

Translines EXPRESS

Nov. 1 2017

District Four



Bridge beams are placed on the two new lanes of U.S. 69 south of Fort Scott. Grading and bridge work continues on the six-mile, \$21 million project that will expand the highway to a four-lane upgradable expressway. Koss Construction of Topeka is the primary contractor. Stephen Bass' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.

Headquarters

Gower promoted to Bureau Chief:

Brian Gower has been promoted to Transportation Safety & Technology Bureau Chief for KDOT. He begins his new duties on Nov. 6.

Gower has worked for KDOT for more than 25 years.

He obtained a degree in civil engineering from the University of Kansas in 1990.

Gower has served in several positions in the traffic engineering area, and he has been the State Traffic Engineer since 2004.

In his new position, Gower will oversee and be responsible for leading and managing traffic safety, crash data, traffic engineering, signing and the Intelligent Transportation System units.



Brian Gower

In Memory

♦Condolences to friends and family of employee Todd Bowers who passed away on Oct. 29. He started with KDOT in 2006 and worked as an Equipment Operator at the Blaine Subarea Office. A celebration of life will take place on Nov. 11 in Westmoreland.

♦Condolences to friends and family of retiree Leonard Smith who passed away on Sept. 10 in Marion. Smith worked for KDOT for more than 40 years, retiring in 1994 as the Highway Maintenance Supervisor at the Minneapolis Subarea.

♦Condolences to friends and family of retiree Frank Foster who passed away on Oct. 17. Foster worked in Area Three in District Four for 18 years, retiring in 1986.



Todd Bowers

Trivia!

Directors

1. He is regarded as the first major African-American feature filmmaker. He either directed or produced more than 44 films from 1919 to 1948 and is from Great Bend.
2. Chris Buck, who was born in Wichita, co-directed this movie, which won the Oscar for Best Animated Feature in 2014.
3. Eric Darnell, who was born in Prairie Village in 1961, co-directed and co-wrote this animated movie and its two sequels about four animals from the Central Park Zoo.
4. This director, who grew up in El Dorado, has directed episodes of "Games of Thrones," "Ally McBeal," "The West Wing" and "The Practice."
5. This director, who was born in Hutchinson in 1896, directed 80 movies from 1924 to 1967. He was also the original director of "The Wizard of Oz," but was fired after two weeks.

District One



Work on the Lewis and Clark Viaduct is expected to begin early next year.

Lewis and Clark Viaduct westbound bridge construction: Work is anticipated to begin on a portion of the Lewis & Clark Viaduct in early 2018 in Kansas City. The project will include closure of the I-70 westbound bridge and off-ramps of the viaduct to facilitate reconstruction of the bridge. The letting for this project is anticipated in November. The Lewis and Clark Viaduct is a series of bridges that provide a vital link for I-70 across the Kansas River and connect Kansas City, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo. KDOT completed a study in December 2012 to examine the condition of each of the nine bridges making up the viaduct and developed a priority phasing plan for rehabilitation and/or replacement of

the existing bridges. The upcoming reconstruction project will replace the existing I-70 westbound bridge structure and provide connections to I-70 to the west, Minnesota Avenue, Washington Boulevard and Fairfax Trafficway. Partners on the project with KDOT include the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan., the Missouri Department of Transportation, KC Scout, the City of Kansas City, Mo, and the Mid-America Regional Council. The total project cost is expected to be about \$64 million and construction is expected to begin in early 2018. Debbie Tanking's road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.

District Six

Getting involved:

Three Ulysses High School seniors are partnering with KDOT District Six staff to keep their community and highways clean as part of their senior service learning project. When Connor Beims, Austen Everett and David Vasquez had an interest in a project geared towards the outdoors, Jodi Pfungsten, senior English teacher, visited with them about the highways and KDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program.

As part of the project, Beims, Everett and Vasquez will be working with local organizations in Ulysses and Grant County to revive the program by making organizations aware of the program and coordinating sign-ups and clean-ups in the area. They will be contacting all organizations that have previously signed up for a route in District Six to update contact information, determine when the last clean-up was and confirm the organization's interest in participating in Adopt-A-Highway.

