

# Translines EXPRESS

Sept. 6, 2017

## Example of Excellence



***Congratulations to members of the KDOT Pollinator Promoter Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the second quarter of 2017. The team worked together to promote awareness of monarchs and other pollinators and assist in efforts to enhance vegetation management practices. Team members also planted more than 1,100 milkweed plugs near the Homewood rest area along I-35. Included in the team photo are, from left to right, first row, Secretary Richard Carlson, Melissa Davidson, Bruce Myers, Scott Shields, Larry Thompson; second row, Shaestian Argo, Robin Durand, Cliff Ehrlich, Chris Eichman, Tim Farquhar, Kevin Ryan, Robert Stork; third row, Wayne Gudmonson, Ricky Conner, Kent Badders, Danielle Brunin, Earl Barnett, Joseph Hazen, Kirby Alexander and Ben Vanderford. Not pictured are Greg Hoggatt and James Lewis.***

## Kansas State Fair

**State fair:** The 2017 Kansas State Fair marks the 25th consecutive year KDOT has participated in the annual event to help educate and serve the public. This year's fair will run from Sept. 8-17 and attracts about 335,000 attendees annually. Records show that KDOT had a booth at various times until 1976. In 1993, Anita Helt, former Chief of the Public Affairs Office, thought it was important



***KDOT employees Bob Grant and Sunny McElheny worked at the KDOT booth at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson in 1993.***

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## Kansas State Fair



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for KDOT to have a presence at the state fair again. Informational Specialist Kim Stich in Topeka and Senior Engineering Technician John Wiens in the District Five Office worked together the first year and have been working on it together ever since.

The first two years, Wiens drove a minivan up to pick up supplies for the booth. That quickly was increased to a dump truck to hold up to 120 cases of state maps, thousands of promotional items and various brochures. It takes six to 10 KDOT staff up to three days to unload the supplies, set up backdrops and prepare for visitors. The KDOT booth has always been in the Eisenhower Building, but it has moved to four different booth locations. It started as a 10-foot by 10-foot booth with little storage. Boxes of supplies had to be brought to the booth each morning. After several years, a safety booth was added and the booths moved to a 20-foot by 15-foot

location with storage included behind.

During those 25 years, five Governors of Kansas have served as well as five District Engineers in District Five. The times may change, but the commitment to the Kansas State Fair remains strong.

“Over these 25 years, operating the KDOT Kansas State Fair booth has become a proud tradition of District Five,” said District Engineer Brent Tierstriep. “Numerous District staff members, ranging from Shop Mechanics, Engineering Technicians, Equipment Operators, various office staff to District Engineers have manned the booth to interact with the public, represent the agency, answer questions and help people learn about KDOT.”

Stich agreed with Tierstriep. “Bottom line - our KDOT booth is successful because of all the dedicated District Five employees,” she said.

For more information on the fair, go to [www.kansasstatefair.com](http://www.kansasstatefair.com).

## Trivia!

### Actors , part three

1. This silent film actor, who was born in Smith Center in 1887, mentored Charlie Chaplin and discovered buster Keaton and Bob Hope.
2. This actor, who was born in Kansas City in 1972, is known as Jake Ballard in the TV show Scandal.
3. This actress, who was born in Overland Park in 1980, played Ellie Bartowski Woodcomb in the TV

series Chuck from 2007 to 2012.

4. This actor, who was born in Salina in 1930, was in more than 100 TV or movies and often played judges or law enforcement officers, such as Lt. Scanlon on Barney Miller.
5. This actress, who was born in Hoisington in 1977, has provided English language voices for more than 100 cartoons, anime and video games.

## Vote daily - until Sept. 21

for the Johnson County Gateway project to win the People’s Choice Award in the America’s Transportation Award competition.

**Every vote counts - click [here](#)**  
(Kansas project is 7th down on list).



### Historical display:

KDOT retiree John Meyer collected a variety of historical artifacts while he was overseas during World War II and has many of his own from that time as well. He also has many stories of his experiences while serving in the 1st Infantry Division of the Army and has written a book titled, "Reflections of a Dogface."

All these items will be on display starting Sept. 20 in the Reference Room of the State Archives at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka. To celebrate the opening of this display, a reception will take place at 2 p.m. that day in the Reference Room.

