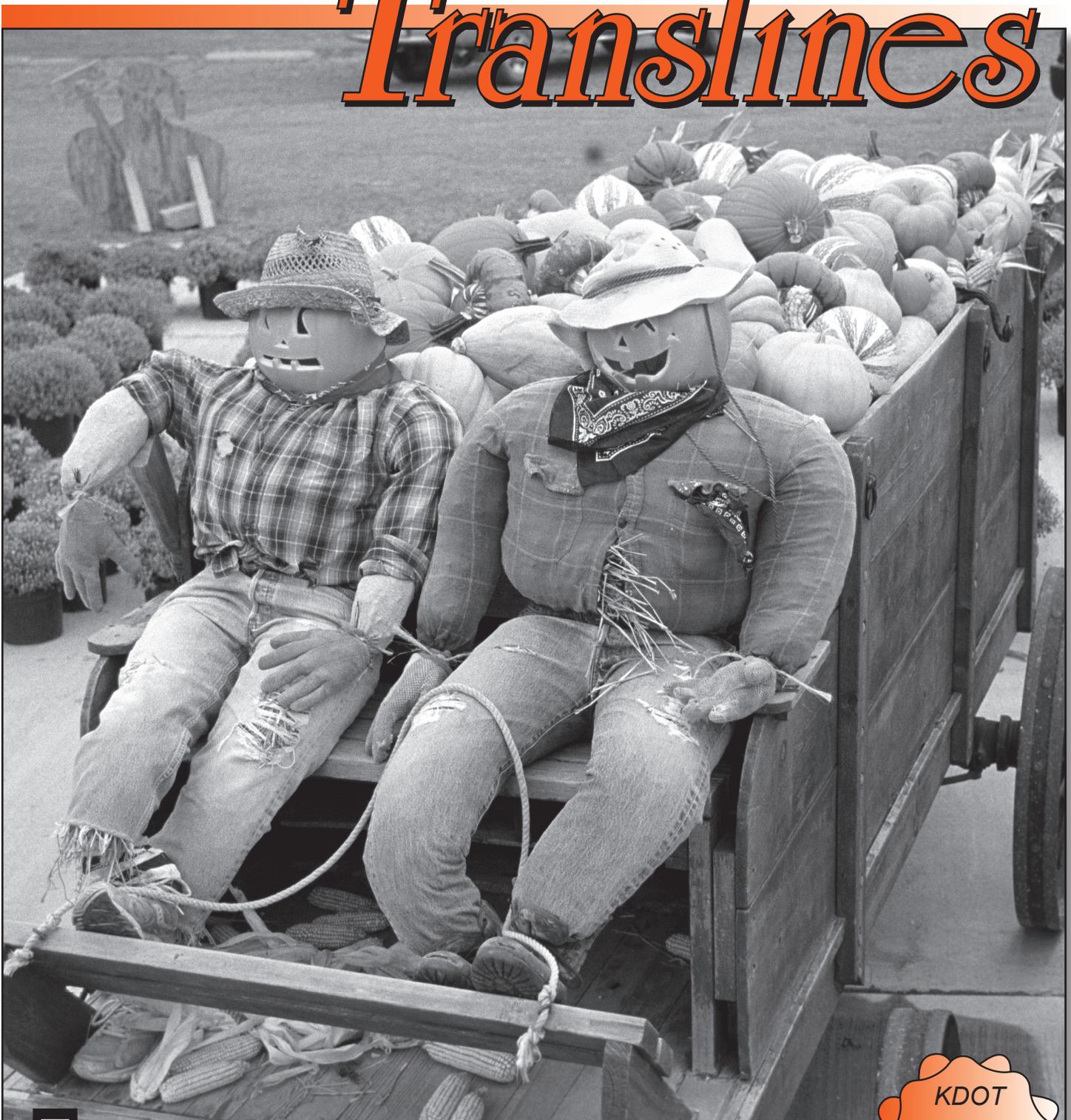


# Translines



## **I**nside ...

- ◆ *West chosen as District Engineer*
- ◆ *Lessons learned in the wheat fields*

- ◆ *Drickey retiring after 38 years*
- ◆ *Skydiving is Gardner's passion*
- ◆ *First responders focus on safety at Expo*

*KDOT  
mourns  
loss  
See page 3*



*By Secretary  
Deb Miller*

## Giving provides community safety net

*“If you have much, give of your wealth. If you have little, give of your heart.”*

-Proverb

During October, we will be asked to support social and health services in communities throughout the state. We will receive information from both United Way and Community Health Charities about the organizations that benefit from our contributions.

