

Translines EXPRESS

Feb. 22, 2017

Employee Recognition



Congratulations to the Dynamic Merge Late Lane Merge Team as the Example of Excellence for the fourth quarter of 2016. The team worked on solving queue lengths during construction projects and helping to eliminate the problems that occur when traffic is backed up. They created a video to educate the public, and it has been viewed more than 183,000 times. Secretary Richard Carlson, front row, left, joined team members at the Feb. 20 presentation. From left to right: first row - Mike Floberg, Bret Mathias, Ann Williamson, Denise Petet and Ryan Wilson. Second row - Robert Bartron, Jeff Henry, Dan Harper, Kristi Ericksen, Kim Qualls and Mike Flory. Third row - Garry Olson, Gary Herman, Joyce Poitevint, Eric Nichols, Gary Covey and Josh Welge. KDOT team members not pictured include Hugh Bogle, Patrick Firebaugh, Blair Heptig, Shane Houser, Drake Jennings, LeeAnn Legge, Tony Menke, Thomas Morrell, Christopher Nichols, Abe Rezayazdi and Darrin Shepard.

Headquarters

KDOT welcomes Landon: Brianna Landon was named KDOT's new Communications Director on Feb. 6. Landon brings a versatile background to this position, having experience both in communications and the legislative process. In her previous role, she served as the Legislative Liaison and Public Information Officer for the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), where she helped develop the agency's policy agenda and communications strategy for the legislative session.

Prior to this, she served as Gov. Sam Brownback's Deputy Communications Director. Landon holds a Bachelor of Arts from Hillsdale College.



Brianna Landon

In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Maggie Brogden who died on Feb. 7 in Topeka. She had 38 years of state service and worked for many years in the Transportation Planning and Right of Way bureaus.

Trivia!

Musician Louis Armstrong

1. What were Louis Armstrong's nicknames?
2. Armstrong was the first jazz musician to appear here.
3. Beside playing jazz music, Armstrong was also famous for this type of vocal jazz.
4. What two instruments did he play?
5. What was Armstrong's biggest-selling record? Who did he knock out of the No. 1 spot on the charts?
6. When Armstrong died in 1971, he had 12 famous honorary pallbearers. Name them.

District Three



KSN news reporter Darren Dedo recently put together a story on the area of sinkholes along I-70 in Russell County. Dedo and his videographer visited the area in early January and spoke with Area Engineer Kevin Zimmer (right) and Regional Geologist Neil Croxton (above) about the effects and future impacts the sinkholes have had on the road. The story aired on KSN in early February and can be seen at <http://ksn.com/2017/02/02/ksn-investigates-the-money-pit/>.



Kansas Official State Transportation Map



Fourth grade students at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School in Easton plan their trips across Kansas using Kansas Official State Transportation maps.



Mapping a trip: Students in Kim Diefenbach's 4th grade at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School in Easton organized a road trip around the state as part of a class project and used Kansas Official State Transportation maps to accomplish their goal. Diefenbach said the students in the reading group were studying about the state "and we decided to do this trip to tag onto what we were doing in the classroom." During their trips, the students had to visit at least three regions of Kansas as well as one city in each region

and then find a local restaurant, hotel and landmark in each town. Using the maps as part of the project was very helpful, she said. "You can't really see the whole state on a GPS, and they had to really think about where they were going," Diefenbach said. "The maps made it so they could see how the whole trip fit into the state."

District Five



The eastbound K-96 exit to westbound U.S. 54 closed on Feb. 20 and will remain closed until the completion of the \$90.9 million construction of the U.S. 54 freeway, which will consist of constructing ramps on I-35/KTA from mile marker 50.9 to mile marker 52.3 and a six-lane freeway on Kellogg Avenue between Greenwich and K-96. The work is scheduled to be finished in late 2021. Find more information about the East Kellogg improvement effort at www.E54ict.com. Thomas Rhoads' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.

Kansas Transportation

Monday, Feb. 13

Interest in aircraft, UAS soar at Aviation Day at the Capitol

Aviation Day at the Capitol welcomed both the public and legislatures to tour and learn from 30 aviation businesses and organizations throughout Kansas. The event took place Feb. 9. “Aviation, as you all know, has a huge impact in our state,” Secretary Richard Carlson said. “Kansas is home to one of the five world-largest clusters of aviation. More than 48,000 jobs are created directly by our businesses, our tenants and other activities located at commercial services and general aviation airports in the state of Kansas.”

Ed Young, Vice President of the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education (KCAE), said that this event drives all levels of aviation together so they can meet with legislatures about how important aviation is to Kansas.

