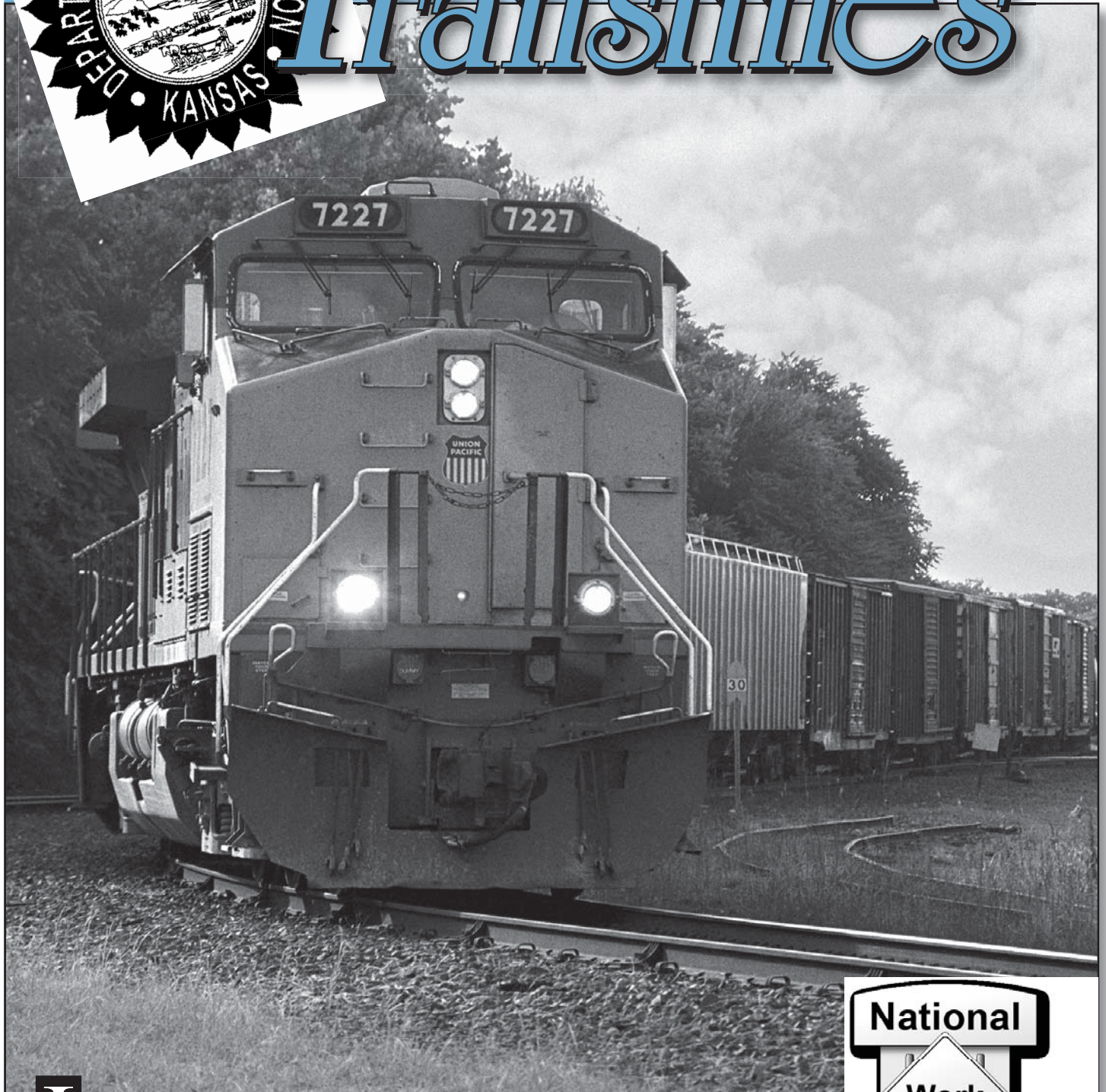




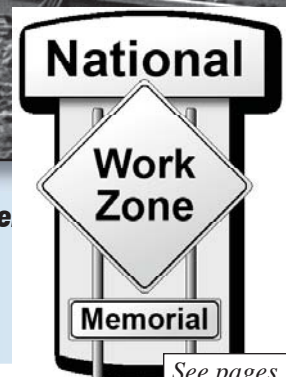
*Kansas Department of Transportation
Monthly Employee Publication
January 2006*

KDOT Translines



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- ◆ **Communication vital following disaster**
- ◆ **Burroughs eager to return to work**
- ◆ **Crews come together to achieve goal**
- ◆ **Water rescue team saves lives**



See pages 3, 4



Miller's Time

*By Secretary
Deb Miller*

Winter warriors

I'm pretty sure Robert Frost wasn't thinking about a snow plow operator when he wrote his famous poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Night":

*"The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep."*

But those final lines, or some similar sentiment, must be going through the minds of the people we count on the most on snowy nights.