Meyer served from March 1943 to January 1946. His uniform jacket, with all his medals, is one of the display items. A few of the medals include Bronze Star Recipient, Purple Heart Recipient, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army of Occupation Medal, WW II Victory Pin and the Good Conduct Award.

He received the Purple Heart when he was injured in November 1944 trying to take a town named Langerwehe - they experienced heavy mortar fire and a shell

fragment went through his left shoulder. Because of this injury, Meyer said he was not in the Battle of the Bulge that took place the next month.

"It was an honor to do serve my country, but there were times I'm not too sure it was healthy," he said. He also went to Nuremburg to build a model of the courthouse to make sure they would have room for everyone since there were people from four different countries attending the trials, Meyer said.

Meyer went to the University of Kansas after returning,



**KDOT retiree John Meyer stands next to his jacket that displays all the medals he received during World War II. It is part of the display that opens Sept. 20 at the State Archive of the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka.**

"and the next Monday after I graduated in summer 1949, I went to work for KDOT. I already had the job lined up in the Planning Department." He worked in other bureaus and retired as the Urban Engineer in the Bureau of Local Projects in 1987. To see Meyer's book, click [here](#), and to see his scrapbook, click [here](#). The display of all his items will be at the State Archives until December.

### John Meyer Exhibit Opening Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2 p.m.

Reference Room, State Archive  
Kansas Historical Society  
6425 SW 6th Ave., Topeka

November 1944 trying to take a town named Langerwehe - they experienced heavy mortar fire and a shell



**Meyer looks at a few of the artifacts he found overseas that will be part of the exhibit.**

## Traffic Safety

*From left to right, Richard Hearron, Director of the Garrison Safety Office at Fort Riley, and Dawn Douglas, Safety and Occupational Health Specialist, present Denise Petet and Bret Mathias, KDOT Media Production Technicians, with a certificate of recognition for their effort to create a public service announcement on seat belt use for the Army. The PSA will be distributed to military bases nationwide. The Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office worked with the Garrison Safety Office at Fort Riley in an effort to increase seat belt use both on and off the job.*



## District Four



*The reconstructed intersection at 15th Street and Willow Street in Coffeyville is part of an Economic Development project to redesign and widen several city streets in support of the expansion of a longtime business. In 2015 Gov. Sam Brownback traveled to Coffeyville to announce \$1 million in ED funding for street improvements near the Acme Foundry (in the background). Jeff Graham Construction of Coffeyville is the contractor.*

## In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Dennis Graves who passed away on Aug. 24 in St. John. He retired in 2016 after 18 years as an Equipment Operator at the Great Bend office. He was also a St. John police officer and volunteer firefighter.

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Maurice (Bucky) Cowan, who passed away on Aug. 27 in Pittsburg. He retired in 2005 as an Equipment Operator in the Pittsburg office.

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Marion Silvey Jr. who passed away Aug. 30 in Wichita. He retired from the District Special Crew at Chanute in 1999.

## District Four



***Is it slush ... hail? It's neither - it's broken glass. A section of U.S. 54 was briefly closed the morning of Aug. 22 after a truck spilled more than 30 sheets of glass onto the highway. Iola Subarea crews worked the clean-up and flagging operations. At left, Equipment Operator Senior Mike Hedman runs a power broom to clear glass shards off the driving lanes. Above, Equipment Operator Steven Conger flags traffic around the broken glass. Photo credits: Iola Register***

## Kudos

***Dear Lisa Knoll (District Six Public Affairs Manager):***

Hello! My name is Ken Croy and we met at the Liberal Fair. I was telling you how I travel around with my job and stay in Hutchinson. Anyway, I wanted to say thank you for the awesome job that you and your staff are doing on the roads in Kansas. The project on east U.S. 54 is going to be a very nice addition along with the stretch north of Sublette. People always complain about construction however do not realize the awesome job and all of the hard work that goes into making our state a better state.

Hope all is going well for you and that you will have an awesome day and a fantastic week!

***Email received*** - I stopped here yesterday and was extremely impressed by the overall quality. The bathroom was immaculate; no dirt in the corners,



toilets spotless, floor clean. I know that this is probably not a new facility, which makes it even more impressive. The grounds were well maintained, and dog areas clearly marked. Local radio feature a nice touch. I drive through many states, and this area stood out. Please pass my thanks along to the maintenance crew, and the Rain or Shine Cleaning Service of Grainfield.

