

KDOT

Translines

Bureau of Transportation Information

November 2003

Poster contest winners



Col. William Seck, Secretary Deb Miller, and Lt. John Eichkorn pose with Jordan Schaller of Nashville and Jason Wright of Garnett at the statewide Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day event at Kansas Speedway October 6. Jordan and Jason were honored at the event for their winning entries in the statewide poster contest. More than 640 kids participated. For more details, see pages 6 and 7.

SHARP adds features

In an effort to keep its online system sharp, the Kansas Department of Administration (DA) has added some new features to the SHARP Human Resource/Payroll program. More than 19,000 state employees logged-on to try out the new self-service online features in the first three months.

The most frequently viewed pages are View Paycheck and View Leave Balances, according to DA. Employees are trying out other services as well. For example, more than 1,400 employees went online to make changes to their W-4s and in October, many employees used online sign-up for health insurance.

Now that the system has been in place for a while, DA is responding to user feedback and continuing to look for ways to improve the system

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Woolington retires as Director of Operations

Steve Woolington considers himself a lucky man as he looks back on his 34 ½-year career at KDOT.

"I've had the privilege of participating in the achievement of numerous accomplishments and sharing countless memorable events," said Woolington. "I felt fortunate that opportunities were always there for me to advance up the career ladder."

Woolington began his transportation career in 1969 and spent 10 months in the State Highway Commission's



Steve Woolington

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Familiar face joins KDOT

As the new Director of the Division of Public Affairs, Julie Lorenz may be new to the job, but she's no stranger to KDOT. Her history with the agency goes back nearly a decade working as a consultant on a number of projects.

"I couldn't pass up this opportunity," she said. "I've always felt a real connection to KDOT and I really like the people here."

Lorenz comes to KDOT after working as a communications consultant for HNTB. One of her



Julie Lorenz

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Inside ...

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- ◆ A GOOD HABIT FOR LIFE

- ◆ CUSTOMER SERVICE CAN MAKE OR BREAK A DEAL
- ◆ ACTION PLANS
- ◆ KDOT HONORED WITH PARTNERSHIP AWARD



Miller's Time

By Secretary
Deb Miller

Moving forward

There's been a lot written about our neighbors to the east recently and their road woes. With headlines in the Kansas City Star like "MoDOT falters as roadways crumble" and "As roads rot, so does MoDOT's credibility," we at KDOT, with strong support from state lawmakers, can take pride in what we do and in the level of satisfaction Kansans have with the state road system. In fact, to quote one of the Star's articles: "When Missouri transportation officials want advice, they know where to go: Kansas." I believe there are many reasons that we are not facing the same kind of crisis MoDOT is right now, but I also believe now is the time we must be vigilant and ready to move with changing expectations or we risk sinking more quickly than you might think.

So how have we been able to achieve our success? There are several keys. First of all, we've put together two solid highway programs grounded in basic needs. The CHP's focus was on improving pavement conditions. With that accomplished, CTP planners were free to move on to bigger construction and rehabilitation projects. Missouri

took a different approach. Its plan promised Missourians miles upon miles of new four-lane highways, but what it found was the funds ran out long before the plans or roads could be completed. Here in Kansas, we took a more conservative approach: improving upon what we already had and addressing system needs by priority.

This allowed us to successfully complete the CHP and gave us strong support to craft the CTP. It gave us credibility -- about the most valuable commodity you can have in our business. We have proven to lawmakers and to the citizens of Kansas that we act responsibly with the funds entrusted to us. We have built and continue to build a history of doing what we say we will do. Maintaining this trust with both lawmakers and citizens is essential if we are to continue our success.

This credibility would not have been possible without careful and consistent management of the Highway Fund, the monies entrusted to us. But tough economic times have also forced lawmakers to withhold some funds earmarked for KDOT the last couple of years. Since the CTP was based on reasonable, conservative assumptions, so far, we've been able to adjust to compensate for the loss, but this year we're at a crossroads.

We've reached the point where we can no longer absorb massive cuts, without cutting back on our promises for the program. That's part of what has MoDOT in hot water now. As soon as promises are broken, credibility goes. As my predecessor, Dean Carlson, told the Star, "Once you lose it (credibility), you really have a problem." That is why early next year we go before lawmakers to remind them of the importance of the transportation program to the Kansas

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation
Information
Docking State Office Building, 754-S



Governor: Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Transportation: Deb Miller
Chief of Transportation Information: Krista Roberts
Editors: Stan Whitley and Kim Stich
Phone/TTY: (785) 296-3585 **FAX:** (785) 296-0287

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

Calendar of Events

November 11 — State employees off for Veteran's Day holiday.

