

Example of Excellence

Congratulations to the KDOT employees from District Five and District Six who worked together to organize a snowplow relay on Feb. 21 from Jetmore to Wichita during a major snow storm to help safely transport a patient with a medical emergency. For their efforts, they were honored as an Example of Excellence for the first quarter of 2013. Secretary Mike King made the presentation in Dodge City on May 17. Nomination forms for the second quarter of 2013 are due June 30.



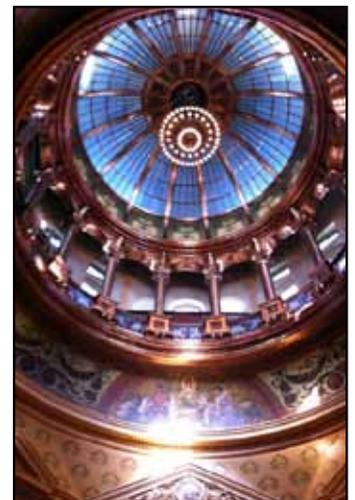
KTA



Westar Energy crews hoisted a giant flag May 20 at the Kansas Turnpike's Topeka service area in preparation for the arrival of several hundred motorcyclists traveling cross-country to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. The annual Run for the Wall event celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. At the wall, the riders placed wreaths in advance of Memorial Day.

Legislature

Back to work: Most members of the Kansas Legislature returned to Topeka on Tuesday to resume debate on the tax and budget bills that are needed to wrap the 2013 session. KDOT leaders are closely



monitoring the debate over continuation of the state's one-cent sales tax, passed in 2010 to help get the state through the recession, and the debate on the budget, which is heavily reliant on the tax decision. Beginning July 1, KDOT is to begin receiving four-tenths-cent sales tax revenue to help fund T-WORKS.

Weight Loss Challenge

Way to go! The Fort Scott Finishers lost a collective 291.7 pounds and recorded the second largest weight loss percentage statewide (18.98 percent), claiming the \$5,000 second-place prize in the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge. Team members from the Subarea office were: Norval Schnichels (supervisor), captain; Charley Clay, John Clark, Don Coffman and Roy Widmar.

"Most of us just set a weight goal," of losing so many pounds during the January 15 – May 15 competition, according to Clay. As the weeks went on, the team realized it had an excellent chance of winning the challenge, coming in 10th place after one weigh-in, and then sixth place with only several weeks left.

"We lost 103 pounds in the last three weeks," said Schnichels. Mary Wynn, an RN at Mercy Hospital-Fort Scott, served as the team's official weight loss tracker.

"I just backed off the starches and exercised," said Clark,

Check out a video on the Fort Scott Finishers at <http://youtu.be/q5mPLxsYHyM>

adding that since he likes to cook he initially found the challenge difficult. Coffman said that he didn't take the competition seriously at first, but got into the full spirit when he saw how well each weigh-in was going.

Schnichels cut out pretzels on the advice of Dr. Ann. Clay eliminated bread, sweets and pasta from his diet and concentrated on turkey and vegetables. Widmar

summed up the team's efforts: "If it tastes good, spit it out."

Each team member took a long walk every day. And what a difference diet and exercise made: Schnichels lost 63

pounds; Clay, 65; Clark, 88; Coffman, 27; and Widmar, 48. They plan to remain on their regimen and lose even more weight in the months to come.

"We pretty much had fun with it," said Widmar. Even more fun awaits when the reward check arrives – with \$1,000 in it for each Finisher.



Charley Clay



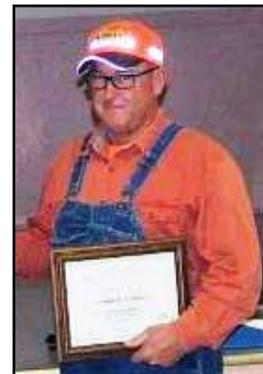
Roy Widmar



Norval Schnichels



John Clark



Don Coffman

At left, before photos of the Fort Scott team



Following the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge Roy Widmar, second from left, attempts to feed Norval Schnichels a celery stick as they pose for a picture. From left, the Fort Scott Finishers, Charley Clay, Widmar, Schnichels, John Clark and Don Coffman.