We are now well into the season when some of our fellow workers are pressed into long, important service clearing roads in the worst of conditions. On miserable, cold winter evenings I'm anxious to get home and start a fire when so many of our equipment operators are headed out to get on their snow plows for a long night's work.

On such an evening in early December I could not wait to get home from the office and settle in for an evening of warmth, comfort and safety. On my mind, however, was an early morning trip I would have to make to Wichita. I didn't have to be concerned about all of the snow that was falling. Thanks to the hard work of our people and those of the Kansas Turnpike Authority, I was on the road early and arrived in Wichita safely and on time. The people responsible for moving snow off roadways are not only doing heroic work (I'm not exaggerating when I call them heroes), they are keeping our economy moving. That's why I am so committed to all of the essential maintenance work for which we are responsible.

The snow plow operators are not the only KDOT work-

ers called on to help moderate the powerful punch of nature. Supervisors must make sure they know the weather forecast and mobilize before a storm hits. They must make sure we are adequately staffed for a storm. And months before the storm, someone must be sure we have adequate supplies.

District officials must be in communication with one another and with transportation workers in surrounding states. We worked closely with Colorado Department of Transportation staff when we had to close down portions of Interstate 70 as a blizzard moved from the mountains across the plains during the Thanksgiving weekend. Others worked with the media to be sure the word got out about road closings.

Two increasingly important services we provide – the road condition Web page and our 511 traveler information telephone line – must be monitored and kept up to date. Both services received tens of thousands of visits or calls during the November and December storms. Secretary of Revenue Joan Wagnon and her husband, Bill, a member of the Kansas Board of Education, were among those who monitored road conditions online. The Wagnons became stranded in Limon, Colo., en route home during the Thanksgiving weekend. When Joan periodically logged onto our 511.ksdot.org Web site from the motel lobby, other travelers crowded around "and just loved it."

When the interstate reopened, the Wagnons headed home to Topeka "with cleared roads and a heart full of thanks to the KDOT employees." In an e-mail to me, Secretary Wagnon wrote, "I just wanted you to know how proud I was of our employees and your department. You did a great job in the winter storm." (The Secretary Wagnon's entire e-mail appears on page 8.)

I, too, am proud of how we responded to the early season storms. Sometimes in winter weather, just getting home can seem like the biggest accomplishment of the day. For me and all of the others you help get home every day – in bad weather and in good – thank you.

The writer Vesta M. Kelly said, "Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together."

Similarly, when the many people of KDOT work together in the most difficult of situations, just look what we can do.

Ceremony honors those killed in work zones

By Kim Stich

Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation employees and family members gathered on Dec. 6 in Kansas City, Mo., to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in highway work zone crashes.

"An injury crash can have a huge effect on people's lives forever," said KDOT Director of Operations Mike Crow. "A

fatality crash means someone's husband, wife, parent, sibling or friend is never coming home."

Wreaths were placed in front of the National Work Zone Memorial for KDOT employees Marvin "Scotty" McDonald and Richard Cunningham. They were killed in work zones crashes this year and their names have been submitted to be placed on the



Continued on page 4



Above, Shirley McDonald gets a hug after the National Work Zone Memorial ceremony. Shirley spoke at the event about her son, Scotty, a KDOT employee who was killed in a work zone June 1, 2005. At left, Director of Operations Mike Crow stresses the need for safety in work zones.

Rail program in Kansas headed down right track

By Stan Whitley

Railroads are called the lifeblood of a nation and that is certainly evident in the middle of America.

Kansas ranks in the top 10 in the United States in railroad mileage despite the loss of track miles due to abandonments each year. The Kansas rail system is composed of 21 railroads, ranging in size from a short three-mile interstate carrier to larger railroads extending from Kansas to the northwest, Gulf of Mexico,

On the... **COVER**

A Union Pacific freight train rounds a corner in Topeka.

Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

California, Canada and Mexico.

"Abandonments have reduced the number of rail miles operated in our state," said John Maddox, KDOT Rail

Affairs Manager. "Even though the miles have decreased, the tonnage moved has increased. We are moving more with a smaller infrastructure."

