

# Translines EXPRESS

Sept. 23, 2015

## In Honor



**Construction crew members from Miles Excavating, Inc., of Basehor paused for a moment to greet a group of World War II veterans from the 7th Armored Division visiting Fort Leavenworth on a bus on Sept. 11. Miles Excavating is the contractor on the U.S. 73/K-7 pavement reconstruction project taking place from 16th Street to 4th Street in Leavenworth.**

## Fly Kansas Air Tour

**Fly Kansas Air Tour takes off:** The annual Fly Kansas Air Tour kicks off on Sept. 29 and will visit 12 Kansas communities in five days, promoting aviation in Kansas.

The tour kicks off in Wellington and concludes in Newton on Oct. 3 making stops across the state.

“The Fly Kansas Air Tour is a unique chance to see the state and learn about general aviation up close,” KDOT Aviation Director Tiffany Brown said. “We hope to connect with both students and members of the community to demonstrate the important role their airport plays in their community.”

Students will be invited to learn about basic flight principles and aviation education opportunities as well as discuss careers in aviation with air ambulance operations, airport managers, aerial applicators,

engineers and airline pilots. They will also meet the 1st Aviation Combat Brigade from Fort Riley.

On Oct. 3, the air tour will stop in Newton and participate in the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 88 fly-in at the Newton airport, which features Young Eagle flights and commemorative Air Force aircraft as well as a banquet dinner.

### **Air tour schedule -**

Sept. 29 - Wellington, 8 a.m.; Pratt, 10:45 a.m.;

Dodge City, 1 p.m.; Liberal, 3:45 p.m.

Sept. 30 - Garden City, 9 a.m.; Colby, 11 a.m.; Hays, 1:30 p.m.

Oct. 1 - Concordia, 10 a.m.; Junction City, 1 p.m.; Emporia, 3 p.m.

For more information, email [register@flykansas.org](mailto:register@flykansas.org) or call 316-285-7820.

## Trivia!

### Presidential visits

1. After a seven-day visit to Kansas in 1859, what President said, "If I were to go West, I think I would go to Kansas?"
2. What President rode in a parade to the fairgrounds where he spoke to 20,000 Civil War veterans in Topeka in 1890?
3. What President drove a tractor during wheat harvest in Hutchinson where he also spoke at the state fairgrounds and dedicated the Carey salt mine in 1923?
4. What President stayed at the Hotel Josephine in Holton in 1981?
5. What President visited Topeka, Dodge City, Kansas City and Wichita and spoke Fort Hays State University and Shawnee Mission East High School?

## 40 years of service



**Milton Tacha, center, Equipment Operator Senior at the Meade Subarea Office, is congratulated for 40 years of service by Gov. Sam Brownback, left, and Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger at the Governor's Pin Ceremony on Sept. 10 at the State Capitol for employees celebrating 40 or 50 years of service in Fiscal Year 2015.**

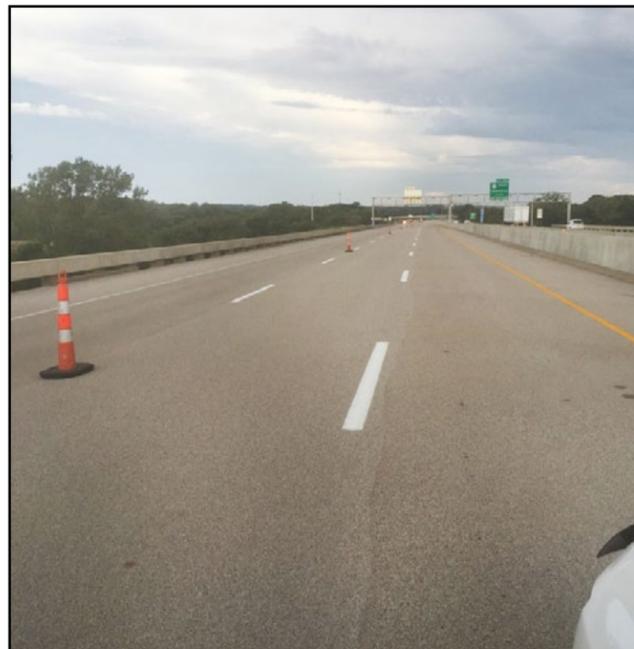
## GI/KLINK projects



**At left, local and area dignitaries join Secretary Mike King, third from left, in Russell on Sept. 17 after it is announced that Russell has received a \$1 million Geometric Improvement project.**

## KTA

**At right, KTA crews install a new gantry that holds the K-TAG sign and reader at plaza 202 in Lawrence. Below, the Kansas River Bridge polymer overlay project near Lawrence is complete and all lanes are open to traffic.**



**GI/KLINK projects selected:** KDOT has committed nearly \$13 million to projects that will improve intersections and address road deficiencies in cities throughout the state.

