

# Translines EXPRESS

Sept. 9, 2015

## Home on the Range

At right, Gov. Sam Brownback (center), sings “Home on the Range” with Sen. Elaine Bowers and Rep. Troy Waymaster at the Home on the Range cabin. Below, Chris Hrabe and Crystal Ifland, KDOT employees from Smith Center, unload one of the signs.



**Highway dedication:** “The Home on the Range” Highway was dedicated during a Sept. 3 ceremony at the Home on the Range cabin in Smith County.

More than 140 years ago, Dr. Brewster Higley found his inspiration outside his cabin in Smith County and wrote the poem, “My Western Home.” He then shared his words with Dan Kelley of Gaylord who set the poem to music. Their combined work would become “Home on the Range,” an unofficial anthem of the American West and the official state song of Kansas.

Gov. Sam Brownback signed Senate Bill 43 to commemorate the 16-mile stretch of paved road closest to the site where Higley’s poem was written. Signs will be at the U.S. 36/ K-8 junction and at the Kansas/Nebraska state line.

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

**Stories shared through blog series:** U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx will kick off the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day blog series on Sept. 14. The series will feature 19 people across Kansas sharing their stories that show why roadway safety is important.

“The next thing I knew I saw a ditch and then the sky, four times. My door flew open and all the windows shattered besides the windshield. If I wasn’t wearing my seat belt I would have been ejected through the door or through one of the windows and most likely into the car’s path,” said

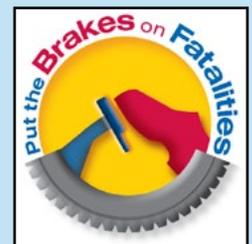


**Anthony Foxx**

blogger Morgan Krankenberg, a junior at St. John High School. Fortunately, Krankenberg spent just four hours at the hospital for minor injuries after the crash ... “I could be dead if it wasn’t for the seat belt I was wearing,” she said.

KHP Technical Trooper Casey Simoneau tells a story with a different outcome. “What I saw that night will never leave my memory,” he said. “In the median, a 7-year-old child was thrown from the vehicle and succumbed to his injuries from the crash.”

From Sept. 14 to Oct. 8, new stories can be viewed each weekday at <http://ksdotblog.blogspot.com/>.



## Kansas State Fair



**102 years and going strong:** While the official Kansas State Fair has been going for 102 years, activities and events featuring agriculture have been taking place since 1873 when the town of Hutchinson was just one year old. This year, more than 30,000 competitive entries from quilts and jams to the livestock and small animals, nearly 700 exhibitors, and more than 216 professional pieces of art can be visited or seen on the fairgrounds. The fair runs from Sept. 11-20. The KDOT and Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office booths will be in the Eisenhower Building and open at 11 a.m. on Friday, and then are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day. Both booths have a variety of transportation and safety information as well as a transportation trivia game. For more information on the fair, go to [www.kansasstatefair.com](http://www.kansasstatefair.com).

### Trivia!

#### State Fair Trivia

1. What influential Hutchinson resident was instrumental in getting the fair in Hutchinson designated the "official Kansas State Fair" in 1913?
2. How many compartments does a cow's stomach have?
3. A group of baby pigs is called what?
4. True or False? Cows drink about a bathtub full of water a day.
5. What is the name of the lake on the fairgrounds?
6. What pop queen sold out her performance at the 1999 State Fair?
7. How many days does the Kansas State Fair last?
8. What attraction is celebrating a 100th anniversary at the State Fair?

## KTA

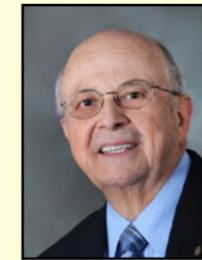
KDOT Secretary and Director of the Kansas Turnpike Mike King and Kansas Turnpike CEO Steve Hewitt shared information regarding safety and tourism with the upcoming cattle pen project at the 2015 Flint Hills Summit in Elmdale at Camp Wood YMCA on Sept. 2. For this project, KTA will be reconstructing ramps at MM 111 to provide safer access to the cattle pens and two new scenic overlook areas for the Flint Hills. KTA has worked with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and other groups to design the outlook. The entire project will go out for bid this fall and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016.



**Kansas Turnpike CEO Steve Hewitt speaks at the Flint Hills Summit on Sept. 2 about the upcoming cattle pen project.**

## Road Design

**Brewer retires from KDOT:** The first Super Bowl was played in January 1967 and a month later, Jim Brewer started at KDOT. The Super Bowl continues, but after 48 years, Brewer is retiring on Oct. 1. He liked the outdoors, so after the Rotational Training Program, Brewer worked in the construction office in Ottawa and helped finish the original construction of I-35 in that area. After a few years, he came to Headquarters. "I decided I'd rather be involved in developing the recipe than cooking the cake, so I moved to Design and started working on the plan side," he said. Brewer has been the Engineering Manager in Road Design since 1990. He has seen many projects go



**Jim Brewer**

from idea to reality, but the opening of the final section of I-435 on Dec. 17, 1986, stands out. The ceremony was on the Missouri River Bridge and a band was playing. "Then the band stops and it's peaceful and quiet and I looked out over the river and there's a bald eagle flying around," he said. "It was a crisp, cool, sunny day, and it was almost like you could hear the river." He has worked on many AASHTO committees and will continue serving on TRB committees. Brewer's wife, Donna, retired from KDOT in July 2014. Their son, Marcus, works for Texas A & M Transportation Institute and their daughter, Amy, is a teacher in Nashville. A retirement reception for Brewer will take place on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 2-4 p.m. in ESOB's fourth floor auditorium.



