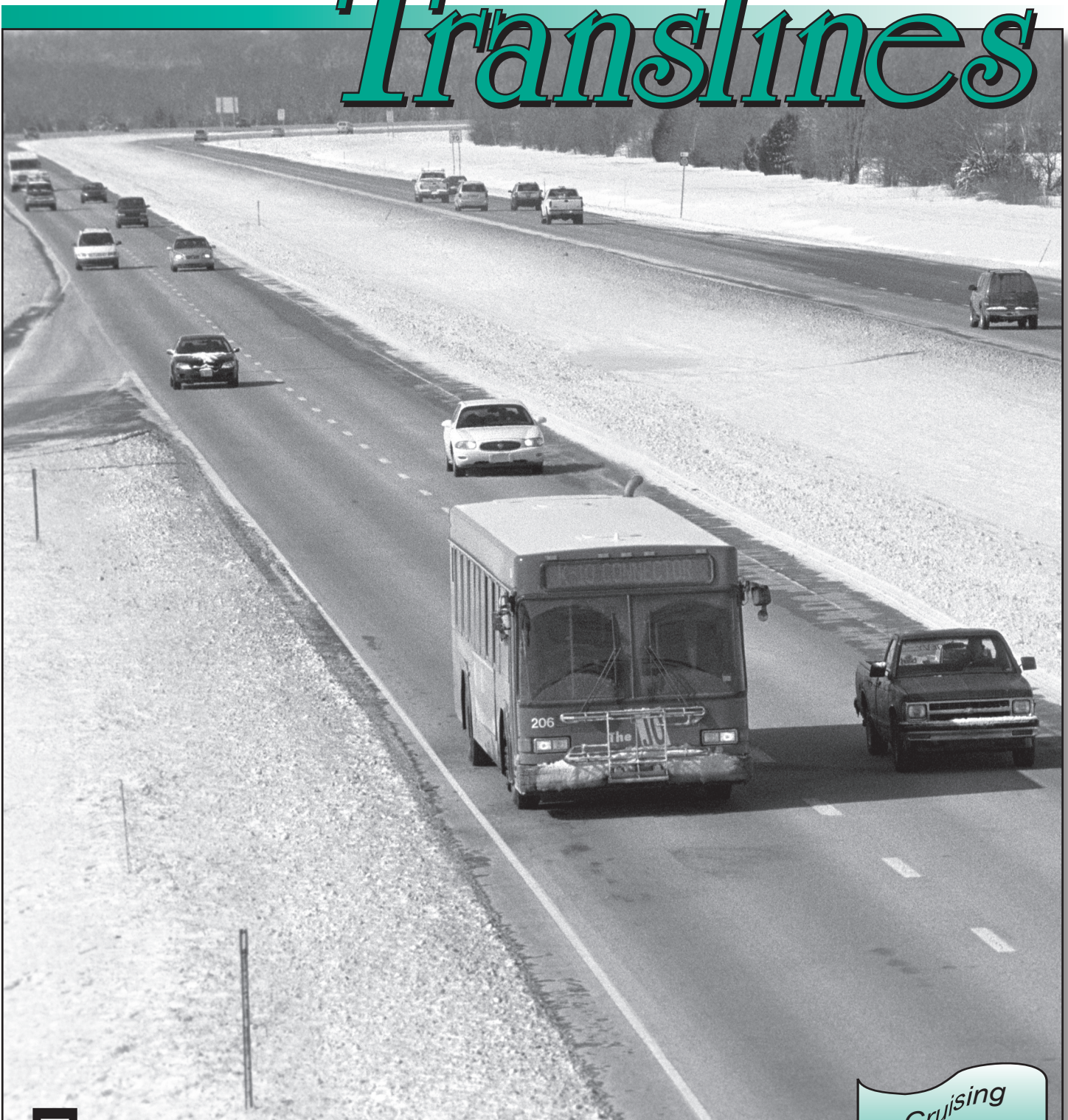


Translines



Inside ...

- ◆ **Lost military print finds its way home**
- ◆ **Building teamwork at the Lamar Subarea**

- ◆ **Construction to begin**
- ◆ **Symposium draws big crowd**
- ◆ **Motorist rescued by Erie KDOT crew members**

*Cruising
along
See page 3*



*By Secretary
Deb Miller*

511 – A million times over

On the last day of 2006, with winter storms howling, our 511 Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS) reached a milestone.

The system, which started operation in January 2004, received its millionth call on Dec. 31. And with the storm still disrupting travel over a large portion of the state, the calls just kept coming – almost 133,000 from Dec. 29 to Jan. 2.

