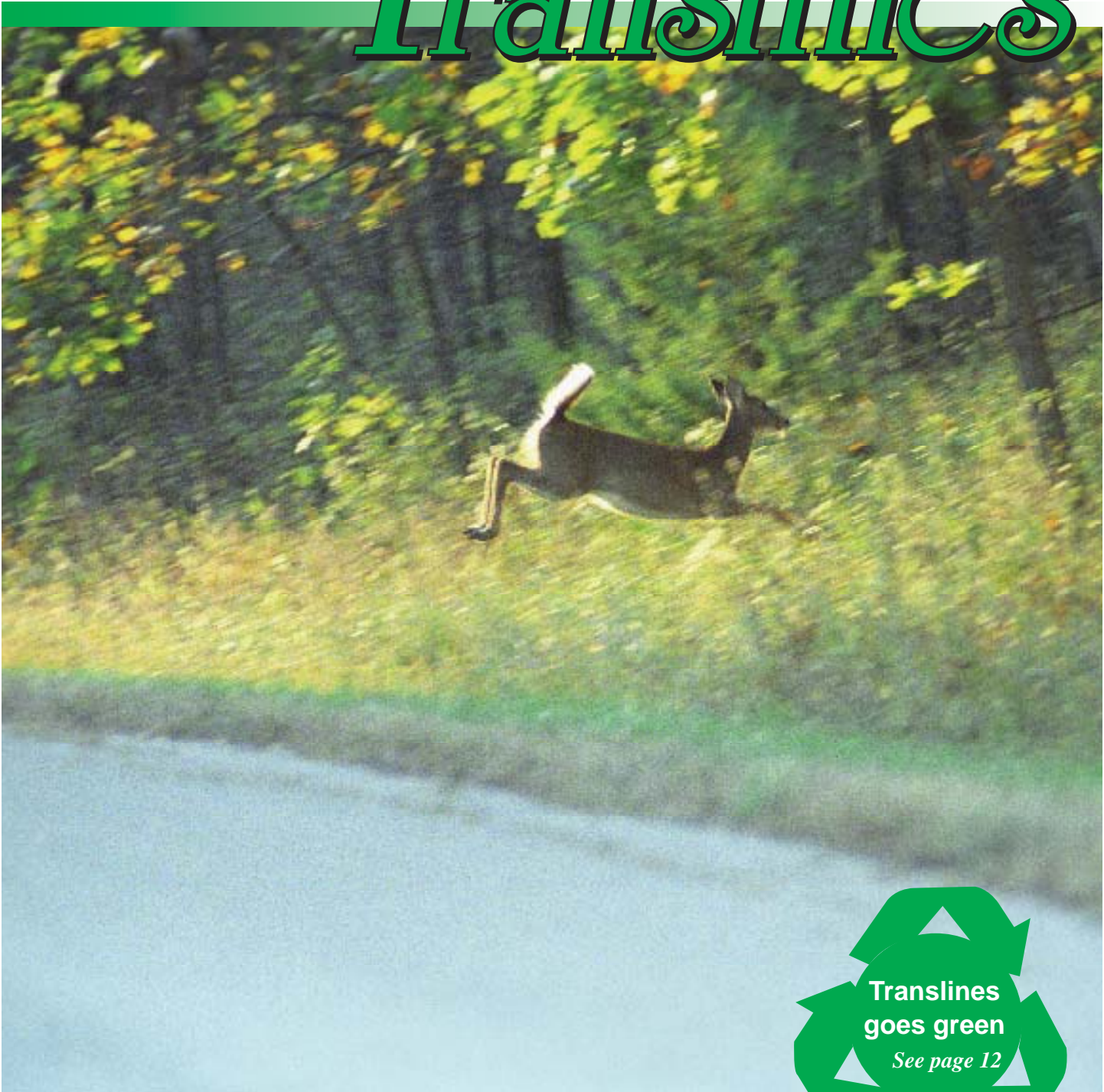


Translines



Inside ...

- ◆ *Employees' kids win poster contest*
- ◆ *Slimmer named Bureau Chief of Planning*
- ◆ *KDOT helps haul materials*
- ◆ *Seat belt usage rate improving*
- ◆ *Travelers benefit from improved information*



By Secretary
Deb Miller

Take a deep breath and be thankful

We can all be forgiven, amidst the declining economy and a too-long election season, if we have failed to be thankful.

Depressing news day after day about the financial markets has many of us concerned about our retirement funds and our futures. Agency budget watchers are closely monitoring market developments as we push to complete the CTP, prepare for what could be another costly winter and contend with the inflated cost of materials.

At the same time, it seems as if the tone of the ever-present presidential campaign has gotten even nastier than the low levels we have come to expect. And, has this campaign been going on since the last inauguration day or does it just feel that way?