**Below, Safe Kids Kansas State Director Cherie Sage speaks at a Sept. 8 event at Heights of Learning Preschool in Tecumseh focusing on the upcoming Child Passenger Safety Week. The Kansas Motor Carriers Association and AAA Kansas also made donations to help improve safety for kids in vehicles. The safety week extends from Sept. 13-19 and highlights that many times deaths and injuries from car crashes can be prevented by proper use of car seats, boosters and seat belts.**

### Traffic Safety

**Above, Tenille Kimberlin with the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office shows a child the proper way to buckle into a child safety seat after the Sept. 8 event.**



### TRIVIA ANSWERS

- |                                     |                 |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Emerson Carey of Carey Salt fame | 3. Litter       | 6. Britney Spears |
| 2. Four                             | 4. True         | 7. 10             |
|                                     | 5. Lake Talbott | 8. The Old Mill   |

## District Four



Work continues on the new U.S. 54 railroad overpass east of Yates Center. Crews with A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc., of Atlantic, Iowa, work on bridge deck components prior to the August concrete deck pour. Traffic is continuing to detour around the project by way of U.S. 169, K-39 and U.S. 75. The \$4.1 million project will be completed this autumn. Chris Meyer's bridge squad and Aaron Frits' road squad designed the project.

## District Six



Secretary Mike King joined Jetmore Mayor Derek Olson (right of the Secretary), along with other representatives of KDOT, J-A-G Construction Co. of Dodge City and the city on Aug. 28 to celebrate the completion of a Geometric Improvement project on Main Street (U.S. 283 through Jetmore). The \$939,327 project replaced two blocks of aging brick pavement with concrete and also replaced storm sewers along the route. KDOT contributed \$700,000 through the GI program. Darvin Carlson's team designed the project.

## Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT on Oct. 1.

### Headquarters

**James Brewer**, Engineering Manager, Road Design  
**James Hodgson**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Construction & Materials  
**Janice Long**, Engineering Technician Midpoint, Transportation Planning

### District One

**Diane Handke**, Engineering Technician, Horton  
**John Moore**, Equipment Operator Senior, Horton  
**James Pike**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Atchison  
**Cindy Vervynck**, Engineering Technician Midpoint, Lawrence

### District Three

**John Boxberger**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Russell

**Corwyn Chessmore**, Equipment Operator Specialist, St. Francis  
**John Crawford**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Goodland  
**Fredrick Howard**, Equipment Operator, Grainfield  
**Larry Zwegardt**, Equipment Operator Senior, St. Francis

### District Four

**James Easley**, Equipment Operator Senior, Columbus

### District Five

**Martin Miller**, Program Consultant II, Hutchinson  
**Charles Pratt**, Engineering Technician, El Dorado  
**Curtis Watts**, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Wichita

### District Six

**Christine Belknap**, Human Resource Professional I, Garden City

## KTA

KTA participated in Topeka's annual Touch a Truck event on Sept. 5 by displaying multiple pieces of maintenance equipment. K-TAG representatives were also on hand to provide free tags.



## Personnel

**Working drug free:** National Drug-Free Work Week, Oct. 12-17, highlights the importance of a drug-free workplace and encourages

workers with alcohol and drug problems to seek help.

"It is important that employees are positive role models and lead by example," said KDOT Drug and Alcohol Program Coordinator Lindsey Stephens. "At KDOT, we need to connect with people by living in the communities we serve and be involved in the schools, churches and civic organizations that help educate and protect the future leaders of this state."

Substance use and alcohol abuse are not limited to after work hours, leading to the risk of impairment on the job.

According to the National Drug-Free Workplace Alliance:

- An estimated 3.1 percent of employed adults actually used illicit drugs before reporting to work or during work hours at least once in the past year, with about 2.9 percent working while under the influence of an illicit drug.
- An estimated 1.8 percent of employed adults consumed alcohol

before coming to work, and 7.1 percent drank alcohol during the workday.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides confidential counseling to employees and family members. Call toll-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (888) 275-1205, Option 7 or go online at [www.guidanceresources.com](http://www.guidanceresources.com) (enter state ID: SOKEAP).



## Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Aug. 26

### Where does your school rank on license plate sales?

Fan bases are known for obsessing about where their team ranks on a list. One list you may not have thought about is how your alma mater ranks in terms of license plates sold, but we've tracked that down for you.

The Kansas Department of Revenue offers more than 30 distinctive license plates that offers something for everyone from college fans to animal lovers. So what plate is most popular in Kansas?

