

# Translines



## Inside ...

- ◆ **Climate survey results positive**
- ◆ **Heidner enjoyed serving the public**

- ◆ **Finding solutions**
- ◆ **Flooding causes problems**
- ◆ **Zimmerman keeps pedaling along**

**KDOT assists  
Greenburg**

See pages  
2-3, 8-13



*By Secretary  
Deb Miller*

# KDOT response to tornado heroic

I expected the trip from Pratt to Greensburg to reveal signs of the huge tornado that had destroyed Greensburg a week earlier. But surprisingly, the scenery along the route, which, as a Pratt native I have driven countless times, looked about the same as it always has.

But that changed dramatically when we pulled into Greensburg. What I saw was almost beyond words.

It's not that the photos we've all seen don't impressively reveal the devastation. There's just something about standing in the middle of town and being able to make your own 360-degree assessment. The view isn't limited by a framed photograph; everywhere you turn there's destruction.

The full scope of the damage may not have been so clear for the first KDOT responders who arrived at Greensburg in the dark, only 30 minutes after the tornado struck the night of May 4. But in the confusion that followed, they knew what had to be done. They closed US-54 to all but essential traffic coming into Greensburg and joined in the search and rescue operation. In the immediate hours after the tornado, Greensburg Supervisor Gary Jarvis hauled a doctor in the bucket of a track loader from house to house looking for the injured. Our heavy equipment was brought in to clear streets so other emergency vehicles could move throughout town. Four hours after the tornado, KDOT's

communications on wheels trailer was in place in Greensburg and providing a means for rescue workers to talk to one another. One hundred portable, interoperable radios were distributed to the responders.

But that was just the beginning of what has been a long, arduous, even heroic effort by many KDOT workers to assist this devastated town and its residents.

When I spoke to some of the KDOT workers in Greensburg a week after the tornado, I was struck by how well organized and practical they were. Dodge City Superintendent Mark Davis and Pratt Superintendent Gene Watts have provided such good leadership – getting in there shortly after the tornado, taking responsibility, assuming control and getting our forces coordinated. They were responsive and responsible. And they didn't hesitate to respond. They heard the news at home and immediately began to mobilize. They didn't wait to be called.

So many from KDOT have had important roles in the disaster response. KDOT Emergency Coordinator Mark Krentz has logged many hours at the State Emergency Operations Center in Topeka. The people at the Gage sign shop in Topeka worked throughout a weekend to make 341 street signs for Greensburg, which will make it easier to get trucks and other equipment where they need to be. And I'm sure others have contributed in ways I don't even know.

I am so impressed with the great cooperation among KDOT, the National Guard, Highway Patrol and the local citizens. In the face of this tragedy, people really have pulled together.

It's impossible to say too much about how the people of this agency have come through when our state needed them the most. They are a great group of caring Kansans who do their job and do it well. I appreciate their good instincts, their common sense, their commitment to hard work and their drive.

I've heard many comments, including those of the Governor, about the enormous contribution our people have made. To all of you who have made a difference in Greensburg, you have my heartfelt gratitude. You have made us all proud, and it's not an overstatement when I say that you have brought honor to our agency.



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## Calendar of Events

**June 9** - Employees' Council co-rec softball tournament, Topeka. Contact Peggy Hansen-Nagy, 785-296-3285.

**June 16** – KDOT golf four-person team stroke play at Stagg Hill course in Manhattan. Enter by contacting Kevin Adams (kevina@ksdot.org, 296-5297).

**June 20** - 1 p.m., Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

# Heidner enjoyed serving the public

By Kim Stich

Planning and Development Division Director Terry Heidner believes public service is a good line of work to be in, especially when it comes to transportation.



Terry Heidner

“For us, the end result of our work is good roads,” Heidner said. “We make life better for the public every day. People should be proud of that.”

And after celebrating 40 years of public service this spring, Heidner has decided to retire. His last day at KDOT will be June 15.

Although Heidner will be KDOT’s Legislative Liaison to the State Legislature next session, he said he’ll miss the daily interaction with “the people and the agency, and the sense of being part of something good,” Heidner said. “There are so many side benefits to working here. People

Continued on page 15



KHP officer Jason Wohlgenuth stresses safety belt usage during production of a television ad for KDOT’s Click it or Ticket campaign. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

## KDOT promotes safety

Wearing your seat belt and not driving drunk are two important safety measures that can save your life. KDOT is doing its part to make sure motorists get that message during two aggressive public awareness campaigns.