Maddox said railroad mileage in the state was at a maximum in 1917 when 9,363 miles were in operation. However, the development of competitive trucking in the 1950s made railroads increasingly vulnerable to intermodal competition

Continued on page 8



Purple Heart Trail

District One Engineer Jerry Younger, left, was among the speakers at the Nov. 19 Purple Heart Trail sign dedication at the Paxico rest area on I-70. The sign honors members of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard who have been wounded or killed in combat.



Gary Burroughs (left) chats with District One Engineer Jerry Younger after the National Work Zone Memorial ceremony. Burroughs hopes to be back at work early in 2006.

Burroughs eager to return to work

KDOT Equipment Operator Senior Gary Burroughs was grateful of the media attention the Dec. 6 memorial event received that honored him, Richard Cunningham and Scotty McDonald.

"It's important to let people know what we're doing and why it's so dangerous," he said. "The more that they are aware of it, the safer we are."

'I want to thank everybody from the Secretary on down at KDOT, and also the people at the hospital. Nobody has given up on me and I'm not giving up either.'

Gary Burroughs

Burroughs was seriously injured in the crash that killed KDOT Equipment Operator Senior Richard Cunningham on K-130 near Emporia on Aug. 1. He spent about two months in the hospital and has continued outpatient therapy since then.

Currently, Burroughs is in Topeka for physical therapy and tries to get back to Emporia on the weekends to see his wife and kids. His condition will be evaluated at

the end of December to see when he can come back to work.

Burroughs is ready to get back to the Subarea office. "Working in the winter is the fun time for me," Burroughs said. "I enjoy getting out there and clearing the roadways."

He also appreciates all the care and concern he has received since the crash.

"I got a lot of cards and phone calls from people I didn't even know," Burroughs said. "I want to thank everybody from the Secretary on down at KDOT, and also the people at the hospital. Nobody has given up on me and I'm not giving up either." -K.S.

Memorial

Continued from page 3

memorial.

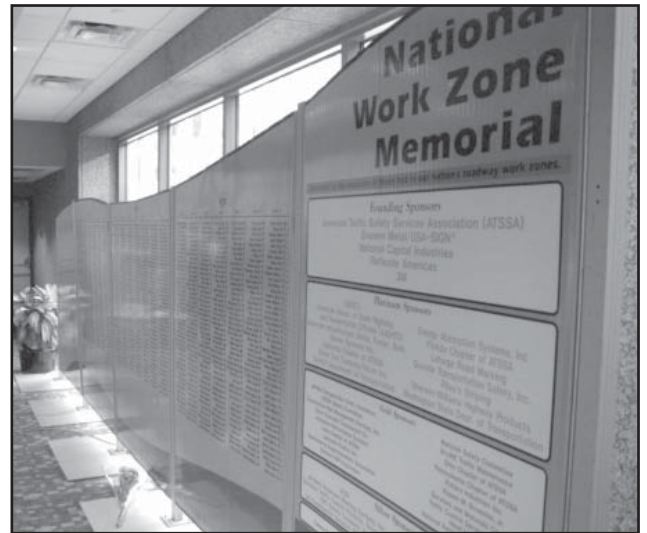
McDonald's mother, Shirley, shared some thoughts at the ceremony. "I remember when the phone call came about Scotty - it changed our lives forever," she said. "It's not something that will ever change back, and that's a hard thing to live with."

KDOT Area Superintendent Jim Williams also spoke at the event. He is proud of all the people who work for KDOT.

"These two individuals, those who work for this agency and those fallen comrades, are and were dedicated to their purpose in life, because they believed that the people of Kansas deserved the best and that there was value in what they did," Williams said.

KDOT employee Gary Burroughs was also honored at the ceremony. He was seriously injured in the crash that killed Cunningham.

"Gary's supervisor recently said, 'You'll see this shop light up when Gary comes back,'" Crow stated. "I'd like to expand that and say, you will see ALL of



The National Work Zone Memorial

KDOT light up on that day too."

The ceremony took place in front of the National Work Zone Memorial at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo., in conjunction with the Heart of America Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Service Association's (ATSSA) 2005 How-To Conference.

The memorial is sponsored by ATSSA and travels across the United States to recognize people killed in work zone crashes. More than 1,000 people are killed in work zone crashes in the United States each year.



Members of the District Four, Area Four team pose with Secretary Deb Miller at the ceremony in Pittsburg.

Crews come together to achieve goal

PITTSBURG - KDOT employees from the Subareas and Area Shop in District Four, Area Four, combined crews and worked together on a 10-mile section of K-39 in Neosho County to bring it up to the Maintenance Quality Assurance Standards.

This team effort was honored as an Example of Excellence for the third quarter of 2005. Secretary Deb Miller attended the event on Nov. 29 in Pittsburg.