Please take the time to look at the long list of agencies that receive that support. And as you do, think about the agencies that have been there for your family or friends in the past and those that you might need in the future. Use your imagination. It’s not always obvious just how important these might become to you and your family. It’s not likely that the people of Greensburg had any idea just how important the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army might be to them after May 4.

Like the people of Greensburg, there was a time that I couldn’t imagine how important a United Way agency would be to my family. When my son Adam was a little over two years old and his language skills still weren’t emerging, it became clear that there were some serious developmental delays. It was a very frightening time for my family. That’s when I learned about TARC, Inc., and its preschool for children with developmental delays.

In addition to the preschool, TARC operated a parent

support group. It’s hard to describe just how supportive that was to my family. I’ve often wondered what we would have done if we hadn’t had this organization to help us through that difficult period. Until we needed it, I’d never given a second thought to supporting an organization that served retarded citizens and their families. Thank goodness it was there and that other people before me had chosen to support it.

I’m sure there are many of you who have similar stories. We probably all have family, friends and neighbors (or, at least, we will someday) who benefit from senior services, an Alzheimer’s support group, the American Cancer Society or one of many other agencies. Consider all of the families who are only one paycheck away from needing the help of agencies that provide free groceries or clothing or shelter.

The many agencies that are a part of United Way and Community Health Charities (CHC) provide valuable community resources. It’s up to us to create that safety net these agencies provide. Sometimes we give our support selflessly, and other times we give it selfishly, understanding that sometime we may be the ones who need assistance. Keep in mind that these agencies serve Kansans from all walks of life and all income groups.

It’s up to each of us to decide what is important, what to support and in what form to provide that support. The CHC slogan is “It’s Your Choice. . .” and you make the decision whether to give, whether to give to both campaigns or one, and whether to direct your contribution to only one agency that touches your life.

I was fortunate that when my family needed help, TARC was there. If others who went before me hadn’t supported TARC, it wouldn’t have been there when I was so desperately looking for help.

We all have more to give than we might think. It might be money or it might be our time or it might be our unique skills. While it may be cliché, it’s also true: through giving, we also receive. Or, put more eloquently by poet Maya Angelou, “I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

So please, in the next few weeks, educate yourselves about these agencies and their services. It may be the best thing you’ve ever done for yourself.



Eisenhower Building-  
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700 SW Harrison,  
Topeka, Ks 66603-3754

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**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

**Oct. 12** – 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

**Oct. 17** – 1 p.m. Construction bid letting, Fourth Floor, West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**Oct. 20** – KDOT golf, two-person best ball at Eagle Bend golf course in Lawrence. Contact Kevin Adams to enter at 296-5297 or kevina@ksdot.org.

## West chosen as District Engineer

Randy West has been in many leadership roles during his career at KDOT with the latest one being named as the new District Two Engineer.

When West started at the KDOT Garnett office in 1979, there wasn't a construction engineer on staff at the time, so he and another Engineer-in-Training immediately stepped into leadership roles on some major construction projects, such as widening US-69 to four lanes from Louisburg to Overland Park.



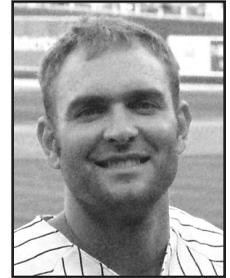
Randy West

Continued on page 10

## KDOT mourns loss of two killed in work zone crash

KDOT offers its condolences to the family and friends of Tyrone Korte and contractor employee Roland Griffith, who were killed Sept. 11 following a work zone crash on US-59 south of Lawrence.

"All of us at KDOT are deeply saddened by this tragic loss," said Assistant Secretary/State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger. "Our deepest sympathy is extended to Tyrone's family and friends during



Tyrone Korte

Continued on page 9

## Checking it out

Attendees at the ninth annual Kansas Maintenance Training Expo look at and test various equipment on display. Please see page 7 for more details. Photo by Kurt Weaverling



## Drickey retiring after 38 years

By Stan Whitley

He enjoys woodworking and a bit of gardening, but don't expect to see Don Drickey consumed with those leisure time activities following his retirement from KDOT.

Drickey ended his 38-year career at KDOT on Sept. 7, retiring as the District Two Engineer at Salina. What awaits him now is a trip to the Lone Star state for employment with the Texas Department of Transportation.



Don Drickey

"I had already announced my retirement when this opportunity became available," said Drickey. "After thinking about it I don't believe I'm ready to retire. I like keeping busy and taking on new challenges. Plus, this job will allow my wife and me to be close to family for the first time in my career."

