

Translines EXPRESS

Jan. 9, 2019

Dec. 27 Blizzard



Much of western Kansas missed out on a White Christmas by a few days when a post-holiday blizzard impacted the area on Dec. 27. Heavy snow and strong winds created treacherous travel conditions and prompted the closure of I-70 from Goodland to Hays for much of the day. Snowfall totals ranged from 8-12 inches in the Hoxie and Norton areas, with the heaviest amounts falling further south along an approximate 75-mile band between Goodland and Hays. Numerous highways were closed throughout southwest Kansas as well.



Top left: Visibility was limited on U.S. 83 north of Sublette. Top right: A KDOT truck was plowing on K-60 in Norton. Middle left: A screen shot from KanDrive near Grainfield that afternoon showed the blowing snow on I-70. Middle right: A photo sent to District Six showed the icy conditions on U.S. 83 between Scott City and Garden City. Above: A view of U.S. 36 looking west at the Norton/Phillips county line.

Retirement



Lt. Gov. Tracey Mann speaks at the retirement reception for Secretary Richard Carlson.



KDOT employees Deb Dillner and Doria Watson chat with Secretary Carlson at the event.



A large crowd listens to speakers at the retirement reception.



Carlson retires: A retirement reception took place for Secretary Richard Carlson on Jan. 3 in Topeka. Carlson has served as Secretary of Transportation since July 2016. Carlson first began to serve in politics as a Pottawatomie County Commissioner. He held this position for 12 years before being elected to the House of Representatives. He was the chairman of the House Taxation Committee for six years and was also a member of the Appropriations Committee and Commerce and Labor Committee. He later served at the Department of Revenue before coming to KDOT. A few highlights during his tenure include the completion of the South Lawrence Trafficway, Johnson County Gateway, the opening of the transloads facilities in Great Bend and Garden City and three major projects along U.S. 54 in Wichita. Carlson and his wife, Cheryl, have two children and six grandchildren.

Left: State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick and other members of KDOT's Executive Staff present Secretary Carlson with a plaque, a clock and a pin.

Trivia!

Capitol dome - from the Kansas Historical Society

1. What are the dimensions of the Capitol's dome?
2. How many steps are in the dome?
3. The inner dome has how many glass panels?
4. How much copper is on the dome?
5. When was the bronze statue of the Kansa Warrior, Ad Astra, placed on top of the dome?
6. How tall is the Ad Astra statue? How much does it weigh?

District Five



Area Engineer AJ Wilson took these photos of the U.S. 166 bridge removal and replacement project in Arkansas City.

Bridge work: Crews have removed about half of the existing deck and several lengths of steel beams from the West Madison Avenue bridge on U.S. 166 over the Arkansas River in Arkansas City. The bridge closed to traffic on Dec. 5.

Workers also have dug investigative core holes to help determine the exact depth of the drilled shafts that will support the bridge, said Area Three Engineer AJ Wilson.

Demolition started on the east side of the bridge and is moving west.

The bridge is about five miles east of the Cowley/Sumner county line. The \$6,368,390 project has a 250 working-day schedule and is expected to be finished in March 2020.

A.M. Cohron & Son Inc. of Atlantic, Iowa, which has an office in Emporia, is the prime contractor for the project.

Stephen Bass' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The dome is 66.5 feet in diameter at the bottom of the copper dome and 54.5 feet from the beginning of the copper dome to the cupola floor. The cupola height is 23.5 feet.
2. 296 steps.
3. 256 glass panels, each is a half inch thick.
4. It would make 2,350,746 pennies.
5. 2002.
6. It is 22 feet, two inches tall and weighs 4,420 pounds.

Kansas Transportation

Monday, Jan. 7

KDOT employees revive military history

Mic Huddleston jokes about how he got involved in helping restore World War II vehicles.

“Wrong place at the wrong time,” he says with a chuckle.

But surrounded by some of the half-track and other vehicles his tinkering has helped bring back to life, it’s obvious Huddleston loves spending time at Kevin Lockwood’s spacious shop. Huddleston is the Area Supervisor for District Five’s Area Four in Great Bend. He’s been helping restore Lockwood’s WWII collection for about 20 years.

“This would not be here without Mic,” Lockwood says.

Both Huddleston’s and Lockwood’s families “have a good history of military service,” Huddleston says.

Lockwood and his team of volunteers take the vehicles to schools, air shows and other events. Huddleston really enjoyed going to Fort Hays for Hays Days.

Lockwood owns the vehicles. He bought his first one in 1990. Since then, he and the crew have restored about eight, including an LVT-3 Bushmaster, thought to be the only operational one of its kind in the world. Used in the Pacific Theater, it could load a Jeep or a cannon and haul Marines onto a beach or rescue wounded. “This is basically a ship that crawls on land,” Lockwood says.



Above: Area Four, District Five Supervisor Mic Huddleston, right, chats with Kevin Lockwood about the World War II vehicles they have restored together. Below: This LVT-3 Bushmaster is believed to be the only operational one in the world.