While the storms this season continue to create hardships for travelers and challenges for our crews, it has done wonders for raising awareness of the 511 system. Through the first six weeks of 2007, 511 has received more than 155,000 calls – about 40 percent of last year's call total. At this rate, we'll be celebrating two million calls before you know it.

For the past three years, we have used a variety of approaches to get the word out about 511. But we knew there were still many people who had not heard the message and didn't know of 511. News coverage of the storms has helped us spread the word about 511 like nothing else we have done. While it may have taken the "luck" of a severe winter to draw more callers to 511, it is the good work of the people who manage and feed information to 511 that has kept travelers calling back time and again.

ATIS Coordinator Barb Blue has worked hard to get

511 built from the ground up, and many more people have put in (and continue to put in) thousands of hours to make the system a success. It starts with the front line field workers who enter the road data into the electronic reports that go into KANROAD, and continues with those who manage the online road information system.

KANROAD, under the direction of Brian Logan, feeds the 511 system and has provided online road condition information to hundreds of thousands of people. Since the winter travel season began in November, KANROAD has had about 700,000 visits – more than all of 2006. Like so many at KDOT this season, the people responsible for providing travel information have lost a lot a sleep so that the systems are up to date around the clock and accurately reflect the condition of our roads.

These systems are becoming more and more important to our mission of providing Kansans and visitors a means of safe travel. Miles driven on the state highway system are steadily rising. Congestion continues to be a concern in the Kansas City metro area, which makes another of our travel information systems, Kansas City Scout, an essential part of our operation.

In a short amount of time, commuters in the metro area have come to rely on the bi-state Scout system to help them travel efficiently and safely to their destinations. KDOT's ITS unit, led by Mike Floberg, has done a great job representing KDOT at Scout and helping build it into the valuable system it is. Just recently, travel times were added to the messages displayed on the large, overhead signs throughout the Scout system. And in a few years, a similar system will be in operation in Wichita.

There will always be a need to add capacity to our system, but 511, KANROAD and Scout will help us maximize what we have. While these systems are built on sophisticated technology, they are only as good as the people who operate them. And thanks to the good work of those people, there will be many more milestones to celebrate.



Eisenhower Building-
2nd Floor West,
700 SW Harrison,
Topeka, Ks 66603-3754

Governor: Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Transportation: Deb Miller
Chief of Transportation Information: Steve Swartz
Editors: Stan Whitley and Kim Stich

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

Calendar of Events

March 7-8 – Kansas-Missouri Highway Rail Safety Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park.

March 9 - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

March 17 – 10 a.m. – KDOT golf two-person scramble, Village Greens, Ozawkie. Enter by contacting Kevin Adams (kevina@ksdot.org, 296-5297) or Garry Olson (garry@ksdot.org, 296-3618).

March 21 - 1 p.m. Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week



Casey Wiegmann, Kansas City Chiefs center, meets with students at McKinley Elementary in Kansas City on Feb. 12 to promote Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week. Photo by Larry Katsbulas

Bus service passes initial test

By Steve Swartz

A pilot project that provides inter-city bus service between college campuses in Johnson County and Lawrence has exceeded early expectations.

K-10 Connector, operated by Johnson County Transit, began operations Jan. 17 at the start of the spring semester. It includes stops at Johnson County Community College, the KU Edwards campus in Johnson County, Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence and the University of Kansas.

Continued on page 12

Kansas 511 hits record during recent storms

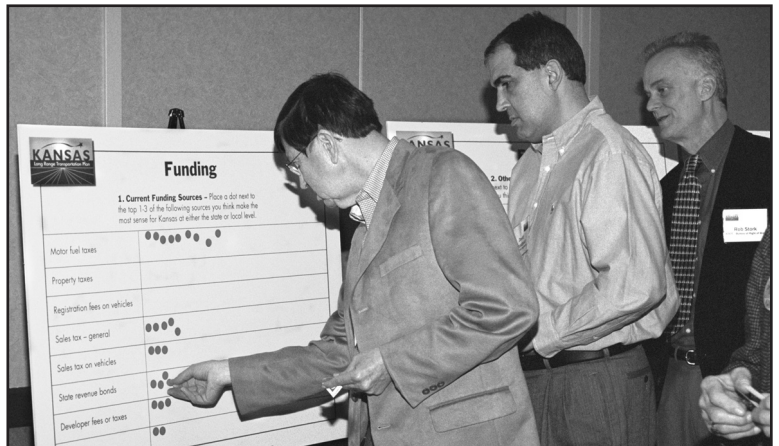
The Kansas 511 Advanced Traveler Information System has received more than 362,000 calls since Nov. 29, 2006, when the first major winter storm hit in Kansas.