***Phone call*** - The Public Affairs Office in Topeka received a call on Aug. 31 from Jessica Bird thanking some of our KDOT staff for helping her out. She was driving near Ingalls and got a flat tire. She called AAA, but they couldn't find her, and a couple of KDOT employees stopped to help her. She said they were

Dodge City employees Justin Ohman, Equipment Operator Trainee, and Rod Davis, Equipment Operator Specialist. They were friendly and professional and had her tire changed out in 10 minutes. She also sent in this photo above later that day.

## Kansas Transportation

Monday, Aug. 28 and Sept. 4

### Motoring Monday

The International Pancake Day Hall of Fame, located in Liberal, commemorates the internationally known Pancake Race, which happens every year on Shrove Tuesday in February.

The racing competition was initiated in 1950 between Liberal and Olney, England, and centers on women running down town streets while flipping pancakes, simultaneously in each city.

In addition to the pancake race, the town of Liberal also hosts pancake eating contests, flipping contests, a parade and other festivities.

The Hall of Fame was created in 2005 and is dedicated to preserving the history of Pancake Day through the years.

It serves as the headquarters for the acclaimed event on Shrove Tuesday. The Hall of Fame is also used as a gathering place for community events and educational purposes.



This facility operates by appointment only, but International Pancake Day is open to everyone. Visit [International Pancake Day](#) to learn more.

Crawford County is considered the Fried Chicken Capital of Kansas and dubbed one of the 8 wonders of Kansas Cuisine. Since 1930, Crawford County has been known for these six restaurants serving up hearty plates of delicious fried chicken and Frontenac Bread, which is served with every meal.

#### **Chicken Annie's Original, Pittsburg.**

Chicken Annie's was founded in 1934 by Annie Pichler. The restaurant has been passed down through generations of the Pichler family.

#### **Chicken Mary's, Pittsburg.**

What started as a hobby became a business when Mary Zerngast, a German Immigrant, initiated Chicken Mary's in 1945. It continues to be owned and operated by the Zerngast family.

#### **Gebhardt's Chicken and Dinners, Mulberry.**



Ted Gebhardt, an Army veteran, started up Gebhardt's in 1942 with his wife, Meg.

#### **Barto's Idle Hour, Frontenac.**

Ray Barto launched his restaurant in the 1950s and became known for hosting polka band performances at his restaurant.

#### **Chicken Annie's Pichler's, Pittsburg.**

Opened by Louis and Louella Lipoglav, the daughter of the Annie Pichler, founder of Chicken Annie's, in 1971.

#### **Chicken Annie's Girard, Girard.**

The restaurant was open by Anthony Pichler, grandson of Annie Pichler, founder of Chicken Annie's, in 1970.

For more information and links to the restaurants, click [here](#).

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

## National Award

**National awards:** KDOT's Public Affairs Office was recognized recently with a national award from the Skills Contest sponsored by TransComm, AASHTO's Subcommittee on Transportation Communications.

KDOT was awarded first place in the Graphic Design/Illustration category for, "Oh Deer! A Love Story about Improving Driving Safety." Communication Specialist Mallory Goeke created an illustrated story to educate readers about driving during rut season. The story highlights safety tips and reminders of when deer are typically seen, what drivers should do if they encounter a deer and where they are most active. The story can be read [here](#).

The agency also received runner-up award in a publication category for the 2017 Annual Report, which highlighted KDOT's work and accomplishments last year.

The Skills Contest honors the work of public relations groups from DOT's across the country. The TransComm committee provides information throughout the year to DOT's on ways to improve communication and has an annual conference where Skills Contest winners are announced.

