The new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge in Atchison is adorned with blue and green lights at the end of the Amelia Earhart Festival. This photo was submitted by Benedictine College Associate Professor Dennis Dunleavy.

**KTA**

**New COO:** Alan Bakaitis has been named chief operations officer of the Kansas Turnpike Authority. Mr. Bakaitis, who joined the KTA in 1998 as the director of toll operations, will oversee the day-to-day operation of the turnpike. He will also continue to manage the collection of non-electronic payment. Under legislation approved by the 2013 Kansas Legislature, the KTA now falls under the umbrella of KDOT. Since the legislation became law, the KTA board has elected Secretary Mike King the director of KTA.

“Over the past 15 years, Alan has helped build the KTA into the great facility it is today,” said Secretary King.

“As KTA transitions to a closer working relationship with KDOT, I know he will continue to serve turnpike travelers, Kansans and the KTA staff in the same professional manner he has for the past decade and a half.”

**Art Contest**

**Calling All Artists:** KDOT Employees’ Council is hosting an artwork contest for this year’s holiday ornament.

Guidelines for the artwork are:
- Must be original (can be hand drawn or electronically generated).
- Must be done by a KDOT employee, retiree or a member of their immediate family.
- Must fit inside a six-inch circle, then will be scaled down 50 percent.
- Can be black and white or color - it should have nice detail but not too complex.
- Should be clean no smudges or eraser lines.

Scan the completed artwork and email the JPEG file format as an attachment to lfisher@ksdot.org. The submission deadline is Aug. 12 and the winner will be selected the next day.

**Aviation**

**On the air:** Acting aviation director Jesse Romo was recently featured in the Wichita Eagle in “A conversation with Jesse Romo.” Romo spoke of his love all things aviation as well as the KDOT programs that are offered to airports across the state.

To read more, go to bit.ly/161VLXU.
Kansas roads receive high marks: Kansas’ state highway system is ranked the nation’s second best in overall highway performance and efficiency in a report released this month by the Reason Foundation. The Annual Highway Report measures the condition and cost-effectiveness of state-owned roads in 11 categories, including pavement condition, deficient bridges, spending per mile and more. “Kansas was able to achieve this performance while spending 24 percent less than the U.S. average in per-mile disbursements,” the report states.

The report’s rankings are based on data that states reported to the federal government for 2009, the most recent year with full spending statistics available. Kansas has consistently scored well in the Reason report, having been ranked number three in the nation in both 2008 and 2007.

“Kansans make the connection between good roads and the safety and economic well-being of the state. They have long supported transportation improvements not only to highways, but to the entire transportation network that includes aviation, rail and transit,” said Secretary Mike King.

The current transportation program T-WORKS, passed in 2010, is the state’s third transportation program approved by Kansas legislators and governors since the late 1980s. In 2010, Kansas highways were ranked the nation’s best in a report published in Reader’s Digest magazine.

To see the full report, visit the Reason Foundation website, reason.org.

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

Trivia!

1. Name the woman from Richland appointed by President Harry Truman as the first female to serve as treasurer of the United States.

2. Children from Kansas played with many toys in the 1950s. Ten of the most popular are listed – name as many as you can.

3. Look! Up in the sky! It’s a bird! No, it’s Kansan A.K. Longren’s 1914 biplane! Where on the plane is the propeller located?

4. During World War I influenza, or the flu, killed thousands of Kansans. Where is it believed this worldwide epidemic began?

Widening U.S. 50: Two public meetings took place last week in southwest Kansas to share the proposed concept for the expansion of U.S. 50 as a four-lane expressway between Cimarron and Dodge City. About 60 people attended the meeting in Cimarron on July 16 and more than 100 people went to the meeting in Dodge City on July 17.

The U.S. 50 project will expand 16 miles of highway in Ford and Gray counties. It is one of the six modernization and expansion projects for southwest Kansas that are funded through T-WORKS. Construction is currently planned to begin in 2018.