An average restoration takes a couple of years, the two men say. About five people, including Lockwood, show up regularly to help out. It’s a lot of work, Huddleston says, but worth it. “It’s one way to pay back,” he says.

Left: Huddleston has been helping Lockwood restore World War II vehicles for about 20 years. He says it’s one way to honor those in his and Lockwood’s family who have served in the military.

See more stories on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansas transportation.blogspot.com/>

District Six

The work continues: Ever wonder what the crews do after the snow storm? Once the roadways were cleared after the most recent storm in District Six, Garden City Subarea crew members were back out in the cold and the snow repairing a sign on U.S. 50 westbound at the Holcomb exit. The sign was a casualty of the storm. While digging post holes in frozen ground isn't easy, the crew made it work with the help of a blow torch to thaw the ground. Crew members Hector Terrones, Jesse Cassanova and Ciro Chavez worked together to raise the post, get it in position, attach the sign to the post and adjust the post to straighten the sign. Thank you to all KDOT crews who brave the snow and the cold to plow the snow and are still out there repairing signs and potholes and getting things back to normal.



Garden City Subarea employees work to repair a sign soon after the Dec. 27 storm.

KTA

KTA Briefs:

- ♦Bids have been approved and contracts awarded on two upcoming Turnpike construction projects on bridges in Sedgwick and Butler counties. Learn about the projects in our latest news release by clicking [here](#).

- ♦Cornejo and Sons of Wichita tied for second place in the Overlay one-inch or greater category on the KTA project from mile markers 96-112 in the Flint Hills. The award was presented by the Kansas Asphalt Paving Association in Lawrence on Dec. 6.



In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Paul T. Gianakon who passed away on Jan. 1 in Hutchinson. Gianakon was a Professional Civil Engineer at the District Five office. He retired in 1997 after more than 41 years of service.

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Ernie Munoz who passed away on Jan. 1 in Nacogdoches, Texas. Munoz worked for KDOT for 38 years, retiring in 2010 as the District Six Paint Crew Supervisor in Garden City.

District Three

I-70 opens:

Improvements on a stretch of I-70 in Ellis County wrapped up last December just in time for the busy holiday travel season.

The project began in late July and spanned a 15-mile portion of the interstate, starting at Exit 159 at Hays and extending east to the Russell County line. Work included a mill and overlay on both the east and westbound

driving lanes as well as resurfacing on the shoulders and exit and entrance ramps on five interchanges located along the project route. Crews also installed new pavement markings and rumble strips. In addition to the Ellis County project, work on



A stretch of I-70 in Ellis County is open to traffic.

temporary crossovers on I-70 in Gove County also has concluded for the year. The crossovers were constructed in preparation for the pavement replacement that will take place in 2019 and 2020.

Kris Norton's road squad designed the project.

Traffic Safety

KDOT accepting safety nominations: Nominations for 2019 Transportation Safety Recognition Awards are now being accepted by KDOT. Traffic safety advocates can be nominated in one of two categories – People Saving People Award and the Hero Award. The People Saving People Award recognizes an individual or organization that has made outstanding contributions to the improvement of transportation safety behavior in Kansas. The Hero Award honors the individual who has risked his or her own life to save

someone else when they happened upon a crash or while trying to prevent the likelihood of a crash in a one-time traffic safety-related incident. More details about the awards and nomination forms can be found at www.ktsro.org. Nominations must be submitted online or by mail by 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 2. The awards will be presented at the annual Kansas Transportation Safety Conference on April 2-3. For more information on the 2018 safety winners, click [here](#).