Trees and other vegetation had overwhelmed this section due to higher than normal rainfall during the past couple of years. In addition there were numerous pavement edge drop-offs due to the turf shoulders and wet weather.

The crews discussed what would be necessary and scheduled two weeks for the project this spring, said George Dockery, Area Four Engineer. It ended up taking only eight days.

"They all took ownership of the project even though this was not their Subarea," Dockery said. "The crews worked hard – they worked together to accomplish a common goal."

Mike Crow, Director of Operations, commended the crew members on their team effort.

"The Subareas as a group accomplished a major task but significant to me was the partnership between all the Subareas. This is a hallmark of the KDOT family to help each other in accomplishing our mission," Crow said. "Solomon stated, 'Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor.' Thanks Area Four for pulling together and accomplishing a very challenging job, which provided the citizens of Kansas

a safer roadway."

A video of the project, called "What District Four Did on Their Spring Break," was produced to show how the area looked before and after.

Members of the team include: Charles Baker, David Bertling, Steven Black, Douglas Blair, Steven Brown, Craig Bryson, Daniel Burke, Daniel Cherry, Charles Clay, Rodney Coles, James Dahlke, Christopher Duling, Joe Engle, Gene Erikson, Kenneth Franklin, Mike Giffin, Kenneth Harris, Phillip Harris, Jeremiah Jacobs, Jeff James, Dean Jessee, Ed King, Albert Kucharski, Richard McKinney, Bill McManis, Wayne Nelson, Daniel Nickelson, Edward Nutt, David Pillar, Ronald Pillar, Doug Pulliam, Robert Richardson, Terry Rink,

Larry Robinson, Robert Robinson, Phillip Robison, Carla Ross, David Ross, John Ross, Bill Shields, James Smith, O'Neal Smith, Terry Smith, Paul Tarter, Martin Volz, Patrick Weldon, Roy Widmar, and Daniel Wilson

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. **-K.S.**

"Thanks Area Four for pulling together and accomplishing a very challenging job, which provided the citizens of Kansas a safer roadway."

Mike Crow

Communication vital following hurricane disaster

By Stan Whitley

Keeping communication lines open in the midst of the most devastating hurricane in U.S. history. That was the temporary tasks of four KDOT employees who recently traveled to Hancock County Mississippi.

Three KDOT Public Affairs Managers and one Public Involvement Liaison made the trek to Mississippi to offer their services following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Maggie Thompson, Joe Blubaugh, David Greiser, and Martin Miller had recent two-week stints serving as Kansas Incident Management Team members.

The impact of Hurricane Katrina is still being felt in Mississippi, along with Louisiana and Alabama. In Mississippi a record storm surge smashed the entire Gulf Coast. Hancock County took the full force of Hurricane Katrina with winds in excess of 140 miles an hour and a tidal surge of between 30-40 feet. The county of approximately 45,000 suffered extensive damage.

The four KDOT employees each held positions in the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center and served as a public information officers. They were among the public information specialists from several Kansas state and city agencies to be asked to help out in the devastated area.



Damage in Hancock County Mississippi was extensive including the US-90 bridge over Bay Saint Louis which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

They worked long days for two weeks beginning at 7 a.m. and ending around 9 p.m. Their main responsibility was to disseminate information to the citizens of the county. This consisted of producing a daily update, which provided



information on services for people and businesses, events happening in the county, and other important information.

The daily update was distributed, along with the local newspaper, to a number of sites across the county.

"We were responsible for writing and distributing all news releases for the county which covered a broad range of topics including how individuals could sign up for debris removal from private property to announcing the county offices reopening," said Thompson, KDOT Public Involvement Liaison at headquarters.

Each day they responded to media calls providing basic information or meeting with reporters to help with a story. They also spent a lot of time responding to citizen requests for information. In the midst of the disaster, rumors were out of control so it was vital to disseminate pertinent information and minimize the rumors.

"Unbelievable is the word I use to describe the devastation," said Blubaugh, District One Public Affairs Manager. "I have never seen such widespread devastation and loss. People lost everything - their houses, vehicles, pets and possessions. Some lost family members, friends and neighbors. The resilience of these people and positive attitudes in the face of the worst natural disaster in U.S. history was truly amazing."

Thompson was also taken back by the devastation that struck Hancock County.

"Like everyone else I had seen the



Maggie Thompson, Public Involvement Liaison, prepares to assist a Media Producer from msnbc.com working on a story in Hancock County, Mississippi.