Strong finish: The Fort Scott Finishers may have finished second overall in the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge but five other teams from KDOT were in the top 25 as well.

- ♦The Belly Dumpers, third place - lost 208 pounds and 17.77 percent of their body weight.
- ♦Team Number 51, 11th place - lost 140.6 pounds and 11.77 percent of their body weight.
- ♦The Bariatric Avengers, 13th place - lost 171 pounds and 11.42 percent of their body weight.

♦Team Counterbalance, 15th place - lost 131.90 pounds and 11.08 percent of their body weight.

♦The Big Aroundabouts, 19th place - lost 123.10 pounds and 10.22 percent of their body weight.

Congrats to all of KDOT's big losers and if you are looking to keep those pounds off or get involved for the first time this summer there will be a program called "Move Across Kansas." Look for details in the coming weeks. If you would like to know how all the teams finished in the competition, the link is <http://www.weightloss.ks.gov/>.

District Six



At left, Secretary Mike King joins Roy Cessna, Garden City Vice-Mayor, and several local dignitaries to mark the completion of a project at the intersection of U.S. 50/83/400 and Schulman Avenue in Garden City.

District Six activities: Secretary Mike King helped cut the ribbon at a ceremony in Garden City on May 17 to mark the re-opening of the Garden City Bypass (U.S. 50/83/400) and Schulman Avenue. The project, which added turning lanes and a traffic signal, is designed to improve access to the new Schulman Crossing retail development east of the bypass. The first phase of the development is anchored by a Menard's store, which is expected to open by the end of May. Secretary King cited the economic benefits of the intersection project, saying, "Investing more than \$3 million here was an easy decision. This is exactly the sort of opportunity we look for when it comes to spending our economic development dollars." The ribbon cutting was part of Secretary King's three-day tour across District Six, which included stops at several KDOT Subareas and the Spencer Flight and Education Center in Scott City. The Spencer Center has several computer stations for flight training and a flight simulator and was built in honor of the four members of the Spencer family of Scott City, who died in a plane crash in 2011. A portion of the funds



Secretary Mike King takes control of a plane in the flight simulator at the Spencer Flight and Education Center in Scott City.

used to build the center came from KDOT's Airport Improvement Program. Secretary King ended his southwest Kansas tour by handing out Example of Excellence awards in Dodge City.

Trivia!

For Kansas tornadoes in 2012

1. How many tornadoes were recorded in Kansas on April 14?
A. 13 B. 23 C. 33 D. 43
- 2 How many tornadoes were recorded for the entire month of April?
3. When was the first tornado of the year? When was the last?
4. How many tornadoes were recorded in Kansas for the entire year? Was it more or less than the 10-year average?

Answers are below

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 One

Honoring veterans: Highway signs honoring two Kansas killed in Vietnam more than four decades ago were unveiled May 20 in Marysville. The signs will designate two bridges in honor of Sgt. Joseph A. Zutterman Jr. and Spc. Michael T. Martin. The bridge west of Marysville on U.S. 36 will be designated the “SGT Joseph A. Zutterman Jr. Memorial Bridge” and the bridge the south side of Marysville on U.S. 77 will be designated the “SP4 Michael T. Martin Memorial Bridge.” During the 2012 legislative session, a bill to name the bridges was introduced by Rep. Sharon Schwartz, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Sam Brownback on May 17, 2012.

Secretary Mike King, local officials and family members unveiled the “SGT Joseph A. Zutterman Jr. Memorial Bridge” and the “SP4 Michael T. Martin Memorial Bridge” signs at a May 20 ceremony in Marysville in the photos at right.