Kansas 511 broke daily and storm event call



volume records during the historic storm that raged in western Kansas over New Year's when travelers made almost 65,000 calls to 511 on Dec. 31. Almost 133,000 calls came in during the storm, Dec. 29-Jan.

Continued on page 11



Attendees at the Kansas Transportation Symposium in Manhattan use stickers to indicate what they think are the most important funding issues for transportation in Kansas. Photo by Larry Katsbulas

Symposium draws big crowd

Working group chairmen named

MANHATTAN - More than 300 people discussed state and national transportation trends during the Kansas Transportation Symposium on Jan. 18 at the K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan.

The symposium, which attracted local officials, legislators, economic development representatives, manufacturers, shippers and others, is part of the agency's development of the state's Long

Continued on page 10

On the...

COVER

The K-10 Connector heads out of Lawrence en route to Johnson County college campuses.

Photo by Kurt Weaverling



Members of the Lamar Subarea Team pose with Secretary Deb Miller (front row, middle) at the Employee Recognition ceremony on Jan. 26. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

Building teamwork at the Lamar Subarea

By Kim Stich

LAMAR - Building a ten-bay equipment building, new hopper racks and a new salt/sand bunker as well as extensive rehabilitation of the main shop were some huge tasks the Lamar Subarea office took on recently.

The group was honored for its efforts in KDOT's Example of Excellence employee recognition program for the fourth quarter of 2006. Secretary Deb Miller attended the event in Kansas City on Jan. 26.

"The Lamar Subarea did an outstanding job in 2006 juggling their normal duties of maintaining a complex interstate system that carries more than 166,000 vehicles a day while constructing an equipment storage facility and rehabilitating the Subarea office - all during one very busy year," said Kansas City Metro Engineer Mick Halter. "With all that, maintaining a safe, quality transportation system for the traveling public never took a back seat."

The employees accomplished this while continuing to achieve a high standard of maintenance on the highways as well as transitioning to a new supervisor, said Robert Turner, Subarea Supervisor.

This team effort at the Lamar Subarea also included employees from other parts of District One. Area Six crew members helped on the salt/sand bunker and the metal building. They came down numerous days to help out when they could.

In addition, team members from the District Facilities Maintenance Crew came down to the Lamar office and did the wiring and the plumbing.

Members of the team include: Patrick Anderson, Ronald Brownell, Denny Browning, Jason Dlugopolski, Edward Durkin, Rick Ferrell, Ryan Hornick, Drake Jennings, Terry Johnson, Dennis Kirby, Russ Lambert, Waylon Lane, Eric Lentz, Brian Link, Wade Lytch, Clint Maynard, Gary McCamish, Leon Mitchell, Todd Moore, Jeffrey Mull, Sam Spears, Alicia Turk, Robert Turner, and David Walter.

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

Chief, District Engineer, Area Engineer, or Subarea Supervisor who can then sign the form and submit the nomination to Transportation Information.

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

The award is given quarterly. Nominations for the first quarter of 2007 are due to the Bureau of Transportation Information by March 30.



KDOT Computer Training

— from the KCTC

CLASSES ARE ON THE CALENDAR AT ESOB

Thanks to you, we are growing!

Karen Ellis will be joining Misty on March 1. Like Misty, she will be teaching part-time yet exclusively for the KCTC. Karen has years of experience teaching at KATS, Washburn University and as the trainer of choice of Payless ShoeSource. She is Master Certified by Microsoft in the current Office products and also brings HTML experience. Karen is now completing her certification in the newly-released Office 2007 applications.

What does this mean for you?

The KCTC will be able to hold classes five days a week and be better able to provide post class follow-up to questions at your desk. The addition of Karen will ensure our ability to train at the ESOB and the districts simultaneously, add new classes when demand merits it and assist KDOT with agency-wide roll-outs.

Together, Karen and Misty will provide continuity in the classroom and at your work space.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tips & Tricks:

◆ Did you know our KDOT Intranet is home to MANY helpful tips on Quick Reference Cards for Microsoft Applications, Operating Systems and Web development? Go to: kdotweb.ksdot.org, IT Tech Support, Quick Reference to see the numerous titles of tips that you can easily print and laminate for use! This tip is from the Bureau of Computer Services.

