commerce Secretary Pat George and Kansas Adjutant General Lee Tafanelli. Noted the Kansas City Star: "Brownback is himself a fairly trim individual, but he said, 'I've got some room here and then I've recruited some beefeaters.'" Official contest rules and the tracking system are at www.weightloss.ks.gov.



Phase 1 of the 2 1/2-mile U.S. 54 improvement west of Kingman is now complete with traffic switching to the newly-constructed lanes. The remaining two lanes of U.S. 54 are scheduled to be completed in June 2013.



The world's largest-diameter tunnel boring machine is currently being manufactured in Japan. The machine, named Bertha, will dig the State Route 99 tunnel beneath downtown Seattle beginning in summer 2013. The five-story-tall machine will arrive in Seattle in early 2013. The tunnel will open to traffic in late 2015.

A tunneling machine named Bertha: The Washington State Department of Transportation announced last week that the world's largest-diameter tunneling machine that will begin boring the SR 99 tunnel beneath downtown Seattle next summer now also has a name - Bertha. In fact, Bertha will tell about her work and experiences on Twitter.

"So nice to finally have an identity," @BerthaDigsSR99 tweeted. "Maybe now the folks at the passport agency will take my application."

Bertha's name was chosen as part of a contest for kindergarten to 12th-grade students. Proposed names had to be female and have significance to Washington state. Elected mayor of Seattle in 1926, Bertha Knight Landes was the first woman to lead a major American city. Crews in Japan are putting the finishing touches on the machine - they just installed its 57.5-foot-diameter cutterhead. She'll then be disassembled and arrive in Seattle next spring. For more information, visit <http://www.alaskanwayviaduct.org/>.

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

Happy Holidays!

The first edition of Translines Express in the New Year will be Jan. 9.