New TV and radio spots were recently produced for

Continued on page 16



The ramps from I-70 as well as 9th Street in Salina were closed because of high waters. Photo by David Greiser

## Flooding causes problems, closes roads

While most of the state’s attention was focused on the destruction of Greensburg during the May 4-6 weekend, the weather was posing challenges for residents and KDOT crews elsewhere in Kansas.

Up to 12 inches of rain in Salina and Ottawa counties caused water to cover many state highways and even flooded

the recently remodeled basement in District Two headquarters at Salina.

Crew members from the Minneapolis Subarea were called into work shortly after a tornado struck the Bennington State Lake area after midnight May 5. They removed debris on K-106 to allow

Continued on page 14

## KDOT assists Greensburg

An F-5 tornado rips through the town of Greensburg and in minutes leaves an unimaginable path of destruction. The long road to recovery starts immediately and from the beginning, KDOT has been there to provide a helping hand.

“We were there that night after the tornado hit to assist in the search and rescue operation,” said Gene Watts, Area

Continued on page 12

### On the... COVER

KDOT and Kansas National Guard employees clean up debris in Greensburg after the May 4 tornado. See pages 8-13. Photos by Sonya Scheuneman and Martin Miller

# Climate survey results positive

The overall positive responses to an employee survey conducted in April provide a good foundation to strengthen KDOT's workplace climate.

That was the message from Allen Humphrey, Chief of the Bureau of Personnel Services, who announced results of the survey at a May 17 meeting of the Executive Staff and others.

The voluntary survey was completed by 68 percent of KDOT employees from April 17 to 27.

The following are highlights of the results. A more complete look at the survey and what's next will appear in the July issue of *Translines*.

### Job basics

◆ One in four employees "strongly agree" they know what is expected of them at work; another 53 percent agree.

### Trust

◆ One in four employees "strongly agree" their supervisor cares about them; more than 60 percent agree their supervi-

sor cares about them.

◆ One in two employees agree their supervisor is a role model for his or her expectations.

### Loyalty

◆ Three in four employees plan to work at KDOT in a year.

◆ Fewer than one in 10 employees have "declared" they don't intend to stay.

◆ Two in three employees are satisfied with their job.

Only two questions received positive responses from fewer than half of the respondents:

◆ Four of 10 indicated that they receive praise or positive feedback for doing good work.

◆ Three of 10 said their supervisor finds ways to celebrate accomplishments.

Humphrey also pointed out that the survey is only a snapshot and, although, it shows a strong foundation on which to build, it is a benchmark to use for further improvement.

## People promoting safety honored at conference

Sergeant Michael Imber, Overland Park Police Department; Ann Charles, former editor/publisher of The Parsons Sun and The Chanute Tribune; and Captain Benjamin Hadley, Mission Police Department, were recognized as 2007 People Saving People Award recipients on April 18 at the Transportation Safety Conference in Wichita.

Sergeant Imber was recognized for his drive to creatively use every tactic and opportunity to improve roadway safety through enforcement. Since Sgt Imber's reassignment to the Overland Park Police Department's Traffic Unit, citation rates for violations of the state's

Continued on page 14

# Welcome to Kansas signs installed

New signs welcoming motorists to Kansas have been installed by KDOT at 69 locations throughout the state.

On April 27, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius joined Secretary Deb Miller and Kansas Department of Commerce Secretary David Kerr to unveil the "Welcome to Kansas" highway signs in the Statehouse. The signs are the latest component of the state's "Kansas, as big as you think" brand image campaign.

"These new signs will make a great first impression on travelers entering our state," said Gov. Sebelius. "It's another way for us to advance the state's brand image campaign and promote Kansas at the same time."

Secretary Miller said the project was an excellent example of partnering by two state agencies. "It was a pleasure working with the Department of Commerce," said Secretary Miller. "We were able to do one of our favorite things – promote the state of Kansas."



Secretary Miller, Gov. Sebelius and Secretary of Commerce David Kerr unveil the new Welcome to Kansas sign. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

The majority of the signs were made by the KDOT Sign Shop, with the remainder being made by the Kansas Correctional Industries at Lansing.

"Kudos go to the KDOT Sign Shop for the job they did in making these

signs," said State Sign Engineer Lee Holmes. "They were able to produce the majority of the signs in only one week."

The new signs replaced old signs which had been in existence about 15 years. – S.W.

# Zimmerman keeps pedaling along

By Sadie Warfield

National Bike Month during May has promoted fitness, education and safety for more than 50 years. It is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists.

Engineering Technician Specialist Duane Zimmerman began riding his bike to work and do errands in 1970 because his family could not afford two cars. Today, what keeps him motivated is much more than that.