Continued on page 12

A tangle of lights

By Kirk Hutchinson

District Six Public Affairs Manager

I have to be honest. One of my least favorite holiday traditions is putting up Christmas lights. I'm perfectly happy looking at someone else's handiwork.

I hate wading into that tangle of plastic, wire and teeny-tiny light bulbs that generate enough combined heat to set a national forest on fire. No matter what you do, the strand will be tangled. You could pull brand-new lights out of the box for the first time and within five minutes you'll have green plastic-coated wire wrapped around each leg, with one hand immobilized and the other hand searching for a pair of wire cutters. For all the tricks he performed with strait jackets, chains and padlocks, Houdini never tried to free himself from a knot of Christmas lights.

A few years ago, I got suckered into hanging those icicle lights off the front of the house. The first year wasn't a lot of fun, but once we discovered the plastic hooks that would slide under the edge of the shingles, putting up these lights became less painful than I expected... until this year.

We had our house re-roofed and the roofers did such a good job that there was no way I was going to get any plastic hooks to slide under the shingles. Plus, it took patience, perseverance and a four-day weekend to untangle the lights. We finally got them up on the house, plugged them in and nothing happened. That's the other thing I hate about these lights. When one bulb decides that it's not going to play any more, you have to pluck out a gazillion

of them, one at a time, to figure out which one you have to replace. After the 17th bulb, I decided it was time to replace all three strands of lights.

Public involvement can sometimes look like that tangle of Christmas lights. Oh, we've seen the spectacular displays and we've heard the stories of how a little ingenuity and a lot of public involvement got a major highway project back on track, saved a neighborhood, provided a wildlife habitat and solved the mystery of cold fusion all at the same time. But actually making public involvement work can be messy.

Sometimes people don't want what we want. Sometimes our goals are different. We may be right. We may have the best solution to a particular problem. We may be more farsighted than others. That doesn't matter. If we don't take the time to untangle the knots, patiently (and without the use of wire cutters), we could end up with a big mess that belongs in the trash.

Sometimes public involvement takes longer than we would prefer. One project here in District Six has been pushed back a couple of years, in part, because our design team took the time necessary to come up with a plan upon which most of the stakeholders could agree.

It's probably not perfect and not every single person would say it's the best solution, but it is a workable solution.

When I was producing television commercials, I'd tell a client that making a video is like making sausage—you probably don't want to watch it happen. The end result, however, is usually worth looking at (or eating). Christmas lights and public involvement are probably like that, too.

Oh no. I just realized it's time to take those lights down - and then put them up all over again next year. That's a lot like public involvement, too.

Communication: A Key to Success



Kansas Department
of Transportation

M I L E S T O N E S

10 YEARS

Jerry Batson Lindsborg
Gerald Bowser Lindsborg
Margaret Dent Chanute
Willie Livingston Hutchinson
Carl Wederski Atwood
Freddie Worrell, Jr. Junction City

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

20 YEARS

Lester Bockelman Dighton
Richard Meyer Topeka
Robert Penrod Wichita
Stan Whitley Topeka

30 YEARS

Jim Craig Topeka
Steven Holl Minneapolis
Jerry Richecky Mankato

**KDOT
salutes its
employees
celebrating
anniversaries
in December**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Secretary Miller:

Bill and I got stuck in Limon, Colorado on Sunday morning when I-70 closed.

An early dose of winter weather leaves six-foot snowdrifts in parts of western Kansas. State highway officials say Interstate 70 is closed from Russell to Limon, Colorado, and the National Weather Service is keeping a blizzard warning in effect until at least six o'clock Monday night for the area.

We found a hotel room in Limon and there was a computer there in the lobby area for guests to use. Most were heading home to Kansas. I became intimately acquainted with both Colorado and Kansas websites, and there was no comparison. When I would pull up the interactive map of Kansas people crowded around and just loved it.

They opened I-70 finally on Tuesday and we drove home, with cleared roads and a heartfelt of thanks to the KDOT employees.

I just wanted you to know how proud I was of our employees and your department. You did a great job in the winter storm.

Joan Wagon
Secretary of Revenue

Dear Mr. Bob Gudgen:

The City of Frontenac would like to take this opportunity to express their appreciation and offer a sincere thanks for the E. McKay Street renovation project. This project has made a tremendous improvement to not only E. McKay Street but to the entire town of Frontenac and we cannot thank KDOT enough. This thank you extends to the entire KDOT community involved with this project with a special emphasis given to the Pittsburg staff.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Beachner Construction for the outstanding job they did with very little inconvenience to the citizens of Frontenac. Beachner went above and beyond the scope of work to ensure that the City of Frontenac received a quality job with as little interruption as possible. As you are aware, the project schedule was through the summer season and was the only access to the Municipal Pool and the baseball and softball fields. They were able to construct this road with little or no interruption to the high traffic flow, with no incidents. I can't quit without thanking TranSystems and Angie Troutman for the outstanding job they did. They took care of any and all concerns we had through the entire project. Their supervision and inspection assured the City a first class job and for that we are extremely grateful.