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. D. 43 – the second highest amount in one day since 1950.
2. 52 tornadoes, surpassing the old April record of 46 set in 1964.
3. Feb. 28 in Jewell County; Sept. 17 in Shawnee County.
4. 94 tornadoes in 2012 – that’s 18 below the 10-year average of 112.

District Six

Large turnout for Sitka Junction meeting: More than 60 people attended a public meeting in Ashland on May 16 to review a proposed improvement project at the junction of highways U.S. 160, U.S. 183 and K-34, known locally as the “Sitka Junction.” The junction has been the site of multiple accidents over the years, some of which resulted in fatalities. A hill directly east of the intersection limits sight distance and KDOT is developing a project that would shift U.S. 160 slightly to the south and lower part of the hill. Those who attended the meeting reviewed displays that provided an aerial overview of the proposed project and a three-dimensional model that al-



Kris Norton, road design engineer, explains proposed improvements to the “Sitka Junction” at a public meeting in Ashland on May 16.

lowed visitors to get more of a “driver’s-eye view” of what the future highway junction could look like. KDOT hopes to begin construction on these improvements in 2015, depending on funding.

Headquarters

Big smile: Last week Senior Photographer Kurt Weaverling, who is retiring from headquarters, was honored by Gov. Sam Brownback at a reception in the Governor's ceremonial office. Weaverling was joined by his family and was given a state flag of Kansas that had been flown over the statehouse that morning and a letter from the Governor.

Weaverling shared photos of the Kansas governors he has photographed, seven total - Carlin, Hayden, Finney, Graves, Sebelius, Parkinson and Brownback - and other dignitaries that have visited Kansas. Weaverling started his career at KDOT in 1979 and became a photographer in 1983.

Part of Weaverling's job during the legislative session is to photograph attendees at the proclamations and bill-signings as well as students serving as pages.

"It's been a great ride," Weaverling said. "You couldn't ask for a better job for a photographer. You do a variety of things from photographing from an airplane to taking pictures in the Governor's office."



Gov. Sam Brownback shows off a picture of former Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly throwing Kurt Weaverling in a headlock during a visit by Kelly to Kansas.

There will be a retirement reception for Weaverling from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, June 7, on the Fourth Floor of Eisenhower.



District Four

Employees from the Erie Subarea and Pittsburg Area crew replace concrete on U.S.169 south of Chanute. The concrete patching is one of several resurfacing projects now taking place or scheduled to begin on U.S. 169 this year.

Assistance in Oklahoma

Serving the American Red Cross:

Phyllis Marotta, Program Consultant in the Traffic Safety unit of Transportation Safety and Technology, was one of four people who headed to Oklahoma last week from the Kansas Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross to assist people affected by the tornado.

Marotta responds to fire and local disasters in the Topeka area on weekends and evenings. She is also a certified instructor and teaches classes on responding to disasters. "I'll get to use those training skills and put them into action," Marotta said. Marotta encouraged anyone interested in getting trained and volunteering to contact their local Red Cross chapter office.



Phyllis Marotta is assisting people affected by the Oklahoma tornado.

Executive order: Gov. Sam Brownback issued an executive order on May 24 to grant temporary relief from motor carrier rules and regulations for those helping with state and local storm clean-up in Oklahoma after the May 18 tornadoes. Executive Order 13-02 applies only to those motor car-

riers and person operating commercial motor carriers providing direct assistance to supplement state and local efforts in Oklahoma.

EO 13-2 is in effect until June 5, 2013.

For more details on this executive order, go to <https://governor.ks.gov/> and click on the related news release.



Paul Bayless took this photo of one of the medical center buildings in Moore, Okla., where 14 people were rescued and only one person needed hospital treatment.

