

Translines EXPRESS

July 12, 2017

District Six

The burned guard rail posts, as seen below, are now being replaced (right).



Rebuilding: In March, wildfires burned more than 400,000 acres in Clark County, killing livestock, destroying homes and threatening the community of Ashland. KDOT crews pitched in closing roads and helping where ever they could. Today, almost four months later, fences have been repaired, signs replaced, wheat cut and pastures are green again. But much remains to be done including guard rail replacement and repair in 17 different locations on K-34 and U.S. 160 in Clark County. Many of the treated wood posts holding the guard rail which were more than 30 years old burned quickly leaving guard rails literally hanging by a bolt or two. Some of the locations require guard rail replacement or repair on just one side of the road, but many require replacement on both sides of the road.

Collins & Hermann of St. Louis, Mo., is the contractor on the \$325,000 project.

Kudos

Dear KDOT,
On June 19, I was traveling south on Interstate 35 to Wellsville. I used to live in Olathe, but now I live on the Missouri side of the metro. I was going to visit a friend in Wellsville. I suddenly had a flat tire and stopped on the side of the road. I am a 60-plus year old lady and I wasn't sure if I could change it by myself. Plus the car was parked near the highway. I started to call someone for help when a KDOT truck pulled

up. The four gentlemen were very nice and respectful and changed my tire. They are from District Four in Ottawa.

Thanks so much. I can't begin to thank your employees for helping me out. It made my day go much better and I even had a nice visit with my friend.

I am getting new tires this afternoon.

Thank you,
Connie Borgman

What a welcome relief to enter Kansas on Interstate 70 on the eastern end and travel across the state on "superior" resurfacing and and upgrades made to your portion of Interstate 70.

Anyone traveling westward, as we have traveled from Ohio crossing Indiana, Illinois and Missouri will immediately notice a major difference of improvement as they travel through Kansas. Thank you!

Jim Jones, Ohio

Trivia!

Artists from Kansas

1. Blackbear Bosin, who lived in Wichita, created this outdoor steel sculpture that sits at the meeting of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas rivers in Wichita.
2. This artist, who was born in Dunavant, painted several murals at the State Capitol, including one of John Brown.
3. Randall Duell, who was born in Russell County, joined the MGM art department in 1937 and was nominated for three Academy awards in the Best Art Direction category. Name the movies.
4. Barbara Morgan, born in Buffalo, was a photographer and co-founder of this photography magazine that started in 1952.
5. This artist, who was born in Fort Scott, directed the 1971 film Shaft, was a freelance photographer for Vogue and Life magazines, co-founded Essence magazine and received more than 20 honorary doctorates.
6. Mort Walker, who was born in El Dorado created two comic strips in the 1950s that are still published today. What are the comic strips?

District Four



Diamond grinding operations continue on a recently patched section of U.S. 169 in Neosho County. Diamond grinding corrects faulting and roughness on concrete pavement. The project started south of Earlton and continues north for 11 ½ miles to end at the Allen County line. B & B Bridge Company of St. Paul is contractor on the \$2 million pavement patching and grinding project.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The Keeper of the Plains.
2. John Stuart Curry.
3. When Ladies Meet, 1941; Random Harvest, 1942; and Blackboard Jungle, 1955.
4. Aperature.
5. Gordon Parks.
6. Beetle Bailey in 1950, and Hi and Lois in 1954.

Transload

At right, a “Shock Train” cut the ribbon at a ceremony on June 30 marking the official grand opening of the Great Bend transload facility. Photo courtesy of Brandon Steinert.



Below, equipment is being built at the transload facility.



Transload facility celebrated: A ribbon cutting ceremony on June 30 marked the official grand opening of the new Great Bend transload facility. Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, Secretary Richard Carlson and other officials participated in the event, which celebrated the economic benefits to south central Kansas.

“The Great Bend transload facility is an important addition to the region,” said Lt. Gov. Colyer. “With more than \$1.4 million directly spent in the local community and 13 new private sector jobs created, the region is already seeing the economic benefits from this new facility.”

Great Bend was selected as a transload facility site in 2015, and construction began in July 2016. The facility is currently being used for the storage of wind energy components and will be operational for aggregate and cement within the next month.

“Freight plays an important role in moving the state economy, and this transload facility is already providing infrastructure that will benefit the community and increase opportunities for freight shipping and cost effectiveness,” said Secretary Carlson. “KDOT is proud



Secretary Carlson addresses the crowd at the ceremony.

to have played a role in helping make this project possible.” KDOT contributed \$3 million in state funds to the \$8 million project for new rail construction. An additional \$360,000 in federal funds will improve the rail crossing on U.S. 56 just north of the Airport Road/U.S. 56 intersection. The remaining funds were contributed by private industry.

Kansas Transportation

Monday, July 3 and July 10

Motoring Mondays: The Kansas Firefighters Museum & Memorial and the Stone House

The Kansas Firefighters Museum & Memorial is located in Wichita and was created for the purpose of honoring the legacy of Kansas firefighters. It is also dedicated to bringing awareness to firefighter history and offering opportunities for people to participate in a program on staying safe in case of emergencies.