November 12 - 11 a.m. KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Seventh Floor Conference Room, Docking State Office Building.

November 14 — 9:30 a.m. Highway Advisory Commission meeting, Seventh Floor Docking State Office Building.

November 19 - 2 p.m. - Construction Bid Letting, Wichita Airport Hilton.

November 27-28 — State employees off for Thanksgiving holiday.

KDOT honored with Partnership Award

By Stan Whitley

Working together to make Kansas an appealing travel destination. It's a KDOT partnership initiative that's been recognized by the Kansas Department of Commerce, Travel and Tourism Development Division.

Recently KDOT received the Partnership Award of Merit from Travel & Tourism. The Partnership Award is one of only seven awards given in recognition and appreciation for promoting Kansas as a travel destination. This is the first time the award – an all glass sculpture crafted in Kansas – has been presented.

"This award is given to an outstanding partner who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to further develop and enhance tourism efforts in Kansas," said Scott Allegrucci, State Travel and Tourism Director.

KDOT was selected as the recipient because of its efforts in promoting tourism through production of two brochures and a signing program. A Wildflower, Native Grasses and Shrubs brochure was printed and distributed earlier this year, and Prairie Passage brochure is ready for print and should be available by the end of the year.

Fred Markham, KDOT Landscape Architect, said the Wildflower, Native

Grasses and Shrubs brochure was a partnership project including KDOT, Travel and Tourism, the Kansas Wildflower Society, the Kansas Biological Survey, Audubon of Kansas and the Kansas Turnpike Authority.

Cathy Johannes, KDOT Graphic Designer, and Melissa Jellison, Engineering Technician Senior, were essential to the production of both the brochures.

"The color brochure depicts KDOT's effort to improve the environment and beautify Kansas roadways by restoring the right of way to emulate prairie ecology," said Markham. "We made the brochure available to 270 outlets in the state, including Wildlife and Parks offices, Convention and Visitors Bureaus, Chamber of Commerce's, Audubon Chapters, state historical sites, teachers and Boy Scout leaders."

There were 315,000 copies printed of the wildflower brochure and it has been available to the public since March.

The Kansas Prairie Passage Corridor brochure is a joint partnership between KDOT and Travel and Tourism. It includes 66 attractions, including 19 "not to be missed" prairie passages sites. Also listed are trail rides, prairie excursions, Flint Hills driving routes, and a list of significant attractions not on the prairie

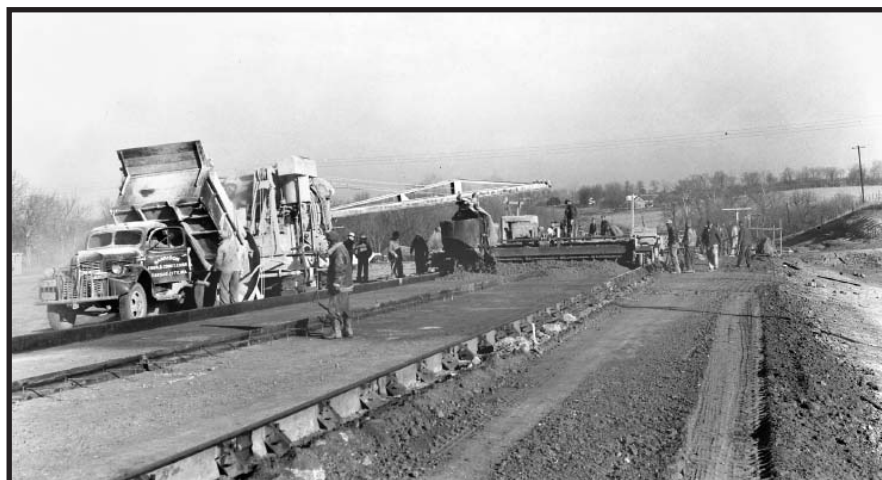
passage corridor.

The prairie passage is a partnership between Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas to develop a plan for a national wildflower corridor. The effort promotes awareness of natural and cultural resources and encourages the protection and planting of native wildflowers and grasses along roadsides. Prairie passage routes have been established in each state depicting natural resources, historic, and cultural sites used in the partnership.

A joint partnership between KDOT and Travel and Tourism helps promote the state through its Tourist Attractions Signage Program.

