



Raising Awareness

Governor Bill Graves speaks in support of Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week on February 12 at the Capitol. Afterwards, Carlie Eichkorn shows Governor Graves how she can buckle the strap in her safety seat.



Amendment to affect upcoming retirees

A personnel regulation concerning direct bill participants in the State of Kansas Group Health Insurance Program has been amended effective January 21, 2001.

"This amendment is especially important for those employees approaching and planning for retirement," said KDOT Human Resources Professional Sandy Flickinger.

"...any person not maintaining continuous coverage in the group health insurance plan upon retirement after January 21 will not be allowed to re-enroll in the plan at a later date."

Sandy Flickinger

All direct bill participants enrolled in the state health care benefits program after January 21 are required to maintain continuous coverage in order to remain eligible to be enrolled in the program as a direct bill participant.

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Coworkers come through for friend in need

By Kim Stich

Christmas Eve didn't turn out to be a festive holiday for Brice Goebel, Construction Engineer at the Marion office, and his family, but they still have a lot to be thankful for. Everyone made it to safety after a fire broke out at their home in Marion on December 24.

"We were playing Twister with Dylan (his son) and my in-laws were over when the fire started," Brice said. It began to get smoky and they thought it was the chimney. Then Valerie, Brice's wife, saw fire shooting

out the roof's edge.

A quick call went to 911 and everyone got out of the house fast. The only things they were able to save were a few Christmas presents that they grabbed on the way out the door.

"When it first started, we hoped they could control it, but the firemen just couldn't stop it," Brice said. "The firemen worked hard, but it was an older house with a

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INSIDE ...

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- ◆ I-135 PROJECT RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY

- ◆ BONNER SPRINGS OFFICE HONORED FOR CONSERVATION
- ◆ PROJECT TOPEKA STRIVES TO MEET 2001 GOAL
- ◆ NEW OFFICIAL KANSAS MAP IS BETTER THAN EVER



From
Where
I Sit

by E. Dean Carlson

Survey results positive

Last fall, KDOT conducted its second statewide customer satisfaction survey of Kansas residents (the first external survey was in 1997). This phone survey of more than 1,800 people was designed to show us how we're doing in meeting the needs and expectations of our primary customers- the traveling public. You'll be hearing more about the results in the coming weeks but I wanted to touch upon a few highlights in this month's column.

Overall, Kansans think KDOT's performance of highway maintenance has improved since the last survey, with a mean satisfaction rating of 74 percent compared to 70 percent in 1997. I also found it interesting to note the five maintenance activities that they rated most highly or, in other words, what they think we do well. The top five were maintaining signs, fixing guard rails, maintaining bridges, removing debris and litter, and mowing.

It was also interesting to see what people thought were the five most important maintenance activities or, in other words, what activities they think maintenance crews should give priority. Those were fixing potholes, snow removal, pavement mark-

ings, fixing cracks, and maintaining lighting.


The survey also asked folks what they thought were the three least important maintenance activities. They were fixing guardrails, roadside mowing, and maintaining rest areas. Did you notice that two of the things that people think we do best are two of the things they think are least important? Does this mean we stop doing those things? Certainly not. It could well be that we do such a good job that those activities are "off the radar screen" of most people's minds. Whatever the reason, we can't make decisions based on survey results alone. What the survey does is give us a snap shot of how people are thinking and gives us just one more factor to consider when deciding priorities for funding or tasks. Our professional judgments and experience are key factors that must also come into play.

I'd like to share with you the results of two more questions from the survey that I found encouraging. Seventy-six percent of those who had an opinion say KDOT is doing a good job of providing a statewide transportation system, and another 22 percent thought KDOT was doing okay. Add those two numbers together and it means 98 percent of the folks think we're fulfilling our mission.

Ninety-two percent of those asked think funding for transportation should either increase (44 percent) or stay the same (48 percent) over the next five years. I don't think it's a coincidence that the numbers are strong both on funding and on how well we're doing our jobs. If people thought we were doing a poor job with the funding they're giving us, they would want to cut that funding.

