

Translines EXPRESS

April 16, 2014

Go Orange

Work zone dangers: Rick Looper, Lamar Supervisor, has seen many close calls in work zones during his 24-year career. "At one location we had three different drivers come into our work zones and either they drove into our open holes or drove through our freshly poured concrete," he said. "In all these situations, if we wouldn't have been paying attention, we would have had five to 10 workers run over."

Carl Wolf, Superintendent in Ellsworth, was flagging traffic in a work zone when a motorist failed to stop.

"The car went into the ditch to the left of me and went right on by," he said. "Other traffic was going by me on the other side. I had nowhere to go."

Looper and Wolf shared these and other stories at a statewide safety event last week in Topeka.

Secretary Mike King served as the emcee.

The safety event was one of several activities that took place in Kansas as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week. Last year in Kansas work zones, 379 people were injured and six people were killed, who were all motorists. Public buildings were illuminated in orange, including a portion of the



Ellsworth Superintendent Carl Wolf speaks at the work zone safety event. In front are 33 cones representing KDOT workers who have died in work zones since 1950. See more Go Orange photos at the end of this edition.

Mock crash in a work zone - see end of this edition

Visitor's Center in the Capitol, the Eisenhower State Office Building, the Kansas Contractors Association's office and all Kansas Department of Transportation's District offices in Topeka, Salina, Norton, Chanute, Hutchinson and Garden City. The Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge in Atchison was also bathed in orange. Safety blogs were shared each day as well as photos, videos, social media and other work zone safety information.

YWCA



Gretchen Gleue



Tara Mays

Distinguished women: A pair of headquarters staffers were honored April 2 at the Topeka YWCA Leadership Luncheon. Tara Mays, Kansas Transportation Initiative Liaison for the KTA and Director of Government Affairs for KDOT, was an honoree in the government category. Gretchen Gleue of the Highway Safety Unit was nominated for honors by Soroptimist International of Topeka in the non-profit category. Mays was cited for a "long history of community service going back to her early years growing up in Augusta," and Gleue was recognized for 30 years of community service that includes her work with the Boys & Girls Club of Topeka, local schools and Soroptimist International of Topeka.

Trivia!

How well do you know our neighbors?

Missouri

1. What does Missouri mean?
2. What is the largest city?
3. What is the State Musical Instrument?
4. Missouri ranks high in the production of this key ingredient in Portland cement – what is it?
5. Missouri is the only state to have two of these.
6. What nationwide ban did the state of Missouri never enact?

Answers below

KTA

Working together: The Kansas Turnpike Authority has entered into an agreement with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority for the two systems' electronic toll collection program to be interoperable by the end of 2014.



This agreement will allow K-TAG to be used on the Oklahoma Turnpike system and PikePass to be used on the Kansas Turnpike. For many customers who routinely drive on both systems, this will mean they will soon be able to use either a K-TAG or a PikePass, rather than both.

More information will be shared later this fall closer to the actual effective date.

District Tours



Secretary Mike King visits with employees at the Hutchinson office in March.

Meeting employees: KDOT has 112 Subareas spread across Kansas' 105 counties and Secretary Mike King has seen them all in the past two years. Secretary King has visited every KDOT Subarea and has had the chance to see first-hand the important work that crews do for their fellow Kansans.

"Having subareas spread across the state allows us to respond to issues quickly, whether it's snow and ice or helping with emergency services," Secretary King said. "The men and women plowing your roads are your neighbors and they care about the communities they live and work in."

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Missouri was named for an Algonquian Indian word that means "river of the big canoes." | 3. Fiddle |
| 2. Kansas City, Mo. (The St. Louis metropolitan area is bigger, but the actual city of St. Louis, Mo., is smaller.) | 4. Lime |
| | 5. Federal Reserve Banks, one in Kansas City and one in St. Louis |
| | 6. Prohibition |

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

District Three

Changes at the rest area: The Russell rest area was closed Feb. 4. Area crews began by trimming and removing trees that were planted around the bathrooms. Crews began demolition of the bathrooms March 6. The parking was reopened April 4. Crews from the Area and District offices also worked with the local electrical company to redo the electrical service to allow for continued use of the highway lights and vending machines. District Three and District Two staff worked together on this project, sharing equipment and operators.

Top photo, crews clean and grade the land where the rest area was removed. Bottom photo, the updated facility next to the open parking area.