This project is a perfect example how a local community and the State of Kansas can partner on a project and reach a goal that benefits all. Again thanks and we look forward to working with KDOT on future projects.

Sincerely,
Dan Brunetti, City Administrator

Rail

Continued from page 3

eroded rail market traffic. Today, there are 4,776 miles of rail line operating in Kansas.

"We have four Class I carriers and 17 Class III or short-line carriers operating in Kansas," said Maddox. "On a revenue basis, Class I railroads have annual gross revenues of \$250 million or more and Class III annual gross revenues of less than \$20 million."

Class I carriers comprise 2,790 of the miles operated in the state with the largest carrier, Union Pacific, operating 1,535 miles. Class III carriers in Kansas operate 1,986 miles, with the largest carrier, Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, operating 642 miles.

Many areas of the state no longer

have service from Class I railroads. Maddox said the short line railroads offer rail service to those areas, provide an alternative to trucks for shippers and keep rural areas of the state connected to national and international markets for Kansas grains and products.

One component of the Comprehensive Transportation Program has been especially beneficial to short line operators in Kansas. The Rail Service Improvement Fund in the CTP receives \$3 million a year for eight years through state fiscal year 2007 and is administered by the Rail Affairs Section.

The fund makes available to short line railroads operating in Kansas low-interest, long term (10-year) loans and grants to be used primarily for track rehabilitation projects. Funds may also be used for financing and acquisition

activities.

Maddox said thus far seven of the 17 short-line railroads have used the program. There have been 33 rehabilitation projects involving 846 miles of track in 43 counties and one acquisition project involving 725 miles of track.

In 2005, the engineering firm of Parson Brinckerhoff was retained to conduct a detailed review of the short-line loan/grant component of the CTP, its expenditures and uses, its impact on short-line railroad operators and its economic impacts. The study found that the program has been a good investment of state dollars. An economic analysis of the program expenditures between 2000 and 2005 identified significant benefits to both the public and private sectors. The study can be viewed at www.ksdot.org/publications.asp.

Leadership Forum

At right, KDOT employees John Moeder (left) of LaCrosse and Richard Perez of Wellington talk during a break at the Leadership Forum Nov. 30 in Topeka. Below, employees from across the state attended the conference.



Dahlby, water rescue team save lives during Oct. 2 flood

KDOT Statewide Planning Engineer Roger Dahlby was given a certificate of appreciation by Governor Kathleen Sebelius on Dec. 15 for his efforts with the Mission Fire Department Swift Water Rescue team during the flood in northeast Kansas.

"I commend Roger Dahlby for his bravery during the Oct. 2 flood," Sebelius said. "He was among the men and women who selflessly worked hours to save our fellow Kansans. He is a great example of strong Kansas values - service, sacrifice and honor."

Dahlby assisted with 27 rescues and seven critical rescues of people by boat. Six people were stranded in trees and one person was rescued from a car where flood waters were rising rapidly.

"Some people had been fighting the water so long that they were just drained

of energy," he said.

The team also rescued numerous animals. "One was a critical dog rescue - if we didn't get him out of his cage quick, he would have drowned," Dahlby said. "The flooded area was teeming with struggling wildlife including snakes in the trees and rats floating on debris."

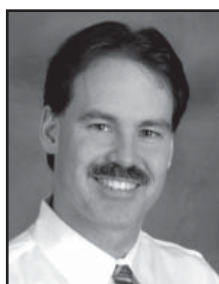
The team was not alone, though. Dahlby said there were people from numerous local and state agencies in the area as well as citizens coming to help.

"At every turn, you would trip over the vast number of volunteers," he said. "It was a refreshing sight to see we were no way alone in coming to the assistance of our neighbors in Kansas."

Dahlby has been with the water rescue team for six years and performs dive, swift water and ice rescues. He was named volunteer Firefighter of the Year in 2003.

"It gives me a chance to help people and I like making a difference," he said. "It puts job satisfaction in your heart."

-K.S.



Roger Dahlby

KDOT Computer Training

- from the KCTC

Increase your computer efficiency

To view the shared class calendar in Outlook and see all classes taught by Misty Rodriguez, click on your calendar; choose "Open a Shared Calendar." Type in KCTC for the calendar name and see current classes. Classes listed in Red are FULL.