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

Airport funding



Secretary Deb Miller (center) cuts the ribbon at a new runway in Syracuse on Jan. 29. Also that day, the Secretary announced 24 projects that have been selected to receive safety and service enhancements through KDOT's Airport Improvement Program. Two projects were selected in Syracuse/Hamilton County for runway and taxiway improvements as well as an automated weather information system. Photo by Kirk Hutchinson

Howard leaves KDOT to serve as Governor's chief counsel

After serving 3 1/2 years as Chief Counsel for KDOT, Sally Howard has a new home on the staff of Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

In January, Sebelius announced she had chosen Howard to serve as chief counsel to the Office of the Governor. Howard leaves KDOT with mixed feelings, but said she has a great opportunity to help advance policy initiatives that she strongly supports.

"I've really enjoyed being a part of KDOT and the relationships I've built with many people," said Howard. "We have an important mission and it's been very rewarding to be involved in projects that positively impact the lives of Kansans."

Sebelius said that Howard has an impressive range of experience in pri-

vate and public practice.

"She will be an important part of this administration and a valued member of the team we've assembled to work for the people of Kansas," said Sebelius.

Howard began her legal career as an associate attorney with Holbrook, Heaven & Fay, P.A., in 1993. In 1998, Howard became an associate counsel with Stevens & Brand, L.L.P., where she worked on health care law issues for Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Three years later, in 2001, Howard became a partner at Parkinson, Foth, Orrick & Brown, L.L.P.

Howard is a member of the Kansas Bar, as well as the bars of the United States District Court for the District of Kansas and both the Eighth and Tenth circuits of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Vicky Johnson, KDOT Attorney specializing in litigation and commendation, began serving as Interim Chief Counsel for the agency on Jan. 29.



Sally Howard

Motorist rescued by Erie KDOT crew members



Erie KDOT crew members Gene Erikson (left) and Pat Weldon rescued a motorist from a burning vehicle. Photo by Priscilla Petersen

A disabled motorist whose car caught on fire along K-39 in southeast Kansas was rescued by a KDOT road crew in early February.

Gene Erikson, Equipment Operator Senior, and Pat Weldon, Equipment Operator, both from the Erie Subarea, were removing a dead deer from the highway right-of-way when a car pulled onto the shoulder. As the driver was making a call on his cell phone, Erikson and Weldon noticed that the car was starting to burn. When they ran to tell him of the fire, they discovered that he was disabled and could not walk. His wheel chair was in the back of the car.



The driver knew his car was having mechanical problems, but was unaware it was on fire. He was calling family to

Continued on page 12

Lost military print finds its way home

By Rebecca Newbury

Administrative Assistant in Junction City

JUNCTION CITY - John Fansler, Engineering Technician Senior in Junction City, was driving on I-70 last fall when he noticed a box along the roadway. Inside was a James Dietz military print, "Moving the Herd, the 173rd Brigade Parachuting into Northern Iraq on March 26, 2003."

The frame was scuffed up a little and the glass was shattered which caused some minor scrapes.

There was a signature on the print to Staff Sgt. Matthew Miles. Several attempts were made to locate him, but with no success. So the print was hung at the entrance of the Junction City KDOT office with the hope of it being recognized.

One day in January, Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Nate Sparks saw the print and decided to try locating Staff Sgt. Miles. The very next morning, Jan. 12, Staff Sgt. Miles was in the KDOT office at 9 a.m.



John Fansler (left), Engineering Technician Senior, and Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Nate Sparks (right) helped get this military print back to its owner, Staff Sgt. Matthew Miles (center). Photo by Becky Newbury

Staff Sgt. Miles had moved from Fort Benning, Ga., to Fort Riley last fall. Several items had been lost in the moving process, including his limited edition military print.

Staff Sgt. Miles was later injured in a parachute jump and placed on a no-jump status, so this print meant a lot to him, he said.

It's not every day you get to give back something that is irreplaceable to someone. On this day, it happened.

Construction to begin on state projects

Projects in Districts Two and Six will be featured in this edition of Translines. Articles have been written by Public Affairs Managers David Greiser, District Two; and Kirk Hutchinson, District Six.

DISTRICT SIX

Construction Continues on US-54 Four-Lane

The work continues on the new four-lane divided highway section of US-54 from the Kansas/Oklahoma state line to the west city limits of Liberal. Project 54-88 K-7283-01 calls for building almost 4.5 miles of new four-lane highway on a new alignment south and east of the current US-54. J

& R Sand Company, Inc., of Liberal, is the primary contractor for this \$20,333,823.55 project.

The new four-lane highway will feature one interchange near the Kansas/Oklahoma border and an at-grade intersection just west of the Liberal city limits. The project began last summer and focused on building the bridges for the interchange and dirt work along the length of the new alignment. Construction should be completed by early 2008.

