

# TRANSLINES EXPRESS

March 18, 2020

## Governor directs state employees to stay home

As announced on Tuesday, effective Monday, March 23, Governor Laura Kelly has directed state employees to stay home for two weeks on administrative leave to minimize additional risk of exposure to COVID-19. During this time, Secretary Lorenz and the executive team will be working to

assess how KDOT will deliver the agency's essential functions as safely as possible throughout this pandemic. Tomorrow, more information will be sent out about time sheets, access to email, how we'll communicate with employees over the next two weeks, etc.

## Stay informed on Coronavirus updates



The screenshot shows the Kansas Department of Transportation website. At the top left is the Kansas Department of Transportation logo. To the right are links for HOME, NEWS, CONTACT KDOT, and CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, along with a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a menu with links for HOME, TRAVELER INFORMATION, DOING BUSINESS, INSIDE KDOT, PROJECTS/PUBLICATIONS, and PUBLIC INFORMATION. The main content area features a large green banner for the COVID-19 Resource Center with the text "COVID-19 Resource Center" and the phone number "1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHEINF) Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.". To the right of the banner is a link titled "COVID-19 Resource Center" with the text "COVID-19 Resource Center provided by the KS Dept. of Health and Environment - [click here](#)". At the bottom right of the banner area are navigation arrows.

The front page of KDOT's website, at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), has a link to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's website that is updated frequently.

The KDHE page includes regular updates for the public, information from Gov. Laura Kelly, recommendations, a FAQ page and more.

A seven-page Frequently-Asked Questions sheet is also available on the KDHE website Check it out [here](#).

## Novel Coronavirus FAQs

Last Updated 3/14/2020



## EXAMPLE OF EXCELLENCE



*Members of the U.S. 56 Bridge Repair team were honored at a ceremony on March 10 in Great Bend by State Transportation Engineer Burt Morey. Members of the team include, front row, left to right: Darren Bailey, Russell Howard, Michelle Burnett, Miguel Ibarra, Gary Rainbolt, Jeremy McDonald; back row: Mitch Jenkins, Burt Morey, Randle Rainbolt, Dustin Covert, Larry Thompson and Craig Kenyon. Photo by Tim Potter, District Five*

Congratulations to members of the U.S. 56 Bridge Repair Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the fourth quarter of 2019. A Sept. 24 crash on the U.S. 56 bridge over the Pawnee River at Larned destroyed 40 feet of concrete bridge rail and closed the bridge.

Bridge Crew Supervisor Darren Bailey had a crew at the site later that same morning. The Subarea crew joined the effort and everyone worked together to remove the semi, install a temporary barrier and clean up all the debris. The bridge was back open to traffic that afternoon.

It was a lot of teamwork, said Area Engineer Michelle Burnett. "To me what stands out is the willingness of the Bridge Crew and Larned crew to change plans and jump right in to get done what needed to get done to make it safe and minimize delays to the traveling public," she said.

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## KDOT crews work to make repairs along U.S. 50



*In the photos on this page, the Cimarron Subarea crew works to repair guardrail damaged during the SNICE event that moved across Kansas in late February. Crews used the backhoe to remove the guardrail posts, which were sheared off at ground level, then used the backhoe to remove the damaged guardrail. In addition to the guardrail, two snowplows were hit from behind and a third snowplow was damaged after sliding through an intersection and landing on its side. Photos by Lisa Knoll*



# Trivia!

## 1920s –

1. What major change in transportation was first used in 1920?
2. Three random things usually stored in or near the bathroom were invented. What were they?
3. Several long-famous celebrities were born in 1920, including two from the original “Star Trek” TV show and another from the second “Star Trek” movie. Who are they?
4. The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920. What did it guarantee?
5. This began on Jan. 17, 1920, one year after the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.
6. What did the U.S. Census report for the first time in history?
7. Where was Socialist candidate Eugene Debs when he received more than 900,000 votes for President?