“Normally, I bike to work about 60 to 70 percent of the time. In a year’s time I bike about 1,500 to 2,000 miles,” Zimmerman said. “It helps keep the blood pressure down and maintains weight. It is amazing how much of a difference biking can make on blood pressure.”

According to the League of American Bicyclists, a 150-pound cyclist burns 410 calories while pedaling 12 miles an hour, which is about the equivalent of the calories in a McDonalds Quarter Pounder.

Weather usually is not a factor that will keep Zimmerman off his bike. He keeps heavy gear for rain and will ride in the winter, with determining factors.

“I will not ride if the wind chill is 30 degrees or below or when it snows. It sticks and it is more of a hazard for motorists,” said Zimmerman.

Along the route, Zimmerman collects aluminum cans which in return he recycles and earns about \$200 a year. The five-mile commute to work takes Zimmerman about 25 to 30 minutes and saves a bundle on the rising cost of gas as well as the cost for having a second vehicle.

“Monthly, I save about \$40 on gas. The maintenance is



**KDOT employee Duane Zimmerman sees many benefits to riding a bicycle. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman**

also a lot cheaper on a bike than it is on a car,” he said.

Over the years of riding, Zimmerman can tell many stories of strange and memorable experiences from dogs chasing him to irate drivers to heroic moments.

“A few memorable experiences that I have had while riding is finding a lady’s stolen purse and locating her credit cards, driver’s license, etcetera, and got it returned to her before she had cancelled all of her cards. The thieves were only after the money,” said Zimmerman. “One other event was when the Jackson Memorial Bridge was to be dedicated and it

Continued on page 6

Dear Editor



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Randy McAnulty is the Iola Subarea Supervisor, Bruce Myres is an Equipment Operator Specialist at the Iola Subarea)

Dear Randy and Bruce,

We want to “thank you” again for the help you gave us on Friday, May 4th, in Humbolt. Our drive that day would not have been near as nice without you two KDOT Angels who stopped to change our tire and lead us to a tire service location. You went over and beyond your normal job duties and we couldn’t be more grateful. Keep up the good work.

Harold & Jeanna Longaker and Mary Bakker,  
Lawrence

(A pick-up truck and trailer jackknifed, spilling metal sheets onto US-50B on March 26. Equipment Operator Specialist Willy Phelps from Dodge City and other crew members stopped to help.)

**Dear Willy and KDOT crew,**

I wanted to thank you again for all you and your crew did for me and my mom last week. You went the extra mile, beyond the call of duty, taking time out of your busy day to help a perfect stranger. I was up against a great wall of “impossible circumstances” when you came along. God used you last week to bless me. I had just prayed for help and guidance. Thank you for having a servant’s heart.

We were in a pretty helpless situation. I am still amazed at all you did for us. Dodge City should be proud of their KDOT crew.

Sincerely, Barbara Hallman

*P. S. The cookies and coffee are for the coffee break you missed.*



By

Rosie  
Ingram

**TRANSPORTATION**  
**TALK**

## *Finding solutions*

A few months ago I received the “So Much to Say, So Little Space” award as a part of KDOT’s annual report effort. Now I’m confronted with the challenge of squeezing everything I have to say in another “little space”—600 words, I’m told. Here goes...

Hang around very long at KDOT and you’ll attend all sorts of management training. I’m sure you’ve noticed that what’s “in” one year is “out” the next (or at least repackaged to sell more books). One year it’s “Total Quality Management,” but a few years later it’s “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.” “Paradigm shift” was in a few years ago, but now it’s called “sea change.”

When I think about what I’ve absorbed from these classes, there really are a few ideas that have stuck with me and that I actually use. I find these concepts helpful in thinking about issues and how best to build a framework for solutions. And since I’ve been given 600 words to say whatever I want (I wonder if they really meant that), I’m going to share these ideas with you. So, with all due respect to Menninger, Deming, Neaderhiser, the U.S. Air Force, Masters & Johnson, Midas, and Calvin & Hobbs, here are my insights (in no particular order).

1. You don’t have to be sick to get better.

Sometimes, when we’re challenged to improve, our first reaction is to assume the “challenger” must think we’re doing something wrong. If we’re not careful, we spend an

inordinate amount of energy trying to justify what we’re already doing instead of spending that energy making things even better than they already are.

2. Cure the illness, not the symptoms.

To quote the Simpsons... “duh.” If you don’t address the underlying issue, the problems won’t go away.

3. Increase your average mean time between failures.

Setting a standard of perfection is unrealistic, but increasing the length of time between failures is an achievable goal. (This is also known as the “Parents’ Prayer.”)