This is another example of why you're always hearing that you are KDOT's most important asset. For all of the arguing


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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of Transportation Information
Docking State Office Building, 754-S
915 Harrison, Topeka, Ks 66612-1568

Governor: Bill Graves
Secretary of Transportation: E. Dean Carlson
Director of Public Affairs: Nancy Bogina
Chief of Transportation Information: Marty Matthews
Editors: Stan Whitley and Kim Stich



Phone/TTY: (785) 296-3585 FAX: (785) 296-0287

Calendar of Events

March 9 – 9:30 a.m. Highway Advisory Commission Meeting, 7th Floor, Docking State Office Building.

March 13 - 11 a.m. KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Seventh Floor Conference Room, Docking State Office Building.

March 14 - 2 p.m. Construction Bid Letting at Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel.

April 10-11 - Kansas State Engineering Conference in Manhattan at the K-State Union.

NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact the KDOT Office of Transportation Information, Docking State Office Building, Room 754, Topeka, Kan., 66612-1568, or phone (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/(TTY).

District Six bridge battles snow and ice

When you go into battle, you want the best weapons you can find. In the war against snow and ice that can mean new snowplows, RWIS (Road Weather Information System) sensors, salt brine, and more. This year, District Six has added another armament to its winter arsenal—a fixed anti-icing system on a bridge.

Bridges, overpasses and ramps are notorious for freezing quickly and endangering drivers, even when the rest of the highway may be dry. With a fixed anti-icing system you can attack immediately, without dispatching a truck, and you can put deicing material precisely where it's needed, when it's needed. When Dave Marsh, Area Supervisor in Syracuse, saw a demonstration at a conference, he figured the US-50/83/400 and K-156 interchange at Garden City would be a good place to try a fixed anti-icing



Last summer, District Six employees Andy Barton and Jimmy Gilbert install the pipe for the fixed anti-icing system on the US-50/83 and K-156 interchange.

system.

The bridge carries thousands of vehicles a day and has a history of ice-related accidents. In addition, one on-ramp has an incline, which can be tough to climb in icy conditions, and the other ramps curve, also a challenge to drivers when the pavement is slick.

Last summer, District Six mainte-

'I've been real pleased with it. I've had that bridge clean and dry when the rest of the road still has snow pack on it.'

Gerry Pearson

nance crews installed the equipment, purchased from Odin Systems in Illinois for \$60,000. The funding came from the Safety Set-Aside program.

The setup includes an on-site pump house, a 1,500-gallon storage tank, 5,800 feet of pipe and 24 spray nozzles. The nozzles look like oversized hockey pucks and are embedded in the pavement. When triggered using a pager, they spray a stream of liquid less than a foot above the pavement for one to two seconds. Vehicles track the chemical across the bridge and the approaches to completely cover the road surface.

District Six Maintenance Engineer Ron Hall decided to use Cryotech CMAK (Calcium Magnesium Acetate with Potassium) as the anti-icing liquid, even

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Babcock, Area Four honored by KHP

Going the extra mile to provide a helping hand is commonplace for District One, Area Four Superintendent John Babcock. That special quality was recently recognized by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Babcock received a certification of appreciation from the KHP during a ceremony January 24 in Topeka. Capt. Kent Dean presented the certificate to Babcock in recognition for dedicated service and assistance to Troop B in Topeka.

"This recognition is long overdue," said Capt. Dean. "We appreciate your assistance to Troop B personnel with highway and traffic safety issues."

Babcock also accepted a certification of appreciation to District One, Area Four personnel for their outstanding support and service to Troop B during inclement weather and traffic conditions.



Capt. Kent Dean of the KHP presents a certificate to Area Four Superintendent John Babcock in recognition of his dedicated service and assistance to KHP's Troop B in Topeka.