NEW CLASSES/EVENTS

Access L4-Jan. 10-11,
Windows Basics-Jan. 30,
Excel L4-Jan. 31.
Office 2003 What's New?
Lunch & Learn - Jan. 30, 12:00-1:00

DID YOU KNOW?

Tips & Tricks:

♦How to set up an Access Database to automatically compact & repair? Achieve best performance by this: Open the Access database or project you want compacted automatically and under the Tools menu, click Options, click the General tab, select the Compact on Close check box.

♦How to see & make changes in a Word document? Open the Word document and under the View menu turn on Markup, under Tools click on Track Changes. Make your changes and save the document. For easier view of changes, go to View, Toolbars & click Reviewing. On your new toolbar click the dropdown button Show, Balloons & check Never. This tracks changes in the document text rather than in balloons out to the side.

Enroll by e-mail kctc@ksdot.org or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993. **Questions are welcome!** Supervisor's approval to enroll is necessary.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Do you know?

Interstate Route Numbering

◆ The Interstate route marker is a red, white and blue shield, carrying the word "Interstate," the state name and the route number.

◆ Major Interstate routes are designated by one- or two-digit numbers.

◆ Routes with odd numbers run north and south, while even numbered run east and west. For north-south routes, the lowest numbers begin in the west, while the lowest numbered east-west routes are in the south. By this method, Interstate Route 5 (I-5) runs north-south along the west coast, while I-10 lies east-west along the southern border.

◆ The major route numbers generally cross urban areas on the path of the major traffic stream. Generally, this major traffic stream will be the shortest and most direct line of travel.

◆ Connecting Interstate routes and full or partial circumferential beltways around or within urban areas carry a three-digit number. These routes are designated with the number of the main route and an even-numbered prefix.



Southwest celebrations

Secretary Deb Miller participated in ceremonies in Lakin and Garden City Dec. 2. The Lakin event celebrated a downtown Economic Development project and the Garden City ceremony marked the completion of a \$23.5 million project. Above, Miller cuts the ribbon at the Garden City event. At right, she chats with residents after the Lakin event.



Miller ends the year honoring employees

By Amy Link

Who needs a red carpet and long-winded acceptance speeches, when you've got shiny men in orange vests?

Secretary Miller used this year's Leadership Forum to recognize KDOT employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. The prize for being Responsive and Responsible - a KDOT style Oscar figurine, called an Orange Hero.

The Orange Hero winners were just a few examples of the many accomplishments during the past year. Recipients came from a variety of districts and departments, and were awarded their responses to problems, or for taking a proactive approach to deal with future issues.

A couple of examples include District Four's Brian Schafer and Gary Plumb, who

made slight adjustments to a project in order to save a woman's oak trees. And Gary Moulin was given the "Good Neighbor Award" in representation of all the maintenance workers who have helped communities struck by natural disasters this year.

But that's just to name a few.

"The Orange Hero winners are really just a few great examples of the hard work and commitment our employees bring to the agency every day. Unfortunately, we could not single-out

all those who've earned it, but know that I appreciate ALL of our Orange Heroes wherever you may be," Miller said.

ORANGE HERO WINNERS

(winner(s) and award)

- ◆ Mike Stringer, *Carpe Diem Award*
- ◆ Dave Church, *Carpe Diem Award*
- ◆ Brian Schafer & Gary Plumb, *Oak Tree Reprieve*
- ◆ Suellen Markley & Dennis Slimmer, *SAFETEA-LU Sleuths*
- ◆ Roy Rissky, Joe Blubaugh & Earl Bosak, *Tour de Lawrence*
- ◆ Terry Heidner, Sally Howard & Mick Halter, *The Turnaround Team*
- ◆ Scott King, *Keeping Ellsworth Connected*
- ◆ Denise Petet, *The Multimedia Marvel*
- ◆ Gary Moulin, *The Good Neighbor Award*
- ◆ Dean Testa, Jaci Vogel & Ed Geer, *Breakthroughs in Communication*

Transportation Briefs

Partners help support work zone safety

Several transportation organizations showed their support to help improve safety in work zones by donating to KDOT's Give 'Em A Brake work zone safety campaign. The safety program provides funds for additional enforcement in work zones for selected highway projects across Kansas.

A total of \$5,200 was donated by Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City; American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas; Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association; Missouri / Kansas Chapter; American Concrete Pavement Association; and the Kansas Contractors Association, Inc.