"The program was developed to increase awareness for travelers and the residents of tourism operations and attractions," said KDOT State Signing Engineer David Church. "They are brown signs with white lettering that recognize cultural, historical, environmental, recreational and educational attractions."

The applications must meet Travel and Tourist criteria and a pass a field check by Travel and Tourism and KDOT to become eligible. The KDOT sign shop makes the signs and they are installed by agency maintenance forces.



Step Back in Time



Workers construct new US-73 highway in northeast Kansas during this 1948 photograph.

Action plans

By Krista Roberts

After a summer of research, the Partnership Project is ready to move from honest assessments to real results. To get there, four teams spent the month of October crafting action plans to move the top-to-bottom review from theory into practice.

The teams were each assigned one of the Partnership Project improvement initiatives that were identified as KDOT's highest priorities: employee morale, relationships with cities and counties, communication with partners, and charting the future (succession planning, diversifying skill sets, etc.).

Team members were asked to review the goals and actions identified on Secretary Deb Miller's preliminary list for their assigned category, then come up with their own list of recommended actions. For the teams, it wasn't just a matter of creating a list. Miller challenged team members to examine the fundamental principles upon which KDOT has worked for years and to assess how changing stakeholder expectations should impact the work at the agency. Their final action plans include why ideas were either added or

eliminated from the list. They also outlined how the task is to be completed and what barriers might get in the way.

After presenting their action plans to Miller at the end of October, the plans will be prioritized. Some of the most beneficial strategies will be selected for immediate action. Several other long-term items that will require extra attention and energy will also be identified.

Priority issue team members include:

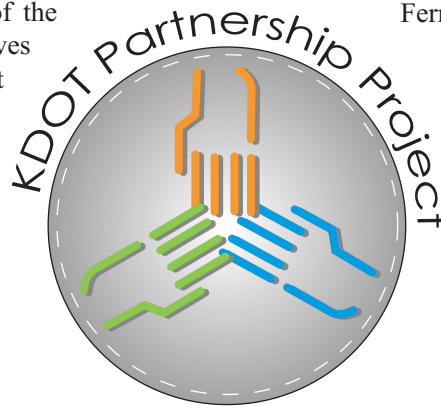
◆Employee Morale: Jim Kowach, Chair; Don Drickey; Lon Ingram; Gene Robben; and Marci Ferrill, Partnership Project (P2) Management Team member.

◆Relationships with Cities & Counties: Larry Thompson, Chair; Harold Benoit; Bob Cook; Larry Emig; Ron Kaufman; and Julie Lorenz, P2 Management Team member.

◆Communication with Partners: Sally Howard, Chair; Roger Alexander; Chriss McDiffett; Dean Testa; Bill Watts; and Krista Roberts, P2 Management Team member.

◆Charting our Future: David Comstock, Chair; Terry Heidner; Roy Rissky; Bob Stacks; and Ron McMurry, P2 Management Team member.

As the Partnership Project moves into its next phase, continue to look for project updates on the intranet and internet sites, through e-mail and also each month here in *Translines*.



Honest Assessments...Real Results

Supporting the United Way



KDOT held three events to kick off its United Way drive in Topeka. A bake sale, book sale and drawings for prizes helped raised \$923 to start the drive.

Good customer service is a key factor

By Maggie Thompson

I like to shop, strike that, I love to shop. Anyone who knows me knows this is an issue and one that I've been trying to curtail over the last few months. I've been taunted for it, teased because of it, and had friends, family, and strangers just shake their heads over the "coolest thing I just had to have." Well, as much as I like to shop, what I like even more is good customer service.

We've all had those moments in a store, restaurant, or maybe even with a government agency. Those moments that you call a friend about later and tell her to NEVER patronize that business again. The conversation usually begins with, "You will not believe how rude this clerk was to me today." Makes you mad doesn't it? Makes you never want to shop there again. Makes you want to tell everyone what happened.

Customer service is a key factor between a good shopping experience and a bad one. I don't know how many times I've been ignored by a clerk that is just too busy to assist me. And when that happens, I walk out - I don't think I should have to waste my time trying to give them my money when I'm being treated poorly. I know, I know, sometimes it's hard to pass up that great deal - but it's the principle of the thing. As the customer, I feel I have the right to be treated fairly and with respect.