In October, Babcock will celebrate his 30-year anniversary as the Area Four Superintendent. The veteran employee began his career in 1956 working as extra help for the State Highway Commission. - S.W.

I-135 project wins national award

The 1999 KDOT project to rebuild I-135 south of Newton received a “National Award for Excellence” from the American Concrete Pavement Association. This project was ranked excellent for innovative aspects related to the areas of construction schedule, public involvement, and for the overall quality of construction.

The first area of innovation, an accelerated construction schedule, was suggested by the engineering staff at KDOT District Five. From experience with similar projects, District Five engineers felt confident that contractors working in Kansas could construct this project in one construction season. Contractors were given the option of giving two bids - one bid for completing the work in two years and one bid for a one-year completion.

Wittwer Paving Company was the lowest overall bidder for the two-year option, and also submitted a bid for the one-year option at one dollar in additional cost. KDOT selected the one-year schedule. Financial incentives were included in the contract be-



KDOT received a national award for this work on I-135.

fore it was let for bids to speed reconstruction of the interstate ramps serving Exit 28 (SE 36th Street).

Public involvement efforts also began prior to construction. Monthly public meetings were held in the food court located at the Newton Factory Outlet Stores. KDOT was represented by Richard Srna, El Dorado Area Engineer; Mike Herzog, El Dorado Construction Engineer; Jeff Stewart, El Dorado Project Engineer;

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Crazy Bowl

Things get a little crazy during the Employees' Council annual Crazy Bowl tournament with people bowling on their knees, backwards, with partners, etc. This year's event took place on February 4 at Gage Bowl in Topeka.



I-135

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and Martin Miller, Public Involvement Liaison. Weekly KDOT/Wittwer partnering meetings were also held weekly on the job site.

One of the most important aspects of the public involvement process is responding back to concerns raised by the public. Two main concerns surfaced from the communications received during the public meetings. The first was that local businesses did not want the Exit 28 ramps closed during holidays, because this was a major shopping time at the outlet stores. After hearing this, Wittwer Paving Company adjusted their original ramp construction schedule to accommodate businesses.

The second public concern raised was, “how will our customers find us during this ramp closure period?” In response to this concern, the management of the Newton Factory Outlet Stores proposed setting up signs directing customers to their location from the nearest open I-135 interchange, using local roads. Bob Cook, District Five Construction Engineer, suggested that to reduce driver confusion and resulting accidents, KDOT would put up a variable message board giving travelers open ramp information as they drove through the project.

Due to the cooperative attitudes and efforts exhibited by KDOT and Wittwer Paving Company, and the proficiency of Wittwer Paving Company, the project was completed far ahead of even the accelerated schedule, and has proven to be a very high quality highway improvement. *-Story and photo by Martin Miller, Public Involvement Liaison*

Goebel

Continued from page 1

lot of wood.” More than 80 percent of the house was destroyed and virtually everything had some smoke or water damage. Only a few things such as pictures and some items in the office were recovered.

The Red Cross, family, and friends stepped in and helped. The first few nights the Red Cross provided a hotel; then the children, Dylan and Kaitlyn, stayed with Valerie’s parents for a few days while Valerie and Brice got moved into another place. The family is now renting a house with hopes of rebuilding their home this spring.

The message went out to KDOT coworkers across the state, and they responded to the call. “We were overwhelmed with stuff,” Brice said. “It makes you feel good that there’s so many people that care.” KDOT employees throughout the state sent boxes, bags, and vans full of items and many sent cash contributions.

Brice continued the sharing – any of the clothes sent for the family that didn’t fit were given to charities in the area.

“We appreciate what everyone did,” Brice said. “I don’t know how to say thank you to everyone, but I’m going to try.”



Paul Gripka (left), Area Three Field Engineering Administrator; and Oscar Hamilton, Area Three Maintenance Superintendent, show the award given to the Area Three office in Bonner Springs from the Wyandotte County Conservation District.