Joe N. Miniace, the Central Region Regional Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration, said that 76 percent of the world’s fleet of aircraft have been manufactured in Kansas. One of the biggest presences at this year’s Aviation Day at the Capitol was Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). Kurt Barnhart, Dean of Research at Kansas State University, said that the one of the major reasons for the use of UAS devices was to help people.

“We are doing the things we have always done,



Kansas State University’s Booth at the Aviation Day at the Capitol event.

with less risk and a fraction of the cost,” Barnhart said. “We are excited. It’s a revolution.” The University of Kansas Department of Aerospace Engineering partnered with NASA to display a 65-pound UAS system, dubbed the Argus, that will be testing flight in the next month. The Argus is an airborne radar sensor built for collision avoidance. With more than 2.5 hours of flight time, this device could replace older models that fly over glaciers in West Greenland to determine the thickness of the ice. The older models can only fly for one hour. Businesses like Westar Energy, explained that at times they use UAS devices when they inspect

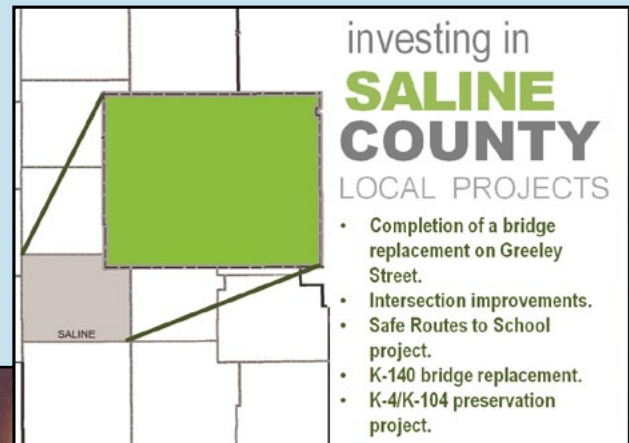
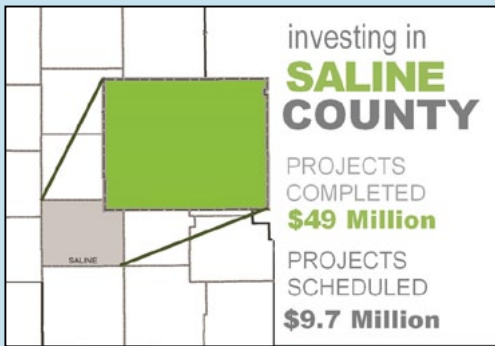
potential damage to various infrastructures because it could be safer than sending out a technician in dangerous situations. Check out a video of some of the speakers at the event [here](#).

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



The University of Kansas’ 65-pound UAS, Argus, on display at the Aviation Day at the Capitol event.

T-WORKS



Members of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce listen to Secretary Richard Carlson speak about improvements made in Saline County during the T-WORKS program at a presentation on Feb. 21 in Topeka. By the end of the program, Salina County will have received nearly \$60 million in projects.

KTA

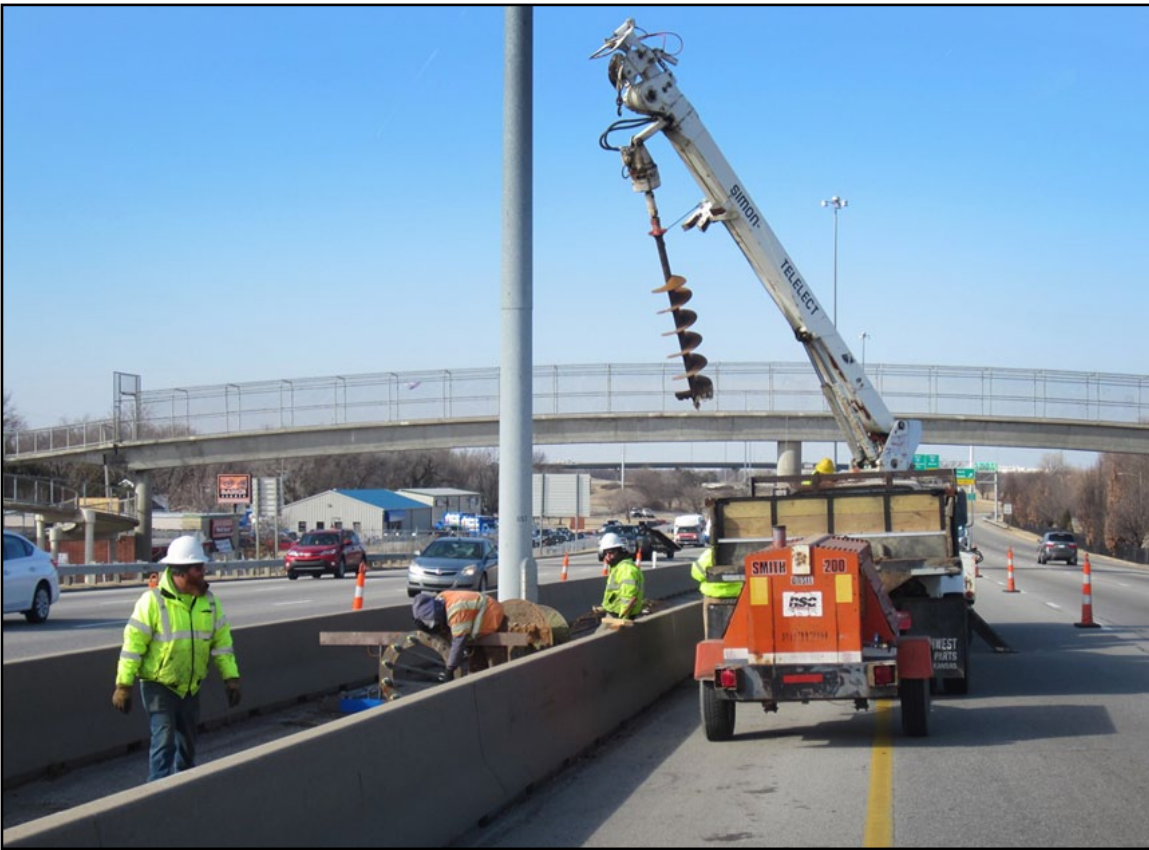
Crews pour the bridge rail on the southbound Arkansas River bridge located at MM 44 in Wichita, as seen at right.