4. If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the cause.

a. 1st Corollary: Put up or shut up.

b. 2nd Corollary: Fish or cut bait.

c. 3rd Corollary: ...hmmm...inappropriate, I think, to quote verbatim, but roughly translates to “lead, follow, or get out of the way.”

Everyone is allowed a certain amount of “whine time.” But what we should not be allowed is on-going complaining without offering ideas about how to make things better.

5. On average it takes 2.8 conversations between two people before they understand what they’re each talking about.

Just because you’re both nodding your heads in agreement doesn’t mean you’re actually in agreement. It’s important to ask questions, clarify, draw on the whiteboard (my personal favorite)... whatever it takes to truly understand the issue.

6. The more you know, the harder it is to take decisive action.

You’d think that knowing more would be a help, not a hindrance. But sometimes seeing all the infinite possibilities just leads you down a rabbit hole and into the weeds (perhaps a mix of metaphors, but you get the idea). It’s important to keep things in perspective.

7. Sometimes the shortest distance between two points is NOT a straight line.

Also expressed as: pay me now or pay me later. It’s better to take the time early to do your homework and make sure everyone’s headed the same direction in the race to issue resolution. Nothing makes things worse or takes more time than detouring back to pick up the stragglers... to be successful we must all cross the finish line together.

OK, that’s 604 words! Close enough (607)!

*Rosie Ingram is the Chief of the Bureau of Program and Project Management. (621)*

## Zimmerman

Continued from page 5

and the railroad bridge had been spray painted with racial slurs. I contacted the city and they sent out three crews to clean it up well in advance of the dedication ceremony.”

In 2001, 45,000 bicyclists were injured across the nation in accidents

involving motor vehicles, according to the League of American Bicyclists. This number does not surprise Zimmerman. He estimates that 90 percent of cyclists do not wear helmets and only a fraction who do, wears them properly. Zimmerman offers safety advice to cyclists.

“The precautions cyclists should take to help remain safe is to wear a reflective vest with bright glow stripes

on it, a good bright headlight so oncoming traffic can see you are there, and most important is to stay in the outside of the outside lane until they are ready to make a left hand turn,” said Zimmerman. “You then must be certain that motorized vehicles are going to yield to you. Many times they will pass so be very alert, the cyclists will suffer more bodily injury than the motorist.”

## KDOT excels in Local Consultation Process

The Kansas chapter of APWA has awarded KDOT the Excellence in Program Operations award for the Local Consultation Process. The Local Consultation Process is a process using the assistance of local officials to help the agency choose and prioritize improvement projects for state highways.

Improvement projects are selected using the Priority Formula which includes criteria such as pavement conditions, shoulder width, traffic volumes, and accident rates. Sections of the highways which have the highest priority are

based on the overall score of the Priority Formula.

A working group was formed to ensure the goals of the Local Consultation process are met. The working group is headed by Terry Heidner, Director of Planning and Development; Julie Lorenz, Director of Public Affairs; and Rosie Ingram, Chief of Program and Project Management.

The process will be put in place after the 10-year Comprehensive Transportation Program (1999-2009) is completed.



### Move Over - it's Kansas law

*Above, state and local safety partners unveil a new sign highlighting the Move Over safety laws April 26 in Topeka. At right, Subarea Supervisor Robert Turner speaks about being injured in a work zone crash. Below, Secretary Deb Miller (right) speaks to Marvin and Shirley McDonald and Mabel Cunningham. Their family members, KDOT employees Scotty McDonald and Richard Cunningham, were killed in work zone crashes in 2005. Photos by Larry Katsbulas*



## KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

### CLASSES ARE ON THE CALENDAR AT ESOB

**JULY – HOT NEW CLASSES!**

**JULY 16, ACCESS** – “Working with Existing Databases” Topics include: Data Entry, making queries & reports.

**JULY 17, WORD** – “The Tools for Long Documents & Preparing Manuals” This will be presented as though you already have experience with Word, yet it will address things you missed covered in level one & more. Topics include: Styles, table of contents, auto correct, mail merge & fill-in fields.

**JULY 18, OUTLOOK** – “Organize Your Inbox” Students may choose a 3-hour morning or afternoon class. You will be working with your own email account in class using search folders, filters, categories & more.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Tips & Tricks:

- ◆ To see how any Web page was coded, right-click in the page, and then click View Source.
- ◆ To search for a word or phrase on a Web page, press CTRL+F to open the Find dialog box.

These tips are from the Bureau of Computer Services.

**Enroll by e-mail** [kctc@ksdot.org](mailto:kctc@ksdot.org) or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993. *Questions are welcome!* Supervisor’s approval to enroll is necessary.