## KTA



**Crews remove a bridge along the Kansas Turnpike in Osage County.**

## Retirees

*The following employees will retire Oct. 1*

### Headquarters

**Tina Cramer**, Applications Developer III, Information Technology

**Ronald Shurtz**, Professional Civil Engineer II, Structures & Geotechnical Services

### District One

**Mynatt Mitchell**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Edwardsville

**Steven Williams**, Equipment Operator Senior, Emporia

### District Two

**Paul Mutschler**, Highway Maintenance

Supervisor, Minneapolis

**John Rausch**, Equipment Operator

Specialist, Strong City

**Kurt Williams**, Equipment Operator, Salina

### District Three

**James Antrim**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Norton

### District Five

**Ritchie Webster**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Greensburg

### District Six

**Curtis Hemel**, Equipment Operator Senior, Dighton

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle
2. Scott Foley
3. Sarah Lancaster
4. George Murdock
5. Kari Wahlgren

## General

*At right, Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer speaks at the ceremony celebrating the opening of the Willard Bridge on Aug. 28 in western Shawnee County. Seated at left are retired State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger and Secretary Richard Carlson. KDOT provided a low-interest loan for more than \$8 million to allow construction to start earlier. Below, a large crowd turned for the celebration.*



## Maintenance

*KDOT maintenance crews are busy this summer as the state mows and maintains approximately 145,000 acres of right-of-way along highways and weed control.*



*Above, KDOT Equipment Operator Burke Richter mows grass along U.S 156 east of Garden City. At left, KDOT Equipment Operator David Shaw mows grass along the U.S. 50 bypass near Dodge City.*



## District Six



*In July 2016, work began on the modernization of the U.S. 83/U.S. 160/K-144 interchange in Haskell County. The project includes construction of a new U.S. 83 alignment with passing and turn lanes and the addition of a bridge over U.S. 83 with tie-ins to the existing U.S. 160/K-144 alignment. Crews continue working to complete the project by the end of November. Above is a view of U.S. 83 north of Garden City and at right is K-144 east to Dodge City. Aaron Frits' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.*



## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

**Poster contest:** Kansas kids ages 5-13 are encouraged to enter artwork in the 16th annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest. Three statewide winners will receive a Kindle Fire Tablet with a case from the KTA, a \$50 gift card from WalMart, a \$50 Amazon gift card from the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association and movie passes from AAA. And 18 regional winners will each receive a bicycle and helmet.

**Entries must be postmarked by Sept. 22.** For more information, go to KDOT's webpage [here](#).

**Video contest:** For the third year, as part of the safety campaign, the KTA is having a video contest for teens in grades 8-12. Winners will receive a GoPro, iPad, or an DJI Osmo Camera. The grand prize winner will also receive \$500 for their school's booster club. Entries must be posted by 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 24. For more information, click [here](#).

A promotional graphic for the 2017 Poster Contest &amp; Video Contest. The text "PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES DAY" is at the top in orange. Below it, "2017 Poster Contest &amp; Video Contest" is written in large blue and black letters. On the right, "ENTER NOW!" is written in white on an orange background. The graphic features a blue cup with a paintbrush, pencil, and marker, and a large grey wheel with a black brake pad. A circular logo in the bottom left corner says "Put the Brakes on Fatalities" around a red hand holding a blue pencil.

# Poster Art Contest

**Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day - October 10, 2017**

Traffic crashes are a leading cause of death in the U.S. "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day<sup>®</sup>" focuses on reducing traffic fatalities by encouraging motorists to take extra precautions.

**Kansas kids ages 5 through 13** are invited to enter artwork showing their thoughts on "Put the Brakes on Fatalities." Regional winners in the three age categories will be chosen. Then, three statewide winners will be selected from the 18 regional winners!

## Statewide prizes – each winner will receive:

- ◆ Kindle Fire Tablet with case, from the KTA;
- ◆ \$50 Amazon Gift Card, from Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas;
- ◆ \$50 Gift Card, from WalMart; and
- ◆ Movie Passes, from AAA Kansas.

**Cool!!**

## Age Categories

- 5 to 7 years old
- 8 to 10 years old
- 11 to 13 years old

## Mail entries to

AAA Kansas/Public Affairs  
3545 SW 6th Street  
Topeka, Kansas, 66606

## RULES:

◆ Art **MUST** be on 8.5" x 11" paper. Any materials can be used including paint, crayon, pencil, pastel, and collage. No computer-aided drawings.

◆ To be eligible, all entries must be postmarked by **September 22, 2017.**

◆ Winners' names/artwork will be sent to media and posted on the KDOT website.

Information on websites - [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org) [www.ksturnpike.com](http://www.ksturnpike.com)

Each regional winner will receive a **BICYCLE and HELMET** from Safe Kids Kansas

Each entry **MUST** have this information on the back;

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's First/Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

**One entry per child**

Sponsored by the Kansas Department of Transportation and other traffic safety organizations.