KDOT office receives conservation award

KDOT’s Area Three office in Bonner Springs has been awarded the “Bob Daly Urban Conservation Award” by the Conservation District for its outstanding work in sediment and erosion control on Saturday, January 27, at the Wyandotte County Conservation District’s Annual Dinner. This award is to recognize urban conservation in Wyandotte County.

The Wyandotte County Conservation District reviews all development sites in the county and offers recommendations for sediment control, erosion control, and storm water management. The Conservation District’s award recognizes efforts of businesses and individuals that go to extra lengths and take on the added expense of implementing conservation practices.

In view of the efforts KDOT made in the construction of the new Area Three building, the Conservation District felt this was a prime example of the group’s goals.

The new building, which was started in the fall of 1998 and completed on July 14, 2000, is located at 650 North K-7 Highway in Bonner Springs.

KDOT took the extra effort and expense to build a sediment detention basin. The basin is located on 10 acres of land, six of which drain into the basin. The basin was built to slow the amount of drainage that runs off from the parking lots and blacktopped areas. The basin traps the sediment and water. This solution will help to slow down the soil erosion process. *Story and photo by John Swihart, Public Involvement Liaison*

Software makes Kansas map better than ever

New CADD Script software has made the 2001-2002 Official State Transportation Map better than ever before, according to Fred Holthaus, Assistant Cartography Manager in Transportation Planning.

“We used to have all these pieces that had to be put together by someone else,” Holthaus said. “Now we can put together the entire map in our office and have a lot better control. I’m really pleased with how it came out.”

The new software allows for many new changes such as:

- ◆ All highway route shields now have white backgrounds to make them stand out more;

- ◆ Border states are in a gray background which help frame



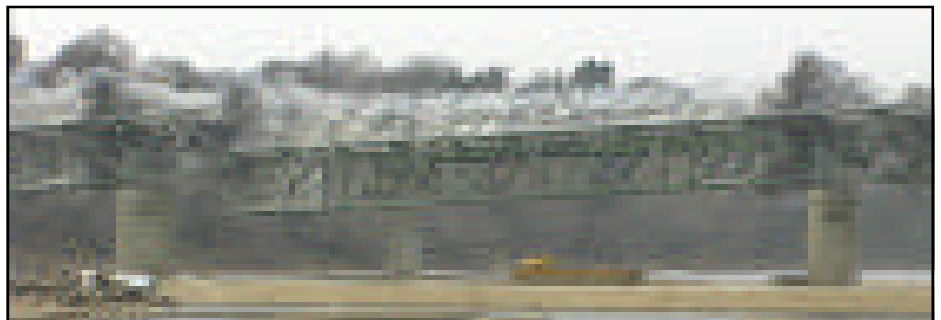
Williams and Heintz Map Corporation employee Bill Murray measures the new Kansas map in preparation for set-up on the folding machine.

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Westgate bridge is falling down, falling down...

Four spans of the northbound Westgate bridge in Topeka came tumbling down as explosive charges were set off about 9 a.m. on February 7. The bridge is being removed and a new Westgate bridge will be built and open to traffic by the end of the year. One span, however, didn't fall as planned and had to be brought down the next day. Photos by Bret Mathias



The 9th floor oracle

By Ron Kaufman

Here in the Docking State Office Building, there is a place you can go to find wise words and guidance. This is true, but I can hear the comments now. Wise words and guidance in the State Office Building? Is this a joke? Is this an oxymoron? Or is this writer just an oxymoron minus the “oxy?” Save your comments, for the place is real and so is the advice! It’s a place I sometimes visit just to sample the wisdom du jour. The thoughts are free for the

taking and there is no wait.

True to the quest for knowledge, though, you must travel to great heights before discovering this fountain of insight. It is tucked away in a dimly lit, busy hallway on the 9th floor of this marbled

bastion of state government. It takes the form of a large green chalkboard. I’ve never seen any graffiti or funny drawings on this chalkboard, just a few words or short sentences. They’re always cleanly and precisely lettered; perhaps this is a clue to their origin. The ninth floor of the building is home to KDOT’s Bureau of Design and the State Bridge and State Road Offices. Many fine people work there. Come to think of it, they’re all fine people. I never knew the identity of the chalkboard scribe, but I always marveled at the variety and depth of the words I found there. Surely, this person must be the wisest of all of KDOT’s philosophers.