Funny thing, that's what our customers expect too. And

they have every right to think that way. As our customers, the citizens of Kansas have the right to ask what we're doing and why we're doing it. Thing is, if we can't explain it to them - should we really be doing it? And when we provide that information, we need to do it willingly and with smiles on our faces. We can't act like it's a huge bother to answer their question or that it's a major pain to locate information or explain our actions.

If we are willing to provide information to people before they ask for it and are ready with

answers when the questions are asked we will look like superior customer service representatives. Though they may not like our answers, at least they'll be better informed and hopefully understand why a decision was made.

If we are unwilling to help our customers and provide

them with what they need, they'll probably go somewhere else for the answers - and wouldn't we rather they ask us, the ones that really know what's going on? If people stop coming to us for the answers they're going to go somewhere else and then the process is going to get pretty messy.

So, the next time someone asks you a question or challenges something we're doing, just remember how you as a customer likes to be treated. Aren't you going to be more willing to make a purchase and speak highly of a store if you feel like you've been treated well and had your questions answered?

Communication: A Key to Success



Kansas Department
of Transportation

Adult safety belt usage increases in Kansas

The numbers are in and the good news is 2003 safety belt usage among adults in Kansas is on the rise climbing to 64 percent - a 3 percent rise over the previous year.

"We are encouraged that safety belt usage in the state has increased, but we still have one of the lower compliance rates in the nation," said Patrice O'Hara, Acting Bureau Chief of Traffic Safety. "We're well behind the national average of 79 percent, so we have a lot of work to do in Kansas."

The seat belt statistics were compiled by KDOT observers who made visual

'We are encouraged that safety belt usage in the state has increased, but we still have one of the lower compliance rates in the nation.'

Patrice O'Hara

observations at 545 sites in 20 counties. The 20 counties in which the survey was conducted account for about 85 percent of Kansas' population. Observers collected the data in June, July and August. In all they observed 58,000 drivers and

See related stories, pages 6 and 7

passengers in 51,000 vehicles.

The highest usage rate - 79 percent - was observed on rural interstates. The lowest rate - 54 percent - was reported on collector (two-lane) roads in rural areas. The lower seat belt use on rural roads is one reason that there are more fatality crashes in rural areas, even though urban and suburban areas have a much higher volume of traffic and traffic crashes.

The adult survey also revealed the

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Putting the brakes on fatalities

By Kim Stich

The Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day statewide event at Kansas Speedway October 6 focused on many ways everyone can work together to reduce traffic fatalities all year long.

"If 17,000 Americans died tomorrow, would you notice? For over 17,000 people lost their lives to drunk drivers last year alone and more than one-half million people were injured," said Beth Haislet, a mother of three children who lost her husband, Jack, in a drunk driving crash 10 years ago.

Haislet was one of four speakers at the safety event where law enforcement and safety officials

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Top Photo: Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day event attendees at Kansas Speedway receive all types of safety-related information.

Photos at Left: Statewide poster contest winner (age 10-14 category) Jason Wright meets crash dummy Vince while Jordan Schaller (winner for ages 5-9) poses with race car driver Jennifer Jo Cobb.

Middle Right: Beth Haislet, wife of Jack Haislet who was killed by a drunk driver, speaks at the event. Sally Moore (left), Morning News Anchor for NBC Action News in Kansas City was the emcee. Other speakers included Jennifer Jo Cobb, NASCAR and ARCA Re/Max Series Driver, Secretary Deb Miller, and Kansas Highway Patrol Col. William Seck.

Bottom Photo: KDOT Equipment Operator Senior Tom Wyrick talks to students about the importance of safety in highway work zones.

Regional Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day events on October 10 increase safety awareness across Kansas



Camrie Wagner, 3, of Lebo stands proudly beside the bike she was awarded as one of the three southeast Kansas poster contest winners.



District Three poster winners, Braden Juenemann, Riley Juenemann, and Adam Bowman prepare for the first ride on their new bikes as grandfather John Juenemann adjusts Riley's helmet.



KHP Trooper Gary Warner and Public Involvement Liaison Martin Miller watch poster contest winners and their family members check out the bicycles they received as prizes as well as Safe Not Sorry information at the Wichita event.



A couple gets their safety seat checked in front of the No Zone trailer in Salina. The No Zone helps increase safety awareness involving large trucks.



Sgt. Ron Knoefel (KHP) and Officer Troy Davis (Garden City Police Department) assist a family with their new car seat.



Technical Trooper Tim McCool demonstrates seat belt safety with the rollover vehicle in Topeka.



Jeff Hollaran, with the Kansas Safety Belt Education Office, checks over a safety seat in Topeka.