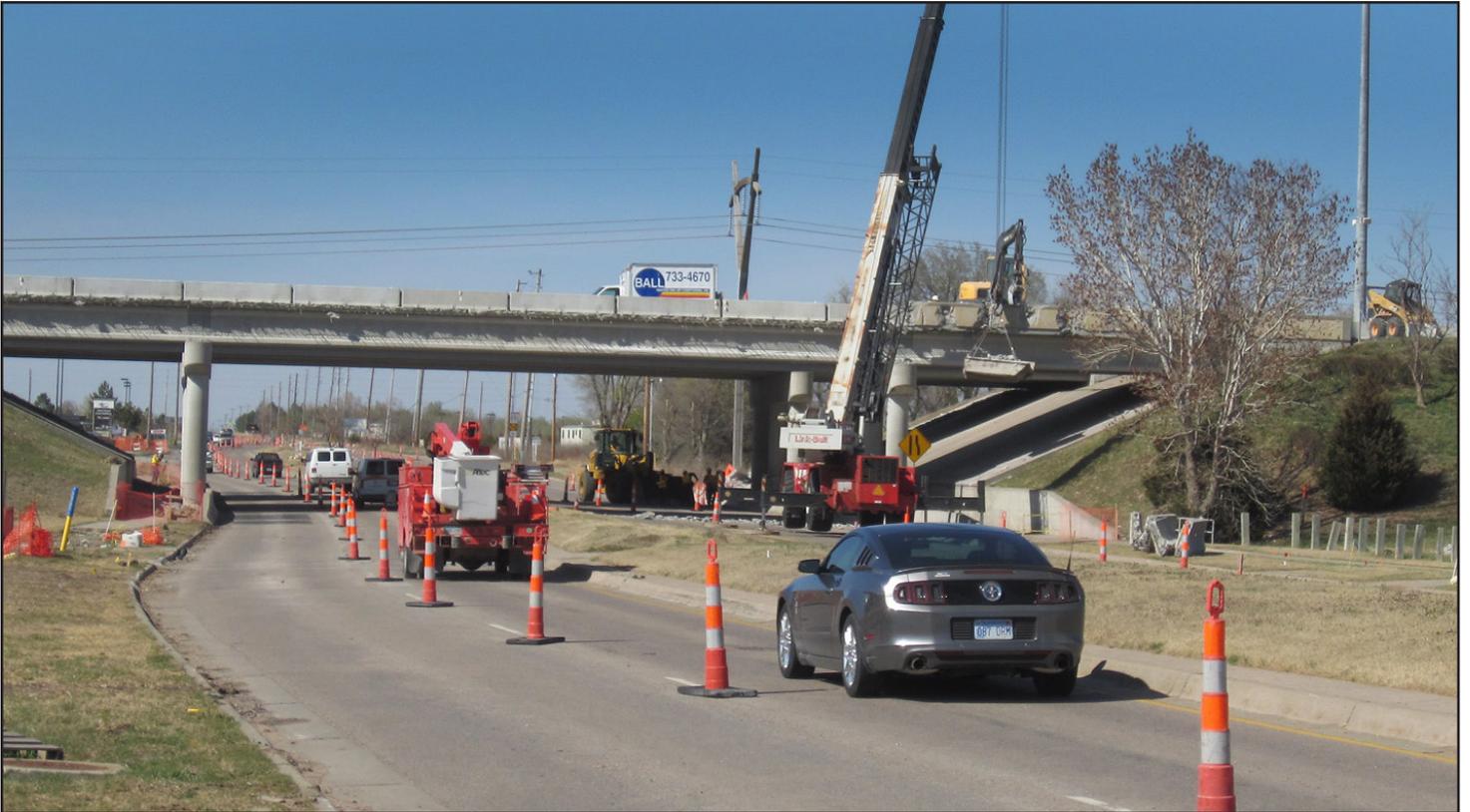


District Five

District Engineer Benny Tarverdi discusses upcoming District Five projects at the April 3 meeting of the South Central Kansas Association of Commissioners and Engineers, a group of local county officials focusing on road and public works projects from the 18 counties comprising District Five. Ron Seitz, Chief of the Bureau of Local Projects, also spoke to this group providing a detailed list of KDOT programs available to assist counties with public works projects.



District Five



Removal of the outside railing of bridges on K-96 over Greenwich Road (in northeast Wichita) is the first stage of widening the bridges to create two new interchange ramps. The City of Wichita project includes an exit ramp for westbound K-96 to Greenwich and an entrance ramp from Greenwich to eastbound K-96.

Letter to the Editor

Letter in the Atchison Globe -

Living in a rural community may seem to some as a backward, Hicksville world, but for Coleen and me, it is the embodiment of good living. People and the attitudes of small town life, in general, provide a certain level of comfort and safety that those in high density metro areas just simply don't experience.

This was made more evident this past week with the passing of Coleen's sister Barbara Nichols, and the level of respect that was shown by so many. As it would be, the funeral was at Union Church in Effingham and burial followed in Nortonville. On the drive from Effingham to Nortonville, the funeral procession traveled on U. S. Highway 159. Along the way, every single car that met the procession pulled over and stopped until the procession was past.

But the most impressive sight was along the way as we came upon a KDOT road crew. As we approached, every crew

member stopped what they were doing, removed their hats and covered their hearts as the procession passed. While it seems simple, this is what respect is all about. We are happy and proud to live in a place that respect is still a dominant emotion. Thanks to the KDOT crew.