According to Joe Finley, KDOT's District Six Maintenance Engineer, many of the organizations signed up a number of years ago and haven't reported any clean-ups in the last several years.



Ulysses High School students David Vasquez, Connor Beims and Austen Everett are working to revive the Adopt-A-Highway program in southwest Kansas.

"We are excited to have help with this program in southwest Kansas and especially interested in having this group of young men show an interest in the program," Finley said. "We are anxious to get their input on how we can revive the program and make it more appealing to younger generations today." According to Pfungsten, all students at Ulysses High School are required to complete five hours of community service each year. As seniors, the service project must incorporate an outside agency and contain a project management variable which teaches students to take a big project and break it down into smaller short-term goals with varying responsibilities. This helps students develop communication skills and learn how relationships work.

Twitter

Working for KDOT: KDOT has recently launched a new Twitter page designed to list information about job vacancies. The page highlights some of the positions open throughout the agency to encourage the public to learn more about working for KDOT. Engineering Recruiter Debbie Wallace helps recruit others to KDOT because of its supportive and family-oriented atmosphere..

"KDOT means a lot to me because of all the people I have gotten to work with and how friendly everyone is," Wallace said. "The support has been overwhelming to me in my 12 years here. Being the Engineering Recruiter I get to work with all of the universities in the Midwest and have met so many wonderful students. Some of these students I had the opportunity to recruit. I take pride in finding the right fit for this agency."

To view the new Twitter page, go to www.Twitter.com/KDOTrecruit.



Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

At right, KHP Trooper Ben Gardner talks with all the students attending the presentation for poster contest winners Lacie McLaughlin and Breken Coup in Solomon. Below, southeast Kansas winner Makiah Woods, is with her parents, Chris and Lail, at West Bourbon Elementary in Uniontown.



Giving back: Nine-year-old Austin Lamb, a statewide and regional winner in the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest, takes an extra interest in the contest each year. His interest stems from when his dad was hit by a car while on duty as a Deputy with the Osage County Sheriff's Office. Lamb witnessed the crash, and now he promotes traffic and law enforcement safety by entering this contest. Instead of keeping the prizes, he's donating most of them to help make a difference. This is the second year Lamb won the regional contest,

Austin Lamb, center, is joined by family and law enforcement at the Oct. 20 poster contest presentation in Osage City.

and he is donating last year's bike. Lamb also plans to donate the Kindle Fire tablet, tablet case and Amazon gift card to Osage City Elementary School. Proceeds will be used to purchase sports balls for recess. His poster encourages drivers to move over when law enforcement officers are helping motorists as it can be dangerous for them as well.



KHP Trooper Tod Hileman poses with Aineka Burton and Peyton Isernhagen, both of Norton, who are two of the poster contest winners in northwest Kansas.

Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Nov. 1

#IAMKDOT

This month's #IAMKDOT is Larry Kjellberg, a Highway Maintenance Supervisor for the Ness City Subarea.

Kjellberg began his career at KDOT as a temporary employee during the summer of 1980. He returned to KDOT in as an Equipment Operator I in 1981. He was promoted to Equipment Operator II in September 1985,

Equipment Operator Senior in 2003, Equipment Operator Specialist in 2010 and was promoted to Highway Maintenance Supervisor for the Ness City Subarea last year.

With more than 35 years of experience, Kjellberg has many memorable moments with KDOT, but says his favorite part of the job is the winter snow plow season because that's when he really gets to help people – and help he has.

He's helped stranded motorists change tires and located and returned a lost cell phone. He's helped in several life-saving efforts to transport patients to hospitals during blizzards.