Make doing your best a habit for life

We all need a guide for living sometimes. We grasp for something that offers practical wisdom--just some simple, easy-to-follow guidelines. *The Four Agreements* is just that; a simple code of conduct to help us in everyday situations at work and home. As we rush through life, it is hard to remember all the things we should do to be all we can be. These four simple rules aren't actually rules at all, but agreements we make with ourselves. They are simple, but certainly not easy.

First, be impeccable with your words. To make this commitment means to speak with integrity and say only what we mean. We avoid talking when we really don't have anything to say. We don't use words to impress but only to express. We use the power of our words to assert the positive and to pursue the truth.

This agreement challenges us to use our words only for good. It means to choose the appropriate words to tell a story without our evaluation or judgment. Most important as we follow through on this agreement, we avoid using words to speak against ourselves or others. We don't gossip or blame. It's simple, but not easy.

Second, don't take things personally. This simply means that nothing others do is because of us. At first glance this seems irresponsible. Truthfully, what

others say and do is a projection of their own reality. Based on our experiences we all form our own world view which causes us to react to situations differently. We react based on fears and assumptions formed from our beliefs about the world. The best we can do is to realize our reality belongs only to us. Likewise, the feelings of others belong only to them. We discover new freedom when we stop taking things personally.

When we are immune to the opinions and actions of others, we won't

ALL ABOUT ATTITUDE

By
Carla
Mumma

suffer needlessly.

We don't take on more than our share of other people's business. We don't worry about what others think so we stop positioning ourselves to obtain their approval. Many times we seem to anger or hurt others without meaning to and end up feeling responsible. Actually, each of us is responsible for our own feelings, and if we each handle only that responsibility, we have plenty to deal with. We cannot take on another's upsets, but we cannot blame another for ours. It's simple, but not easy.

Third, don't make assumptions. Because we are afraid to ask for clarification, we make assumptions and believe we are right. It takes effort and courage to communicate clearly. Too often we assume the other person knows what to do. We assume everyone sees life the way we do. We assume people want what we want. We assume uptown is north but that may be downtown to someone else. Buying "on contract" is using the contract to purchase, but to another that is buying "off contract." Dropping assumptions requires that we ask if we don't understand. It means we must have the courage to keep asking questions until we are clear about the situation and even then don't assume we know all there is to know.

When we communicate clearly we avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama. This means we must have the courage to ask tough questions and speak out about what we really want. Communicating cleanly and clearly is a huge responsibility for all involved. It causes us to be exactly what we are and not present a false image. When we remember not to assume, we completely transform our lives. It's simple, but not easy.

Last but not least, always do your best. If we are working only for the

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Put the Brakes on Fatalities

Continued from page 6

gathered to help increase awareness of driving safety. Several safety displays were also included at the event.

"The single most important thing any of us can do to protect ourselves from serious injury or death is putting on that seat belt," said Secretary Deb Miller. Child safety seats are also a necessity. "It's one thing we can do every single day and know that what we are doing is keeping our children safe," she said.

Miller also stressed other safety issues concerning work zone safety, speed limits, driver fatigue, and driver inattention.

Jennifer Jo Cobb, NASCAR and ARCA Re/Max

Series Driver, said common sense is a basic factor of roadway safety and that we all need to be aware of what is going on while driving in order to be prepared. "When you're on the race track and you hit the wall at 120 mph, you know how much that hurts and in our street cars, you don't have a roll cage," she said.

About 13,000 seat belt violations and 4,400 child restraint violations were issued last year by the Kansas Highway Patrol, according to KHP Col. William Seck. Troopers and law enforcement are committed to educating drivers. "Fatalities are more than just statistics," he said. "We don't want to be the one to have to go to someone's door and tell them that their young daughter or son is not coming home."