Jetmore Geometric Improvement

A project of a different color is on tap for the City of Jetmore in Hodgeman County. Project 283-42 KA-0488-01

will replace the red brick pavement on US-283 through town with concrete.

This Geometric Improvement project covers 2/10 of a mile from Buckner Creek Bridge to Tucker Street. It follows a recently-completed Transportation Enhancement project through downtown Jetmore that added decorative street lighting and replaced the sidewalks.

This project, originally scheduled

for 2009, will also give the city the opportunity to replace an aging water line under the street. The project is scheduled for a June 2007 letting.

DISTRICT TWO

I-70 in Saline County

The I-70 project in Saline County starts at the Niles Road interchange (260) and moves east to the Solomon interchange (266). This is the last section of the original I-70 construction between Salina and Topeka to be replaced. Last fall, the contractor installed crossover lanes at either end of the project and placed a light overlay on selected sec-

tions of the eastbound lanes in preparation for construction to begin in early to mid March. This year, the westbound lanes, shoulders and ramps will be reconstructed while traffic is carried head-to-head in the eastbound lanes. In 2008, the eastbound lanes, shoulders and ramps will be replaced. The Niles interchange bridge has been removed from this project and was made a separate project to be constructed at a later date.

K-18 four-lane in Geary County

Last year saw the start of construction of two additional lanes parallel to the existing lanes on K-18 from the I-70 interchange (303) north 2.7 miles to the Geary/Riley county line. This year, those new lanes (which will end up the westbound lanes) will be completed, striped, and used as two way traffic while the existing concrete pavement will be rubbleized,

overlaid with asphalt and returned to service as the eastbound lanes of the new four-lane median-divided facility between I-70 and the Kansas River. Plans call for the project to be completed by early September, weather permitting.

K-18 four-lane in Riley County

This spring and summer a contractor will clear all trees within the right of way and search for unexploded ordnances in an area north of the Kansas River where the old Army landfill was. This will identify if there is a need for further remediation work in the area prior to construction of the new 12th Street



US-54 expansion work south of Liberal. Photo by Eric Jones



By _____

**Ed
Young**

**TRANSPORTATION
TALK**

The fire within

My expectations for “The Ethics of Leadership” class were low.

It was the second session of the American Leadership Forum Fellowship program I attended a few years ago in Colorado and I didn’t hold out much hope that it would be as good as the first session. That had been a week-long, trust-building outdoor adventure. We climbed rocks, rappelled 250 feet and rafted the Colorado River. I loved every minute of it. The second session started the academic (boring classroom) part of the program.

When I walked into the classroom, I began to dread the decision to participate in the program. In one of the most beautiful places on Earth, I had committed to sitting in a classroom listening to “experts.” The bank of picture windows in the conference room above a Vail hotel only made matters worse.

My fear was heightened by the fact that our instructor was Father Hugh O’Daugherty. What I know about Catholic school is derived entirely from television and movie stereotypes. I’d already sat through hours and hours of ethics training that year during the renewal of my professional licenses. In my wildest dreams, I wouldn’t have expected

to have the epiphany of my professional career that day. While Father O’Daugherty’s lesson has a religious flavor, the message itself does not.

“Suppose,” started Father O’Daugherty in a quiet, thick Irish accent that required the listener to lean in, “that the word ‘leadership’ is derived from the word ‘lent.’”

“Does that mean that accepting a position of leadership means that you agree to be ridiculed in public, forced to carry the implement of your own execution, and left to die on display?” he asked, referring to the crucifixion story.

A leader is always subject to criticism. Whether warranted or not, criticism hurts. I’m sure, that as a public servant, you’ve met a taxpayer whose criticism felt a lot like a crucifixion.

“Consider a different word,” continued Father O’Daugherty. “Purpose. In Greek, the word ‘pur’ means to glow, to burn, to be on fire.”

At KDOT, that root meaning exists in a figurative sense (let’s hope not in the literal sense). It’s not hard to find co-workers who burn with the purpose of providing a safe, efficient transportation system. For example, while the importance of a shoulder improvement project may be lost on an impatient motorist delayed by construction, we are motivated by the knowledge that a stable shoulder can mean the difference between life and death. Managing a transportation system with an emphasis on safety is a powerful purpose.

My epiphany was that leadership was an activity, not a title. It is not defined by personality, power or position. It is defined by purpose.

We should all find our purpose and commit to it with a burning passion. It’s what gives some of us the strength to stand up to critics and doubters, while others collapse under the weight of it all.

