Employee Recognition

Congratulations to the Bluebeam Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence this quarter. The team initiated a new application that allows internal and external partners to mark up PDF plans simultaneously. It integrates with existing applications, is easy to use and cost effective. Team members include first row left to right, Mark Segelquist, Misty Rodriguez, Megan Ulmer, Al Davis, Secretary Mike King; second row, Mark Hoppe, Ed Lewis, Bill Kritikos, Steve Rockers, Ron Shurtz, Ingrid Vandervort; third row, Tod Salfrank, Jonathan Mushock, Shayne Casey, Scott Marquis and Mike Dillner. Not pictured, Rob Dressman.

District Two

Clay Center Subarea Supervisor Mark Willmann took the photo above of Gene Stoker of the Washinton Subarea clearing the hail that hit K-15 north of the K-15/K-9 junction on Oct. 2. Willmann said he’s worked at KDOT for 27 years and hasn’t seen hail on the road that bad for a two-mile stretch, especially this late in the season. The hail was only quarter- to nickel-sized, he said, but there was a lot of it - up to seven inches in places, as seen at left.
Eight miles of U.S. 169 in Franklin and Miami counties have been widened to two 12-foot driving lanes with 10-foot shoulders. APAC-Kansas Inc. was the contractor on the $11 million improvement.

Stephen Bass’ road squad and Mark Hoppe’s bridge squad designed the projects.

District Four

The Old Military Road in eastern Kansas was celebrated during an Oct. 18 ceremony, when the Oceanus Hopkins National Society Daughters of the American Revolution rededicated the Old Military Road marker at the junction of U.S. 69/400/K-171 south of Pittsburg.

From left: VFW Color Guard members Dick Casey and David Purdy stand at attention as DAR Chapter Regent Janice Brady and Chaplain Jeanne McLaughlin officiate. The Old Military Road, running from the Mississippi south to the Red River, was commissioned by President Andrew Jackson in 1836. The road was charted by blazing timber in the woods and building mounds on prairie lands to connect military posts. The DAR first posted the marker in 1935 along K-171 east of the current site. Since the original posting KDOT forces have relocated the marker twice, and recovered the marker’s bronze plaque after it was stolen several years ago and left in a nearby field.

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Above, Chili Cook-off judges Troy Whitworth and Kent Olson get a little warm after sampling spicy chili entries at the Community Health Charities and United Way fund raiser on Nov. 4 in Topeka. At right, Whitworth, Olson and the third judge Jerry Younger review their scores.

SRTS

Safe Routes to School projects: Fifteen projects intended to encourage children to walk or bicycle to school have been selected for funding through the Safe Routes to School program administered by KDOT. A total of $1,335,000 will be allocated for projects including development of a Safe Routes to School plan and infrastructure construction.

The federal program, created in 2005, has several purposes:
• Enable and encourage children, including those who are disabled, to walk or bicycle to school;
• Make walking or biking to school safe and appealing;
• Facilitate projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

Cimarron, Dighton, Haven, Iola, Lawrence, Lewis, McPherson, Neosho Rapids and Olpe will each receive up to $15,000 to help develop a Safe Routes to School plan.

Beloit, Ellsworth, Erie, Fort Scott, Hutchinson and Kinsley will receive up to $200,000 for infrastructure improvements.

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Above, 74-year-old Bobby Bell, first Kansas City Chiefs player inducted into the Pro Hall of Fame, was able to take a quarter from Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger’s palm before he could close his hand at the Leadership Forum in Topeka on Oct. 29. A panel of former Chiefs players that include Bell, Jon McGraw, Walter White, Tim Grunhard and Dave Lindstrom shared their stories of challenges and perseverance. At left, attendees enjoyed the stories being told by the panel. Top left, Billy Riggs incorporated humor and magic into his keynote message on “How to Achieve the Impossible.”