25th Annual

KDOT Transportation Safety Conference

April 2 & 3, 2019

Hyatt Regency Wichita | Wichita, KS



Register now - <http://kupce.ku.edu/transportation-safety>



Truck Parking Information Management System

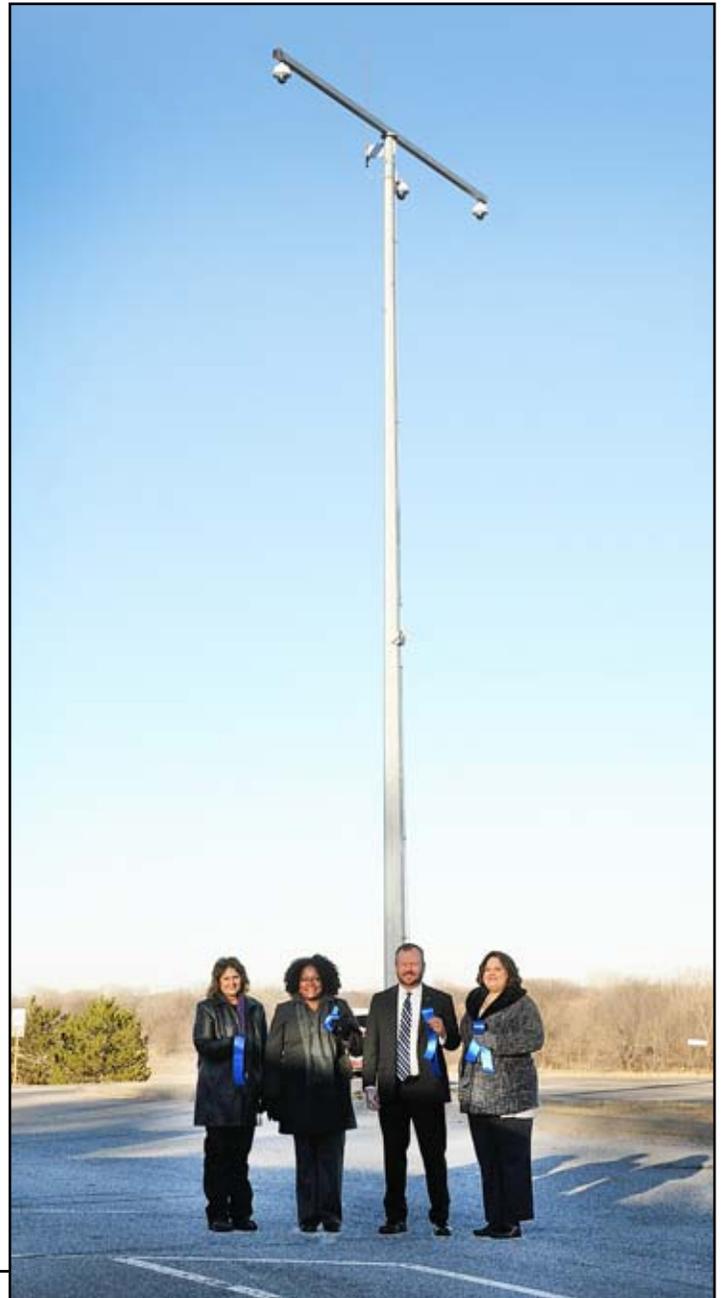
TPIMS deploys: A management system that will provide commercial truck drivers with reliable, real-time information as they travel in parts of the Midwest has officially begun operation. KDOT highlighted this new system on Jan. 4 at the westbound Paxico rest area. The Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS) project coordinates the trucking industry and the eight states in the Mid-America Association of State Transportation Officials (MAASTO). It will help commercial truck drivers make more efficient truck parking decisions along corridors using computer-monitored truck parking areas, dynamic message signs and web and mobile applications.

“This project is one of the biggest steps forward in improving efficiency and safety for our commercial truckers,” said Davonna Moore, KDOT Transportation Planner and TPIMS Regional Project Leader. “More efficient movement of goods, reduced fuel costs and safer parking benefits markets globally.”

The system is funded through a \$25 million federal grant and each participating state contributed additional funds for the project. The system will use existing intelligent transportation systems (ITS) infrastructure and capabilities, along with emerging vehicle detection and data collection technologies, to monitor the availability of truck parking. It will then provide real-time information to commercial vehicle operators for more than 150 parking sites across the MAASTO region.

More information about TPIMS is available [here](#).

At right, State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick, Transportation Planner Davonna Moore; FHWA Division Administrator Rick Backlund and Kansas Motor Carriers Association Director of Safety Kay Hendrix stand in front of one of the TPIMS camera poles used by the system after the Jan. 4 event.



Davonna Moore, far left, speaks at the event at the Paxico rest area.

KHS Training Program

Kansas Archeology Training Program:

The Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Anthropological Association will hold the annual Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) at the Tobias site near Lyons in Rice County June 1-16. The site dates between AD 1400 to 1700 and was inhabited by the ancestors of the modern-day Wichita and Affiliated Tribes.

Tobias was likely a part of the region of Quivira seen by Coronado in 1541. Portions of the Tobias site previously were excavated by the Smithsonian Institution in the mid-1900s and during the 1977 and 1978 KATP field schools. The 2019 field school will be an opportunity to further explore the Tobias site using current technology and methods. The annual KATP field school is an opportunity for the public to work alongside professional and avocational archeologists in finding and excavating archeological sites and processing the resulting artifacts in the lab. No experience is necessary - just a desire to learn. Volunteers can attend for a few days or the entire 16 days of the field school. Participants must be at least 12 years old and children aged 12-17 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Classroom courses on archeology are also offered and can be taken for college credit through Emporia State University for an additional fee. Artifacts found at the site will be processed in a laboratory located in Lyons.

The registration fee for members of the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Anthropological Association is \$35 for standard participants, \$25 for participants 65 or older, \$15 for all students currently enrolled at a middle school, high school, or college. For students enrolled for college credit through Emporia State University there is no fee. The nonmember fee is \$90. Registration will be available online through kshs.org from March 1, to May 25. Registration is limited based on activity on a day-by-day basis.

A full schedule of evening programs will be held in Lyons and vicinity; admission to the programs is free and open to the public. For more information contact Nikki Klarmann, kshs.archeologyoutreach@ks.gov; 785-272-8681, ext. 266; www.kshs.org/katp.

Retiree

The following employee retired from KDOT on Jan. 1

District Four

Daniel Cherry, Equipment Operator Specialist, Pittsburg

Scenic



It's going to be many months before Christmas trees go up again. So as a quick look back, here is a photo from KDOT's Neil Croxton showing the tree that was on display in Augusta in December.