*KDOT is on the scene minutes after tornado hits town*

# GREENSBURG TRAGEDY



## KDOT employee, wife escape from storm shelter

John and Marsha Adolph huddled in a storm cellar May 4 with their dog Sadie, a border collie mix.

“It was pretty scary,” said John, a KDOT Equipment Operator at Greensburg. “We had a light that started flickering, we lost all electricity, and we could hear glass break and the floor shake and water lines breaking.”

Water started pouring into the cellar and 4-by-4 beams holding up the floor above them came crashing down.

John wondered if the door would come off and the tornado would suck them out.

After the storm, he used some of the 4-by-4 pieces to break through the jammed cellar door. He managed to get

*Top: The destruction in Greensburg can be seen as a KDOT truck travels to the dump. Left: Metal is wrapped around tree limbs. Above: KDOT trucks are loaded with debris. KDOT employees have taken up to 1,052 loads to the dump in one day. Below: Damage in town from the tornado is massive.*



Continued on page 9

## Disaster by the numbers

1 – KDOT mobilized and assisting in less than one hour	100 – Number of interoperable radios dispensed by KDOT
4 – Hours after tornado before KDOT's Communication on Wheels set up and operational	200 – Number of animals held in shelter at KDOT Subarea
5 – Number of KDOT employees who lost their homes	961 – Single family homes destroyed
10 – Number of people killed	1,052 – Loads of debris removed by KDOT on May 15
	8,300 – Total loads of debris removed in two weeks



## Adolph

Continued from page 8

half of his body through the hole and shouted for help. Neighbors helped free him.

The Adolfs had lived in the two-bedroom house in Greensburg for seven years. They returned several days after the powerful F-5 tornado hit the town.

Trees that once stood strong are now stripped of foliage and bark, some of them knocked over into trailers and other vehicles. Only a portion of the front of the house remains.

Given the devastation, they found more than they thought they would, including a bunch of clothes and Marsha's mother's wedding ring. "That's helping out a lot," John said.

John doesn't know what the future will bring for him and his wife as they recover from the natural disaster.

"We're just taking one day at a time right now," he said. "We're not sure what's going to happen."

*Editor's Note: The majority of this article came from the Wichita Eagle.*



*Above: District Engineer Bob Cook (left) Greensburg Supervisor Gary Jarvis (right) and Tom Corns, President/CEO of the Greensburg State Bank, discuss clearing off the concrete parking area next to the bank to set up a mobile banking office. Below: Piles of debris are scooped up by KDOT.*



*Photos by Sonya Scheuneman and Martin Miller*

*Stories by Stan Whitley and Steve Swartz*



*Top: Many of the KDOT employees assisting in the Greensburg clean-up effort are pictured. Above: Secretary Deb Miller talks with Dodge City Superintendent Mark Davis and District Engineer Bob Cook during a visit to Greensburg on May 11.*

## Relief fund established to help employees

A relief fund has been established to help five KDOT employees who suffered substantial losses during tornadoes which struck Greensburg and surrounding communities.

The first four employees are from Greensburg. The last employee is from rural Macksville. The employees and their work location are:

- ◆ **John Adolph**, Equipment Operator, Greensburg
- ◆ **Norman Unruh**, Equipment Operator Senior, Greensburg
- ◆ **Nick Baker**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Greensburg
- ◆ **Doug Coates**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Pratt
- ◆ **Dan Hall**, Equipment Operator Senior, Kinsley

The relief fund has been set up at the Peoples Bank in Pratt. To help, please send donations to Sharon Dodson at the Pratt KDOT Office, 309 Iowa, Pratt, 67124-2150. Make checks to "Tornado Fund-Sharon Dodson."



*Middle left: Many signs were bent or damaged by the tornado. Center: Equipment Planning Technician Robert Childs (right) talks with Topeka Police Officer Lt. Mike Haugen about KDOT's Communication on Wheels operations. Bottom left: Only a few vehicles are on US-54 in Greensburg as it was closed indefinitely to through traffic.*





*Left: KDOT works with the National Guard to load and haul debris. Below: Winds from the F5 tornado smashed a vehicle into a building.*



## Sign shop assists in Greensburg recovery effort

Thanks to the work of the KDOT sign shop and others, an important part of the Greensburg landscape will soon be returning – street signs.

Signs identifying the streets were among the many familiar features of the town that were lost when the city was struck by the May 4 tornado. The lack of street signs created a communications challenge for the many state, federal and private responders trying to get to specific locations in town. In some places, the names of the streets were spray-painted on the pavement.