Despite the fact that gasoline has dropped more than a dollar in the last half-year, it's still hard to feel good about paying \$2.70 a gallon.

But, if we take a few deep breaths and consider the

bigger picture, there are reasons to be thankful. Really.

Ask most financial advisers and they will tell you that the market always rebounds and that there are lots of bargains to be had for those who aren't too shell-shocked to consider them. And, the free market world seems to be willing to pull out all the stops to get the global economy back on solid ground.

At KDOT, we are being proactive in how we manage our debt. We are taking advantage of a new Internal Revenue Service rule that allows us to actually invest in our own debt and reduce our net interest costs. Despite having to pay more in interest right now, aggressive management of our debt has saved the state \$50 million over the past eight years.

We should also keep in mind that the presidential election is quickly coming to an end, and, by Nov. 5 (I hope), Americans will have once again selected new leaders by non-violent, citizen participation. The vitriol should subside at least for a few months.

Even if it feels like we don't have much control right now, keep in mind that there are things we can do and are doing to protect ourselves. And, we shouldn't forget that we are still living in the greatest democracy in the world. We have the opportunity to express our views (boy, do we!) and participate in the political process.

With the whole world watching America to see if we can again look like a proud world leader, it's important that we aren't apathetic, that we show we care and, most importantly, that we vote.

We should never overlook or take for granted the great opportunities we have in this country to overcome obstacles. Time and again we have proven that we can overcome economic downturns, political battles and even expensive gasoline.

And for that, I'm thankful.



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

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Calendar of Events

- Nov. 11** – State employees off for Veteran's Day holiday.
- Nov. 14** – 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.
- Nov. 19** – 1 p.m. Construction bid letting, Fourth Floor, West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.
- Nov. 27-28** – State employees off for Thanksgiving holiday.

On the...

COVER

Deer are particularly active in November and can be seen frequently crossing roads in Kansas. See story on page 11. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

Saline County reconstruction nears completion

Reconstruction of the final roadway section of I-70 between Salina and Topeka during the Comprehensive Transportation Plan will soon be completed in Saline County.

The 6 ½-mile project began in the spring of 2007 and involved pavement and shoulder reconstruction, along with bridge repairs from the Saline-Dickinson county line west to the Niles Road (260) interchange. Weather permitting, the project is scheduled for completion in November.

In 2007, the westbound roadway, shoulders and ramps were reconstructed. Similar work was done on the eastbound section of I-70 in 2008.

Koss Construction Company was in charge of the \$23.8 million project.

A related project for replacement of the Niles Road bridge over I-70, and pavement and shoulder reconstruction of the bridge approaches and ramps, is set for October 2011. – *S.W.*



I-70 reconstruction work continues this fall east of Salina. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

Slimmer named Bureau Chief of Planning

Dennis Slimmer's experience in a number of areas throughout KDOT has helped prepare him for his recent appointment to Chief of Transportation Planning.

"Transportation Planning is one of the most interesting bureaus because there is such diversity in the types of work that is done, from very technical things like traffic counting and mapping to the overall planning and corridor management," Slimmer said. "It's a great opportunity. Even though I'm late in my career, the timing was good for me and hopefully it will be good for KDOT as well."

Following graduation from Kansas



Dennis Slimmer

State University in 1970, Slimmer's first permanent assignment was in bridge design and after six years, he became the Estimating Engineer in the Bureau of Construction.

"Warren Sick was my direct supervisor and Ted Roberts was the Chief of Construction," he said.

After a couple years, he became the Construction Engineer at the Area Four Office in Topeka, working for Don Drickey. "It was great fun being out in the field and seeing all the projects," he said.

Slimmer was called back to Headquarters two years later to serve on the Priority Optimization Task Force with Verne Craig, Jim Brewer, Sick and Buck Jones to develop the priority formulas that KDOT uses to select projects for construction. He stayed in Planning and Development once this was finished,

then later became the Assistant Bureau Chief in Transportation Planning working for Terry Heidner.

In 1987, Slimmer went to work for Deb Miller, who was the Director of Planning and Development, and focused on policy and federal affairs issues. He remained there for the past 21 years.

In coming back to the bureau, many people have moved on, but there are still a lot of familiar faces. "It's not like I'm coming into a group of strangers – we know each other pretty well," he said.

Slimmer's main goal is to emphasize customer service. "We have both internal and external customers and I want to make sure we're serving them in the best way possible," he said.

Slimmer and his wife, Kathy, have one daughter, Dallas, who is a freshman at Kansas University. They reside in Topeka. – *K.S.*

KDOT helps haul materials for Crisis City

KDOT District crew employees from District One and District Two assisted hauling 50 loads of precast pipe and precast RCB boxes in early October to help training efforts for first responders in Kansas and across the Midwest.