When a patient from the Tribune/Leoti area needed to be transferred to Hays, Kjellberg met the ambulance at the county line and plowed the way for them to the Rush County line where the next snow plow driver waited to escort the ambulance on to Ellis County. Not too long after, Kjellberg got the call again. The Ness City hospital needed help transferring a patient to Hays during a snow storm. Kjellberg met the ambulance again and led the way



to the Rush County Line where the LaCrosse team took over. He earned a KDOT Orange Hero award for his efforts.

Kjellberg and his wife Wendi have four kids, Amber (Dighton), Becca (Kinsley) Chelsey (Dighton) and Lucas (Ness City) and five grandkids. When not at work, Kjellberg enjoys spending time with his children and grandkids, but especially enjoys fishing with his grandkids, and hunting and trapping with his son, Lucas. Those close to him would say that he is a trustworthy, honest and sincere role model.

#IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to keep Kansans moving. This series also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath those neon vests are individuals with families, friends and hobbies waiting for them at home.

Do you know a KDOT worker that deserves recognition? Nominations are open - email Mallory.Goeke@KS.gov today to get started.

Traffic Safety

Fatality stats increase:

An article in Better Roads magazine reported that more people died on U.S. roads in 2016 than 2015, an increase of 5.6 percent, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Seeing the most fatality increases were motorcyclists, with the most deaths since 2008; bicyclists, with the most deaths since 1991; and pedestrians, with the most deaths since 1991, the NHTSA reports.

Fatal crashes caused by distracted or drowsy driving dropped in 2016, but saw increases in deaths caused by speeding, drunken driving and no seat belt.

The number of vehicle miles traveled on U.S. roads increased in 2016 by 2.2 percent. The fatality rate jumped 2.6 percent, to 1.18 deaths per 100 vehicle miles traveled.

Statistical breakdown

The NHTSA released the following statistics on the 37,461 reported deaths on U.S. roads in 2016: (Note: crashes also have multiple contributing factors, hence the higher number of total causes versus the total number of deaths.)

- Motorcyclist deaths (5,286 fatalities) increased 5.1 percent.
- Pedestrian deaths (5,987 fatalities) increased 9 percent.
- Bicycle deaths (840 fatalities) increased 1.3 percent.
- Distraction-related deaths (3,450 fatalities) decreased 2.2 percent.
- Drowsy driving deaths (803 fatalities) decreased 3.5 percent.
- Drunken driving deaths (10,497 fatalities) increased 1.7 percent.
- Speeding-related deaths (10,111 fatalities) increased 4 percent.
- Unbelted deaths (10,428 fatalities) increased 4.6 percent.

Lighting



New LED fixtures are installed to increase visibility as part of a lighting improvement project along the Polk-Quincy Viaduct in Topeka. J Warren Company Inc. of Topeka is the contractor on the \$159,000 project that took place in October.

Retiree

The following KDOT employee will retire in December.

**District Two
Phillip Whitehair,**
Equipment Operator
Senior, Abilene

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Oscar Micheaux
2. "Frozen"
3. "Madagascar"
4. Alex Graves
5. Richard Thorpe

Aviation

Greensburg breaks ground:

The City of Greensburg will break ground on its new airport during a ceremony on Nov. 3, and the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) helped make the new airport possible.

“It is wonderful to see this kind of new growth coming to the Greensburg area,” said Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer. “We as a state are excited for the people and businesses of Greensburg. A new airport has the potential for bringing further economic growth to the southwest region of Kansas, which is a benefit to all. Congratulations to everyone involved in the project.” “KDOT is pleased to have been part of such a profound project in the transformation of an excellent Kansas community,” said Secretary Richard Carlson. “It is necessary that the state and our local communities continue to invest in the development of infrastructure that can aid in growth and progress.” Planning for this project started in 2011 with KAIP funding used to prepare an Airport Development Plan to help with the airport’s development. The project will consist of completing the grading required for the construction of a turf runway, runway turnarounds,



aircraft parking apron/connecting taxiway and automobile parking lot.

“The tragedies that happened to the Greensburg community are unforgettable,” said Aviation Division Director Merrill Atwater. “Establishing a new airport will allow for the growth and development of the local economy, increased agricultural support and will support the capability of an air ambulance. This airport is invaluable to the future of this community.”