Woolington

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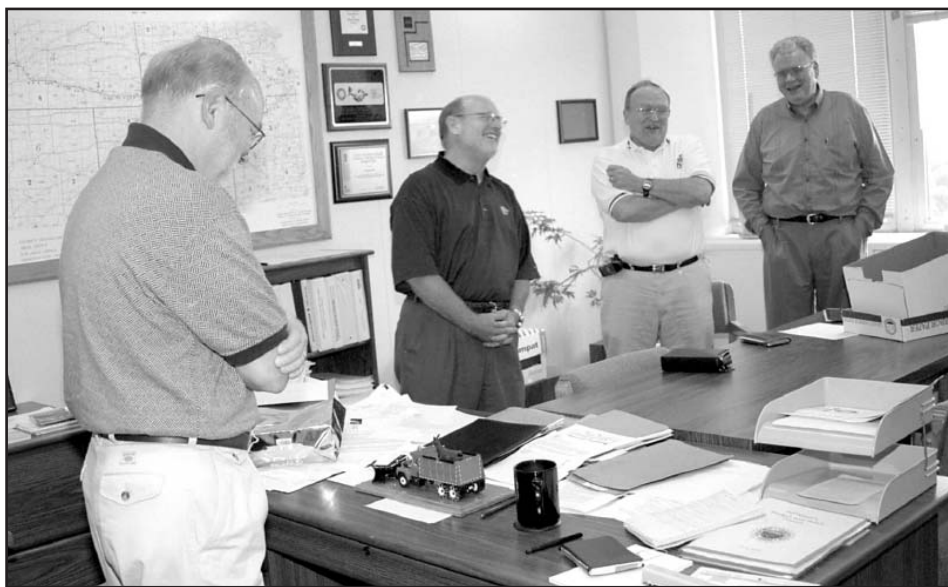
Rotational Training Program before going to work in the Bridge Section of Design. He held various positions in the Maintenance Department, District One, Management and Budget, and Construction and Maintenance before accepting the position as District One, Area Four Engineer at Topeka in 1984.

In 1987, Woolington became the District One Maintenance Engineer. He was promoted 4 ½ years later to the District One Engineer's position, where he was responsible for overseeing activities in 17 northeast Kansas counties.

Woolington moved back to Headquarters in 1997 to serve as the Director of Operations.

"I enjoyed having experience both in the field and at Headquarters," said Woolington. "I've always been impressed how the KDOT folks respond when there is a snowstorm, natural disaster, or any type of emergency. The agency works well under pressure and always comes together to get the job done."

The 1969 Kansas State University graduate said one of the biggest changes at KDOT came in the mid 1970s



Mike Crow, Dean Testa, and Lon Ingram look on as Steve Woolington (left) admires the ornamental dump truck given to him by the District Engineers and Bureau Chiefs in the Division of Operations.

with creation of Area Engineer positions. He said the move helped create more unity within the agency.

Woolington is proud his entire career could be spent with KDOT in Topeka. He said it's been a great experience and he wouldn't change anything.

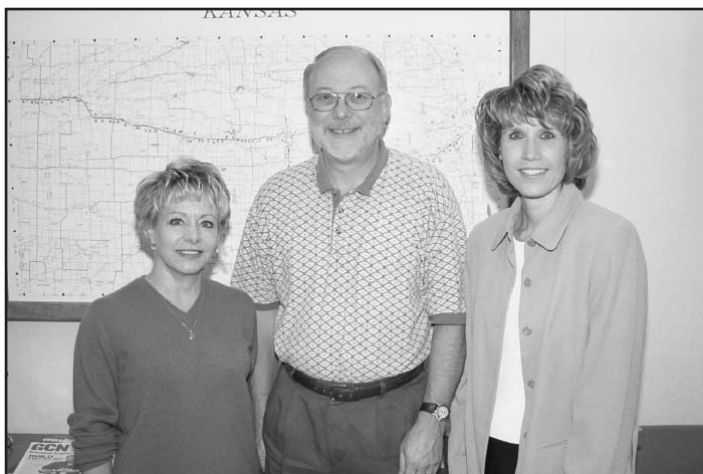
"The hardest part is leaving the KDOT family," said Woolington. "I've made a lot of friendships and that's something I will always cherish."

Woolington has two grown sons, Chris and Brad. His wife, Joyce, is Food Service Director for the Seaman School District in Topeka.

Woolington said he plans to "catch up on his golf game" and enjoy other leisure time activities such as woodworking and brewing beer. Spending time with his two grandchildren, Brittany and Tyler, will also be a high priority.

'I've always been impressed how the KDOT folks respond when there is a snowstorm, natural disaster, or any type of emergency. The agency works well under pressure and always comes together to get the job done.'

Steve Woolington



Steve Woolington poses with his Division of Operations staff, Phyllis Bailey (left) and Marcia Ferrill.

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters

Ryan Barrett, Engineering Aid I,
Design

Jeffrey Goering, Engineering
Technician, Design

District One

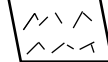
Mishelle Jones, Office Assistant,
Topeka

District Five

Catherine Downs, Office Assistant,
Wichita

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

Dear Editor



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear KDOT:

My wife and I were going to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for her 52 1/2-year high school reunion on September 26. As we always do before leaving on a trip, we ask the Lord to watch over and protect us. He answered our prayer.