### Trivia!

**Misc. Games – Part One**

1. Two people played Twister on a television show soon after it was patented in 1966. Who were they and what show were they on?
2. How many mats were used for the record-breaking largest combined amount of Twister game mats in 2010?
3. In the game Operation, what piece was added in 2004?
4. What lights up if you touch the metal edge during Operation?
5. What is the origin of the game Monopoly?
6. Monopoly has 40 spaces – 22 are colored streets – what are the other 18?

**Answers below**

### Leadership Forum

**I-70 to open:** All lanes of eastbound and westbound I-70 and adjacent closed interchange ramps through downtown Topeka will be open to traffic on Thursday, Nov. 13. This week crews will complete finishing work on the project, including median barrier wall work, pavement striping and removal of traffic control. Due to this week’s cold temperature forecast, crews may need to come back at a later date to complete some permanent pavement markings within the project limits. This pavement marking work will be handled under a weekday daily lane closure. Updated traffic information for this project and the entire Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area can be viewed online: [www.ksdot.org/topekametro/lane-close.asp](http://www.ksdot.org/topekametro/lane-close.asp)

In spring 2015, a polymer overlay will be added to the eastbound I-70 bridge deck over the Polk-Quincy Viaduct. This overlay work will be handled through daily lane closures.

Travis Malone’s squad designed the project.

### Kansas Transportation Blog

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**TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. Eva Gabor and Johnny Carson on “The Tonight Show.”
2. 1,008 Twister mats, measuring 244.7 feet by 24,156 feet.
3. Brain Freeze, an ice cream cone located in the brain.
4. Sam’s nose lights up red.
5. In 1903, American Elizabeth Phillips created a game to explain the single tax theory of Henry George to illustrate the negative aspects of concentrating land in private monopolies.
6. Four railway stations, two utilities, three Chance spaces, three Community Chest spaces, Luxury Tax space, Income Tax space and the four corner squares (GO, Jail/Just Visiting, Free Parking and Go to Jail).

**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 translines@ksdot.org**

The best blog you’re not reading: See why dozens of people (or at least our relatives) are raving about our blog, [http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/](http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/)

With more than 200 posts, the blog not only discusses transportation issues in Kansas but also global happenings.

For example, find out why personal transportation is about to change forever thanks to the unveiling of a flying car by clicking here. Or maybe you’d be interested in learning about the vital role transportation plays in making childbirth safe for pregnant women in developing countries, which can be seen here.

Finally, learn about how transportation ballot measures across America fared this election cycle by clicking here.
**District Four**

Work continues on two U.S. 169 deep mill and overlay projects in Allen and Anderson counties. Both projects will resurface 18.5 miles of U.S. 169 from Iola north to Welda. Bettis Asphalt, Topeka, is the contractor on the $8.9 million projects. Steve Rocker’s road squad designed the projects.

**District Six**

Problem solved: Garden City received more than three inches of rain in about two hours on June 24, causing high water and some flooding in many areas. This included a home about a half mile south of U.S. 50 and west of Garden City. As part of the four-lane improvement of U.S. 50 from Holcomb to Garden City, which was completed in 2011, a new county road was constructed just north of that property. Over time, weeds and other debris had accumulated and when the heavy rains sent an abundance of storm water rushing through the ditch, it overflowed. KDOT and Finney County worked to correct the problem and after the county re-graded the ditch, Area One Maintenance Supervisor Dave Marsh and two crew members, Mike Johannsen and Joe Rivas, installed grouted stone riprap in the ditch to slow runoff and prevent erosion. Their efforts to fix the problem earned them KDOT Leadership Coins that were given to them by Secretary Mike King at the recent Leadership Forum.

Before (top) and after (bottom) photos show improvements made to the ditch.

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**Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form**

To order:

Headquarters: Contact your Employees’ Council rep.

Districts/Retirees: Mail completed form and check to -
Ruby Hilton, KDOT, 700 SW Harrison 13th Floor/Bridge Design
Topeka, KS, 66603

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Total Paid: $5.00

Check payable to Employees’ Council

For more details, call Ruby at (785) 291-3980

Supply is limited on ornaments from previous years - first come, first serve