The funds are from two popular KDOT programs – Geometric Improvement (GI) and City Connecting Links (KLINK). Projects in nine cities will receive \$6.6 million under the GI program for fiscal year 2018, and 22 projects will receive \$6.1 million in KLINK funding for fiscal year 2017.

Under the GI program, a city contributes up to 25 percent of the project cost, based on its population. Cities under 2,500 in population aren't required to provide a match. GI projects, which can receive up to \$1 million in state dollars, typically improve drainage, capacity and intersections, add turning lanes and more. KLINK projects involve maintenance work such as resurfacing and are funded up to \$300,000.

"The return on GI and KLINK projects is great for both the cities and the state, and competition is stiff. This year KDOT received 37 applications for \$26 million in GI funding and we selected nine projects for \$6.6 million," said Secretary Mike King. "Because of the demand, we increased the maximum award per city this year."

For lists of GI and KLINK projects as well as a link to the map at right showing all of the projects -

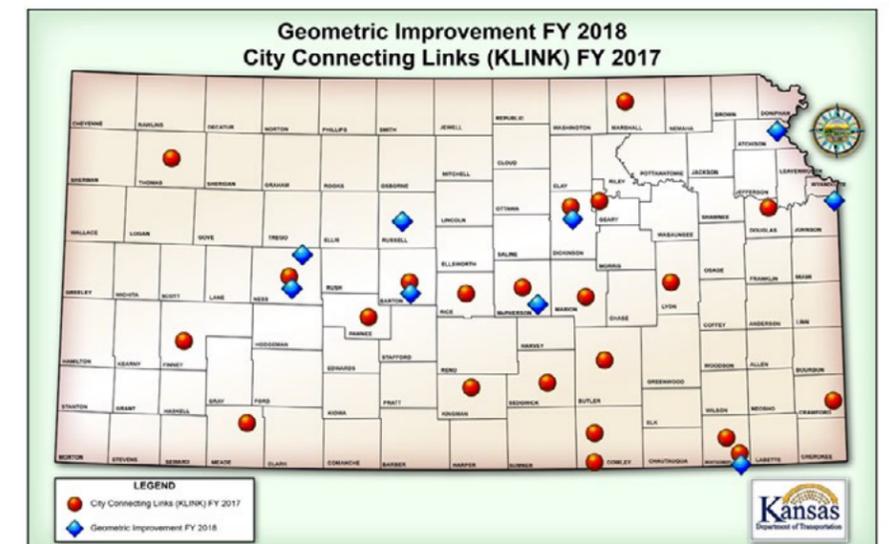
GI selections - <http://bit.ly/1JaxCxU>

KLINK selections - <http://bit.ly/1KQDbSl>

GI/KLINK map - <http://bit.ly/1OVIDgw>



**Secretary King congratulates Mayor Scott Barb after it is announced that Ness City received a \$300,000 City Connecting Link project.**



## State Fair

**Special guests:** Calling it the senior senators tour, according to the Hutchinson News, former Kansas Congressional leaders Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum Baker greeted people at the Kansas State Fair. Dole and Kassebaum Baker also reminisced about their days in Washington while at the Eisenhower Memorial fair booth. Dole recently took the reins of fund-raising efforts to get a memorial built for former President Dwight D. Eisenhower with a \$150 million goal in private funds. President Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. The bill created a 41,000-mile "National System of Interstate and Defense Highways" that would, according to Eisenhower, eliminate unsafe roads, inefficient routes, traffic jams and all of the other things that got in the way of "speedy, safe transcontinental travel."