A bid was recently awarded for the south Topeka area. The project includes plaza and ramp improvements at the south Topeka plaza and re-deck and the widening of two bridges at mile marker 177.337 I-470/KTA (over Topeka Boulevard and BNSF Railroad). Read the full release [here](#).



District Five

Spring-like February weather has made work on a project to replace eight high mast towers near the U.S. 54 and Hillside interchange a little more pleasant – at least for the contractor and inspector. Multiple projects on U.S. 54 have affected traffic throughout the Wichita area. Thomas Rhoads' road squad and Karen Peterson's bridge squad designed the project.



Aviation Art Contest

KDOT announces art contest winners: KDOT's Division of Aviation announces the Kansas winners of the 2017 International Aviation Art Contest. The contest, whose theme this year was "Beyond the Clouds," was for artists ages 6 to 17.

The first place winner in each age group earns a \$500 scholarship from the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education, to be used toward an aviation education activity as well as advance to the national completion. Those winners are Jade Benimon, 9, Lawrence; Kendra Hurla, 10, Delia; and Luke Schawe, 15, Hutchinson. Other top winners in each age group who are also advancing to the national competition include: Julietta Otter, 9, Lawrence; Tyler Hill, 6, Derby; Katie Golder, 13, Topeka; Lindsay Hayes, 10, Lawrence; and Christina Walton, 15, Topeka.



Winning artwork - at left, by Luke Schawe; bottom left, by Kendra Hurla; and below, by Jade Benimon.



Employees' Council



Twelve teams participated in the Employees' Council Crazy Bowl tournament in Topeka on Feb. 12. After the teams bowl two normal games, players participate in the 'crazy' game, which included throwing the ball between teammates' legs or partners having all their hands on the ball (as seen above and at right).

Governor's Weight Loss Challenge

People gathered at the Capitol on Feb. 14 to weigh in and get started with the 2017 Governor's Weight Loss Challenge. First through fifth place prizes will be awarded and random drawings will take place each month for those participating.



Retiree

The following KDOT employee will retire on March 1.

District Six

Maclovio Rojas, Equipment Operator Senior, Garden City

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Satchmo, Pops, Dipper.
2. On the cover of Time magazine on Feb. 21, 1949.
3. Scat singing.
4. Trumpet and cornet.
5. "Hello, Dolly!"/The Beatles
6. Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Pearl Bailey, Count Basie, Harry James, Frank Sinatra, Ed Sullivan, Earl Wilson, Alan King, Johnny Carson and David Frost.

Scenic



KDOT's Neil Croxton took these photos of the restored 1940s Sinclair Gasoline station on South 1st Avenue in Norton.



KTA

2017 NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK DESIGN CONTEST

GET YOUR DESIGN IN VYPE MAGAZINE!
WIN A FITBIT BLAZE!
OR \$200 (WINNER CHOOSES)



There is just more than a month left for KTA's Work Zone Awareness Week design contest. Students in grades 8-12 can submit a print design regarding work zone safety for a chance to win a FitBit Blaze smartwatch or \$200. Additionally, they will have their work printed in VYPE Magazine, a high school sports magazine for the south central Kansas area.