The materials were taken from Kansas City to Crisis City, an area about seven miles southwest of Salina. Crisis City is a hands-on homeland security public safety

training area that will allow emergency responders from local, state and federal organizations including law enforcement, search and rescue teams, medical response teams, public and private industry safety professionals and the National Guard to train together, conduct



Precast pipe and precast RCB boxes are hauled by District Crews (above) from Kansas City and then unloaded at Crisis City (left) to assist first responders in their training efforts. Photos by Leo Perry and David Greiser

exercises and work through realistic disaster scenarios.

Mark Krentz, KDOT Emergency Coordinator, said the materials, donated by Precast Concrete Technologies, would be used to build a concrete rubble pile and several search and rescue areas

similar to basements.

"Kansas is really ahead of the game in emergency preparedness and disaster training," Krentz said. "Crisis City is the first one of its kind in the Midwest."

Crisis City is scheduled to be open for training exercises in mid-2009. -K.S.

New Fancy Creek Bridge in Riley County open

By Kim Qualls

District One Public Affairs Manager

A project that began in July 2007 on U.S. 77 in Riley County to replace the existing bridge spanning Fancy Creek opened on Oct. 3. The existing bridge was a two-girder steel structure that was replaced in its entirety by a new five-girder steel bridge structure.

The original bridge, constructed in 1961, had a driving surface that measured a total width of 28 feet, composed of two 12-foot driving lanes and two two-foot shoulders. The new bridge's driving surface has a total width of 40 feet, composed of two 12-foot driving lanes and two eight-foot shoulders.

The Fancy Creek Bridge project was originally scheduled to be completed in mid-August 2008; though due to project delays, the completion date for the project was extended to early October. The project was primarily on schedule until early June 2008, when rising water levels from Tuttle Creek Lake halted construction work for erection of the center girders on the new bridge structure. With water levels remaining high, construction crews were



Construction of the new Fancy Creek Bridge is now complete. Photo submitted by District One

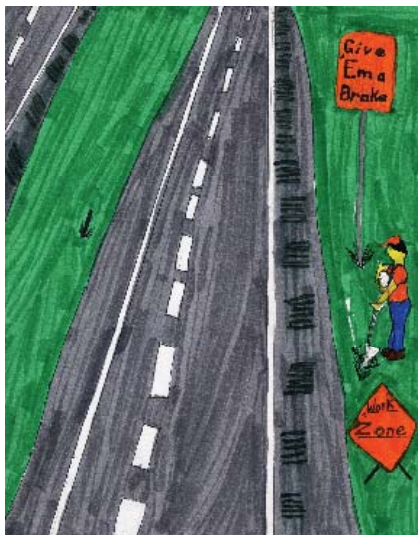
delayed for over a month before they could resume work.

During construction on the new bridge, U.S. 77 was closed to all traffic and drivers were detoured along a state route that was approximately 47 miles in length. United Contractors, Inc. was the primary contractor on this \$6,571,120 project.

Employees' kids win poster contest

By Kim Stich

Eighteen kids from across Kansas were selected as regional winners of the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest sponsored by KDOT and other transportation organizations. And four of

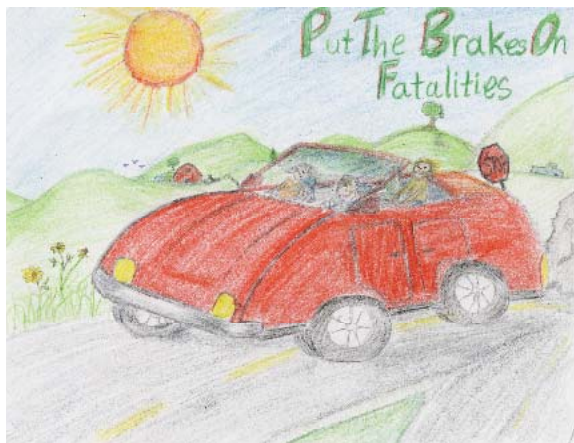


Tanner Samuelson

these artists have parents who are KDOT employees.

Rebecca Cunningham, 12-year-old daughter of Glen Cunningham, Engineering Technician at the Chanute Materials Lab, has entered the contest for several years, but this was her year, Glen said.

Glen likes the poster contest and believes it helps kids become more aware of the dangers of traveling and highway safety. "I think Priscilla (Priscilla



Rebecca Cunningham

Petersen, District Four Public Affairs Manager) making the presentation at the school will help reinforce that highway safety is an important thing," he said.

Two of Glen's other children, Nathan and Matthew, won in previous years of the contest.

When five-year-old Kassie Zimmer found out she was a poster contest winner and would receive a new bike, she promised to give her bike to her little sister, said Kevin Zimmer, Area Engineer in Hays.

Kevin always tells her to look both ways when riding her bike. "So when I brought home one of those information sheets and told her what it was about, she just went from there," he said.