We were traveling south on US-69 and all of a sudden I noticed steam coming out from the hood of the car. I pulled over on the shoulder to see what happened. I raised the hood and the anti-freeze was boiling. I thought here we are out on the highway not knowing how far we are from the next town.

Within five minutes, a KDOT truck pulled up with two men (Kevin Howard and John Clark of the Fort Scott office). They got out and came over to the car to help. The fan belt had burned and broken. Your men called back to their office and got the phone number of a tow service. We called for the tow truck to come get us. Your men stayed until we got in touch with the tow service and then they left. They said they would be coming back in an hour and would check on us. We thanked them and they left. We were about 12 miles north of Fort Scott. We were towed in and the man who towed us fixed our problem. The fan belt broke because one of the pulleys froze.

I just want to let you know you have two good employees. They not only want to do a good job but also are willing to help when they see someone in need on the highway. Your men were the answer to our prayer.

Thanks,
Charles Carmack

Mumma

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reward, we are suffering all week, living for the weekend and not doing our best. If we work because we have to, we don't have our heart in it. Doing our best comes easily and naturally for some. Others seem to get by doing as little as possible, but they often regret having put forth so little effort when some prize slips away. It is easy to think we don't care and let ourselves get lazy, but we owe it to ourselves to do our best

We are different every day so our best is always changing. Our best will be different when we don't feel well than when we are pumped up with a new idea. Our best will be different when we are struggling to learn a new skill than when we are doing something familiar. It will be different when we are doing what we enjoy or competing. Our best will grow as we grow.

When we make doing our best a habit, we enjoy life, and it doesn't feel like work. With a commitment to always to do our best, we avoid self-judgment and regret. We live our lives with intensity. When an opportunity presents itself, we go for it with enthusiasm. Doing our best builds self-esteem as our skills and knowledge grow, and we find self-acceptance, strength, and courage within. It's simple, but not easy.

Practicing these agreements is an act of personal power that transforms our lives in hidden ways. This silent transformation guides us to inner reflection and new expectations. We find ourselves more tolerant, more appreciative, more content, and we are reminded that each new day brings opportunities to choose personal freedom and happiness over suffering. It's simple, but not easy.

Deaths

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee **James P. Bell, 49**, Area Maintenance Superintendent at Olathe who died October 9, at Olathe Medical Center. Memorial contributions may be made to the Jim Bell Memorial Fund c/o Wilson and Son Funeral Home, P.O. Box 486, Wellsville, 66092.

Condolences are also extended to the family and friends of former employee **Harvey E. Wallace Jr., 72**, who died September 10 at a Topeka hospital. Wallace was a Civil Engineer at KDOT for 42 years before his retirement.

He is survived by his wife, Janet, three sons, one daughter and one brother. Memorial contributions may be made to First Congregational Church in Topeka or the charity of the donor's choice.

SHARP

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for users while still maintaining the security and performance.

“We appreciate the feedback and suggestions we’ve received about the self-service features of SHARP,” said Denise Moore, a member of the SHARP Steering Committee who works for DA. “We believe that some of the recent changes will improve the user experience for employees.”

One of the changes is an attempt to make coming up with passwords simpler for the user. An eight character minimum is still required, but now it only needs to include at least one letter and one number. While the change should make coming up with passwords easier, it comes with a caution. Moore said, “Although the requirements have been loosened somewhat, we continue to urge employees to take responsibility for the security of their data by using hard-to-guess passwords, and continuing to change them regularly.”

The processes for changing a password and using the Forgotten Password feature have both been adjusted to make them easier to use. Nearly all employees who have used the online system have set up a secret question and answer which allows them to reset their own password quickly

and without a call to the help desk. There have also been adjustments and additions to the Frequently Asked Questions section. But for questions that can’t be answered this way, DA will continue to staff the Employee Self-service help desk around the clock and a toll-free number is now available for employees outside of Topeka (866-999-3001).

While DA continues to refine its Self-service system, the move to online information provided some special challenges for KDOT. Some KDOT jobs don’t involve sitting at a desk or using a computer. So for employees unfamiliar with the cyber-world, some KDOT offices provided detailed training on how to get on a computer to get information. KDOT also created a generic sign-on for employees who did not have network access.