Drickey said a big family perk will be

Continued on page 8

## On the... COVER

While none are as big as the 976.2-pound record setting pumpkin on display at the Kansas State Fair in September, this wagon full of pumpkins, as well as the scarecrows with pumpkin heads on display at Meier's Pumpkin Paradise near Topeka, are signs that fall is on its way. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

## 800 jumps and counting

# Skydiving is Gardner's passion

By Kim Stich

"The reserve parachute opened perfectly fine for an uneventful landing," said Rick Gardner about as calmly as most people would say, "nice weather we're having today."

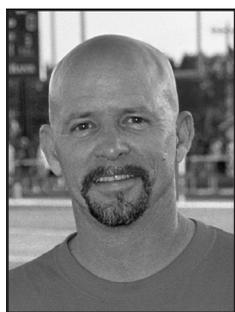
This was Gardner's comment when his main parachute didn't open on his 742nd jump last spring. Gardner, who has been skydiving for 12 years, credits his on-going training for his no-nonsense attitude in this situation.

"We train to be prepared for those type of emergencies, so when it happens, it's not a huge surprise and you deal with it," he said. "Our goal is to have you react just like hitting the brakes, you just do it without even thinking about it."

Gardner has worked at KDOT for 17 years and is the Highway Maintenance Supervisor at the Osage City Sub-area. But on weekends, he can usually be found at the Osage City Municipal Airport. He is an instructor for the Skydive Kansas group based at the airport.

Years ago, Gardner had seen

skydivers land at several special events, "and I thought it looked really cool," he said. "I've always been adventure-oriented, so it was something that looked right up my alley."



**Rick Gardner**

Once he had skydived a few times, Gardner said he was hooked. "There are so many disciplines in skydiving and so many different things to do," he said. "It just kept me coming back for more."

Gardner packs parachutes, instructs and shoots photographs and video of people skydiving. He also has a professional exhibition rating through the U.S. Parachute Association. To achieve



**Rick Gardner carries in the game ball and gets ready to land at the Baldwin City High School football field right before the game. Photo by Kurt Weaverling**

this, a person must have a minimum of 500 jumps, pass a written exam, show variety in abilities such as jumping with live smoke, flag or streamers and pass an accuracy test for skydiving.

"You have to make 10 consecutive landings within five meters of a 30 centimeter target," he said. "Each of the landings has to be a stand-up landing, and from the first point of contact to the stopping point has to be within a five-meter radius of that target."

Demonstration jumps require precise parachute piloting skills. "The parachute is actually an inflatable wing and

you can control direction and descent rate," he said. "That's how you get into the accuracy part of it."

Gardner has jumped at numerous events across Kansas, such as the

Shrine Bowl. He has jumped at almost every college stadium in the state as well as several high schools. At most of these events, he is carrying a banner or the game ball. One time he brought in

a check and presented it to a scholarship winner.

Safety is always the top priority in



**Continued on page 11**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Kansas Department of Transportation:**

It is with great pleasure that I write you about US-166 west of Coffeyville. When the workers moved in to do the paving, they were very courteous and made sure that we had complete access to the highway for our travel.

It is positively beautiful to see the black road and all of the yellow and white stripes that you placed on it, too.

I do not know how far west you went with the black topping but maybe it goes to Caney. I have not driven that way to see how far you went.

Thank you for a smooth ride to Coffeyville and for

safety reasons, I do appreciate the yellow and white stripes. They are wonderful at the intersections and the turning points.

I hope you will appreciate a letter from satisfied taxpayers and I have heard many great comments about the paving and the professionalism of the workers from my neighbors and friends.

Thank you!!!! Thank you!!!!

Sincerely,  
Mary Ann and Jack Pendleton  
Coffeyville

## ***Changes on the way for training program***

KDOT's Rotational Training Program for new Engineering Associates will see some changes in January – changes that will be familiar to people who have been with KDOT for a few years.

Currently, Engineering Associates (EAs) are hired into specific positions, according to Engineering Recruiter Debbie Wallace. They participate in a rotational training program coordinated by their immediate supervisor. Upon completion of that training they return to their position. The training received in other engineering areas provides EAs the opportunity to experience the work done by KDOT on a broader scale, and understand their role within the agency.

Under the new program, EAs will be hired into the Engineering Rotational Training Program under Wallace's supervision. She will design a one-year training plan for each individual based upon individual experience and interest. Each plan will include rotations in Field Construction and Design, followed by selected rotations in Planning, Materials and Research, Local Projects and Traffic Engineering. Upon completion of their training plan, EAs will be assigned to a position based upon the needs of the agency and the interest of the individual.

"We want the EAs to look at KDOT as a whole rather than to place them in an individual position," Wallace said. "We think this change will really intrigue the students."