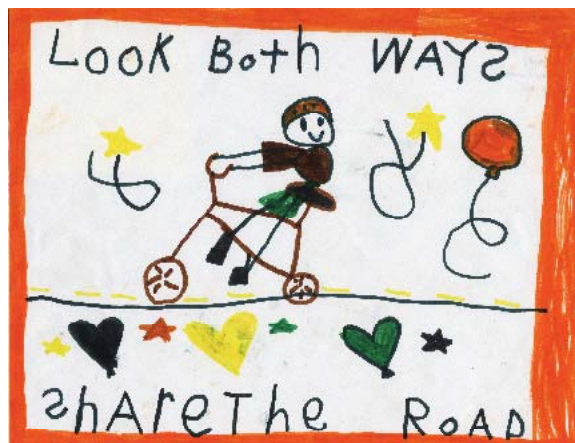
The contest is a good thing for kids, he said. "A lot of times, traffic safety is the furthest thing from kids' minds, but when they have to stop and think about it, it increases awareness," Kevin said.

Seven-year-old Shawn Robinson surprised his parents when he won the poster contest, said Rob Robinson, Equipment Operator Specialist in Columbus.

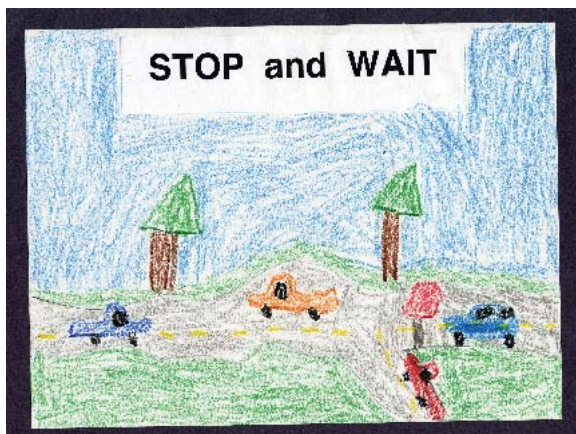
"Their whole class drew posters at schools," Rob said. "I didn't know he did it until we found out he won."

KOAM-TV featured the winners' artwork in District Four and Shawn was excited to see his poster on television, Rob said.

Thirteen-year-old Tanner Samuelson's poster focused on safety for highway workers, which is also important to his father, Scott Samuelson,



Kassie Zimmer



Shawn Robinson

Equipment Operator Senior at Grainfield.

All three winners in northwest Kansas were from Quinter, which says a lot for the art teacher, Scott said. "Everybody from the whole school went to the presentation," he said.

A record number of 1,574 Kansas kids entered the contest. Regional winners received bicycles from Wal Mart and helmets from Safe Kids Kansas. Statewide prizes included stays at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Topeka; Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center, Junction City; Grand Prairie/Convention Center, Hutchinson; and \$50 fuel cards from the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas.

Secretary selected to AASHTO committee

Secretary Deb Miller has been selected as a member of the AASHTO Climate Change Program Steering Committee. The AASHTO Climate Change Program will enable state departments of transportation to be proactive on climate change and be a part of the climate change solution.

During the AASHTO spring meeting this past May, the Executive Committee approved the Climate Change Program to supply its members with timely information, tools and technical assistance to guide them in meeting the difficult challenges that arise related to climate change.

A CEO-level Steering Committee will oversee the program. The Steering Committee will consist of a chairperson, three state department of transportation CEO's from each AASHTO region, and two ex-officio members, the AASHTO president, and the chairperson of the Center for Environmental Excellence at AASHTO.

The Steering Committee will be responsible for directing program resources to activities that will assist the states with climate change challenges. The Steering Committee will also serve as the AASHTO lead for climate change policy issues.

Seat belt usage rate improving

More Kansans are buckling up in 2008, according to observational survey results announced by KDOT. The latest survey indicates that 77.3 percent of Kansas drivers and front seat passengers are using their seat belts, up from 75 percent in 2007.

"Any increase in seat belt usage by motorists traveling Kansas' highways equates to fewer fatalities," said Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent Col. Terry Maple. "But we won't be satisfied until our compliance rate is 100 percent and deaths attributed to failure to buckle up are eliminated."

Since 2001, Kansas has steadily increased the seat belt rate from 60 percent to 77.3 percent. During the same timeframe, fatalities in passenger vehicles have decreased steadily from 436 to 343, and injuries have decreased from over 27,000 to less than 21,000. High visibility enforcement from local and state law enforcement partners, combined with strong media messages and support from safety advocates have paved the way to this increase. However, Kansas still ranks below the 2008 national usage rate of 83 percent.

"Without question, the best way to re-

duce fatalities and injuries on roadways is through proper seat belt use," said KDOT Secretary Deb Miller. "Unfortunately, nearly one in four persons is still not getting this message when driving on Kansas roadways. When you put that in terms of an average four-member family, which one would you choose to leave at risk?"