For more information, visit the project web pages at www.tinyurl.com/7h2vgx5 (U.S. 50 in Gray County) and www.tinyurl.com/82pptvm (U.S. 50 in Ford County).

Dodge City Area Engineer Dale Luedke (on right in white shirt) shows attendees at a meeting in Cimarron on July 16 some of the proposed improvements along U.S. 50.
**District Four**

**Soaring to victory:** Aaron Jack won a gold medal and the title of National Champion in Power Tumbling for Level 8 (13- to 14-year-old boys) at the 2013 U.S. Trampoline and Tumbling Championships in Kansas City, Mo., in early July. Aaron is the son of District Four Receptionist Angie Jack and Robert Jack, former District Shop Superintendent. This is Aaron’s second year participating in trampoline and tumbling gymnastics and his second year to qualify for the national competition, where he competed in three events. He trains three times a week in Joplin, Mo., and has a goal of becoming an Olympic competitor. Aaron will be a freshman at Erie High School this fall.

Aaron Jack stands on the winner’s podium after winning a gold medal at the U.S. Trampoline and Tumbling Championships in Kansas City, Mo.

**District Three**

KDOT Equipment Operator Jonathan McClung had a close call while mowing along I-70 in Sherman County on July 11. A vehicle went into the median, striking the middle of the mower and went over part of the cab of the tractor. McClung was fortunate to only need stitches on one arm. The impact broke every window in the tractor except on the entry door on the left side.

**FHWA Study**

On the edge: Kansas was one of three states that participated in a recent study sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that provides evidence that wider edge lines on rural two-lane highways are a cost effective approach to reducing run-off-the-road crashes and fatalities, according to an article in the FHWA Safety Compass newsletter. Overall, the findings demonstrated that wider edge lines on rural two-lane highways can reduce non-winter, non-intersection/non-interchange run-off-the-road crashes by 15 to 30 percent. The FHWA final report is being processed for publication but the findings and implications are now available at [http://bit.ly/KnT4bd](http://bit.ly/KnT4bd).
Earlier today, Clarkson Construction, along with KDOT construction staff, completed a significant milestone on the U.S. 69 and I-435 Interchange Improvement Red Project in Overland Park, as the new eastbound I-435 to southbound U.S. 69/119th Street ramp movement was opened to traffic.

Eastbound I-435 to southbound U.S. 69/119th Street traffic will now exit the mainline lanes west of the Quivira Road interchange. Drivers will then travel east through a new tunnel on the east side of the Quivira Road interchange and continue on a new collector-distributor roadway that curves south towards U.S. 69. Drivers will veer right just past the curve and head south crossing over the College Boulevard and Indian Creek Bridges before arriving at the “Y” split just past the Indian Creek Bridge. At the Y split, motorists can take the left lane to merge onto southbound U.S. 69 or the right lane to the 119th Street exit ramp.

Crews put the finishing touches on the new tunnel on the east side of the Quivira Road interchange in Johnson County.

More ramp movements will take place next month, with the two-year $102 million project scheduled for completion in November.

To see an aerial view, go to http://bit.ly/15JdFwN

Good Samaritan: Chris Herrick and his family were returning from a canoe trip Sunday evening when he quickly transformed from just another driver on I-70 to first responder. Nine miles west of Lawrence, the SUV Herrick, Director of Planning and Development, was following went into a 360-degree spin on the highway, left the road and rolled multiple times. Herrick, his wife and their 16-year-old son, along with another family who’d been canoeing with them and was following in a separate vehicle, pulled over and quickly ran to the car in which a couple and their three young children had been traveling. Herrick and his family and friends helped get the children – ages 8, 5 and three-weeks-old, out of the car. While the children waited for emergency workers, they sat in the friends’ air conditioned car. The father managed to get out of the SUV without assistance and the mother, the only occupant not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the vehicle.

Herrick, who said he’d never had the experience of being a first responder, stayed with the family until a Life-Flight helicopter ambulance arrived to transport the mother to an emergency room. In addition to the mother, the five-year-old son suffered minor injuries. The infant slept through the crash, Herrick said.