A recent bit of wisdom caught my attention and reminded me of public involvement (were you expecting anything else?). I then embarked on a search for the wisdom maker because the phrases are only up for a day or two, then are mysteriously replaced with others. The one I liked was gone by the time I returned with pencil and paper to record it. My

quest took me to the office of Road Design Leader Bob Hirt. There, I found two wisdom makers, Amy Rockers and Duane Zimmerman. They are mere mortals with a gift for collecting and sharing wise sayings and other witty utterances. The things you learn about people!

Amy and Duane were glad to share the phrase I sought and here it is... *Sometimes they write what I say and not what I mean.* It was a phrase uttered by baseball player Pedro Guerrero, speaking about news reporters. It is a phrase that could be said by anyone who has ever tried to talk with others and found that what they said was very different from what was heard or written. That could be anyone reading this

column. Bob Hirt then reminded me of this famous assertion by

Richard Nixon... *I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant.* Huh? When dissected, Nixon’s words are nearly identical in meaning to those from Pedro

Guerrero!

Public involvement is about many things, including clear and understandable communications. Choose your words carefully because what comes out of your mouth might sound very different to other ears. It is important to be aware of the plural meanings of many English words because what you say might have unintended meanings. Furthermore, the fact that you are a KDOT employee affects how people interpret your words. The listener may assume the worst when you really mean the best.

So, it turns out that real people are behind the 9th Floor Oracle. Once again, I am impressed by the resourcefulness of KDOT employees. Not only can we turn a dump truck into something more than a dump truck; we can also turn an ordinary chalkboard into a fountain of wisdom. What’s next? Asphalt into gold?



Bridge

Continued from page 3

though it’s more expensive than the salt brine KDOT uses on most roads. CMAK features a very low freezing point (-24°F), it’s noncorrosive, and it won’t settle as salt brine does over time.

According to Hall, “Putting it where it needs to be, we can afford to use the higher-quality material.”

So far the fixed anti-icing system has performed as advertised. In most

cases the chemical has kept the bridge clear of snow and ice. When the snow and ice do build up, a shot of CMAK reduces packed snow to slush and then to water in a matter of minutes.

“I’ve been real pleased with it,” says Gerry Pearson, District Six Maintenance Superintendent. “I’ve had that bridge clean and dry when the rest of the road still has snow pack on it.”

This is the first fixed anti-icing system KDOT has tried and there are already plans for more. District Six will

extend this system to cover a future overpass at Mary Street, a quarter-mile north of the K-156 overpass. Eventually, the system will include RWIS sensors and could be set to fire automatically when the pavement starts to freeze.

It’s just another weapon in a war KDOT plans to win. *-Story by Kirk Hutchinson, Public Involvement Liaison; photo by Ron Hall, District Materials Engineer.*

Project Topeka helps those in need

By Melissa Palmer

KDOT's goal this year was to raise 160 tons of food for Project Topeka 2001... that's four tons more than last year! Project Topeka aims to provide emergency food assistance to the poverty stricken, elderly, children, and homeless on a year-round basis throughout the Topeka area.

Hunger does not discriminate – it affects households of all races. In addition, nearly half of all emergency food assistance, about 48 percent, goes to children and the elderly because they are too young or too old to join the workforce.

Many events took place at KDOT to raise money and increase donations in order to achieve the 2001 goal. Dean's Honor Roll attracted much attention. Just \$10 got your name placed in a drawing to win a paid day off. There were also food events, which are always a big hit, and this year there was plenty to choose from including breakfasts, bake sales, and chili-dog feeds.