Photo illustration

In Kansas last year, 61.5 percent of all people who died in traffic crashes were not properly restrained. When worn correctly, seat belts have been proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent – and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans.

Each year, KDOT conducts surveys across Kansas to determine the percentage of motorists

who are buckling up. Based on federal guidelines, the surveys are conducted in 20 randomly selected counties, which represent 85 percent of the state's population.

"The ultimate goal of the law enforcement efforts and media messages is to save lives and reduce injuries due to traffic crashes in Kansas," Miller added. "This means every occupant needs to buckle up, every trip, every time, day or night."

Welcome
new KDOT
employees!

Headquarters

Danielle Marten, Management Systems Analyst I, Financial and Investment Management

Nicole Thursby, Administrative Assistant, Fiscal

District One

Kyle Halverson, Geology Trainee, Materials and Research

Shannon Knueper, Area Office Manager, Wamego

Janet Lewis, Technology Support Consultant, II, Topeka

Sean Shore, Engineering Technician Associate, Materials and Research

Tracy Underwood, Equipment Operator Trainee, Shawnee

District Two

Gale Martin, Engineering Technician Associate, Salina

Robert Poff, Equipment Operator Trainee, Junction City

District Three

Luke Brandenburg, Equipment Operator Trainee, Russell

Terri Rule, Administrative Specialist, Hays

District Four

Cody Goracke, Equipment Operator Trainee, Waverly

Mark Moon, Equipment Operator, Independence

Gerald Trinkle, Equipment Operator Trainee, Louisburg

Danny Williams II, Equipment Operator Trainee, Sedan

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



By

**Bill
Vicory**
**TRANSPORTATION
TALK**

Holiday thoughts good for all-year use

Those who know me know I've never been long on words.

That is why, when selected to be this month's columnist, I knew it was going to be a challenge for me to write something. But, hey I'll give it a try!!

Three. Two. One. Blast Off. No, I am not going to write about NASCAR or the next space shot. Nor for that matter the next highway program. I am going to write about the beginning of the holiday season. After Halloween, the next two months go by in a hurry for me. One day I am finishing eating the leftover Halloween candy and then it seems I am yelling "Happy New Year!"

You may think the season starts the day after Thanksgiving when, if you are like me, I venture out in the early morning hours to pick up a little thing or two that is on sale, only to find that the items I want to pick up are already gone and it is only 5:30 a.m.! So, rather than go home, I walk around to see what everyone else is buying and who else is in the building. Hey, if I am up this early I might as well get my exercise in. And yes I have run into a number

of KDOT's folks that early.

Here is a list of a few thoughts that you may be able to use during this holiday season to make it less hectic, more enjoyable and without losing your mind. Also, these are not about finding the perfect gift or the best place to shop. Rather, they are an attempt to get us back to what the holiday should be all about. Too often people forget that the holidays should be more than a spending frenzy. I also believe that you may be able to use most of these thoughts year round to make it better place for everyone.

1) Say "thank you" more often. Here is a story that illustrates my point: This is about a woman who boarded a bus. Every seat was filled. She was tired and carrying several packages. Noticing her plight, a man stood up and graciously offered his seat. The woman was so shocked she fainted. After she was revived, she looked up at the man who had relinquished his seat and said, "Thank you." Whereupon he promptly fainted.

2) Reach out to someone in need. Maybe this can be the year you help with the annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner, adopt a family at Christmas, surprise neighbors by shoveling their drive before they wake up. Or like my family did last year, spend one day cooking goodies to hand out in the neighborhood.

3) Reflect on the good things that happened during the last year.

4) Say hi to someone you don't know even if it's in the checkout lane. You will be amazed how many people will say hi back.

5) Don't lose sight of what the true meaning of this holiday season is all about.

6) Be thankful for what we have rather than what we want.

7) Make a difference and pass it on. Or another way is to make a positive difference in someone's life.

From my family to yours, have a safe, happy and enjoyable holiday season.

See you at the sales!!

P.S. If you read this before Veterans Day and you see a veteran, please say "thank you."

Bill Vicory is Chief of the Bureau of Right of Way.

Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in November.

District Two

Roy F. Morgan Jr., Equipment Operator Senior, Cottonwood Falls

District Four

James J. Bonczkowski, Equipment Operator Senior at Yates Center

District Five

Willie L. Livingston, Heating and Air Conditioning Service Technician II, Hutchinson

District Six

David R. Scott, Equipment Operator, Ness City

Employees who choose to have retirement reception information shared on KDOT's Internet can be found at www.ksdot.org, under News and Announcements.

Travelers benefit from improved information

By Barb Blue

When travelers take to the road this winter in Kansas, they will have the benefit of new and improved traveler information resources to assist them in safely reaching their destinations.

New Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices across Kansas

By early 2009, travelers on I-70 will be informed of road conditions and road closings by 15 new Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), extending from Topeka to Goodland. There are also 10 additional new DMSs in the north central region of Kansas, including four on westbound I-70 and two on eastbound I-70, located between Ellsworth and Junction City; two on northbound I-135, located at interchanges south of Salina; and two on southbound U.S. 81 north of Salina.

In addition to the DMS, 25 new cameras have been installed along I-70 between Goodland and Topeka; I-135 near Salina; and on U.S. 75 in north Topeka. These are in addition to the existing eight camera views that are updated every 15 minutes and shown on the 511 Web site.

A series of six new snow gates on I-70 at Russell, Hays, WaKeeney, Oakley, Colby and Goodland also have been installed. Resembling railroad crossing gates, the new gates will support KDOT's efforts to control traffic access to westbound I-70 in western Kansas, and will be used to close I-70 to westbound travelers when conditions dictate.

In late August, an expansion project for Kansas City Scout was completed on a four-mile stretch of I-635 that serves as a link between I-35 and I-70 over the Kansas River. Besides roadway sensors, 12 cameras and two DMS were added

and signaled Scout's expansion into Wyandotte County, the northwest component on the Kansas side of the Kansas City metro. An additional nine cameras were also installed in outlying areas of the KC Scout system this summer. For more information, visit the Web site at www.kcscout.org.

511 Web site Enhancements

The 511 Web site (<http://511.ksdot.org>) has also been enhanced, including:

◆ **New Map** - The map now uses Microsoft Virtual Earth as the background road map. KDOT adds its road conditions and construction information on top of Microsoft's map. The Virtual Earth map

◆ **Multiple Browsers** - As of Oct. 1, the Web site map can be viewed on the following most commonly used browsers:

- ◆ Internet Explorer, Versions 6.0 and 7.0
- ◆ Firefox, Version 3.0
- ◆ Safari, Version 3.1

◆ **New Camera and DMS Views** - By early 2009, views of traffic and road conditions from the cameras and the message signs featured above will be available to the public by selecting the camera icon at the top of the Web site.

Kansas 511 Phone System Enhancements

The Kansas 511 Phone System has also been enhanced over the past year, including:

◆ **Direction of Travel** - Callers may now hear reports given in their direction of travel

◆ **Landmark Descriptions** - New landmark descriptions should make route descriptions easier for callers to understand or locate on a map.

◆ **Expanded Menu** - Callers now select "7" for information for Nebraska or other neighboring states. Motor carrier information has also been added by selecting "4."

◆ **AMBER Alerts Automated** to provide more real-time information when they occur.



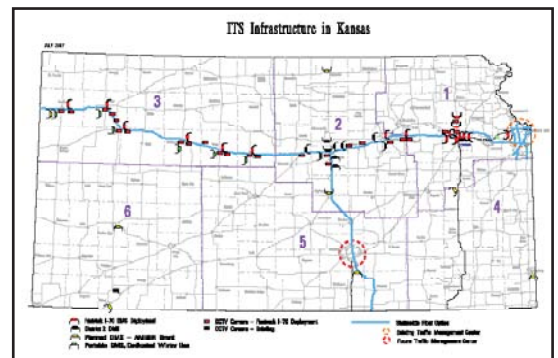
By early 2009, 15 Dynamic Message Signs will help inform motorists of road conditions and road closings along I-70.

provides the following features:

- ◆ A road view (default view) shows all highways and even county roads and city streets as you zoom in on the map.
- ◆ An aerial view with or without labels for roads and cities is provided; however, it does not provide a live, real-time image.

◆ Improved Navigation Features

- ◆ **Map Views** - The state view is the default setting for the map view, but users can select map views by region, metro area, county, city or route.
- ◆ **Map Navigation (Zoom Tools)** - Navigation tools are located in the upper left-hand corner of the map and are now more precise and easier to use.



KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

Increase your efficiency!

Feature: Adobe Acrobat

Adobe Acrobat is a family of computer programs developed by Adobe Systems, designed to view, create, manipulate and manage files in Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF). Some software in the family is commercial, and some is free. Adobe Reader is available as a no-charge download from Adobe's web site, and allows the viewing and printing of PDF files. Adobe Acrobat Professional allows you to create and edit PDF files.

However, with Office 2007, you can easily take an existing document and save it as a PDF, without the need for Adobe programs. To save as a PDF, take your open document and click the Office Button, go to Save As and select PDF. Acrobat and Reader are widely used as a way to present information with a fixed layout similar to a paper publication. Adobe Acrobat is NOT a word processing program: you can't open it in your word processor.

Note: In order to manipulate or make changes to a PDF you must have the licensed Adobe Acrobat Professional installed on your computer.

By saving documents in Adobe Acrobat format, the person who creates the file is assured that the file will look and print exactly the same, no matter who reads it or what kind of computer is used.

