

# Translines EXPRESS

April 26, 2017

## District Three



*A one-inch mill and two-inch overlay project began the week of April 3 in Logan County. The work starts at the north city limits of Russell Springs and extends 11 miles west on K-25.*

*APAC Shears is the contractor with a cost of approximately \$1.2 million.*



## In Memory

Condolences to the friends and family of KDOT employee Travis Scott who passed away on April 15 in Stockton. Travis had 23 years of state service and had served as the District Construction Engineer in District Three since 2009. A fund has been set up for Travis's daughter, Chloe, and memorials may be given towards the Chloe Scott Scholarship Fund, c/o Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home, 723 N 1st Street, Stockton, KS 67669.



**Travis Scott**

## General

**Atwater selected:** KDOT Aviation Director Merrill Atwater has been named to the Kansas City's Business Magazine, Ingram's, 19th class of 40 Under Forty honorees. The award recognizes young business and civic leaders in the Kansas City region and was announced in the magazine's April edition.

Atwater has worked at KDOT to promote the aviation industry since February 2016. Before that he worked for Fox Energy Corp. He's also volunteered with People to People International for many years.

"Success for me is not measured by accumulation, but rather the bonds that are crafted with time," he said in the magazine.



**Merrill Atwater**

## Trivia!

### Actors with a Kansas connection

1. This singer, actress and model, who was born in Kansas City, Kan. in 1985, was in the movie *Hidden Figures* that is about the NASA space program in 1961.
2. Madge Blake, who was born in Kinsley in 1899, is best remembered this character's mother on *Leave it to Beaver* and as Aunt Harriet in the TV series *Batman*.
3. Although he is five years younger than Madge Blake, this actor, who was born in Burrton in 1904, was her uncle and starred in a long-running TV western series.
4. This actress, who is from Manhattan, is also known as Elvira, Mistress of the Dark.
5. This actress, who was born in Wichita in 1951, got her big break in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*.

## Kudos

Dear KDOT:

I am writing to thank you for your Division's assistance during the overland movement of the Navy's two X-47B aircraft from Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland, to Palmdale, California, during January and March of this year. Transport of such large and unusual objects was not without unique challenges; safely meeting those challenges demanded careful planning and close coordination with federal, state and local agencies.

On behalf of Northrop Grumman - the developer of this world-changing system - I thank you for your support for both the planning and coordination phases of this effort and the actual movement. These aircraft have been flown - and will continue to be tested and flown - to provide a variety of unmanned system concepts for our military. These concepts are critical not only for maintaining the technological superiority our armed forces currently enjoy but are additionally essential to our nation's security.

The assistance you provided makes you part of a great nationwide team that puts the good of our nation at the fore. Again, thank you for your support, and best wishes to you and your organization.

Sincerely,

Scott Winship, Northrop Grumman Corporation

(This note was sent to John Culbertson and District staff who assisted with the effort.)

## General

### Keep Kansas clean:

Earth Day was this past Saturday and it is a great reminder that we have the power to make our environment safe, clean and beautiful. One way to help keep Kansas clean is through the Adopt-A-Highway program. This national program began in Kansas in 1989. Trash can be an unsightly problem. Participation in the program not only helps the environment; it also gives non-profit groups an opportunity to be active in their community and it saves tax dollars.

### How you can join

Any non-profit group that does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color or gender can participate in KDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program by calling your



**Natoma FFA (Tigers) members teamed up with the Eager Beaver 4-H club of Osborne County to clean up a two-mile stretch of K-18.**

closest KDOT office. Phone numbers and application forms can be found at the Adopt-A-Highway page on the KDOT website [here](#).

## District Five



*Above, work continues on one of five I-235 bridges being replaced north of U.S. 54 and south of K-96 in Wichita. This is the northbound I-235 bridge over the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway. Also being replaced is the northbound bridge over the Arkansas River and the 25th Street bridge over I-235. At left, two southbound bridges were replaced last year and I-235 traffic is now head-to-head over the floodway and river (see picture) until November. The Smart Work Zone (SWZ) system associated with the I-235 project is providing queue warning and real-time travel information to the drivers via 10 message boards along the I-235 and K-96 corridors. Kelly Keele's road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.*

## KTA

### **KTA briefs:**

K-TAG changes have been made regarding a new bank draft payment option and the ability to add license plates to K-TAG accounts. Learn about these new features and get the answers to your questions [here](#).

KTA's 2017 Customer Satisfaction Survey is still open through the end of the month. Customer-driven changes, such as open road tolling and improved online account management come from your feedback. Take the survey [here](#).



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Janelle Monae
2. Larry Mondello's mother
3. Milburn Stone, best known as Doc on *Gunsmoke*.
4. Cassandra Peterson
5. Kirstie Alley

## Scenic



*KDOT employee Neil Croxton photographed the stone arch bridge on K-181 north of Sylvan Grove in Lincoln County. This bridge was built in 1903. KDOT built a new bridge just to the west of this structure in 1994 and the stone bridge is now used for foot traffic.*

## Weather

**Be prepared:** Severe weather can strike at any moment. Before you travel, check the weather forecast of your route and remember these tips:

### **Driving in rain**

- ♦ If your wipers are on, turn on your headlights, it's Kansas law.
- ♦ Replace wipers every 6-12 months and use the defrost/air conditioner to keep windows clear.
- ♦ Turn around, don't drown - never cross a flooded roadway. It only takes a few inches for the current to move/stall out your vehicle.
- ♦ Turn off cruise control.

