

# Translines EXPRESS

Oct. 2, 2013

## District One



*Road Design Project Manager Kris Norton, right, speaks with students from Atchison's Benedictine College School of Engineering on Sept. 24 for a two-hour project overview and question and answer session on the Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge replacement project. KDOT and contractor staff met with about 50 students during the session.*

## KDOT Fatality

KDOT employee Randy Schimmel, Equipment Operator Specialist in the Lawrence Subarea office, died from injuries sustained in a crash on K-10 in Johnson County on Tuesday afternoon. Schimmel had worked for the agency for 33 years. "We are deeply saddened by the death of our valued, long-time KDOT employee Randy Schimmel. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends and KDOT co-workers," said Secretary Mike King.

## Aviation Expo



*KDOT's George Laliberte, right, and other attendees at the Kansas Aviation Expo in Wichita last Friday tour Cessna's newest model of the Grand Caravan specially flown in for the event. This was the first year for the expo, which featured various facets of the aviation industry.*



## Construction Career Expo



Nearly 1,500 students from in and around the Topeka area attended the 2013 Construction Career Expo yesterday at the Expo Center. The event showcases careers in design, construction, development and project management and gives students information and resources to learn more about the construction and transportation industries.



## Operations



District Four Engineer Wayne Gudmonson reacts to Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger's story about Gudmonson's missed turns while chauffeuring Secretary Mike King and Younger last week through the district. The story was told during the first day of the Operations meeting in Hutchinson yesterday.



## Letter to the Editor

Jeff Stewart,  
On 9-3-13, I was assisted by several Kansas Department of Transportation workers from the Oberlin Subarea.  
I was conducting a Commercial Vehicle Post Crash Investigation on an injury accident near MP-87 on U.S. 36 when I needed an air compressor to conduct testing on an air brake system. Supervisor Tom Weishapl made arrangements for Steve Sheaffer and Todd Cook to transport a gas operated air compressor to the accident scene. I appreciated the quick help, since the owner of the commercial vehicle was not going to transport the wrecked truck back to town at that time. Your workers set up the air compressor to the requested air pressure and provided the air chuck to do the air brake check. Please let these workers know we do appreciate their assistance.

Thanks,  
KHP Technical Trooper Steven C. Harvey  
MCSAP- Zone D, Trego County

## Safety Blog Series

**Safety awareness:** KDOT's fifth annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day 20-day safety blog series is continuing to raise awareness on the need to improve roadway safety. The series began Sept. 13 and will conclude on Oct. 10.

The people participating in the safety blog series have one thing in common – they are sharing their personal traffic safety stories to help make the public more aware of potential dangers on the road.

KDOT Equipment Operator Jonathan McClung shared a story about his vehicle being struck by a motorist while mowing along a median.

A comment on his blog read in part - "In the future, when I see a highway maintenance worker, your incident will come to mind and I will pull over. If I forget, I am sure my wife will remind me. This used to bother me, but will not anymore after reading your story. I am glad you are okay."

To read the blogs, go to <http://ksdotblog.blogspot.com/>



## District Three



**Scott City artist Jerry Thomas, employees with Bridges Inc., and Area Four Engineer Mathew Withington inspect native limestone located in Logan County, after a project preconstruction meeting on Aug. 27 in Oakley. The limestone will be used as seating for a special project to build an informational kiosk located along U.S. 83 in Logan County. The kiosk's six panels will depict artistic scenes by Thomas, who will bring to life the history and scenery associated with the Western Vistas Scenic Byway. Bridges Inc., of Newton is the prime contractor on the \$109,754 project. Work started Monday, and the project is scheduled to be completed by mid-November.**



## District Four

**Improving highways:** Projects that will improve intersections and address road deficiencies in 11 Kansas cities will receive fiscal year 2016 funding under KDOT's Geometric Improvement (GI) program. In addition, 30 resurfacing projects will be funded under KDOT's City Connecting Links (KLINK) program that improves state highways that extend through cities. The state will provide \$6.23 million for the GI projects, which will be built at an estimated cost of \$7.7 million. Cities will provide matching funds to cover the remainder of the costs.

KDOT received 40 applications requesting \$27.7 million under the popular program. Roads selected for GI funding are part of the state highway system but are



located within city limits.

To track these and other T-WORKS projects, visit the T-WORKS website at <http://kdotapp.ksdot.org/TWorks/>



**Above, Girard Mayor Kurt Ziegler speaks at the Geometric Improvement program announcement last Friday. Also at the event, from left to right, are Girard City Manager Gary Emry, Secretary Mike King and Weir Mayor Sandra Stricklin. In the top photo, attendees listen to the project announcements.**

### Trivia!

#### Pony Express

1. When was the first successful Pony Express run?
2. The Pony Express passed through what states?
3. What was the average speed of a rider and the distance they covered before another rider took his place?
4. What national news reached California via the Pony Express?
5. When did the company that ran the original Pony Express declare bankruptcy?

*Answers below*

### Touring KDOT

**Learning about KDOT:** A group of 6th graders from Hesston visited Topeka earlier this year. They toured the State Capitol as well as KDOT's Research Lab and also had a chance to climb in some orange trucks.

Below are a few comments that were written by the kids:

"Thank you for letting us honk the horns!"

"Thanks so much - it was such a good experience! I loved seeing the labs."

"Thank you for letting us look at the motors in the trucks."

"Thank you Mr. King for letting us see how you test the concrete by a machine!"

"Thank you for the special trip to see cool stuff!"

"I loved seeing how you tested the concrete."

"Thank you for the amazing tour of KDOT - I loved it!"



## District Five



*Open Enrollment meetings, like this one in Wichita last week, are taking place across the state until the end of October to provide state employees information on various benefits. Attend a meeting in your area to learn about the latest changes to health insurance and related benefits, HealthyKIDS and the flexible spending account option.*

## District Four

**Unique birthday:** Bruce Myres, Equipment Operator Specialist at the Ottawa Subarea, spent the morning of Sept. 16 – his 50th birthday – attempting to capture a dog and pig on I-35 right-of-way. “They were friends,” Myres said of the two animals, noting that wherever the dog went the pig followed along closely. Myers contacted KHP Lt. Keith Hudson and Trooper Scott White for assistance. They were able to get close enough to snatch the pig by its back leg and place it in a carrier. Ottawa Animal Control also showed up on the scene, but the skittish dog eluded capture.

“The pig is in the pen but the dog is still at large,” said Myres. Since it’s likely that the unlikely pair wandered away from a nearby farm, the dog may have returned



*A dog and a pig were on the lamb recently near I-35. Photo by Lt. Keith Hudson*

home following its adventure.

Myres summed up the experience: “How many people on their 50th birthday catch a pig on I-35?”

### TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. April 3, 1860
2. Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, California
3. 10 miles per hour, and they went 75-100 miles
4. Abraham Lincoln elected President of the United States
5. October 1861

*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](mailto:translines@ksdot.org)*