Father O’Daugherty summed it up this way:

“Lots of people were crucified by the Romans. Can you name two?”

Ed Young is Director of the Division of Aviation.

Construction

Continued from page 7

interchange into Ft. Riley.

K-156 from Ellsworth to Holyrood

K-156 from the K-156/K-140 intersection south to the K-156/K-14 intersection was completed in 2006 as was the K-156/K-140 intersection itself. This year, K-156 from K-14 south to the city limits of Holyrood is scheduled for reconstruction. In 2006, contractors were

very busy working along side of K-156 cutting away hills and filling in valleys in preparation for this year’s construction. There will be a 31-mile detour in use on K-14 and K-4. When completed, there will be a new super-two highway between Ellsworth and Holyrood offering improved sight-distance and widened shoulders for the traveling public. This project should begin around March 5 and conclude in early November 2007.

Dear Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Secretary Deb Miller,

I received a copy of your email to Joel. I thought you might want to know I went out very soon after the storm and held meetings for Sen. Roberts in seven different counties in northwest Kansas, Wallace County to the West, Gove County to the east and all in between. I met with city, county, school, emergency management, business and ag folks.

I was impressed that at every stop, KDOT was receiving high praise. Your man in Sharon Springs (I didn't get his name) was ramrodding snow removal that was absolutely paralyzing the business district of the town.

Kristen Brands was front and center at our meeting in Colby. She is impressive and was much appreciated. So it was my pleasure to make these reports to Sen. Roberts, because they weren't just hypothetical conjecture - they were reactions from ground zero.

Congratulations to you and your KDOT family.

Harold A. Stones
KS Special Projects Director
U. S. Senator Pat Roberts

Sirs,

On Friday I traveled from Salina to Wichita at 0630. The roadway was in clear conditions despite snow in the area. I then traveled from Wichita to Kansas City. The conditions were much worse with snow, rain, freezing rain and sleet. The roadway was being cleared and treated as we drove.

I was amazed at the number of trucks blading and sanding the road. It was by the efforts of your crews that the road was passable at all. On Sunday I traveled from Kansas City to Salina. The conditions were the same with rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow.

Again, the KDOT crews were clearing, blading and treating the road to make it passable. Travel was slow, however, without the crews fine work, I am sure that the highway would have been impassable, especially the left lane.

I would like to commend KDOT for a heroic effort to keep our Kansas roads in good shape even during the worst of weather.

R. Steven Preston
Salina

Competition teaches engineering skills

By Sadie Warfield

MANHATTAN - Students nationwide were given the challenge to open their minds and examine the future at the 15th annual National Engineers Week Future City competition.

This year's Great Plains Regional competition was Jan. 20 at Kansas State University. Future City asked teams who participated in the competition to create cities of tomorrow. Teams were composed of three students, a teacher, and a volunteer engineer mentor.

Nationwide, 30,000 middle school students from 1,100 schools used their imagination and problem solving skills to design future cities. The competition encourages interest in engineering, team work, and practical math and science skills.

Initially, students had

to design their city on the computer using the SimCity 3000 computer software. The students then had to build their city as a large 3-D tabletop model. The 3-D models were to be built from recycled materials and could not exceed the \$100 budget given to each team. Next, students were asked to write a 500-700 word essay on the given topic as well as a 300-500 word city abstract to describe the city and some of its services.

The 2007 essay topic was to use fuel cell systems to power a modern metropolis. Last, the students had to present their project to a panel of judges.

Teams winning regional competition received an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the national finals. The winning team at the national competition received a grand prize trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.

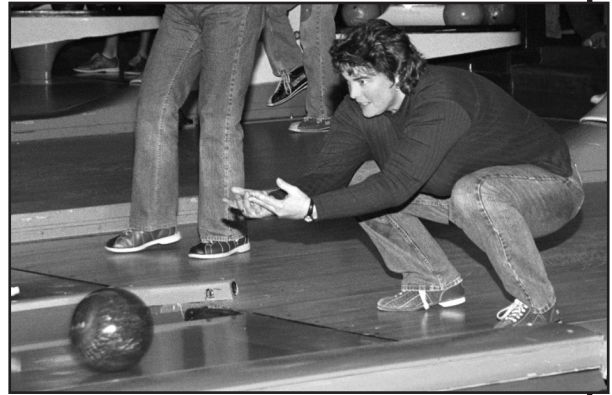
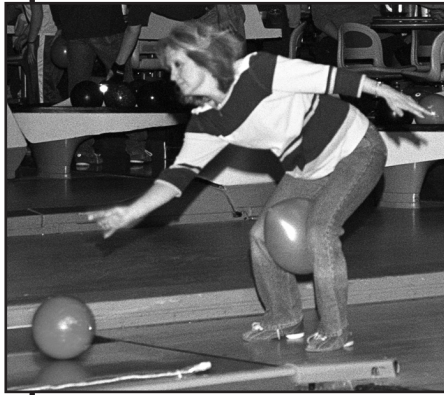
Fun Facts and Trivia

Do you know?