It's a good name: What do the Kansas Department of Transportation, rapper Kendrick Lamar, a Reno radio station and a Twitter user in Canada have in common? They all have the moniker “KDOT.” If you Google the name, the transportation department will come up first. But, on at least one day last week, not far behind was “Rock 104.5 Reno’s Rock Station” (which has the call letters “KDOT”) and Compton, Calif., rapper Kendrick Lamar. Lamar’s star is rising fast (he recently won a BET award) and along the way he decided to drop the name K-dot. But, once it’s out on the Internet, it doesn’t go away. He is still “K-dot” to thousands of fans. Kay Slater, a Vancouver, British Columbia, artist probably made a mistake when she selected “KDOT” as part of her Twitter handle. Not as well-known as the rapper or transportation department, she maintains a good attitude about mistaken identity and will redirect comments or questions she receives to the appropriate Twitter account. On her Twitter bio, she notes, “I am not a rapper or the Kansas Dept. of Transportation.” One final note, according to the Urban Dictionary, Kdot “bluntly means ‘Okay . . . period.’” So now you know. . . Kdot?!
The openings are in place for the new bay doors on the District Six shop extension in Garden City. The extension will create five drive-through bays for the shop and allow the mechanics to pull equipment all the way into the shop for repair work. The shop extension should be completed by winter.

Summer is a dangerous time for teen drivers: According to an article in the Washington Post, federal data show that the average number of teenagers who die in accidents doubles during the three months that begin when school lets out for the summer. Seven of the 10 deadliest days for teen drivers are clustered in those months, and some of the dates from 2011 are likely party weekends: the last Saturday in June, two days of the July 4 weekend and a Sunday late in August just before universities launch their fall terms.

"Beyond dispute, summertime emerges as the deadliest time of year for teen drivers and passengers," said John B. Townsend II of AAA, who tracks teen fatality statistics. "What's more, weekends are particularly dangerous for teen drivers."

Surprisingly, a study recently released by Ford showed that two-thirds of teen drivers and 58 percent of their parents believed that winter was the most dangerous season for teenagers on the road.

ANSWERS
1. Georgia Neese Clark (Gray)
2. Records, puzzles, dolls, viewmasters, erector sets, Disney figures, Frisbees, hula hoops, silly putty, Monopoly
3. In the rear of the plane
4. Camp Funston, Fort Riley
A sudsy situation: Engineers in Portland, Ore., got creative when they needed to replace the Sellwood Bridge, according to a story in “Better Roads.” Cracks had begun to appear in the support beams of the 100-year-old bridge, and the structure’s unique design forced the engineers to move the bridge in one whole 1,100-foot piece. The engineers built tracks, covered them with Teflon pads and poured liquid soap on them. Forty 150-ton hydraulic jacks lifted the 3,400-ton bridge and placed it on the soapy tracks to slide it into place.

By the numbers:
- 1,100 feet: Length of the entire bridge, including the overhang
- 1,091 feet and 2-1/4 inches: Actual length on the continuous steel truss between end bearing points
- Five: Number of concrete piers supporting the bridge
- Two: Number of steel bearings supporting the truss at each of the five piers
- Four: Number of spans between support piers
- 10: Number of bearing points
- 66 feet: Distance west end of the bridge was moved
- 33 feet: Distance east end of the bridge was moved
- 19 hours: Amount of time it took to move the bridge
- 1924: Year the individual parts of the steel truss were fabricated
- 30,500: Number of vehicles that would have been rerouted miles away if the bridge was destroyed


Staff from KDOT and the Kansas Turnpike Authority gathered in Topeka on Tuesday for initial group discussions of how the two agencies will work together to produce savings and efficiencies. The group broke into six “innovation teams” to focus on topics ranging from revenues and expenditures to operations and maintenance. The groups will meet individually over the remainder of the year to develop a “one focus” innovation plan that will be rolled out in December.

Construction continues on the I-70/K-7 Riverview Bridge in Wyandotte County. The photo was taken last week from the north abutment looking southeast and shows work about to begin to set girders on the north span.