Positions currently advertised will begin to transition to the new program.

Wallace is currently in the thralls of the fall college campus recruitment season with the support and participation of current KDOT engineers who accompany Wallace to



*Engineering Associate Kelly Hovey reviews plans with State Corridor Engineer Chris Huffman while participating in the Rotational Training Program. Photo by Larry Katsbulas*

recruiting events. "While they also want to find out the human resources aspects of the agency, like pay and benefits, students flock to the engineers to find out more about the agency," she said. "The students really want to hear what they are going to be doing and they want to see how their career can grow with KDOT."

EAs hired in January will begin with their rotation in Headquarters, then head to the Districts in the summer.

Wallace said she will be recruiting heavily this fall for summer interns as well. "Our summer internship program is a key to getting students interested so they can find out more about KDOT."

For more details about the Engineering Rotational Training Program, contact Wallace at 785-291-3416. **-K.S.**



By

**Dale  
Jost**
***TRANSPORTATION***
**TALK**

## Lessons learned in the wheat fields

Certain locations such as Burkburnett, Waukomis, Orianta, Meade, Monument, Bird City, Benkelman, Chappell, Sheridan, Fife, and Cut Bank come to mind. No, this is not my take on a Johnny Cash song but a few of many towns I passed through during the summers a long time ago.

As part of a harvest crew, we cut wheat from Texas to Canada. We traveled a tremendous amount of miles on many different types of highways and roads so that many farmers could harvest what they had sown. In this huge corridor, we harvested vast fields of wheat grown by the section in Texas and ended the journey in the beautiful two-mile strips of grain grown in the rock peppered soil of the Montana Rockies. Each job was different and we met so many hard working, friendly and good people.

One of the early lessons for me was that if you did a good job and had integrity, it would serve you and the entity you were working for well. My employers were a couple of brothers who resided in Meade County. They were dedicated teachers to this group of young college students. I remember how they taught us the importance of working with the customer and doing quality work. If you missed more than three heads of wheat, you made another pass. Also, we were taught how critical it was to have regular equipment maintenance and to work as a team so the combines would

continue to roll.

These brothers made a substantial investment in the equipment and they entrusted us to help them capture a return on their investment. The operation depended upon having nine combines harvesting grain with minimal down time and a fleet of supporting trucks, service vehicles and trailer houses. In this heat-intensive and dusty environment, all tasks large and small were essential to keep the combines operational. Each truck and combine had whisk brooms and shop towels; every combine had a full set of wrenches. The service trucks were fully equipped for routine maintenance and most repair work. We fully understood that once we started to harvest the grain, the expectation was to be operating every possible moment, day after day, long into the night. So much of what was done depended upon the integrity of the owners and operators to do a good job so the customer would be satisfied.

I mention integrity because it is something I have continued to see during my time at KDOT. You and I are responsible for building on that integrity. KDOT responds to frequent audits, reviews or inquiries on many subjects including procurement/financial transactions. Each of us participates in the results of these efforts through preparing documents, recording, reporting, authorizing or processing information. These audits, reviews or inquiries are good tools for keeping us accountable, letting us know how we are doing and providing management the opportunity to make adjustments when necessary.

This cannot be over emphasized in today's business world. Even though so many good things are happening, the business world continues to be rocked with many negative financial experiences. News headlines declare, "Employee found guilty of taking company funds," "Procurement card transactions extravagant, inappropriate," "Stock options back dated," "Financial statements inaccurate" and on and on. Some companies that were once well respected and considered "good models" are no longer in existence today. We wonder, how could this happen. Where was the oversight? Did it start with a small lapse in personal integrity?

KDOT is big business and we have a responsibility for being good stewards of the public resources entrusted to us. You and I can build on KDOT's integrity so that it continues to serve the public, the agency and its employees well into the future.

*Dale Jost is Chief of the Bureau of Fiscal Services.*



*Lots of safety equipment and new machinery for transportation maintenance were shown at the annual Expo in Salina. Photos by Kurt Weaverling*



# First responders focus on safety at Expo

Learning about the dangers first responders can face in emergencies and ways to improve safety in these situations was highlighted at the 2007 Maintenance Training Expo in Salina on Sept. 5 and 6 at the Bicentennial Center.

First responders to natural disasters or emergency situations can often be employees from KDOT or city and county offices across the state.

“They can encounter many dangers

while clearing the way for emergency vehicles and personnel, such as downed power lines and gas leaks,” said Jaci Vogel, Construction and Maintenance Assistant Bureau Chief. “Safety is always a priority and we want everyone to be as prepared as possible at all times.”