On February 2, a silent auction took place with more than 50 items available that were donated from local business and from KDOT employees. These items included toys from Toys R Us, shirts from Harley Davidson, gift certificates from Carlos O'Kelly's and Glory Days Pizza, and haircut certificates from Fantastic Sam's, to name a few.



Ernie Miller, Office Assistant in Transportation Planning, takes phone bids for items in the Silent Auction just before the 2 p.m. deadline. More than \$900 was raised by the auction for Project Topeka.

"I think the auction went great," said Janet Blue, of KDOT's Transportation Planning and co-chair of Project Topeka. The auction raised more than \$900.

More fun was had with the Mystery Picture contest and bingo games that took place throughout the month. There was also a school challenge between colleges such as Kansas University, K-State, and Nebraska, among others. Sweethearts and friends could pick up arrangements of roses or carnations on Valentine's Day, each in their own vases with greenery and ribbon.

Since the first drive in 1986, 1,058 tons of food has been collected. Look for this year's totals in next month's issue of *Translines*.



Sherri Bain, Office Assistant in Environmental Services, watches as Mary Salazar, Manager in the Computer Operation Unit, increases the bid on an item in the Silent Auction.



Lots of people take advantage of the chili dogs served in the Docking building.

Welcome new KDOT employees!

◆◆FOR JANUARY◆◆

Headquarters

Marc Anderson, Secretary I, Engineering Support

Karen Gilbertson, Engineering Associate III, Transportation Planning
Tyler Jantz, Engineering Technician Associate, Design

Miles Klein, Engineering Technician Associate, Design

Clinton Hutchinson, Engineering Technician, Materials and Research

David Marshall, Research Analyst III, Traffic Safety

John Oliver, State Auditor II, Inspector General

Hakin Saadi, Professional Civil Engineer I, Design

District Two

Debra Burt, Office Assistant II, Salina

District Four

Micah Howard, Engineering Technician Associate, Garnett

Benjamin Tush, Engineering Technician Associate, Garnett

District Five

Alan Perry, Engineering Technician, Wichita

District Six

Sam Moler, Engineering Technician, Dodge City

Larry Slep, Equipment Operator II Trainee, Hugoton

◆◆FOR FEBRUARY◆◆

Headquarters

David Cronin, Engineering Associate I, Design

James Dermody, Engineering

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new employees to Translines.

Associate I, Planning

Edwin Gabbidon, Chemist I, Materials and Research

Haley Jeffrey, Secretary I, Local Projects

Jennifer Hinman, Office Assistant III, Right of Way

Marsha King, Architect II, Design

Karla Picolet, Office Assistant II, Personnel Services

Greg Schieber, Engineering Associate I, Materials and Research

Bryan Smart, Engineering Technician, Design

Marcia Stambaugh, Management Systems Analyst II, Management and Budget

Patrick Sylvestre, Engineering Associate III, Planning

District One

Joseph White, Engineering Technician Associate, Olathe

District Two

Josh Alexander, Engineering Technician Associate, Junction City

District Three

Mitchell Kline, Welder, Norton

District Four

Michael Simmons, Mechanic's Helper, Independence

District Five

Michael Borah, Engineering Technician Associate, Pratt

Chris Golden, Engineering Technician, Wichita

John Goodnight, Engineering Technician, Winfield

Susan Hachenberger, Engineering Technician Associate, Hutchinson

Robbie Jarrett, Engineering Technician Associate, Hutchinson

Johnna Raymond, Office Specialist, Wichita

District Six

Jacob Ring, Engineering Technician Associate, Dodge City

Map

Continued from page 6

the Kansas map;

◆County names are bigger but in gray to blend better;

◆County roads are in gray so they are not as dominating and make the map look cleaner.

Holthaus said the company that printed the map, Williams and Heintz Map Corporation in Capitol Heights, Md., near Washington, D.C., has a machine that works with the new software. It can read the digital files and a laser burns the digital image onto the negative. That negative is used to print the map and the registration comes out nearly perfect, Holthaus said.