A rush order of 341 street signs were produced in the sign shop in Topeka and delivered to Greensburg on May 15.



*A downed street sign in Greensburg.*

“Communicating where you’re at is one of the biggest problems,” said Area Engineer Scott Mullen, Pratt. “Without street signs, you have to tell people how far you are from a landmark.”

The signs were to be mounted on existing posts if they could be found or on new posts if the old ones were missing.

A Greensburg city official requested the signs from KDOT. Crews in the sign shop, who don’t normally build street signs, worked over the weekend to produce the signs and get them to Greensburg as quickly as possible.

“I’m sure the signs will be welcome,” said Mullen. “It will make life easier.”



*Left: A stop sign ends up in the front yard near a John Deere sign that was also blown over. Above: Through US-54 traffic was detoured at the US-54/US-183 junction because of debris on the road and other safety issues.*



*Right: Massive damage from the tornado. Below: Debris is unloaded and burned at the dump.*



*Above: Kansas Highway Patrol officers talk with stopped motorists on US-54. Below: About 100 KDOT employees helped with clean-up efforts in Greensburg.*



## Tornado

Continued from page 3

Superintendent at Pratt, who has coordinated KDOT's relief effort since the May 4 tornado. "The next day we were bringing in equipment and manpower to assist with debris removal."

Watts said KDOT initially focused on debris removal and cleaning of roadways to allow vehicles to safely travel within the city. Their next mission was to start clearing property easements in an effort to restore essential utilities to the tornado ravaged town.

Working with the Kansas National Guard, debris was removed from right of way along roads and alleys making room for utility poles, waterlines and gas lines.

The tornado killed 10 people, injured 63 and destroyed most of the town. Only a handful of buildings were left standing, including the grain elevator, the county courthouse and KDOT's Subarea shop.

"Our Subarea facility was put to good use initially serving as a law enforcement command center," said District Engineer Bob Cook. "Our wash bay area was used as a morgue and our equipment storage building was turned into an animal shelter."

KDOT's mobile Communications on Wheels arrived at 1:30 a.m. on Saturday in Greensburg to assist law enforcement. US-54 between Pratt and Greensburg was closed to traffic after the tornado and KDOT employees have assisted with traffic control through barricades and message board operations.

Cook estimated that 100 employees, 20 heavy equipment loaders and 65 dump trucks have assisted with the recovery effort in Greensburg. Manpower and equipment from both District Five and District Six joined in the effort.

"Our folks definitely deserve a pat on the back for the job they have done helping the community begin to get back on its feet," said Cook. "When a town of 1,500 loses almost everything, the people are understandably emotional. Our employees have been working in a stressful environment, but they've remained dedicated professionals."



*Left: Secretary Deb Miller praises KDOT employees for their work in Greensburg. Middle left: Volunteers take care of animals that were lost or needed help at the KDOT Subarea Sign building in Greensburg. The building was used as an animal intake location in Greensburg. Below: The American Red Cross set up an assistance area next to the KDOT building.*



*Above and left: KDOT and the Kansas National Guard continue removing debris from Greensburg.*



*Above, a car is almost submerged in water just left of Ohio Street as water flows over the road in Salina just south of I-70. Below, KDOT trucks and other vehicles are flooded at the truck service center near I-70 in Salina. Photos by David Greiser*



## Flood

Continued from page 3

emergency vehicles access to the command center at the lake, and spent several hours flagging on the highway due to high water.

In Salina, four of the seven interchanges along Interstates 70 and 135 were closed. KDOT, working with local Emergency Management, sheriff's and police personnel, rerouted traffic around the clock until the morning of May 8. Flagging was also required on K-140 due to four feet of water between Burma Road and the I-135 interchange.

With some key supervisors out of the area for the weekend, the Salina Subarea EO Seniors took charge, organizing KDOT's initial response to the flooding. The Salina crew was supported by the Lindsborg Subarea. District Office Coordinator Judy Wagner also worked through the night generating alert bulletins to keep the rest of the state informed of the flooding and road closings.

## Safety

Continued from page 4

occupant protection laws (including seatbelts and child passenger restraints) and impaired driving laws have risen dramatically.

Charles, until March 31, editor-in-chief and publisher of The Parsons Sun and The Chanute Tribune, was honored for her opinion pieces addressing the issues of Kansas roadway safety, in general, and impaired driving and underage drinking issues, in particular. Her efforts are an example of the role the news media can play in roadway safety.

Captain Hadley was honored for his efforts to improve roadway safety through research and creative traffic enforcement. As Patrol Division Commander, he has overseen the traffic unit since January 2005. During that time crash totals have been reduced by 13 percent and injury crashes by 11 percent.