Part of this safety training included a demonstration from Midwest Energy of Colby on electrical and natural gas safety.

Other technologies designed to keep motorists and employees safe and provide better service to the traveling public throughout the year on roadways in Kansas were featured at the Expo.

The annual event is sponsored by KDOT and the American Public Works Association. City and county public works departments, state DOTs and other organizations attended the Expo. **-K.S.**



## Highway sign honoring slain deputy unveiled

A sign designating US-73 north of Horton the “Deputy Todd Widman Memorial Highway Last Call 3-1-2000” was unveiled during a ceremony Sept. 10 at Hiawatha.

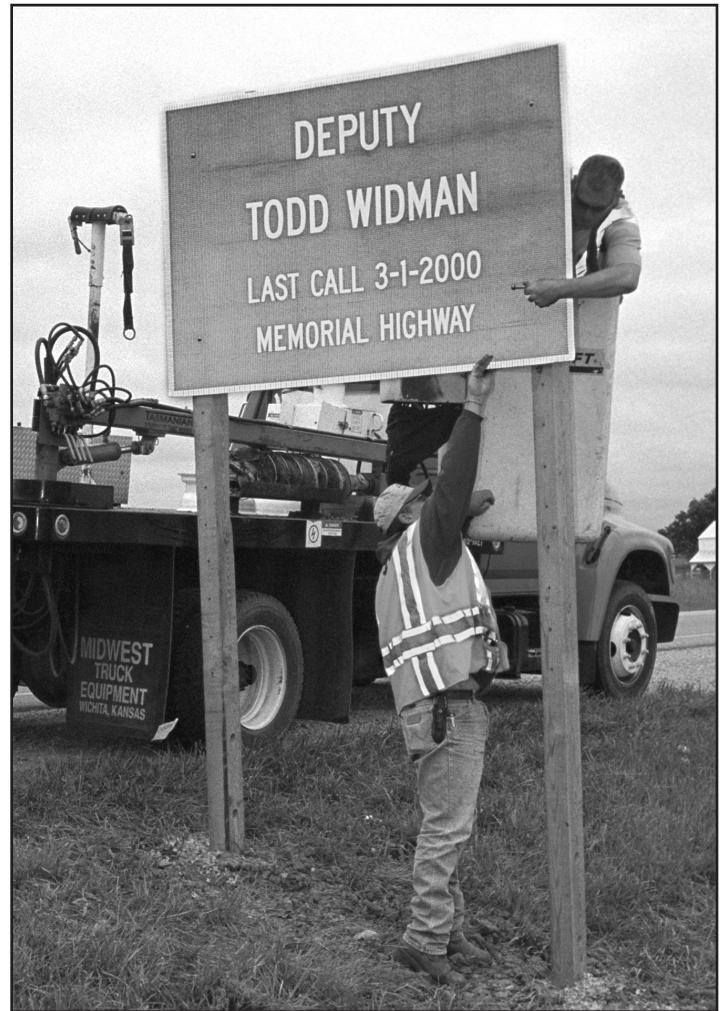
KDOT crews installed two signs along the highway – one just north of Horton and the other just south of the Nebraska border. The 21-year-old officer was shot and killed March 1, 2000, in Hiawatha as he was transporting a suspect to the sheriff’s department for questioning. He had been a deputy for four months.

The designation of the highway was approved by the 2007 Legislature and signed into law March 23 by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. The bill was introduced by Sen. Dennis Pyle of Hiawatha. Provisions of the law call for the cost of the signs, plus additional funds for maintenance or replacement, to come from donations. Sen. Pyle presented a check totaling \$3,360 in donations to KDOT in July.

“I knew Todd Widman as an officer and through sportsman activities. Todd loved to hunt and fish. He was courageous and dedicated to serving the public,” said Sen. Pyle. “It was an honor to sponsor legislation that pays tribute to him.”

In addition to Sen. Pyle, speakers at the ceremony in Hiawatha included the deputy’s sister, Jill Steinmetz, Secretary Deb Miller and Brown County Sheriff Lamar Shoemaker.

“Todd Widman believed in service and died serving his community. With the placement of these signs, several thousand travelers every day will be reminded of his service and his sacrifice,” said Secretary Miller.



*KDOT employees install one of the signs on US-73 honoring deputy Todd Widman. Photo by Kurt Weaverling*

### Drickey

#### Continued from page 3

that his wife, Jeanne, will be close to her mother.

The 61-year-old Drickey will waste no time jumping in the fire starting as an Area Engineer at Dumas on Oct. 1. It will be a bittersweet time.