Here are the top 5 sellers according to the Kansas Department of Revenue.

**Number 1:** Kansas State University (8,041 plates sold)



**Number 2:** Breast Cancer Awareness (4,396 plates sold)



**Number 3:** University of Kansas (4,305 plates sold)



**Number 4:** Pittsburg State University (3,001 plates sold)



**Number 5:** Wichita State University (2,886 plates sold)



For a complete list of distinctive plates available, visit [www.ksrevenue.org/dmv-plates.html](http://www.ksrevenue.org/dmv-plates.html) or your local county treasurer's office.

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

## Transloading

**Finalists selected for shipping hubs:** Garden City and Great Bend have been selected as finalists for development of transload shipping centers. The two communities emerged from a group of seven cities, whose representatives made formal presentations in August before the Transload Facility Site Analysis Selection Committee. The seven cities are among 111 sites that were initially proposed. KDOT, the KTA and departments of Commerce and Agriculture served as advisors to the team. In the coming weeks, Garden City and Great Bend leaders will provide business plans and financial models on the development costs and the projected increase in related rail service and business opportunity. Based on that and other information, the state will determine the amount of funding to contribute to the projects. "I'm confident the cities, state and rail providers will develop a funding package that will allow these projects to move forward," said Secretary Mike King.



*Transloading is the process of moving goods from one mode of transportation to another. By blending the benefits of shipping by rail and local/short haul trucking, a transload facility can provide more flexible and cost-effective solutions for customers.*



Two new K-87 bridges in Marshall County were opened to traffic on Sept. 3. Replacement work on the bridges located north of the K-9 junction began in April. Klaver Construction Co. of Kingman was the contractor on the \$1.49 million project. Mark Hurt's bridge squad and Steve Rocker's road squad designed the project.



## District Four

*A reporter with a Joplin, Mo., television station interviews KDOT Chief Geologist Bob Henthorne during a seismic survey conducted this summer on U.S. 69 in the vicinity of the former Treece, Kan., and Picher, Okla., communities. KDOT performs seismic surveys along this section every five years to monitor the stability of abandoned lead and zinc mines in the area.*

# Poster Art Contest

**Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day - October 10, 2015**

Traffic crashes are a leading cause of death in the U.S. for people age 3 to 34. "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" focuses on reducing traffic fatalities by encouraging motorists to take extra precautions.

Information on these websites -  
www.ksdot.org  
www.ksturnpike.com

Kansas kids ages 5 through 13 are invited to enter artwork representing their thoughts on "Put the Brakes on Fatalities." Regional winners in the three age categories will be chosen. Then, three statewide winners will be selected from the 18 regional winners!

## Age Categories

5 to 7 years old

8 to 10 years old

11 to 13 years old

Each regional winner will receive a **BICYCLE** and **HELMET** Courtesy of Safe Kids Kansas

Statewide winners will win \$50 VISA CARDS from the **Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Assoc. of KS** AND family packages to **Great Wolf Lodge Water Park Resort in Kansas City**

## RULES:

- Art **MUST** be on 8.5" x 11" paper. Any materials can be used including paint, crayon, pencil, pastel, and collage. No computer-aided drawings.
- All entries must be postmarked by September 18, 2015, to be eligible.
- Winners' names/artwork will be sent to media and posted on the KDOT website.
- **Mail entries to:**

AAA Kansas/Public Affairs  
3545 SW 6th Street  
Topeka, Kansas, 66606

Each entry **MUST** have this information on the back;

First Name _____	One entry per child
Last Name _____	
Age _____	
Home Phone Number ( ) _____	
Mailing Address _____	
City _____ Zip _____	
County _____	
Parent's First Name _____	
Parent's Last Name _____	

**SUBMIT VIDEO & WIN**

**OPEN TO TEENS IN GRADES 8-12**

CREATE! SHARE! WIN!

# PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day held on October 10 focuses on delivering messages to the public about transportation fatality causes and how they can be avoided.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Are you in grades 8-12? Check out the rules and enter! Are you an adult? KTA would like to ask you, as a youth influencer to share this video contest information with youth you engage with regularly? If you're an educator, can you integrate this video contest into a class project?

## AWESOME PRIZES!

Three finalists will receive awesome prizes such as an iPad, GoPro video camera or Apple Watch. \$500 will go to the booster club of the grand prize winner's school.

## OK COOL! BUT WHAT ARE THE RULES?

1. Video must promote fatality prevention such as distracted driving, seat belts or texting while driving.
2. Video must be :06 to :60 seconds in length.
3. No "Selfie" videos, be creative!
4. Don't break any laws.
5. Submit & share your entry via social media such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by **September 20**.
6. Tag the official Kansas Turnpike profile, your school and #PTBOFvideo in the post with your video.
7. Have fun!

Visit [ksturnpike.com](http://ksturnpike.com) for detailed rules and submission guidelines. If you have questions, please contact Brett Eitzen at [beitzen@ksturnpike.com](mailto:beitzen@ksturnpike.com).