Congestion Facts PART 2 from the Federal Highway Administration

- ◆ In Colorado, a downhill speed warning system on I-70 decreased truck accidents 13 percent and decreased runaway ramp usage by 24 percent in 2 years.
- ◆ Installation of variable message signs and an adaptive signal control system in Fargo, N.D., resulted in an 18 percent reduction in travel times and a 21 percent increase in vehicle speeds.
- ◆ Between 1980 and 2003, lane-miles of highways increased 5 percent while vehicle miles of travel increased 89 percent.
- ◆ A combination of ITS technologies in Detroit, Mich., - including advanced traveler information systems, highway advisory radio, ramp metering and variable message signs - increased average vehicle speeds by 5.4 mph, decreased trip times by 4.6 minutes and reduced commuter delay by 22 percent.
- ◆ Several field studies show that adaptive signal control systems can reduce peak period travel times by as much as 11 percent.

It's wild, it's wacky, it's Crazy Bowl!



Administrative Officer Deb Weiler (left) bowls with a balloon between the knees while Renee Sumpter baby bowls during the third game of the annual Employees' Council Crazy Bowl. A total of 19 teams participated. Photos by Sonya Scheuneman

LRTP

Continued from page 3

Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

In the morning, the group listened to presentations by Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson; John Horsley, executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO); Stan Ahlerich, president of Kansas Inc.; and Secretary Miller. In the afternoon, the group split into breakout sessions and provided feedback on the following themes: Freight, Transportation Funding and Finance, Rural/Micropolitan Transportation, Economic Impact of Transportation, and Metropolitan Transportation.

The symposium came on the heels of eight regional transportation workshops KDOT conducted at the end of 2006 to gather input on current and future transportation challenges and opportunities.

The symposium marked the end the first phase of development of the LRTP. As part of Phase 2, working groups are being formed to further discuss and make recommendations on the five themes that were discussed at the symposium.

Named as committee chairmen to lead the groups are: District 2 Highway Advisory Commissioner Chuck Elsea, freight; Sedgwick County Commissioner Tom Winters, metropolitan transportation issues; Seward County Commissioner Shannon Francis, rural and micropolitan issues; Kansas Turnpike Authority President and former KDOT secretary Michael Johnston, funding and finance; and David Warm, Mid-America Regional Council, economic impact.

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters
Elsit Mandel, Engineering Associate I, Transportation Planning
Justin O'Brien, Security Manager, Computer Services
Tonia Robinson, Engineering Technician, Bureau of Design
Marcia St. Louis, Management Systems Analyst I, Construction and Maintenance

District One- Northeast
Larry James, Equipment Mechanic, Wamego

Retirees

The following employees have officially retired from KDOT.

District Five
John L. Gallagher III, Engineering Technician at Wichita - 32 years of state service.
Larry G. Ricker, Equipment Operator at El Dorado - 18 years of state service.

511

Continued from page 3

2, 2007. One of the calls received on Dec. 31 marked the millionth call to 511 since KDOT began the system in January 2004.

During the first winter storm in late November, 511 received about 38,000 calls. The storm in western Kansas a few days before Christmas generated more than 52,000 calls, and almost 160,000 calls were received in January 2007 during several winter storms across Kansas.

By calling 5-1-1 from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S., travelers can hear up-to-date route-specific road conditions, construction detours, and travel weather information for any Interstate, US and Kansas state highway, including Kansas Turnpike routes. Information is provided at all times and is free from a landline phone. For cellular phone users, cell minutes may apply, but no roaming fee should apply.

Travelers may also get road condition information by visiting the KDOT Web site at <http://511.ksdot.org> or through KDOT's main Web site, www.ksdot.org, under "Road Conditions."

Transportation Briefs

Rahn named AASHTO VP

Pete Rahn, Director of Missouri's Department of Transportation, has been selected to be vice president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Victor Mendoz, Director of Arizona's Department of Transportation, was elected president. The election to vice president puts Rahn in line to be president next year.

