

# Translines EXPRESS

June 21, 2017

## District Three



**Both the east and westbound rest areas**

**near WaKeeney in Trego County underwent a major remodel this winter. Project work began in January and the rest areas reopened to the public in mid-June. The remodeling included completely gutting the facilities and installing new wiring, plumbing, flooring and walls. Each interior space features a photographic mural of the area's scenery that was taken by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.**

**Have a safe and happy Fourth of July**

All state offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4.

## In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree John (Jack) Jarboe who died on June 5 in Arma. Jarboe retired in 1998 as an Equipment Operator at the Pittsburg Subarea Office.

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Albert Davis who died June 6 in Lawrence. Davis was in the Bureau of Transportation Safety and Technology for more than 25 years, retiring in 2016 as a Project Coordinator.

## #IAMKDOT

**Gelene Savage:** This month's #IAMKDOT feature is Gelene Savage. Savage is the Managing Attorney for KDOT's Office of Chief Counsel. Gelene began her career with KDOT as a Law Clerk while still in law school in 1991. She was hired as a Staff Attorney after passing the bar exam in 1992, and has been with the agency for 26 years. She has served as OCC's main Litigation Attorney for several years, defending lawsuits of every nature brought against the agency. Savage is well-known throughout KDOT for presentations she makes on safety, risk management and other topics of interest to employees in the Districts. She makes it a point to stop at any nearby Subarea or Area offices whether she is travelling on agency or personal business. Savage is well-respected by judges and other lawyers throughout the state for her professionalism in the defense of KDOT. She is very proud to tell other counsel, "I am KDOT," so it is fitting that she was nominated by her co-workers for the #IAMKDOT campaign. A graduate of Kansas State University, Savage is a Wildcats football fan, particularly during the last four years when her nephew, Logan, played for the Wildcats. She is "Aunt Genie" to many nieces and nephews. When not at work, Savage also enjoys gardening. #IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to keep Kansans moving. This series also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath those neon vests are individuals with



families, friends and hobbies waiting for them at home. Do you know a KDOT worker that deserves recognition? Nominations are open! Email [Mallory.Goeke@KS.gov](mailto:Mallory.Goeke@KS.gov) today to get started!

## Retirees

**The following KDOT employees will retire July 1.**

### Headquarters

**Lauren (Dave) Gonzales**, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Structures & Geotechnical Services  
**Denise MacEwan**, Executive Office Administrator, Secretary of Transportation  
**Gary Mutschelknaus**, Assistant to Director, Engineering & Design  
**Robert Selley**, Land Surveyor I, Right of way  
**Gregory Wyatt**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Structures & Geotechnical Services

### District Two

**Carl Wolf**, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, Ellsworth

### District Three

**Gale Taylor**, Equipment Operator Senior, Hill City  
**Donald Ummel**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Wakeeney  
**Joseph Unrein Jr.**, Equipment Operator Senior, Hays  
**Randal Westgate**, Equipment Operator, Oakley

### District Four

**Steven Black**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Altamont

**Richard Carr**, Equipment Operator, Iola

**Frederick Veith**, Equipment Mechanic, Independence

### District Five

**Richard Thompson**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Coldwater

### District Six

**Ronald Hopkins**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Scott City  
**Gerald Pearson**, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, Garden City

## Trivia!

### Fireworks

1. What's the earliest documentation of fireworks?
2. Where were the first recorded fireworks in England?
3. How hot can a sparkler get?
4. Where was the largest recorded firework display?
5. At first, fireworks were only these two colors.
6. Who uses the most fireworks in the U.S.?

## Rail

### On the tracks:

Amtrak operated an Inspection Train on the BNSF Railway track from Oklahoma City to Newton on June 9.

Wichita last had scheduled passenger train service in 1979, when the Amtrak Lone Star route between Chicago and Houston was discontinued. Communities from Fort Worth to Oklahoma City have been served since 1999 by the

Amtrak Heartland Flyer, which is sponsored by the Oklahoma and Texas DOT and makes connections to the Amtrak Texas Eagle and Sunset Limited trains in Fort Worth and San Antonio. A proposed extension would enable train-to-train connections in Newton with the Amtrak Southwest Chief which provides service



*The Amtrak Inspection Train as it arrived in Wichita on June 9.*

between Chicago and Los Angeles. In 2016, Amtrak began a Thruway Bus Connection between Newton and Oklahoma City, via Wichita. The prospect of extending the Heartland Flyer to Newton was the focus of a 2011 service development plan analysis.