Brian Logan, Chief Cartography Manager in Transportation Planning, said the colors of the geographic provinces are improved. "Some people have trouble looking though color, but the physiographic provinces are very important," Logan said. "We worked to lighten the colors so they are easier to look at."

The map also features a new distance map that allows motorists to choose their own route, then determine the distance. It's more user friendly now that you can pick your own trip, or multiple trips, Logan said. It also allows for more cities to be shown on the distance map.

There were 1.25 million maps printed for the two-year cycle. The 2001-2002 maps arrived in February and are available in the Office of Transportation Information. **-K.S.**

Secretary

Continued from page 2

and testifying and pleading and promising that goes on here at the Capitol, what lawmakers hear from their constituents plays a very important role. When we can point to survey results like this, it goes a long way in making our case. We can only do that because of your hard work and your commitment to the people of Kansas. Thank you for all that you've done and for all you continue to do.

Equipment Operator William Strifler accepts a Certificate of Recognition from District Two Engineer Don Drickey for his infinitely adjustable jack to be used in the construction of culverts.



Strifler receives award for suggestion

Improving quality and efficiency is a goal for William Strifler, Equipment Operator III on the District Two Crew in Salina. Strifler was awarded \$50 and a Certificate of Recognition through the Employee Suggestion Awards program for creating an infinitely adjustable jack for supporting framing when pouring concrete in the construction of culverts.

Strifler was presented the award on February 5 by Don Drickey, District Two Engineer, in conjunction with the

group's Internal Survey meeting.

When culverts are extended, a wooden frame is built on top of the structure to build the top of the culvert. These jacks created by Strifler help support the wooden frame and are adjustable so they can be used on various sizes of culverts.

This is Strifler's second Employee Suggestion Award. He has also invented a spring-loaded boom for spraying weeds.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently returned from a trip in the third world. While there, we traveled on roads that were in terrible shape, and we commented that we should write to our roads department at home. Please pass this letter as best you can to anyone involved with planning, designing, or maintaining our roads.

I am writing simply to say thank you for all that you do. It does not go unnoticed or unappreciated, though I'm sure you don't get much positive feedback. We are spoiled in this country by your expertise and hard work!

Sincerely,
Jill Brandenburg
Lawrence

Deaths

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Vernon L. Everhart who died on January 20 in Topeka.

Everhart was an Assistant Bureau Chief in Local Projects overseeing the Technical Management Section. He was a Civil Engineer and had been employed by the agency for 30 years.

He is survived by his wife, Denise, two sons, one daughter, one brother, two sisters and a grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kory Everhart Educational Fund and sent in care of Penwell-Gabel Highland Chapel Funeral Home.

Step Back in Time



The Republican River Marsh Arch bridge was under construction near Fort Riley during this 1918 photograph. The bridge was the first highway project in Kansas to receive federal aid.

Do you want to receive Translines when you retire?

All KDOT employees getting ready to retire must fill out a Personal Data Sheet. This form is very important and generates other types of information, including adding your name to the retiree mailing list for *Translines*. If you do not receive a Personal Data Sheet, contact the Personnel Clerk in your office.

Also, if you know of a retiree not receiving *Translines*, please ask them to call the Office of Transportation Information at (785) 296-3585.

Training Opportunities

◆ **Basic Effective Supervisory Training***, March 20-23, Topeka; June 19-22 and July 17-20, Salina/Topeka.

◆ **Leadership Basics**, March 13-15, Hays; April 10-12, Salina; May 8-10, Hutchinson.

◆ **Listening and Emotional Intelligence****, March 20 and April 20, Hays. *Meets the three-year management training requirement.

◆ **Who Moved My Cheese?*****, May 31, Topeka.

**Applies to the three-year management training requirement.

***Supervisory Continuing Education Credits.

All classes, except BEST, are available to non-supervisors with supervisory permission and where space is available. A *comprehensive training calendar is on the KDOT Intranet.*

Amendment

Continued from page 1

Flickinger said the current practice of allowing direct bill participants who drop coverage to re-enroll on a direct bill basis one time during an open enrollment period is being discontinued. However, there are two exceptions.