Bill and Coleen Murphy
Atchison

Note - My sisters and I, as well as our families, want to echo the words written by my aunt and uncle. It was so moving to see the respect shown by the KDOT crew. They had no idea what family was in that funeral procession but it didn't matter. They respected the emotion and loss we were feeling and it was most touching.

Sincerely,
Barbara Nichols' daughters
and their families



Engineering Conference

Secretary Mike King presents a KDOT update at the 96th annual Kansas Transportation Engineering conference in Manhattan on April 8. Other topics included traffic safety, work zone safety, Johnson County Gateway project, KDOT/KTA partnership and several environmental and design issues.

Traffic Safety

Don't drive distracted: Did you know that reading or composing messages with an electronic device at any age is against the law in Kansas? Even while waiting at a stop light.

That's one of the reminders that KDOT and the Kansas Highway Patrol will be highlighting as they kick off a special enforcement-based distracted driving campaign Friday.

#justdrive

The event will begin at 1:30 p.m. on the south side of the Capitol and will feature Julie Breitenstein and son Austin, who was severely injured

when he was texting and driving. Also speaking will be Dr. Paul Atchley from the University of Kansas who researches distracted driving. The enforcement goes from April 18 until April 27.

District Five



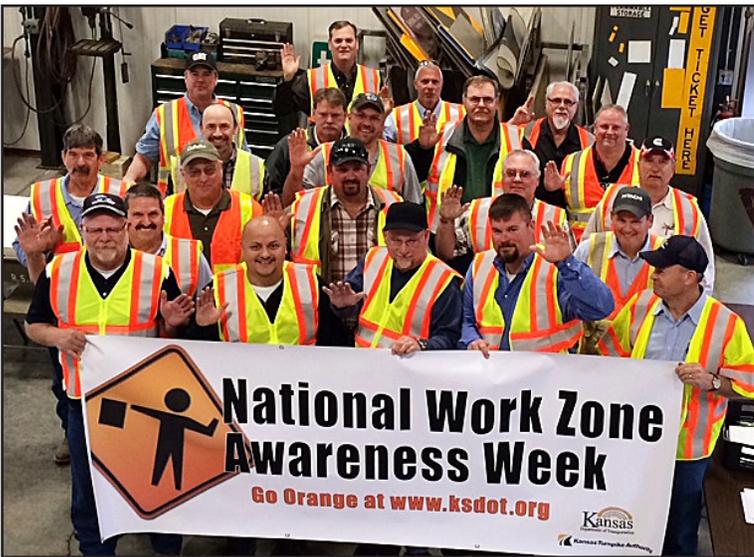
Bridge hit: The bridge located one mile south of the south U.S. 50/I-135 junction in the City of Newton was hit on April 1 by a semi-truck with the dump bed raised. The bridge carries S.E. 24th Street in Newton over I-135. 24th street is closed to all vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Demolition of the damaged bridge deck and steel girders began yesterday with southbound I-135 reduced to one lane traffic during the day. Traffic control will be removed and traffic will be allowed on both southbound lanes at night. The work is estimated to take about two weeks. At the end of this period, southbound I-135 will need to be shut down completely with traffic detoured onto S. Kansas Avenue to allow the contractor to remove the steel girders that were damaged. This part of the removal should only take a few hours. Reconstruction of the bridge is being planned for the near future.

At left is the bridge over I-135 that was hit in Newton .

Go Orange



Many places across Kansas were illuminated in orange as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week including the Cedar Crest (top left), the District Six office (top right), the District Three office (middle left), the District One office (middle right) and the Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge (bottom). The other District offices were also lit up in orange.



Top left: KDOT employee Rick Looper speaks at the work zone safety event. Top right: transportation partners donate to the Give 'Em A Brake safety program. Middle left: Bureau of Design employees participate in a Go Orange contest to celebrate safety. Middle right: KDOT retirees Go Orange. Middle left: KTA Supervisors Go Orange. Middle right: KTA Information Services employees Go Orange. Bottom left: City of Lenexa employees Go Orange and color their fountain orange, as well.

District Four

Mock crash in work zone: The Columbus USD 493 School District conducted a mock crash last Friday to help show students the dangers of texting and driving. The simulated crash also took place in a highway work zone. "Cherokee County emergency responders hope that the student body got to see up close and personal the real life devastation that can be caused by taking your eyes off the road even for a few seconds," according to the Cherokee County Sheriff's office Facebook page.

KDOT Supervisor David Ross and crew members set up the work zone and assisted at the event. Other organizations that participated were MedFlight, Columbus Police Department, Columbus Fire and Rescue Department, Cherokee County Ambulance Service, Derfelt's Funeral Home, Beans Towing Service and the Columbus High School SAFE (Seatbelts Are For Everyone) Committee.



Equipment Operator Seniors Shane Schuberger and Kevin Rodriguez assisted at the event.



Top right: Emergency personnel transport an injured person during the mock crash demonstration at Columbus High School. Above: KDOT employees set up a construction work zone at the event. Photos below: emergency responders respond to the mock crash scene where students see firsthand the consequences of not paying attention while driving.