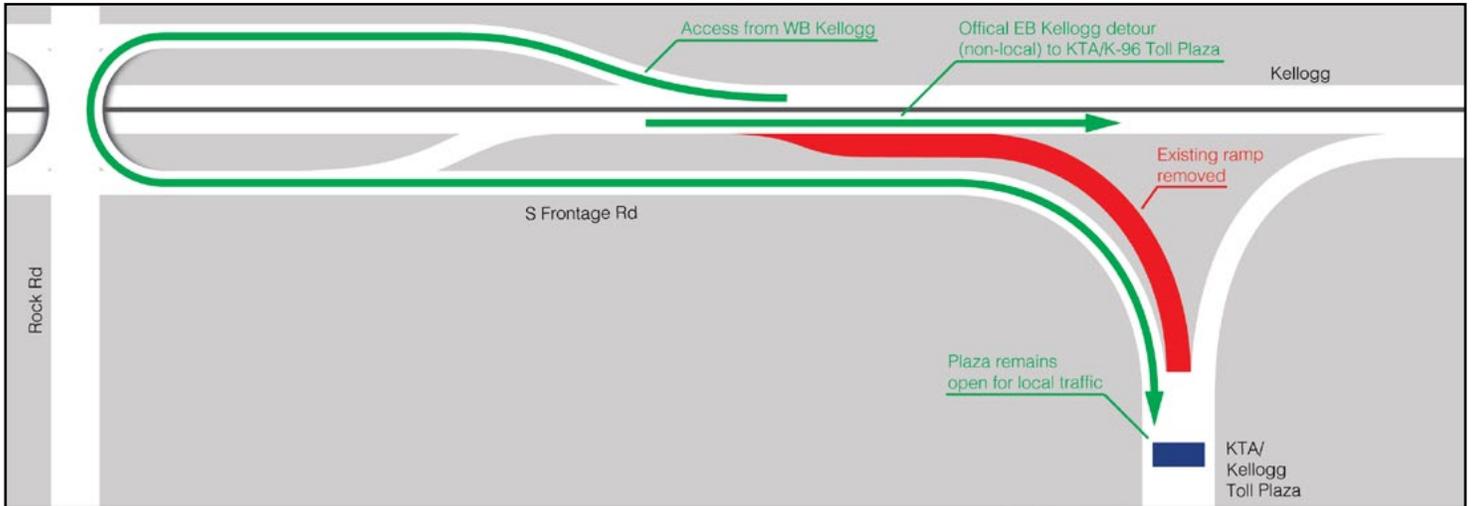
## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Fireworks date back to 200 BC to 900 AD and were invented in China.
2. At the wedding of King Henry VII in 1486.
3. It burns at a temperature more than 15 times the boiling point of water. Three sparklers burning together can generate similar heat to a blowtorch.
4. In Dubai in 2014, a show had 400,000 fireworks in six minutes.
5. Orange and white. New colors were created in the Middle Ages by adding different salts.
6. Walt Disney World

*Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express?*

*Please e-mail your suggestions to [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)*

# KTA



**Changes near the East Kellogg east toll plaza due to construction have impacted east Wichita traffic as seen above. While the toll plaza remains open (right), access to it is only via the south frontage road. Travelers can also detour to the K-96 Toll Plaza for turnpike access. Learn more at [www.E54ict.com](http://www.E54ict.com).**

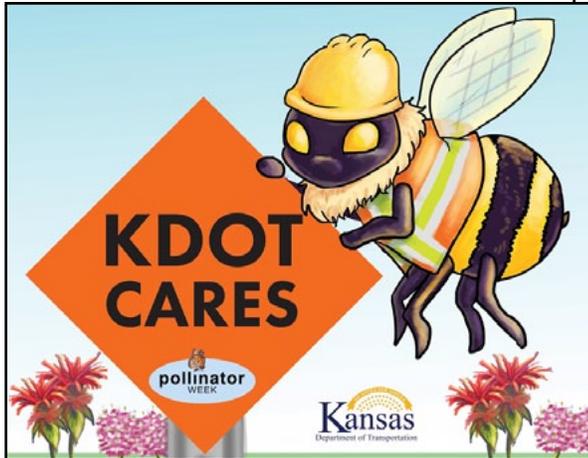


**New overhead gantries installed at the South Topeka toll plaza allowed for video enforcement to go live on June 7. Construction will continue on the plaza through the summer.**

# Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, June 20

## Pollinator Week



***A butterfly rests on a butterfly milkweed plant at the Homewood rest area.***

June 19-25 is Pollinator Week and KDOT, along with five other state DOTs and the Federal Highway Administration, signed an agreement that will improve pollinator habitat along I-35, a key migratory corridor for Monarch butterflies.