Shingles to streets

A two-mile stretch of St. Louis's Lindbergh Boulevard has been paved with recycled roofing material. Asphalt containing recycled shingles from a nearby landfill was used on the project. It is the first state road in Missouri paved with such material. —*Public Works, November 2005*



511 sets record

The first major storm of the season produced a record number of calls to KDOT's travel information phone line

— 511. On Nov. 29, 511 received 36,308 calls, the highest daily call volume since Kansas 511 deployed in January 2004. A total of 52,200 calls were received during the two-day storm that resulted in I-70 being closed from Salina west to the Colorado border. Travelers also relied on the 511.ksdot.org Web site for information. There were more than 38,000 visits to the Web site.

Purple powered message

KDOT's advertising campaign that features the state's most popular college coaches making safety pitches got some unexpected national television exposure when legendary Kansas State University football coach Bill Snyder announced his resignation. When Snyder made his emotional, widely-played announcement, the purple backdrop at the news conference included a prominent display

of the logos for two KDOT safety programs — "Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink, You Drive, You Lose." A few weeks later when new coach Ron Prince was announced, the backdrop was again used for the news conference. Mixed news for 'Cats fans, but a nice return on KDOT's advertising dollars.

Camera cops

Those who speed through Illinois construction zones should smile for the camera — and pay up. State police vans equipped with cameras attached to radar detectors will soon be patrolling construction zones. The cameras will snap photos of drivers, the car and license tag, along with the recorded speed. The cost of a first offense is \$375. —*Daily Herald of suburban Chicago*

Counting commuters

Washington, D.C., leads all major American cities in the highest daytime population increase from commuters. The nation's capital increases by 71.8 percent daily from the influx of commuters. Other cities in the top five include Atlanta, 62.4 percent; Tampa, 47.5 percent; Pittsburgh, 41.3 percent; and Boston, 41.1 percent. —*American City & County, November 2005*

Toll bridge privatized

Chicago has sold the right to operate the Chicago Skyway Toll Bridge for the next 99 years. Chicago based Skyway Concession Co., made an up-front payment of \$1.83 billion for the right. It is the first privatization of an existing toll road in the United States. —*American City and County, October 2005*

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Calendar of Events

January 13 — 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission conference call. Eisenhower State Office Building.

January 16 — State employees off for Martin Luther King holiday.

January 18 - 2 p.m. Construction Bid Letting at the Topeka Capitol Plaza.

Deaths

Condolences to the family and friends of former KDOT employee **Arland V. Hicks**, 77, who died December 4 in Topeka.

Hicks retired from KDOT in 2001 following a career that began in 1946 at the age of 18. His 55 years of service were one of the longest on state record. Hicks began working for KDOT as an Engineering Intern and worked his way through the career ladder before retiring as a Senior Engineering Advisor. His career included a brief tenure as Acting Secretary of Transportation.

Hicks is survived by his wife, Gene, three sons, one daughter, a brother, two sisters and five grandchildren.

Hurricane

Continued from page 6

pictures, but it couldn't prepare me for what I saw in person," said Thompson. "It's one thing to see single snapshots but it's quite another to stand in the middle of it and see the destruction all around you."

The experience was rewarding and exciting for Thompson, but the flip side was it also proved to be tiring and frustrating.

"It was one of the most heart-wrenching things I've experienced as I stood on a concrete slab where someone's home once was and saw pieces of their lives strewn all over," she added. "It certainly makes you think twice about the value we place on our material possessions."

Greiser said unlike a tornado, which

generally confines damage within the path it takes, the damage from a hurricane is more extensive because the ruin is all encompassing. He said the people of Hancock County lost almost everything and have lived day to day at the mercy of others for over three months.

"These people are remarkably resilient, determined, appreciative and generally positive about remaining to reclaim their lives and rebuild their homes," said Greiser. "At least for me, aid and care for the survivors of Katrina and Rita has taken on a new level of importance after working with and among the individuals and families of Hancock County."

Miller, Public Affairs Manager in District Five, was the last of the four to help in Hancock County and had not yet returned from his mission as *Translines* went to print.

**Welcome
new KDOT
employees!**

Headquarters

Deborah Beam, Right of Way
Property Appraiser I, Right of Way
Lee Ann Patterson, Right of Way
Property Appraiser I, Right of Way
Jessica Tufts, Accountant I, Fiscal
Services

District Five

Robert Childs, Network Service
Technician III, Wichita

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Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Kevin Endsley, Engineering Technician
Specialist, Design
Cheri Toney, Accountant I, Fiscal
Services

District Three – Northwest

Cynthia Brown, Administrative
Assistant, Norton
Michael Gaydusek, Network Service
Technician III, Norton

NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or phone (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/(TTY).