-Midwest Contractor Dec. 25, 2006

Historic photos posted

The Iowa Department of Transportation has added more than 2,300 historic photographs to their Web site. The mix of photographs includes photos of the early interstate system, horse-powered vehicles, streetcars, snow removal and more. The new addition to the Web site makes these resources available to the public and preserves the collection for future generations. The photographs may be downloaded without obtaining permission for noncommercial use at www.iowadot.gov/historic_photos.

-Public Roads, January/February 2007

Florida implements course

Florida established a way for drivers whose licenses have been suspended to get back on the road sooner. The American Safety Council has established the Advanced Driver Improvement (ADI) course. ADI is a 12-hour online course that has been approved by the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles for those whose licenses have been suspended. The course will teach them to accept responsibility for their actions, analyze the consequences of continued poor driving and begin a plan to avoid future problems. The course is only available to drivers whose licenses have been suspended for non-DUI infractions. The course is the first of its kind.

-Public Roads, January/February 2007

ITS study published

The Federal Transit Administration and the ITS Joint Program Office have published ITS Applications for Coordinating and Improving Human Services Transportation: A Cross-Cutting Study. The publication looks in depth at the use of ITS to better transportation safety, security, operations and coordination. Also included are the stages of progress of ITS technologies that include planning, design, implementation, and evaluation.

-Public Road, January/February 2007

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in February

10 YEARS

Peter Bumpas Derby
Shane Hastings Berryton
Harry Johnston Topeka
Christopher Pruitt El Dorado
Melissa Richard Towanda
Shane Stubbs Haysville
Mark Suddock Overbrook
David Zerr Oakley

40 YEARS

Jim Brewer Topeka
George Dockery Pittsburg
Terry Heidner Berryton

20 YEARS

Michael Hickman Oskaloosa
Gale Martin Topeka
Edward Rosell Wamego
Joseph Walker Osborne
Rex Winchell Agra
Stephen Yarnell Buffalo

30 YEARS

Daryl Leeth Topeka
Roy Ottensmeier Oskaloosa
Gregory Wyatt Lawrence

State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services.

Kudos

to KDOT employees

KDOT received the 2006 State Challenge award on Feb. 6 beating out other state agencies in the state blood challenge.

KDOT employees donated 178 units during the five blood drives that took place in the past year.

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Randy Ackley, Engineering Technician Senior, Bureau of Design

Michael Dillner, Engineering Technician, Bureau of Design

Lee Holmes, Professional Civil Engineer II, Traffic Engineering

Jamie Morgan, Applications Developer II, Computer Services

Debbie Tanking, Professional Civil Engineer II, Bureau of Design

Brandyn Wolfe, Accountant III, Fiscal Services

District Three – Northwest

Stuart Withington, Engineering Associate, Oakley

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.

Erie crew

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come get him.

Erikson and Weldon carried the man to safety and then used fire extinguishers from the KDOT truck to put out the fire. The men were assisted by Angie Jack, wife of District Equipment Superintendent Robert Jack, who had been watching from her nearby house and provided additional fire extinguishers and blankets. By the time firefighters arrived, the fire was under control.

Family members came for the driver, whose car didn't appear to have sustained much damage from the fire. **-S.S.**

Bus service

Continued from page 3

"It's a very smart transit project," said John Rosacker, assistant chief of the Bureau of Transportation Planning, whose words are backed up by the early numbers.

Johnson County Transit staff expected between 50 and 100 rides a day during the initial weeks of service, building to 350 to 400 a day after a year of operation. However, after less than a month of operation, the numbers already are pushing 300. But, noted Alice Amrein, transportation director for Johnson County Transit, those numbers are from the introductory period during which no fares were charged. Beginning, Feb. 12, commuters began paying to ride. Ridership numbers were not available by Translines deadline.

The one-way fare is \$2.50, and a 10-ride pass costs \$15.

"The potential need for transit service along K-10 was identified during a KDOT corridor study of K-10," said Amrein.

"We believe that many elements necessary for a successful intercity bus service exist in this fairly congested corridor, including daily commuters and a large student and faculty population on both ends of the route," she said.

Rosacker said that finding ways to take traffic off the heavily-traveled road is important because K-10 will have to be widened to six or eight lanes some day, based on current growth rates.

"It's a question of when, not if," he said. "We can save money by not having to build the fourth lane."

The pilot is a year-long project. It has four buses, with two on the road during operating hours. Based on feedback through 300 to 500 e-mails, Johnson County Transit has fine tuned schedules and added more trips. There are 23 trips between Lawrence and Johnson County. Amrein said the service will continue through the summer under revised schedules.

KDOT provides \$1.2 million in public transit funds to Johnson County Transit.

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