KDOT's Environmental Services unit, along with KDOT employees from the Ottawa area, planted 15 acres of wildflower seeds on three plots of land around the Homewood rest area along I-35 in May as well as 1,152 milkweed plugs that KDOT received from the Monarch Watch.

"The Monarch butterfly will only lay eggs on milkweed and the larva will only eat milkweed," said Engineering Technician Specialist Melissa Davidson in KDOT's Right of Way, "so it's very important to the survival of the species to have milkweed available to them."

According to KDOT employees from the Ottawa office, the wildflowers and milkweed plugs are doing very well and a few plants are in bloom this year. To learn more about helping to save pollinators and what kind of flowers typically grow along Kansas highways, go to <http://pollinatorweek.ksdot.org>.



***KDOT crews planted 1,152 milkweed plugs near the Homewood rest area along I-35 to create more pollinator habitat.***

To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

## General

### Vehicle safety:

Keeping a vehicle's brakes in good shape is important and includes three parts - the brake pads, disc brakes and brake fluids.

According to AAA, depending on the vehicle, the disc brakes are located in the front and back of the vehicle. The disc brakes consist of disc pads, rotors and calipers. Consider which part of the brake needs repair. Brake wear can be indicated by sounds of squealing, chirping or scraping. Brake wear may also be indicated by shaking, which is a sign of bad rotors. According to some mechanics, if brake pads wear out, the metal backs on the brake pad will start to rub against the brake rotor. This connection can be damaging to the rotor and endangers motorists. To



**Brake pads at various stages of wear are displayed.**

prevent this from happening, just check for the signs of brake pad wear and have them changed if needed. Make sure to check the brake fluid regularly. Dark brown or black brake fluid means that the fluid needs to be replaced.

## MAGIC camp

### Transportation careers:

High school girls in Wichita are learning about career opportunities in the construction and transportation fields while attending MAGIC camp this week. The camp took place earlier in June in Topeka. MAGIC (Mentoring a Girl in Construction) introduces high school girls

age 14 or older to trade skill occupations such as carpentry, safety, electrical and highway construction and gives them a chance to learn from women already succeeding in these jobs. This week's event is sponsored by the City of Wichita and KDOT. Students will visit places such as Wichita Dwight



**MAGIC camp participants in Wichita learn some basic construction techniques while building birdhouses during one of the tours.**

D. Eisenhower National Airport, Wichita City Hall, National Center for Aviation Training, The Home Depot, MARK Arts Center, Wichita Area Technical College, Westar Energy, Wichita Transit, Wichita State University's GoCreate and Dondlinger Construction Company.

## ITS Heartland

**TSMO webinar:** KDOT uses TSMO tools everyday, but many of us have never heard of it. What is TSMO?

Find out at noon on June 22 when ITS Heartland offers its first webinar in a monthly Regional Operations Training Program that will explore and explain Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO). John Corbin of the U.S. DOT will provide a TSMO overview and a representative from each of the five states of ITS Heartland (Iowa, Kansas,

Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma) will give a brief update on TSMO in their state.

Register now at <http://hdr.learn.taleo.net/HDRLearningExchange>. You'll need to answer a few questions but your profile will be saved for future webinars. Use ITSHeartland for the registration password (after you create your profile).

Contact Tom Hein, KDOT Public Affairs Manager in Wichita, at 316-660-4990 for more information or if you have problems with registration.

## General

**Safety hardware:** According to an article in Better Roads, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has launched a microsite aimed at serving as a central resource for details about roadside safety hardware such as guardrails.

"Safety is our top priority and enhanced data will improve road safety," says Acting Deputy Federal Highway Administrator Butch Waidelich. "Our goal is to provide state DOTs with information they can use to make the right decisions for their states."

The agency says the site will allow state DOTs to share data about in-service performance of roadside hardware by "hosting an ever-expanding collection of findings from the states in response to interest about performance guardrail terminals."

The site will focus on FHWA's In-Service Performance

Evaluation pilot, which is searching for better ways to collect in-service performance data of roadside hardware. This effort began in 2015 and will continue through 2019 and is being conducted jointly with California, Massachusetts, Missouri and Pennsylvania. FHWA reports the site will also serve as the "foundation of a publicly accessible database about guardrails used along America's highways." Waidelich also says federal officials recognize the lack of state-based information on roadside hardware, and that the ISPE will improve roadway safety by making it easier for states to uniformly collect performance data on guardrails.

The new roadside safety hardware site is available [here](#).