“There are a lot of wonderful people at KDOT and this has been a great place to work,” said Drickey. “Every location I’ve been at KDOT has its own culture and personality. I’m very proud to have been associated with an organization like KDOT. It’s not easy for me to say goodbye.”

Drickey’s wide range of experience includes working at Headquarters and Districts One, Two, Three and Six.

In 1969 he began as an Engineer-in-Training with most of his time being at Headquarters before taking over as Project Engineer at Hays in 1970. He stayed in that position for three years before moving to Meade where he served as Resident Engineer until 1975. The Meade office was later closed and Drickey was transferred to Dodge City as Resident Engineer.

The following year Drickey was promoted to Assistant District Maintenance Engineer in District One and then in 1979 he became the first Area Four Engineer in Topeka.

Drickey accepted another challenge in 1984 when he was promoted to Assistant District Three Engineer in charge of maintenance. He became the District Construction and Materials Engineer in 1989 before taking over as the District Two Engineer in 1996.

“There have been huge changes in the way we do our work from when I started working for the agency,” said Drickey. “Our philosophy of project management, the tools we use in doing our job and how we communicate are vastly improved.”

Drickey grew up on a farm near Spencer, Neb., and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1969 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He and his wife have two grown daughters, Kirsten, a Doctoral candidate at the University of Kansas, and Carmen, a graduate of KU who has been a Peace Corps volunteer and works for the Peace Corps in Washington, D. C.

## KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

Increase your efficiency!

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Tips & Tricks:

##### Office 2007 - Focus: Word

◆Word has a new “Quick Parts” feature. This allows you to add preformatted portions of text as often as you like, saving you time in your document.

◆Word documents can now be “Bookmarked” in specific areas of your choice. This is helpful with long documents you are creating and editing.

◆Word has a gallery of new color, font and effects “Themes” allowing it to be a more versatile desktop publishing tool. Professional “watermarks” and “cover pages” are just some of the cool features.

◆Word’s “Live Preview” allows you to choose formatting options without making permanent changes. When you select a portion of text, it updates automatically as you move your mouse over buttons on the toolbar. It also works with items in lists, such as font styles and font faces.

◆Word allows you to cut down on typos and misspelled words by customizing “Auto Correct” and “Creating and Editing a Custom Dictionary.” Set them up and add terms, abbreviations used etc.

◆Word has a new “Prepare” section designed to help you prepare a document for electronic distribution. Encrypting a Document, Marking as Final, Restricting Permissions and Adding a Digital Signature are some of the options here.

Enroll by e-mail [kctc@ksdot.org](mailto:kctc@ksdot.org) or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993.

**Questions are welcome!** Supervisor’s approval to enroll is necessary.

## FEMA looking for short-term assistance from KDOT retirees

KDOT retirees in the Wichita area can take advantage of their transportation background and provide short-term technical assistance for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

A variety of assistance is needed with people experienced in engineering, surveying, administrative support and more, according to Warren Welch, with FEMA Mitigation. These paid positions would generally last 30-60 days.

Some job duties would involve speaking with the public, either on the

phone or at meetings.

“We particularly need individuals who are customer service oriented and possess a technical background with the ability to explain technical matters to non-technical audiences,” Welch said.

Those interested should go to the Kansas Job Web site, [www.kansas-joblink.com](http://www.kansas-joblink.com). Use the key word FEMA and select search, which will list current needs. From there, double click the selected match title and follow instructions by simply registering. Details will display when the information is submitted.

### Step Back in Time



Work takes place on K-18 between Manhattan and Ogden in October 1957.

## Fatality

### Continued from page 3

this difficult time. Our thoughts are also with the Griffith family as well.”

Korte, 30, was an Engineering Technician at Seneca who had worked at KDOT since November 2002. Griffith, 24, was an employee with Dustrol, Inc.

Korte is survived by his parents, two sisters and grandparents Robert and Mary Rennenger Niehues. Memorial contributions may be given to Sacred Heart Association for the Orphanage or the Animal Humane Society. Memori-

als should be sent to the Korte family at 303 N. 10th Street, Seneca, 66538.

The crash occurred south of Lawrence in a work zone where resurfacing work is taking place on US-59 from US-56 north to the K-10/US-59 junction. Dustrol, Inc., of Towanda is the primary contractor on the project.

In the past 25 years, 13 KDOT workers have been killed in work zone crashes. Richard Cunningham of Emporia was the last KDOT employee killed in a work zone crash. Cunningham was killed in August 2005 while working near Neosho Rapids. – S.W.