### **Driving in a hail storm**

- ♦ Pull over and don't leave your vehicle unless you can safely get in a building.

### **Driving in high winds**

- ♦ Watch for flying debris.
- ♦ Be prepared for wind gusts and pull over if possible.

### **Driving during a tornado**



- ♦ Never try to outrun a tornado.
- ♦ Go to shelter immediately, but not under a bridge underpass.
- ♦ If out in the open, get below the road's surface (ditch or low area) and cover your head.
- ♦ Be on the lookout for flash floods.

**To see some recent severe weather situations,** click [here](#) to see this video taken near Hays.

## Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, April 25

### Distracted driving on the rise: It can wait

The telephone has come a long way since it was first invented in 1876. Today, those telephones are portable mini-computers that help us navigate this fast-paced world. We may even feel the constant pull to multi-task and gather more information while we travel.



But in reality, there is no such thing as multi-tasking while driving. If your mind is focused on your cell phone, the radio, eating, or even talking with passengers while you drive, there could be deadly consequences. There were 432 traffic fatalities in Kansas last year and approximately 40,200 people died in crashes across the United States, according to the National Safety Council.

Many of those fatalities could be attributed to distracted driving, including the use of mobile phones.

The Federal Communications Commission has some sobering distracted driving statistics:

- More than eight people are killed and 1,161 are injured daily in incidents reported as distraction-affected crashes in the United States.
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that in 2015, there were 3,477 people killed and an estimated additional 391,000 people injured

in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

- At any given moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010.
- In 2015, the National Occupant Protection Use Survey reported that handheld cell phone use continued to be highest among 16-24 year old drivers.

Check out this video from NHTSA and see how sending a message while driving could be the last words someone will ever say.

**To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>**

## Traffic Safety



**Safe Kids Day at the Zoo:** Safe Kids Kansas hosted a Safe Kids Day at the Zoo event on April 15 at the Topeka Zoo. The event helped to raise awareness and resources to protect children from easily avoidable injuries on the road, at home and while playing.

Attendees participated in a safety scavenger hunt and the seat belt convincer and saw presentations on pedestrian, vehicle, rail, fire, water, and poison safety.

KDOT provided funds for Safe Kids Kansas to purchase bike helmets to distribute during the event. Children and their parents were shown how to properly measure and fit the helmets so they would be worn safely.



*Above, KDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Matt Messina fits a bicycle helmet on a child attending the Safe Kids at the Zoo event on April 15. At right, Safe Kids Kansas State Director Cherie Sage, left, and Booster Rooster worked together to educate families about the importance of using booster seats during travel.*

## Motorcycle Safety



*May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, a time to focus on safety for everyone who is traveling on the roadway, but especially those on motorcycles.*

*In 2016 in Kansas, there were 52 people killed and 856 injured in crashes involving motorcycles.*

## Environment

### Protecting the environment:

In honor of the last week's Earth Day and the upcoming Arbor Day, here are some ways KDOT works to protect the environment while building and maintaining the highways. KDOT's Environmental Services section reviews KDOT projects and KDOT-sponsored projects across the state that have the potential to impact the environment. These impacts can affect human and natural environments, and many projects must be cleared and permitted on a local, state and federal level. Each of these reviews must evaluate potential impacts a project can have on noise, air quality, archeologic and historical resources, Native American lands, farmland, hazardous waste, storm-water erosion control, threatened and endangered species and impacts to wetlands and streams.

One example is a project in Cherokee County on K-7 to widen and raise the roadway plus add 10-foot shoulders for safety and flooding reasons. This project requires two channel changes to local streams, will fill some small wetland areas and possibly affect the habitat of a state-threatened chorus frog called the Spring Peeper.

To offset these impacts, KDOT designed new stream channels using the principles of natural channel design. In addition to the new channel, a planting bench is being added along each streambank with Sandbar Willow and Pin Oak trees to be planted to add stability to the stream. Outside of the planting bench, a new riparian area will be planted with native trees such as Bur Oak and Shellbark Hickory plus native grasses making up a 50-foot buffer along each side of the new stream channel. Inside each bend of the new



***KDOT works to help the environment in many ways such as using an erosion control blanket on U.S. 83 in Sheridan County to protect the land so the water can't wash the mulch away.***

stream channel, a new wetland area was designed where a wetland seed mix will be planted and bitternut hickory and Pin Oaks will be placed around the edges.



***Work is under way on a project on K-7 in Cherokee County, and KDOT is working to offset any impacts to the Spring Peeper frogs that live in the area. Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.***

These wetland areas, or 'peeper pools,' are to create habitat for the threatened Spring Peeper. In addition to these pools, stretches of the old stream channel and its riparian area that were not needed to be graded and filled will be preserved for additional habitat. To restore aquatic passage to upstream segments, a perched culvert will be replaced with an embedded or 'buried' culvert.

All in all, this project will create more than 3,300 feet of new stream and riparian area, build six various sized peeper pools and plant more than 5,400 trees.



*Crews pour concrete in the drilled shafts at the Osage County bridge project, located at mile marker 157 on I-335/KTA.*