This award is open to any person, organization, and/or program that has had a positive effect on Kansas transportation safety. It is sponsored by Traffic Safety.

## Welcome new KDOT employees!

### Headquarters

**Erika Bessey**, Attorney II, Construction and Maintenance  
**Terri Brookhouser**, Applications Developer II, Computer Services  
**Sondra Clark**, Management Systems Analyst I, Local Projects  
**Lorna Jansen**, Administrative Specialist, Construction and Maintenance  
**Tammi Lower**, Application Developer II, Computer Services  
**David Moore**, Engineering Technician Associate, Design  
**Sherry Petrie-Fitzgerald**, Organizational Development Manager, Personnel Services  
**Ami Seastrom**, Accountant I, Fiscal Services  
**Terri Slater**, Applications Developer II, Computer Services  
**Candy Williamson**, Administrative Assistant, Fiscal Services

### District One – Northeast

**Lonnie Bushnell**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Topeka  
**John Davies**, Engineering Technician Associate, Olathe  
**Matthew Gengler**, Engineering Technician Associate, Lawrence  
**Timothy Lindshield**, Engineering Technician Associate, Lawrence  
**Charles Smith II**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Topeka  
**Jeremy Willis**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Lamar

### District Two – Northcentral

**Max Bell**, Equipment Mechanic, Salina  
**Jaci Novak**, Human Resources Professional I, Salina

### District Four – Southeast

**Andrew Trollope**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Independence

### District Six – Southwest

**Danny Campbell**, Equipment Mechanic, Garden City  
**Jeffrey Nilhaus**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Jetmore  
**Steven Wendt**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Dodge City

## Retirees

The following employees are official June retirees from KDOT.

### District One – Northeast

**Louis Hasenkamp**, Equipment Operator Senior at Topeka  
**Russell A. Kraus**, Equipment Operator II at Eskridge

### District Three – Northwest

**Roger Huff**, Equipment Mechanic at Norton

### District Five – Southcentral

**Javier Martinez**, Engineering Technician Senior at Wichita

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

## MILESTONES

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in May

### 10 YEARS

Phillip Christenson . . . . . Courtland  
 Robert Foye, Jr. . . . . Lane  
 Claudette Noble . . . . . Belleville  
 Thomas Reitz . . . . . Erie  
 Dale Updegrove . . . . . Chanute  
 Benton Wood. . . . . Lebo

### 20 YEARS

Patricia Ahlenius . . . . . Topeka  
 Michael Diffendal . . . . . El Dorado  
 Michael Havenstein . . . . . Topeka  
 Daniel Kahler . . . . . Topeka  
 Joseph Oldham . . . . . Fontana  
 Ronald Schwindamann . . . . . Marysville  
 Mark Scott. . . . . Everest

### 30 YEARS

Russell Bishop . . . . . Pratt  
 Rick Claycomb . . . . . Valley Center  
 Thomas Eisenbarth . . . . . Topeka  
 John Ross . . . . . Weir  
 Mark Shumway. . . . . Pratt

*State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services.*

## Heidner

Continued from page 3

care about you as a person, not just as an employee, and that means a lot.”

He worked two summers for KDOT before graduating from the University of Kansas and entering the agency’s Engineer-In-Training program. At first he thought he’d go into construction in one of the Districts, but then he changed his mind.

“When it came time to say where you want to go, I said planning,” Heidner said. “And I’ve been in planning my whole career.”

His first job was analyzing origin and destination survey data for Junction City in the traffic and field operations group. Later he was promoted and worked for Dennis Gamble on developing the construction program.

In 1982, the Bureau of Program Management was created. “Buck Jones headed it and they put the programming function in the bureau,” he said. “So they put me in the bureau to help Buck get it started.”

Heidner was named the Assistant Bureau Chief of Planning in 1984. Three years later, Deb Miller, then Planning and Development Director, chose Heidner as the Bureau Chief. In 1997, he was promoted to his current position.

The passage and completion of the Comprehensive Highway Program and

the passage of the Comprehensive Transportation Program are the big highlights of his career, with many other memorable times throughout the years.

“There have been a lot of fun moments and a lot of fun people,” Heidner said. “You spend more of your waking hours with your colleagues than you do with your family. If you can’t have fun at work, you better find something else to do.”

Besides redecorating his house, working in his yard and on his farm, traveling and fishing, Heidner plans to continue playing bass guitar in his band Rural Route 4, along with his sons,

Scott and Troy, and friend Bill Thompson. They perform three to four weekends a month around the area. “I have played in a band for 42 years and still enjoy it,” Heidner said.