RJA Dozer Service, LLC of Minneola is the prime contractor on the \$737,222 project. Construction is scheduled to start this month and is expected to take about three months to complete.

KTA



KTA Briefs

- ◆ Drivers will see fewer cones along the Kansas Turnpike with eight construction projects recently completed. See which projects and read the news release [here](#).
- ◆ It's deer season, which means it's time to keep an eye out. Learn some facts and safety tips regarding deer [here](#).

At left, a bridge is raised at mile marker 142 on I-335/KTA.



Above, State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick gives an update on several projects around the state at the 2017 KDOT/ACEC Kansas Partnering Conference on Oct. 24 at the Capitol Plaza-Maner Conference Center in Topeka. At left, Wichita Public Affairs Manager Tom Hein discusses partnering as part of the I-235 project in Wichita.

Deer

On the move: Mating season and the quest for more secure habitat increase the chances of vehicle/deer collisions in the fall.

KDOT statistics show that 10,235 (16 percent) of the 62,150 vehicle crashes reported in 2016 were deer-related (crashes in which a deer and vehicle actually collided or the presence of a deer was a contributing circumstance). Crashes involving deer occur throughout the year in every county, with the highest number of crashes typically where there are the most vehicles. Butler County had the most with 385 deer-vehicle crashes in 2016, followed by Sedgwick County with 375 deer-vehicle crashes.

The KHP cautions drivers to refrain from making exaggerated maneuvers to avoid a deer in the road, lest a bad situation become even worse.

“If you are unfortunate enough to have a deer enter the highway in front of your car, it is best to hit the animal and not swerve to avoid it,” said Lt. Adam Winters. “Often



Deer are on the move this time of year.

we find more serious crashes occur when you swerve to miss the deer, potentially losing control of your vehicle, leaving the road or veering into oncoming traffic.”

KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

2017

Headquarters: Contact your Council Rep.

Districts/Retirees: Mail form to -
Ruby Hilton, ESOB - 13th Floor,
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
2017		\$5.00	
2016		\$3.00	
2015		\$3.00	
2014		\$3.00	
2013		\$3.00	
2012		\$3.00	
2010		\$3.00	



Great Gift Ideas!

Please Print -

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ (Retirees only - home address)

Work phone: _____

Make checks payable
to KDOT Employee
Council

For more details, call
Ruby at (785) 291-3980

----- Past Ornaments Still Available -----

2010



2012



2013



2014



2015



2016



Supply is limited on ornaments from previous years - first come, first serve



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Order online at shop.fromthelandofkansas.com
by Dec. 10 for guaranteed holiday delivery.

\$25



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Bring the beauty of the Konza prairie home for the holidays with these one of a kind Kansas made products. Your gift includes products from across the state: Schlaegel's Homegrown Popcorn, Cranberry Trail Mix, Grandma Hoerner's Big Slices, Kansas Wildflower Honey, chocolate covered sunflower seeds, specialty orange cookies, Sand Hill Plum jelly, Grannie's Homemade Mustard, and traditional German Peppernuts! Feel the joy of supporting local Kansas businesses as you enjoy the holidays.

\$50



The Ad Astra Gift Box

Celebrate this holiday with plenty of Kansas products to go around (or save for yourself, all season long!) Your gift includes products from across the state: Kansas Wildflower Honey, Louisburg pumpkin butter, Wright Enterprises Sunflower Oil, specialty orange cookies, chocolate covered sunflower seeds, "Sticky Spoons" homemade jelly, traditional German peppernuts, and a From the Land of Kansas mug made in Manhattan, KS! Know that your purchase helps Kansas businesses to grow!

**Prices do not include tax and shipping.

**To guarantee delivery by Dec. 25, your order must be placed by Dec. 10. If you are ordering a quantity of more than 15 gift boxes, please call 785-564-6759 to ensure your delivery can be fulfilled by Dec. 25.

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