*The Donmyer Road Flood Repair team was to be honored in Abilene on Nov. 22, but a winter storm came through and only a few of the members could attend. The ceremony was rescheduled and also took place on March 10. Members of the team include, front row, left to right: Scott Zima, Nicholas Fedorchuk, Derek Buss, Gary Hazel, James Adee, Brad Anderson, Chad Rutter, Mike Martinitz, Brandon Holt, Brett Kuntz, Shawn Coberly and Randy West; back row, left to right: Larry Thompson, Jonathon Wehling, Scott Lang, Rocky Lindgren, Burt Morey, Iver Tokoi, James Brumm, Phillip Mobley, Brian Hearn and Brandon Bechard. Photo by Ashley Perez, District Two*

## Trivia answers

1. The traffic light – a police officer in Detroit, Mich., took parts from a railroad signal to create it and put the light at an intersection. Garrett Morgan created a different one and patented it in 1923.
2. Hair dryer, Band-Aids and Q-Tips.
3. DeForest Kelley and James Doohan from the TV show, Ricardo Montalban from the movie.
4. Guaranteed American women the right to vote.
5. Prohibition.
6. More Americans lived in urban areas than in rural areas. Urban was defined as any town with more than 2,500 people.
7. In prison for violating the wartime Espionage Act.

# Safely pulling out a vehicle: First, assess it

By Tim Potter  
District Five

Twice in the past several months, KDOT workers have suffered serious injuries in the same basic situation.

As they tried to pull out a stuck vehicle with another vehicle – with a chain in between – the chain snapped. In each instance, the chain flew back, smashed through the windshield and struck each worker where he sat in the cab.

The safety message, says KDOT Safety Coordinator Mark Johnson, starts with a question: “Is it even something that we should be trying to pull out?”

In both recent incidents, a chain should not have been used, Johnson said, and the proper equipment to use was a tow rope.

Some situations, like a dump truck in a ditch, in mud up to the axles, call for a tow truck, he said. In another situation, maybe a dump truck stuck on ice, a tow rope could be properly used.

**The key, he said, is assessing the situation.** If you



*District Five Safety Specialist Paul Thomas, during training on how to correctly use a tow rope. Photo by Tim Potter, District Five*

think it can be pulled out, do you have access to the proper equipment? Have the people involved in the pulling operation been trained? If you don't have the equipment or trained people, or you believe you should not be trying to pull it out yourself, call a tow truck, Johnson said.

KDOT holds vehicle-recovery training for new employees and anyone who wants a refresher. “So it's open to everybody,” he said. “Particularly, we want the new people to go through and take that training.”



# Minor choices can affect the course of your life

By Priscilla Petersen  
District Four

Young people face major choices as they near the end of their school years, yet it's those seemingly minor choices that can impact the larger outcomes of life.

That was wisdom shared by Miss Kansas Annika Wooten, who spoke about the dangers of distracted driving during a recent meeting of the Tri-State Law Enforcement Teen Impact Group at Baxter Springs. Wooten, an illustrator, artist and 'cat mom,' directed her presentation toward several tables of students in attendance.

Wooten said that texting and driving kills 4,000 teens each year. Whenever a person texts, she explained, they take their eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. Driving at a speed of 55 miles an hour, five seconds is long enough to cover the length of a football field.

"You really do have a choice" about texting while operating "this massive piece of machinery," she said.

She said that although drivers cannot control the behavior of other drivers, and aren't always able to anticipate encounters with deer and other animals, they can control the decision to use their seat belts. As Miss Kansas, Wooten said she drives all over the state in "all kinds of conditions," always wearing her seat belt.

Wooten said she chased her dream of being chosen Miss Kansas for seven years. She asked the students to consider future goals, whether it was plans to continue their education or seek a good job after graduating from high school. Small choices, she said,



*Miss Kansas Annika Wooten displays two speed-painted pictures she created in 14 minutes following a safe driving presentation at the Tri-State Law Enforcement Teen Impact Group. The group includes law enforcement, transportation and safety officials from Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Photo by Priscilla Petersen, District Four*

will affect the larger choices about "where you want to be in the future."

"It only takes one moment for tragedy to strike on the road and alter a person's life ... it's pretty sobering," Wooten said. She encouraged the group to use peer pressure, in a good way, to help promote safe driving habits.

# The office managers behind the crews

By Tim Potter  
District Five

District Five crews help build and maintain highways. But in so many ways, it is the five area office managers (AOMs) who enable the work.