And he participates in local car shows and

parades with his 1967 Ford Galaxy that he bought new right before finishing college. He drove the car for several years, then parked it in a barn for 18 years. About eight years ago, he and KDOT retiree Dean Steward “souped it up a little bit.” The exterior was also repaired, but the interior is original, he said.

Heidner said he wouldn’t trade his career for anything.

“Hopefully you like what you’re doing and like the people you’re doing it with, and if you do, you’re really lucky,” he said. “And I do – always have.”

## Retirement Reception

for Terry Heidner

Monday, June 18

Eisenhower Building  
 (700 SW Harrison in Topeka)  
 4th floor auditorium

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## Deaths

Condolences to the family and friends of **Ronald L. Kasper**, Topeka, who passed away May 7.

Kasper, 67, was a Management Systems Analyst II, in the Bureau of Management and Budget. He had been employed by KDOT since

1991.

Survivors include his wife, Julie, two sons, one sister, one brother, and four granddaughters.

Memorials may be directed to the Cornerstone Community Church, 7620 SW 21st St., Topeka, 66615.

Click it

Continued from page 3

the agency covering those two topics. KDOT promoted its Click it or Ticket campaign through electronic media spots for two weeks in May.

“Seat belt use in Kansas continues to be among the lowest in the nation, which is unacceptable,” said Pete Bodyk, Chief of Traffic Safety. “Only 73 percent of motorists in Kansas are using their seat belts. Lives are being lost and people injured simply because they didn’t take the time to make it click.”

Two TV ads for seat belt usage begin with similar language, “If you can’t be bothered by buckling up when you drive, someone can always buckle you up later.” One ad continues with a body being buckled on a gurney at the site of a crash and the other ad shows a young man being buckled into a wheelchair.

During the campaign, a two-week traffic mobilization will be held state-wide ending on June 3. Approximately 140 police departments, sheriff’s offices and the Kansas Highway Patrol will participate in the enforcement effort.

“Aggressive enforcement periods like Click it or Ticket are most valuable when they’re augmented with heightened awareness campaigns,” said Bodyk.

A new primary seat belt law starts July 1 for teenagers between the ages of 14-17. There will be an educational period until Jan. 1 before the actual fine of \$60 will go into effect. Seat belt usage for adults remains a secondary law; however, the fine will increase from \$10 to \$30.

The drunk driving campaign runs from Aug. 17-Sept. 3 under the theme “Drunk Driving. Over the Limit - Under Arrest.” The drunk driving TV ad will show a young man being handcuffed by a law enforcement official and placed in the back of a patrol vehicle.

KDOT data for 2006 shows there were 3,176 alcohol-related crashes in Kansas last year. Those crashes resulted in 77 deaths and 2,043 injuries.

Besides TV and radio spots, both campaigns will be promoted at sporting and entertainment venues. – S.W.

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

**Sharron Bohnenkemper**, Special Investigator I, Chief Counsel

**Kelly Hovey**, Engineering Associate I, Design

**Lou Ann Hughes**, Management Systems Analyst III, Construction and Maintenance

**Michael Ingalls**, Professional Civil Engineer I, Design

**Roger Moore**, Information Technology Manager, Computer Services

**Kristina Rizek**, Professional Civil Engineer I, Traffic Engineering

**Lisa Shelton**, Administrative Assistant, Materials and Research

**Brent Slade**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Construction and Maintenance

**Delayn Wilson**, Administrative Specialist, Design

District One – Northeast

**Geary Beeson**, Engineering Technician Senior, Topeka

**Mary Beavers**, Administrative Specialist, Topeka

**Brian Bosak**, Engineering Associate III, Olathe

**Chuck Depew**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Blaine

**Mike Floberg**, Professional Civil Engineer III, Topeka

**Randy Knight**, Engineering Technician Senior, Emporia

**Ian Stringham**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Lawrence

**Steven Taylor**, Utilities Coordinator, Bonner Springs

**Tony Trower**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Topeka

District Two – Northcentral

**Curtis Slate**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Mankato

District Three – Northwest

**Sammy Goodale**, Equipment Operator Specialist, St. Francis

District Five – Southcentral

**James Welch**, Engineering Associate I, El Dorado

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

<p><b>Kansas Department of Transportation</b>  <i>Bureau of Transportation Information</i>                  Eisenhower State Office Building                  700 SW Harrison, Second Floor, West                  Topeka, KS 66603-3754</p>	<p>PRE-SORTED STANDARD                  U.S. POSTAGE                  PAID                  TOPEKA, KS                  PERMIT No. 157</p>
<p>NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/(TTY).</p>	