# Fun Facts and Trivia

## Do you know?

### Questions

- 1.) What was the first state to open all of its Interstate mileage?
- 2.) Only one President has participated in the opening of an Interstate highway. This highway was the Maryland North-eastern Expressway-Delaware Turnpike on I-95. Name this President.
- 3.) Is the Interstate Shield protected by a trademark registration? If so, who owns it?
- 4.) The Interstate System connects all but five state capitals. Which are not connected?
- 5.) In 1960, a newspaper editorial referred to a particular highway as "the highway with a soul," shortly after its opening.

### Answers

1. Rhode Island
2. President John F. Kennedy
3. yes - AASHTO since 1967
4. Juneau, Ak.; Dover, Del.; Jefferson City, Mo.; Carson City, Nev.; Pierre, S.D.
5. I-95 from Augusta to Waterville in Maine



## Learning about transportation

*District Five Employees Martin Miller (left) and John Weins pass out information and talk with visitors at KDOT's State Fair booth. Photo by Larry Katsbulas*

## West

### Continued from page 3

"It was definitely a wonderful experience," West said. "There were great Engineering Technicians working on the projects so it was a good chance to learn."

After the year-long training program, West came to Headquarters and spent six years in Design. Then he took another leadership role in 1986 as the Ellsworth Area Engineer.

"It was a great opportunity to learn about all the different departments – personnel, maintenance, construction and the shop," West said.

In 2003, he was promoted to District Maintenance Engineer in Salina where he remained until accepting his latest position.

"The fact that I've been in different Districts and at Headquarters has given me a very valuable look at the big picture," West said. "It's been an excellent experience for the position I'm in now."

West wants to continue many things already taking place in District Two.

"I would like to continue to promote being fair and friendly with everyone we work with – both our internal and external customers," West said. "I also want to continue the wonderful working relationship between the construction and maintenance departments – that's extremely important."

Another thing West wants to continue dur-

ing the winter is coordinating with adjoining Districts, the Kansas Highway Patrol and other emergency management organizations when inclement weather is developing.

"It's a real positive change – the more we can notify the public in advance, the earlier they can make alternate travel plans so that they're not out here in the middle of the storm," West said. "Notifying the public statewide on I-70 and on I-135 has worked out really well."

West has attended several conferences recently and appreciates the chance to meet KDOT employees from across the state.

"I wish you could just snap your fingers and everybody in KDOT automatically knew each other because we have a lot of fantastic people working at KDOT that you never have a chance to meet," West said.

His first day on the job was Sept. 10. West succeeds Don Drickey who recently retired.

West is a graduate of Kansas State University with dual degrees in civil engineering and business management. Through the University of Kansas Continuing Education Department, he is a graduate of the Certified Public Managers Program. He has also completed a national transportation management program sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

West and his wife, Kristi, have two sons; Kyle, a junior at the University of Kansas, and Ryan, a senior at Ellsworth High School. -K.S.

## Transportation Briefs

### National roads improve, congestion on the rise

According to the 16th Annual Report on the Performance of State Highway Systems from the Los Angeles-based Reason Foundation, national road conditions have improved since 1998, but there is more congestion. The report shows that 52 percent of urban interstates are congested.

The research also showed that the percentage of urban interstate miles in poor condition decreased 31 percent between 1998 and 2005. - *American City & County, August 2007*

### Shingles used in asphalt

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is one of the first state agencies to begin resurfacing or rebuilding highways with recycled tear-off roof shingles. The shingles are put into asphalt mix to create lower priced, durable asphalt. By using recycled shingles, MoDOT is lowering costs, saving three to five dollars per ton of asphalt, as well as being environmentally responsible. -*Midwest Contractor, Aug. 13, 2007*

### Toll roads increasing

The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association has reported that the states of Tennessee, Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas and Georgia are currently, or have plans to, create more toll roads as major highways are built. U.S. toll road revenue is up 22 percent, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The reason cited most often for the growing number of toll roads was to prevent state and federal motor fuel taxes from rising. - *Better Roads, August 2007*

### Grease provides power

Kalamazoo, Mich., along with faculty from West Michigan University is in the process of constructing a small-scale biodiesel production facility. One area of focus will be to convert used grease from local restaurants and residents into biodiesel fuel to power their vehicles, which many agencies are turning to. This will not only provide an option to rising gasoline prices, but also prevent grease related sewer problems. - *American City & County, July 2007*

## Retirees

The following employees officially retired from KDOT in September.

### Headquarters

**J.R. Campbell**, Professional Civil Engineer I in Local Projects

### District One

**Bobby D. Mann**, Engineering Technician at Bonner Springs

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in October.