Another system-wide change that some alert KDOT employees pointed out to DA was that originally personal information shown on the screen was being saved or cached on the personal computers. While this made the system quicker to use, it also created a potential security problem. After KDOT notified DA of the situation, the system was changed so that the personal information viewed is no longer stored in the computer.

BROWN BAG

LUNCH

Topic: Partnership Project, Process and Information

Speaker: Julie Lorenz

Date: Wednesday, November 12

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Place: 4th floor conference room, Docking State Office Building

All employees are invited to attend.

Lorenz

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assignments was to help develop the Public Involvement Program at KDOT. She said the program has come a long way and she’s excited about being able to be more involved in where it’s going.

“We’ve reached the point where we think of public involvement on a project by project basis,” Lorenz said. “Now, we need to expand that view and look for ways to keep people involved on more of an on-going basis.”

Lorenz also consulted for KDOT’s Priority Formula Review, the Amelia Earhart Bridge in Atchison, and the US-54 projects.

In her new position, Lorenz will continue as a member of the Partnership Project Management Team. She said helping make sure that the project initiatives are put into action will be a big focus for her, especially when it comes to how KDOT relates with cities and counties. She said, “I’m convinced that working to form ongoing relationships with local governments now will give KDOT the most benefit long-term.”

Lorenz has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Psychology from Drury College and a master’s degree in Organizational Psychology from KU. Her family includes her husband, Steve, and daughters, Gabrielle and Maeve.

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes its employees celebrating anniversaries in October

10 YEARS

Jacob Amershek Pittsburg
Michael Bright Chanute
Randy Miller Council Grove
Heather Redman Topeka
Kenneth Stewart Hill City

20 YEARS

Edwin Callahan Ashland
James Clark Washington
John Graber Kingman
Chriss McDiffett Norton
Jesse Solorio Ashland

30 YEARS

Berton Bowser Topeka
Donald Legler Topeka

40 YEARS

Wayne Minner Topeka

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

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Jill Cushing, Right of Way Agent, I
Right of Way

Shane Shumaker, Information
Technology Consultant III, Operations

District One

Leo Perry, Highway Maintenance
Supervisor, Topeka

Johanna Terry, Administrative
Specialist, Topeka

District Three

Gerald Casper, Highway Maintenance
Superintendent, Hays

District Four

Jeffrey Marks, Equipment Operator
Specialist, Eureka

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

Miller

Continued from page 2

economy both now and into the future.

The good news from our summer of citizen surveys is that Kansans recognize the value of KDOT's work across the state. When asked how funding for transportation should change over the next five years, 37 percent said it should be increased, 55 percent wanted it to stay the same, and 3 percent would reduce it. When asked if transportation dollars should be cut to balance a state deficit, 30 percent of residents and 55 percent of agency partners said they would not support such a move.

Kansans aren't alone in recognizing the value of a strong transportation program. Writing for

New York Daily News, Lew Dobbs had this to say: "Remember that it was large-scale spending projects like President Dwight Eisenhower's interstate highway system that laid the foundation for the U.S. today and our entire current economy. Even as we find ourselves in the new digital economy, there isn't an E-commerce purchase that doesn't eventually wind up on a highway, a runway or rail." In a recent Zogby International poll, 81 percent polled felt that the nation's highway and transit network is very important to the economy.

So, what do I want you to take away from this? First of all: Keep up the good work and help keep KDOT moving forward. And be proud to be a part of the transportation industry and this agency and don't be shy about saying so because our futures could

Seat belts

Continued from page 5

seatbelt usage rate on other roadways:

- ◆ Rural, four-lane roads - 64 percent
- ◆ Urban interstates - 72 percent
- ◆ Urban freeways and expressways and minor arterial (four-lane) roads - 59 percent

◆ Urban collectors - 56 percent

Observers also fanned out to observe the seat belt habits of children, who are required by state law to be buckled up. During the past two springs, observational surveys of children were conducted at intersections around day cares, elementary and middle schools, grocery and department stores, and other locations with high populations of children in cars. More than 17,000

children were observed at 650 sites.

The survey revealed that only 55 percent of children were using some form of occupant restraint. The lowest compliance rate was among children ages 10-14, only 44 percent were buckled up. Children ages 5-9 also had a low seatbelt usage rate - 45 percent. Children up to age 4 were much more likely to be in compliance with the Kansas child passenger safety law, with 79 percent in

Kansas Department of Transportation

Bureau of Transportation Information

915 SW Harrison - Room 754

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