

Amelia Earhart Bridge



All lanes of the Amelia Earhart Bridge in Atchison were expected to be open to traffic this afternoon after the addition of permanent markings was completed. Traffic, as shown above, has been restricted since the bridge opened last year. Demolition of the old bridge to the left has yet to be scheduled. See updated photos of the newly-painted bridge on KDOT's Northeast Kansas Facebook page - there is an album with several photos.

Trivia!

State of Kansas records - part two
From the National Weather Service

1. What year had the most recorded tornadoes?
2. What is the least recorded precipitation amount for an entire year?
3. What is the highest recorded snowfall amount in a season?
4. What is the highest recorded snowfall amount in 24 hours?

ANSWERS BELOW

AAA Study

Ditch the distractions: Drivers face dangerous distractions, even when they keep their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

Hands-free technologies might make it easier for motorists to text or talk on the phone while driving, but the research finds that as mental workload and distractions increase reaction time slows, brain function is compromised and drivers scan the road less and miss visual cues, resulting in drivers possibly not seeing things right in front of them.

For more information, visit NewsRoom.AAA.com for the report or AAA's Distracted Driving Fact Sheet.

District Six

Close escape: “Be prepared!” is the motto of the Boy Scouts and it was put into practice last week at the Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch near Walsenburg, Colo. Richard Coghill, District Six Office Coordinator, and more than 265 other Scouts and Scout leaders were at the camp late afternoon on June 19 when fire was spotted on the east peak, 1.5 miles west of the camp.

Richard, an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 59 in Garden City, was in the troop’s campsite when his son, Nick, came back from the shower saying, “Dad, the mountain’s on fire!”

According to Richard, “I got to a clear area to look and, sure enough, you could see the smoke rising and flames.”

Coghill quickly accounted for the five scouts in his group and made sure they were ready to leave if they received evacuation orders. Within minutes, the alarm sounded and the scouts headed for the main gathering place.

“The wind kicked up and the smoke was awful,” Richard said. “It was hard to breathe and the staff members were coming up the trail, handing out handkerchiefs we could put over our mouths.”



Fire on the mountain! The East Peak fire started just west of the Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch near Walsenburg, Colo., forcing more than 265 Boy Scouts, leaders and camp staff members to evacuate.

Benjamin Hutchinson, another Assistant Scoutmaster and the son of Kirk Hutchinson, District Six Public Affairs Manager, added, “By the time we got to the flagpoles, flames were shooting up over the dikes (rock formations that run down the sides of the Spanish Peaks, forming rock walls) and embers were falling into the camp, starting little grass fires.”

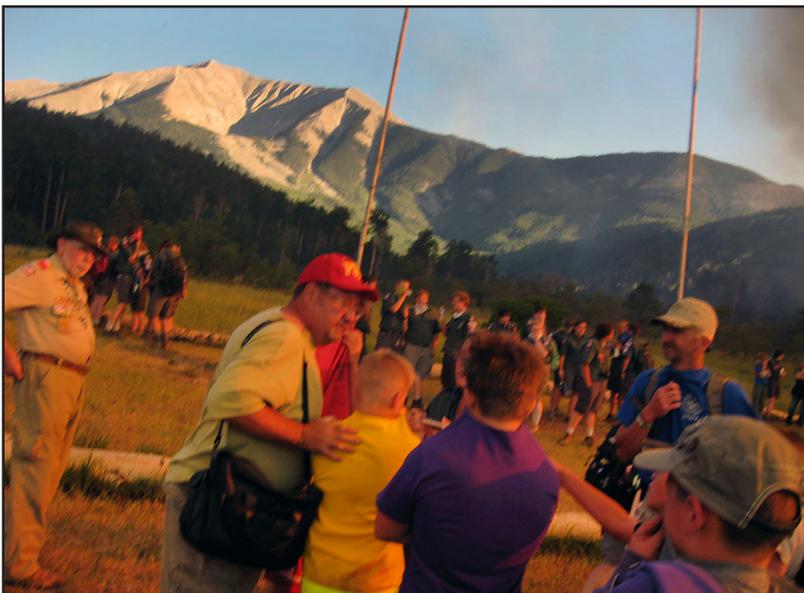
News reports indicated that flames shot as high as 150 feet into the air as the fire spread through the scout camp.

The band of seven from Troop 59, which also included Peter Hall, son of District Six Maintenance Engineer Ron Hall, did not have a vehicle in camp, so one of the adult staff members loaded them into his Suburban for the escape down the mountain.

“He told us to just toss his gear out on the ground, so we’d have room for everybody,” Richard said. “He left his stuff on the mountain so we could get out of camp.”

“On the way out of camp,” Benjamin noted, “staff members were standing alongside what could have been a chokepoint in the road, putting out any fires that started so the road wouldn’t be blocked.”

All scouts and leaders made it out safely, but most of them left their camping gear and other items on the mountain. What survived were the Boy Scouts and leaders who were prepared to take action when there was no time for planning.



Richard Coghill (second from left) gathers with scouts from his troop as they get instructions on the evacuation from Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch. Smoke from the East Peak fire can be seen in the upper right of the photo.

District Three



Secretary Mike King visits with Atwood Area Equipment Mechanic Raul Vargas at the Oberlin Subarea during his summer tour of District Three June 19-21.