Just a partial list of AOM job duties: Process purchases; orient new employees on pay, benefits, procedures; help process evaluations, promotions, transfers, retirements, terminations; coordinate random drug tests; verify payroll; approve mileage; enter and access personnel information; manage supplies and oversee the stockroom; keep inventory records; communicate with the public and respond to inquiries; attend conferences; be the first contact for technology problems; handle administrative tasks.

On top of that, under state purchasing rules that changed a few years ago, the AOMs' burden grew with extra required processing.

Example: El Dorado Area Supervisor Mike Diffendal uses his KDOT procurement card at a store to buy a linchpin and hitch pin for a dump truck. Total price: \$4.98.

That one purchase triggers roughly a dozen computer-coded inputs by Amy Mantooth, a veteran Area Office Manager (AOM) at KDOT's El Dorado office.

Mantooth estimates that routine purchases like the two pins – she might have 25 purchases a day – each take up to 15 minutes to process.

Look at the work a \$4.98 purchase creates. It begins with making sure that the right equipment number is on the receipt, that there are proper signatures. Then several documents must be created. Multiple codes must be entered.

Prior to the purchasing process changes, this purchase would have only one entry in the computer with the coding, a much simpler transaction.

After Mantooth has done her part, the processing goes to Melissa Poe, District Accountant in Hutchinson, who audits the AOMs' fiscal transactions. Poe works with Abbie Wisdom-Williams, a senior administrative assistant, who handles vouchers and travel expense reports.



*Amy Mantooth is one of the District Five Area Office Managers credited with helping to keep offices operating smoothly. Photo by Scott Koopmann, District Five*

Poe and Wisdom-Williams must have purchase orders for everything except utilities. Starting a few years ago, KDOT required more purchase orders. A separate requisition form starts the accounting.

For the non-accountants out there, Wisdom-Williams puts it this way: A requisition says, "We need this." A purchasing order (PO) says, "We're buying it." A voucher says, "We did buy it."

District Engineer Brent Terstriep notes that a recent District Five financial audit found "no reportable findings." "I understand this is rare and attribute this finding to guidance from our District Administrative Officer, Dwight Radke, and to the AOMs' dedication."

Gene Watts, the Pratt Area Superintendent, says of the AOMs: "They are go-to people when we have questions. All personnel goes through them. They have a hand in everything ... and they check it and doublecheck and make sure we're doing it right."

# Transit Day at the Capitol



*KDOT Deputy Secretary Maggie Doll (center) speaks at the Transit Day event along with State Rep. Richard Proehl (left), Chair of the House Transportation Committee, and Anne Smith (right), Kansas Public Transit Association Chairperson and Director of Flint Hills Area Transportation Agency. Photos by Communications/Multimedia Services*

On March 10, Transit Day at the Capitol gave attendees the opportunity to meet the state's service providers, learn how transit reinforces economic development in the state and find out more about new technologies being used.

The event highlighted the work that more than 150 agencies from across the state do to provide transit and paratransit services to people across Kansas.

Also announced at the event were 33 statewide transit projects totaling more than \$7.4 million that were selected by KDOT. To see a list of all the projects, click [here](#).



*Visitors stop by booths highlighting transit services in Kansas during the Transit Day activities. Photo by Sofia Portillo, Headquarters*



# Aviation Day at the Capitol



Numerous booths set up displays with information relating to aviation in Kansas during Aviation Day activities at the Capitol on March 12. Photos by Communications/Multimedia Services



Siena Masilionis of Leawood won first place in the Intermediate division of the 2020 Kansas Aviation Art Contest. Nine Kansas students were selected from across the state as first, second and third place winners.



Aviation Director Bob Brock spoke at the Aviation Day event and announced that UPS Flight Forward (UPSFF), Vigilent and Lemasters Group Consulting Services are now members of the Kansas Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Integration Pilot Program (IPP).

## T-WORKS groundbreakings



*KDOT District Engineer Jeff Stewart speaks at the U.S. 281 groundbreaking event in Russell along with Secretary Julie Lorenz, Rep. Troy Waymaster, Sen. Elaine Bowers and contractor Clayton Wilson with Sporer Land Development. Photos by Communications/Multimedia Services*



*City and state officials join Secretary Julie Lorenz to celebrate the U.S. 54 groundbreaking in Liberal. Photo by Lisa Knoll, District Six*