### Headquarters

**Ben Nelson**, Bureau Chief of Computer Services

### District Two

**Jerry C. Hollis**, Equipment Operator at Lincoln

### District Three

**Larry D. Manz**, Equipment Operator Specialist at WaKeeney

## Skydiving

### Continued from page 4

the sport of parachuting. When jumping at events, Gardner said an experienced ground crew monitors wind conditions, keeps the landing area clear of spectators and communicates by radio with the jump team to keep them informed.

Out of the 800 jumps he has made, there was only once he was nervous.

“An unauthorized aircraft entered our air space and flew across our area, and I was in free fall,” he said. “It was headed towards where we were going and it looked like it was going to be a collision course. My only option was to open my parachute immediately, and the aircraft passed right beneath us just a few hundred feet. He was close enough that I could see his hands on the yoke in the aircraft through the windshield.”

Gardner’s family watches him skydive occasionally, but they haven’t taken up the sport like he has. His wife, Dena, has even made four jumps, “but it didn’t get into her blood like it did for me.”

# M I L E S T O N E S

## KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in September

### 10 YEARS

Jeffrey Geist . . . . . Salina  
Jackie Immroth . . . . . Garden City  
Shannon Jones. . . . . Sterling  
David Katt. . . . . Topeka  
Edmond Leboeuf. . . . . Enterprise  
Roy Rettig, Jr. . . . . Bonner Springs  
Bryan Werner . . . . . Wichita

### 20 YEARS

James Armknecht . . . . . Bogue  
Shawn Emerson . . . . . Winfield  
Albert Kucharski. . . . . Stark  
Robert Loveless . . . . . Westfall  
Susan Riley . . . . . Waverly  
Alan Rose . . . . . St Francis  
Larry Sangals . . . . . Wichita

### 30 YEARS

Robert Aldrine. . . . . Topeka  
Diane Flanders . . . . . Topeka  
William Haverkamp . . . . . Hoyt  
Rodney Howard . . . . . Burr Oak  
Robert Ternes . . . . . Arkansas City  
Van Scyoc . . . . . Osborne

### 40 YEARS

John Allacher, Jr. . . . . Atwood  
Thomas Brewer. . . . . Topeka  
Donald Campbell . . . . . Riley  
Jerry Lay . . . . . Merriam

*State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services.*

# Four appointed to transportation committees

Secretary Deb Miller has announced the appointments of Richard Russell, Mark Williams and Kim Young to the Kansas State Aviation Advisory Committee, while Gov. Kathleen Sebelius announces the appointment of David Inskip to the Kansas State Highway Advisory Commission.

Russell is an air transport pilot and certified flight instructor with 21,600 accident-free hours. Williams is a civil engineer and an assistant vice president with HNTB Corporation. Young is a project manager for the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition.

Inskip is vice president of Commercial Lending Services, having been a commercial banker for more than 35 years.

## Promotions/Transfers

### Headquarters

- Debbie Beam**, Right of Way Property Appraiser II, Right of Way
- Eric Deitcher**, Public Service Executive I, Local Projects
- Dawn Hueske**, Professional Civil Engineer I, Local Projects
- Terri Slater**, Applications Developer III, Computer Services
- Mitch Sothers**, Professional Civil Engineer I, Transportation Planning

### District One – Northeast

- Pamela Bartlett**, Engineering Technician Senior, Kansas City
- Chad Weyer**, Engineering Technician Senior, Bonner Springs
- Willard Trout**, Engineering Technician Senior, Lawrence
- William Vesecky**, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Olathe
- Chad Weyer**, Engineering technician Senior, Bonner Springs

### District Four – Southeast

- Kristy Kelley**, Program Consultant II, Chanute

### District Five – Southcentral

- Brian Jemison**, Engineering Technician, Wichita

**Welcome new KDOT employees!**

### Headquarters

- Shannon Bayless**, Senior Administrative Assistant, Fiscal Services
- Michelle Hins**, Administrative Specialist, Fiscal Services
- Julie Kampsen**, Office Assistant, Design
- Beth Thurman**, Administrative Assistant, Fiscal Services

### District One

- Michael Braun**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Edwardsville
- Duane Erikson**, Equipment Mechanic, Wamego
- Dennie Knight**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Lamar
- Shannon Lewis**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Alma
- Matthew Smith**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Lawrence
- Terry Walling**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Lamar
- Juan Westbrook**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Shawnee
- Elizabeth Wilcox**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Osage City

### District Two

- Michael Jobe**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Mound City
- Michael Studer**, Equipment Mechanic, Marion

### District Three

- April Sattler**, Safety and Health Specialist, Norton

**Kansas Department of Transportation**  
*Bureau of Transportation Information*  
 Eisenhower State Office Building  
 700 SW Harrison, Second Floor, West  
 Topeka, KS 66603-3754

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