Individuals who have dropped coverage as direct bill participants before January 21, 2001, can re-enroll one time in the state health care benefits program. This is valid only if the person has not previously discontinued and re-enrolled in the program before January 21.

Also, any person who discontinues direct bill coverage but maintains continu-

ous coverage in a Medicare risk plan can return to the state health care benefits program during the annual open enrollment period.

“It’s important to note that any person not maintaining continuous coverage in the group health insurance plan upon retirement after January 21 will not be allowed to re-enroll in the plan at a later date,” said Flickinger.

Participation in the state health care benefits program under a state-employed spouse’s plan would be considered continuous coverage.

You may contact the Bureau of Personnel Services Benefits Section with any questions about this change. - S.W.

Correction:

The heading for the box listing Ross Lietzke’s retirement in last January’s Translines should have read retirees, not deaths. We apologize for the error. All the information concerning Lietzke in the box was correct.

BROWN BAG LUNCH

Topic: Coordinating Section

Date: Wednesday, March 7

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Place: Room 481, Docking

All KDOT employees are invited to attend.

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes its employees celebrating anniversaries in February

10 YEARS

Gerald Cox Wamego
Dawnita Reinhardt El Dorado
Kenneth Slocum Horton
Terry Smith Seneca
Kevin White Louisburg

30 YEARS

Gerald Casper Hays
Simon Cousins Kansas City
Stephen Malone Blaine

40 YEARS

Robert Demoret Hutchinson

20 YEARS

Merl Dunning Stockton
Glenn Fager Topeka
Douglas Leiker Great Bend
Catherine O’Hara Topeka

This information is compiled by each Office, Bureau, Division, and District.

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Sydney Beach, Engineering Technician, Planning
Matt Bleier, Engineering Technician, Design
Dennis Crupper, Professional Civil Engineer I, Design
Travis Hansen, Engineering Technician Senior, Construction and Maintenance
Michael Johnston, Management Systems Analyst II, Administration
Kaye Jordan-Cain, Program Consultant II, Engineering Support
Nicholas Kozloff, Engineering Technician, Planning
Richard Meyer, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design
Melissa Oelke, Engineering Technician, Planning
Robert Schufflebarger, Engineering Technician, Planning
Cheri Toney, Office Assistant IV, Fiscal Services
Amy Vail, Accountant III, Fiscal Services

District One

Ronald Hornick, Engineering Technician, Olathe
Theodore Knight, Engineering Technician, Merriam
Gary Lane, Engineering Technician Senior, Merriam
Lawrence Mason, Engineering Technician, Lawrence
Justin Sanders, Engineering Technician, Merriam
Terry Thompson, Equipment Operator III, Emporia
Troy Whitworth, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Olathe

District Two

Max Bell, Equipment Mechanic I, Salina
Danny Bergeron, Engineering Technician Senior, Salina
Donovan Huehl, Equipment Operator III, Ellsworth
Gerry Montgomery, Professional Civil Engineer II, Salina

District Three

Jose Capo, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Grainfield

District Four

Warren Ebberts, Engineering Technician Associate, Iola

District Five

Leisa Alvis, Office Assistant II, Wichita
Brian Arensdorf, Engineering Technician, Pratt
Jerry Baker, Equipment Operator III, Pratt
Wesley Buhrman, Equipment Mechanic II, Hutchinson
Karl Otter, Engineering Technician Senior, Wichita
Frank Smith, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Hutchinson
Jerica Talcott, Engineering Technician Associate, Hutchinson
David Watkins, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Pratt

District Six

Denver Donovan, Equipment Operator III, Garden City

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for promotions/transfers to Translines.

KDOT
Office of Transportation Information
 915 Harrison - Room 754
 Topeka, KS 66612-1568

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