Helping after the tornado: Also traveling to Oklahoma to assist in the recovery was Paul Bayless, who works in the Office of Information Technology Services. He is a major in the Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, which was tasked to provide support to the Oklahoma wing. The Kansas wing was asked to take ground-level photos of all damaged structures and Bayless was charged

with making sure the wing's personnel weren't taking unnecessary risks. "It was also surprising to see that the people of Moore, Oklahoma, were in such good spirits following the devastation of this tornado. Every law enforcement officer manning checkpoints for hours on end was friendly and appreciative of the outside assistance being offered," he said.

Personnel

Karla Thies, Benefits Administrator in Personnel, reminds employees to review Disaster Service Volunteer Leave S.O.M 2-3-13 in light of the recent tornado in Oklahoma.

“Any employee that is asked to volunteer by the Red Cross must provide a written request from the Red

Cross before disaster leave will be approved,” Thies said.

Once a manager receives the request, it needs to be forwarded to Thies for approval.

Depending on the request, up to 20 days of paid disaster leave within a 12-month period may be approved.

District Five



KDOT Right of Way Property Appraiser Sally Crane took some colorful photos recently along K-2 in Harper County of a canola field in bloom.

District One



A collection of 15 steam powered antique vehicles on a five-day Kansas Flint Hills Tour stopped by the District One Alma Subarea Office on May 23 to refuel their vehicles on good old H2O.

State Park Programs

Free events for Kansas kids:

The Outdoor Kansas (O.K.) Kids program offers opportunity for youth to experience the outdoor beauty of Kansas and to learn a little about its natural resources and wildlife through games and activities. Free events take place from April through October. O.K. Kids events are taking place in June at Kansas State Parks:

June

- 1 - Meade State Park
- 1 - Glen Elder State Park
- 1 - Prairie Dog State Park
- 1 - Milford Nature Center
- 9 - Cedar Bluff State Park
- 15 - Wilson State Park
- 15 - Cedar Bluff State Park

For more details, go to <http://www.kansaswildscape.org/> and click on the O.K. Kids link.

Headquarters

Getting involved: Stacey Cowan, Program Consultant in KDOT's Public Transit Section of Transportation Planning, was featured with her husband, Jerry, in a Topeka Capital Journal article recently for their efforts to be foster parents. They have been foster parents to 11 children in the past 1 1/2 years.

"We aren't perfect parents - they just need someone to care about them and give them some guidance and structure," Cowan said. "The consistency that comes with that and that you care about them makes a big



Stacey Cowan

difference."

The Cowans have cared for all ages of children. Right now, they have a nine-year-old, two two-year-olds and a one-year-old in addition to their children.

If someone is thinking about being a foster parent, Cowan encourages them to take the classes.

"It doesn't mean that you have to move forward, but it would give them a pretty good insight," she said. "If you love kids, that's what is important. Anybody can be a foster parent, even a single person."

Foster care services are for children and families in cases when a court has found the child to be in need of care and the parents are not able to meet the safety needs of their child.

To read the article, which includes information on foster care, go to <http://bit.ly/YSwmgj>.

Videolog

KDOT responds to 511 system requests: Reno and Kingman counties requested assistance updating their county GIS maps with reference points (mile markers) used by their 511 systems, after highway route changes in District Five took effect in April. Changes include dropping the K-17 designation and rerouting on K-14 from Kingman to Hutchinson and renaming K-14 from four miles west of Kingman to Arlington as K-11.

To update the maps, KDOT needed to record route data with the KDOT videolog van, which uses GPS to set latitude and longitude information for all of the new reference points on these new highway routes. With limited staff available in Transportation Planning, District Five employees John Wiens, District Records/CADD Technician, and Martin Miller, Public Affairs Manager, each operated the van for a half-day while Videolog Technician Rich Hamit operated the video and GPS recording equipment. Other highways in Reno, Kingman, and Pratt counties were also updated during two days of driving throughout District Five.



Above from left to right, KDOT employees Rich Hamit, John Wiens and Martin Miller review the routes they will be traveling on to update various GIS maps. At left is the videolog equipment used to update maps and keep records of highways across the state.