The KCTC is offering Adobe Acrobat Nov. 24-25, in Topeka. By popular demand, this class has been modified to include creating forms via Adobe.

Check out the shared calendar: KCTC for on-going classes. Contact the KCTC at kctc@ksdot.org or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993.

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Kathleen Deitering, Professional Civil Engineer I, Local Projects

David Marten, Program Specialist, Local Projects

District One

Ed Eneihen, Engineering Technician Specialist, Topeka

Travis Hirt, Engineering Technician Associate, Topeka

Roy Jennings, Public Service Administrator II, Olathe

William Vesecky, Shop Superintendent, Topeka

District Five

Michael Hund, Engineering Associate III, Wichita

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

76 years later...



Exactly 76 years after the Minisa Bridge was completed and opened to traffic, the City of Wichita re-dedicated the bridge on Sept. 23, unveiling a nearly \$3 million renovation. Improvements included renovation of the structural support, slightly wider driving lanes, return of a brick driving surface, repair of historical art features, and the addition of a bike/pedestrian trail. Photos by Tom Hein



At left, the bridge over the Little Arkansas River is one of only 18 Kansas building projects using colored Carthalite, a cement and glass mixture (the glass creates the vibrant colors). But the glass that was used in the restoration process could not be just any colored glass – it had to be manufactured prior to 1950, to match the chemical composition of the glass that was used the first time. Sixty-five individuals and families from Wichita donated more than 25 gallons of glass to help the rebuilding process of the bridge's artistic elements.

*Fun Facts
and Trivia*

**Do you
know?**

In the United States in 2006, 1,335 children ages 14 years and younger died as occupants in motor vehicle crashes, and about 184,000 were injured. That's an average of 4 deaths and 504 injuries each day.

- ◆ Seat all children ages 12 and younger in the back seat and be sure they are properly restrained.
- ◆ Read both your car (or booster) seat instruction manual and your vehicle owner's manual to make sure you are properly installing and using the seat. One study found that 73% of nearly 3,500 observed child restraint systems were misused in a way that could increase a child's risk of injury during a crash.
- ◆ Send in your car seat registration card so that the manufacturer can contact you about any recalls.

Turkey time



Wild turkeys roam in a field near Kanapolis Reservoir. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

Lowering drinking age proposed

By Stan Whitley

A move by presidents at more than 100 college and universities is calling on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18 in an attempt they believe would impact dangerous binge drinking on campus.

"Twenty-one is not working," says the group's statement. "A culture of clandestine binge drinking often conducted off campus has developed."

The statement was signed by many prestigious colleges in the east such as Dartmouth, Duke, and Syracuse. There were few signees from the Midwest with no presidents from Kansas signing the movement called the Amethyst Initiative. Leaders of the movement say they want to provoke a national debate about the drinking age.

"It's an idea that seems to be produced by more wishful thinking than hard data," said Pete Bodyk, KDOT Bureau Chief of Traffic Safety. "The bottom line is there is no data to support their claim that lowering the drinking age would be beneficial. On the other hand, the federal government has done studies that show a decrease in crashes and deaths in the 18-20 age groups."

Proponents believe lowering the legal drinking age would remove some of the allure of alcohol reckless drinking. Little support is offered for their cause, but, on the other hand, numerous peer-reviewed studies support the effectiveness of 21 in reducing alcohol-related fatalities.

Bodyk said since Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act in 1984, the amount of alcohol-related motor vehicles crashes

has decreased. Nationally, the 21 law has reduced fatal crashes for drivers 18-20 years old by 13 percent, saving approximately 900 lives each year.

Here are some pros and cons of lowering the drinking age, according to organizations that have studied the issue such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, CRC Health Group, which operates drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers and the group Choose Responsibility.

Cons:

- Safer highways since fatalities in the 18-20 year-old group have been reduced 13 percent.
- Since states' laws differ on the drinking age, the result could be 18-20 year-olds traveling across state lines to buy or consume alcohol with possible disastrous results.
- Studies indicate adolescents' brains are still developing past the age of 18 and significant alcohol use can interfere with that process.

Pros:

- At 18, Americans can marry, serve in the military, vote and enter into legally binding contracts.
- A lower drinking age could lead to less binge drinking, according to some experts.
- The U.S. has the oldest drinking age in the world. Most nations allow alcohol consumption at 16 or 18 and some have no minimum drinking age at all.

Whether there will be a debate that actually leads anywhere is unclear, according to Bodyk. He added, though, that opinion polls suggest most Americans support enforcing current drinking laws.

Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

Classes at District Offices

- ♦ **Business Writing I**, Hutchinson, Nov. 13
- ♦ **Business Writing II**, Hutchinson, Nov. 13
- ♦ **Business Writing I**, Norton, Nov. 19
- ♦ **Business Writing II**, Norton, Nov. 19
- ♦ **Transition to Leadership & Ethics**, Salina, Dec. 2, 3, 4
- ♦ **You'll Catch On**, Salina, Dec. 8, 9
- ♦ **Transition to Leadership & Ethics**, Topeka D-1, Dec. 9, 10, 11
- ♦ **You'll Catch On**, Salina, Dec. 10, 11
- ♦ **You'll Catch On**, Hutchinson, Dec. 15, 16
- ♦ **You'll Catch On**, Hutchinson, Dec. 17, 18
- ♦ **You'll Catch On**, Topeka D-1, Dec. 16, 17

Classes at Headquarters

- New Employee Orientation**, Topeka, Nov. 6
- ♦ **Business Writing I**, Topeka, Nov. 17
- ♦ **Business Writing II**, Topeka, Nov. 17
- ♦ **Business Writing I**, Topeka, Nov. 24
- ♦ **Business Writing II**, Topeka, Nov. 24

You may enroll in these classes at http://pathlore.ksdot.org/stc/LMSprod/cst_MainHomeFrameset.html.

MINDLEADERS

Organizational Development announces the availability of MindLeaders e-learning.

With MindLeaders, you can set long-term goals that will make your organization a better place to work by increasing productivity, encouraging employees to manage their careers, increasing diversity and building trust and communications.

For a sneak peek at MindLeaders go to the Learning Center at http://pathlore.ksdot.org/stc/LMSProd/cst_MainHomeFrameset.html and click on MindLeaders.

Deer/vehicle crashes increase dramatically in November

The temperature may be dropping in November, but unfortunately the number of deer/vehicle crashes will be rising.

The month of November has the highest number of deer/vehicle crashes in Kansas. In the past 18 years, the worst overall day for deer/vehicle crashes has been Nov. 17.

One reason for the increase is it's deer mating season - deer tend to be particularly active from November through December. In addition, deer tend to widen their foraging range as they build up their fat reserves for the winter.

Kansans today are almost seven times more likely to collide with a deer while driving than in 1980, according to the KDOT Accident Data Unit. In 2007,

9,417 deer-vehicle crashes occurred in the state, or 17 percent of the total vehicle crashes reported. There were only 1,395 deer/auto crashes in 1980.

Motorists can help reduce deer-vehicle crashes by observing the following safety tips:

- ♦ Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk when deer are most active.
- ♦ Reduce your speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces like parks or golf courses and near water sources like streams or ponds.
- ♦ Don't swerve to avoid deer collisions. The most serious accidents occur when motorists take evasive action
- ♦ Watch out for deer crossing signs and always wear a safety belt.

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in October

10 YEARS

Edwin Burris Oakley
Lawrence Sage Topeka
Janet Snyder Tonganoxie
Bradley Stephens Holton
Keith Unruh Assaria
Kevin Zimmer LaCrosse

30 YEARS

Peter Fuller Winfield
Michael Hartwick Manhattan
Mike Ponton Lansing
Cynthia Ruthloff Douglass

20 YEARS

Roberta Bradbury Perry
Donald Brittain Hutchinson
Barbara Kohls Ellsworth
Joseph Plankinton Topeka
Michael Remboldt Topeka
Wanda Vanderpool Minneapolis
Charles Woldt Topeka

40 YEARS

William Tommer Silver Lake

State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services. Employees and home towns are included in this list.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities



From left to right, Technical Trooper Edna Buttler; Lieutenant Colonel Robert Ladner; Larry Emig, KDOT retiree; Technical Trooper Tim McCool; Kim Qualls, KDOT; Col. Terry Maple; Betty Oliva, AAA; David LaRoche, FHWA; Kim Stich, KDOT; and Jeff Shamberg, Kansas Society of Professional Engineers, pose with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (seated) at a proclamation ceremony on Sept. 15 for Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

Translines goes green

Beginning this month, many of you will no longer receive a paper copy of Translines. Instead, you will be directed to an electronic version of the monthly newsletter that will be accessible on KDOT's intranet and Internet sites.

The change in distribution will reduce by 30 percent the amount of paper used. It will also comply with a state government initiative to reduce paper usage. The actual number of copies printed monthly will be reduced to 3,500 from 5,000. No printed copies will be distributed in the Eisenhower Building.

Field employees who don't have ready access to a computer, as well as retirees and others who now receive a mailed copy of Translines, will continue to receive a paper copy. The number of copies sent to District and Area offices will be cut in half and Subareas will continue to receive their normal allocations.

Retirees (and others who receive a mailed copy) who no longer want a paper copy should notify Stan Whitley in the Bureau of Transportation Information at 785-296-3768 or stan@ksdot.org.

To view Translines through the intranet click on the "Translines/Featured Section" button on the bottom left of the home page. To view the newsletter on KDOT's Internet site (www.ksdot.org), click on "Publications & Reports" and scroll down to "Newsletter."

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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).