**Bob Dole, center, and Nancy Kassebaum Baker chat at the Eisenhower Memorial booth at the state fair.**



**Justine, one of Barry Santee's winning cows.**

**KDOT employee in a happy moooo-d:** Engineering Technician Specialist Barry Santee, who has worked at KDOT for 29 years, has a passion for cattle. Since 1996, Santee and his family have raised and shown cattle competitively. His most recent success stories include two Angus cows at the Kansas State Fair on Sept. 17. The youngest, named Justine, entered in the Junior Yearling Division, placed fourth. The other Angus heifer, named Karen, was previously shown at the Nebraska State Fair and became the class winner of the Reserve Division. She continued her winning streak and placed third in the Senior Heifer Calf Division at the Kansas fair. With Karen's success, Santee plans to travel to Oklahoma to compete at the Tulsa State Fair in October as well as enter her in the Senior Division next year at the Kansas State Fair.



**District Five Administrative Officer Dwight Radke talks to people who stopped by the KDOT booth in the Eisenhower Building on opening day of the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.**

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Abraham Lincoln
2. Benjamin Harrison
3. Warren Harding
4. Grover Cleveland
5. John F. Kennedy

## Kansas Airport Improvement Program



**At left, local and state officials gather to celebrate the Quinter Airport improvement, allowing for a paved runway. Below, KDOT Aviation Director Tiffany Brown outlines the community's ongoing efforts over the years to upgrade the airport.**

**Aviation improvement:** For the first time, the northwest Kansas town of Quinter will have a paved airport, making the community accessible to air ambulance service. That was the good news celebrated at an event Sept. 17 in Quinter. Building an airport at Quinter has been discussed since 1995 and it is now going to happen thanks to five grants over a period of years through KDOT's Kansas Airport Improvement Program. The local driving force behind the effort is the Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation.

"Having this airport in Gove County fills an important gap in the state's air ambulance system," said Transportation Secretary Mike King at last week's event.



"It's been a long-time goal of KDOT to ensure that our rural residents have access to emergency services. The airport will be important not only for the health of the community but it also creates an economic impact," he said.

## General

**Smart vehicle technology to be tested:** According to The Associated Press, Wyoming is one of three locations in the country where next-generation "smart vehicles" that could enhance the safety of highway driving will be tested in the Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program. The U.S. Department of Transportation announced Wyoming, New York City and Tampa, Florida, will share up to \$42 million to use "innovative applications" for vehicles that share and communicate anonymous information with each other and their surroundings. Wyoming's part in the program will be targeted at improving freight traffic flows through the Interstate 80 corridor. Garcia said data-collection units on the vehicles also

could send information back to WYDOT workers or first responders to let them know instantly about dangerous road conditions or vehicle crashes. While Wyoming will focus on the rural parts of the country, the two other locations will see how "smart vehicles" work in more populated areas. According to the U.S. DOT, research has shown that this type of technology can reduce unimpaired vehicle crashes by 80 percent and reduce the billions of hours that Americans spend in traffic each year. The National Highway Transportation Safety Association is expected to issue a proposed rule by the end of the year to eventually require all new vehicles to come equipped with vehicle-to-vehicle communication equipment.

## Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Sept. 23

### Luckily they had their seat belts on

*One of 20 stories as part of the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety blog series to help show why safety is important on roadways.*

By Troy M. Thomson

I was asked to write a blog about an incident that affected me that had to do with the lack of wearing or the use of seat belts. I thought about this for a few days and tried to think of a single case that really made me stop and think how important seat belts are. But I just couldn't pinpoint one incident, no matter how long I thought about it.

Maybe I should tell about the high school girl who rolled her vehicle on a gravel road. When I arrived, she was laying in the middle of the road on her back after being ejected out of a window during the crash. I ran over to her and bent down, and saw she was crying. She reached up and rubbed my cheek and called me daddy. EMS personnel treated and transported her to the hospital, however, she was later pronounced dead.

I can think of several of these stories, but there

is a silver lining! There are not nearly as many fatal accidents now as there were 20 years ago. Some of this can be attributed to the safer design of our automobiles, but I feel the main reason is the increased use of seat belts by drivers and their passengers.

It is my belief that all accidents that we respond to have an impact on us. After discussing this with Undersheriff Wenzl, we realized that after almost 75% of the serious accidents we work, we always turn towards the other officer and say either, "They were lucky they were wearing their seat belts," or "They would have stood a better chance if they had their seat belt on."

So in conclusion, I would say that I hope that people will make that decision to put on their seat belt, because it is their decision to wear it. If that day ever comes that you are involved in an accident, we want to be able to say "Luckily they had their seat belts on."

*Troy M. Thomson is the Norton County Sheriff*

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