Equipment Operator Senior David Oelke (center) from Hoxie describes a ditch clearing operation to Secretary King (right) and District Engineer Jeff Stewart. Secretary King saw several projects and met many KDOT employees during the tour.



Secretary King (front) meets with Goodland Subarea crew members (from left to right) Jorge Frikas-Lopez, Robert Cotton, Joel Bailey, Jonathan McClung, Daniel Hovis and Brian Reicks.



District Three Construction Engineer Travis Scott (left) shows attendees at the K-23 open house Thursday where work will take place north of Hoxie next year.

ANSWERS

1. 187 tornadoes in 2008.
2. 4.77 inches in Johnson in 1956.
3. 102.0 inches, at the National Weather Service in Goodland in the winter of 1979-1980.
4. 30 inches in Pratt on March 27-28, 2009.

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 Four



Top photo - Secretary Mike King speaks to KDOT employees at the Independence office Tuesday during his tour of District Four. Above/left - Engineering Technician Senior Robert Miller chats with Secretary King. Above/right - Secretary King demonstrates his lawn mowing ability at the Sedan Subarea office.

Fireworks

Be safe: The National Council on Fireworks Safety has these tips for staying safe when lighting fireworks:

- Read the warning labels
- Have a designated shooter to organize and shoot
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix
- Do not allow young children to handle or use fireworks.
- Use only outdoors
- Always have water ready
- Obey local laws
- Wear safety glasses
- Never relight a “dud” firework - wait 20 minutes and soak it in a bucket of water
- Soak spent fireworks with water before placing them in an outdoor garbage can
- Never attempt to alter or modify consumer fireworks and use them only in the manner in which they were intended.
- Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department

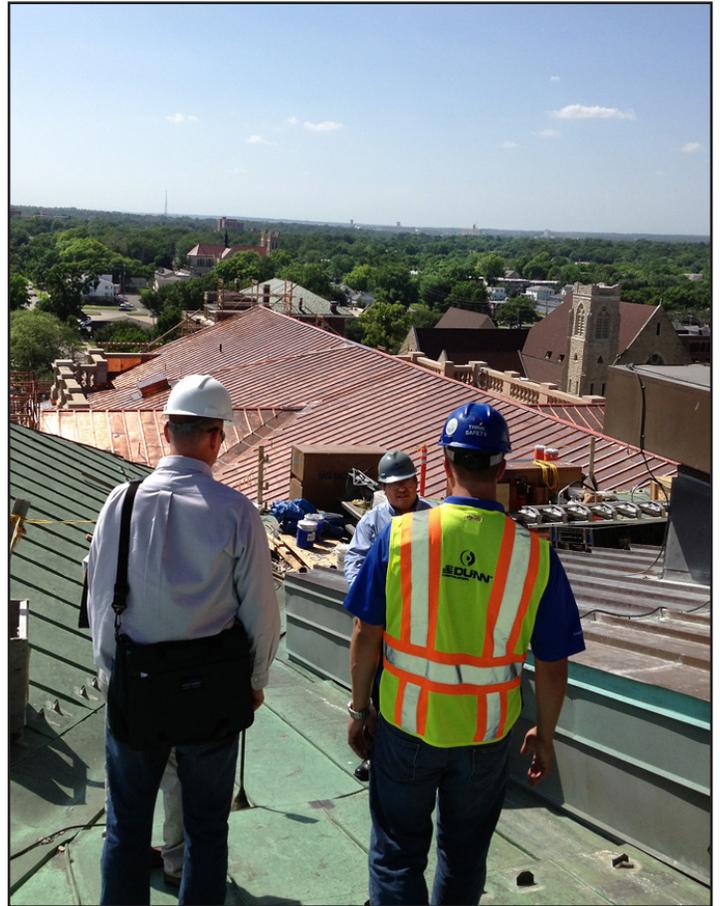


District Two



Don Drickey (right), retired District Two Engineer, and his wife, Jeanie (left), came back to Kansas from Amarillo, Texas, to ride in the 39th annual Biking Across Kansas (BAK) in mid-June along with Ricky Bloesser (center), son of Sara Donley, Administrative Assistant for the KDOT construction office in Salina. They were among the 800-plus riders who participated in the event along the southern part of the state.

Bird's Eye View



District Three Engineer Jeff Stewart (left) and acting District Five Engineer Benny Tarverdi (center) were among the KDOT leaders who toured the Statehouse renovation project on June 12 and got a view from the top. The new copper roof is seen in the background.

Independence Day



Celebrate independence! The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, with 56 people signing the document. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston were the Committee of Five that drafted the Declaration, with Jefferson writing most of it.

Other facts:

- ♦ John Hancock, President of the Second Continental Congress, was the first signer. This merchant by trade did so in an entirely blank space making it the largest and most famous signature - hence the term John Hancock, which is still used today as a synonym for signature.
- ♦ Benjamin Franklin (age 70) was the oldest signer.
- ♦ Two future presidents signed, John Adams (second President) and Thomas Jefferson (third President). Both died on the 50th anniversary of signing the Declaration (July 4, 1826).
- ♦ Robert Livingston, who represented New York, was on the Committee of Five that drafted the Declaration of Independence but was recalled by his state before he could sign it.
- ♦ Charles Carroll was the last surviving member of the signers of the Declaration. He died in 1832 at the age of 95.

From www.census.gov