The Firefighters Museum was the original old Engine House No. 6, the last station to operate

using horse drawn stations in 1917. It was refurbished into a museum in 1993.

The museum is also home to the state firefighter memorial, Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial. It is dedicated to honoring the memory of Kansas firefighters who died in the line of duty.

The museum is open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment.

To schedule your visit today or learn more this museum, visit kansasfirefightersmuseum.com

The Stone House is a suburb home that has been turned into an art gallery and is located in the heart of Fredonia.

Built in 1872, the Stone House is considered the oldest house in Fredonia. Now, it is operated by the Fredonia Arts Council and is a beautiful monument from the late 19th century, complete with vintage stone walls and even stain glass windows built by a local artist.

The Stone House features art from across Kansas, from local pieces to regional exhibits.

There is also the opportunity to purchase secondhand items at the gift shop.

A more recent addition to the Stone House is the Brick House Studio located behind the building



where art classes are offered.

The Stone House is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

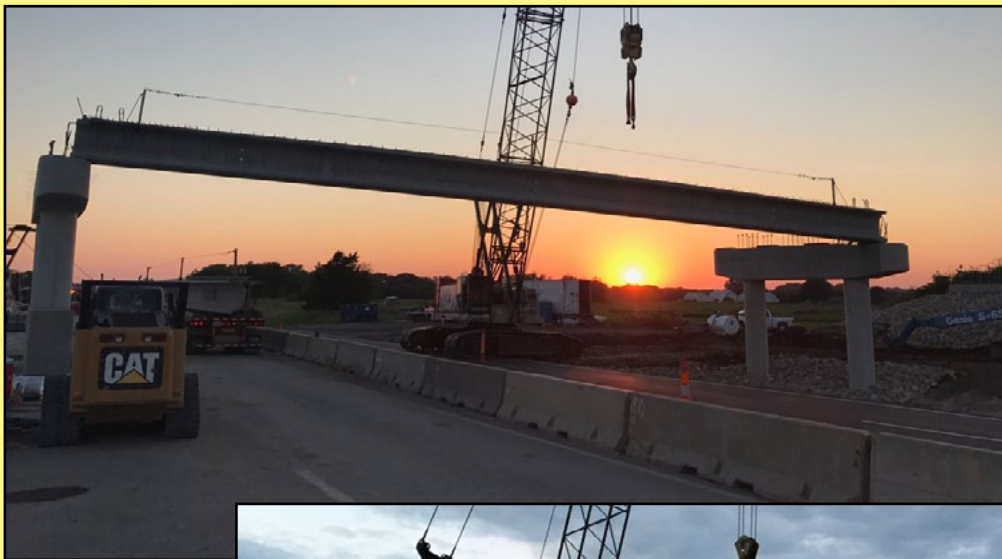
To learn more about the history and happenings at the Stone House, visit [The Stone House Gallery](http://TheStoneHouseGallery.com).

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

District Four



In fall 2016, KDOT began a river channel reconstruction and stabilization project at by the Neosho River Bridge on U.S. 160 east of Oswego. Mission Construction Company of St. Paul constructed six bendway weirs on the north side of the bridge. These low level rock dikes help adjust the river's currents and reduce erosion of the riverbank. Brad Rognlie's bridge squad designed the project.



KTA

Girders were set at the new 188th Street bridge located just west of mile marker 217 on July 7-8 as part of the construction taking place to convert the Eastern Terminal to an open road tolling method of toll collection.



KDOT Retiree

KDOT retiree's kindness: A article on the generosity of KDOT retiree Paul Cross was published recently in the Salina Journal. He died on Dec. 22, but the details of how he helped the Salina area were just announced. Cross began at KDOT in 1952. He worked at several offices in District Two, retiring as Highway Maintenance Supervisor of the Salina Subarea in 1998. Roger Alexander, retired District Two Maintenance Engineer, worked with Cross and shared a few memories. "If you needed a project to be completed perfectly Paul was the supervisor for the project," Alexander said. "Paul was a very private person, but had a great sense of humor that only a few knew about. He did not want a KDOT retirement party. He said he did not get a party on first day on the job and he did not want a party on his last day on the job. I wanted to take him out for lunch on his last day, which he reluctantly agreed to on one condition. To ensure that there would not be a party, we drove around the District and reviewed some of his projects and stopped for lunch at a spot of his choosing." Following is a portion of the June 28 Salina Journal article written by Tim Horan.

Making a big splash, posthumously: Described as a very humble person, Paul Cross shied away from the spotlight while he was alive, making anonymous donations to various charities. "He gave money during his lifetime and in most instances gave it anonymously because he didn't want the fanfare," said his attorney, George Yarnevich, of Salina. "He was one of these Christian people that didn't care about the big splash." But about six months after his death, Cross' generosity is about to become well-known. Yarnevich planned to meet today with representatives of five Salina organizations that will share in \$2.5 million in bequests from Cross' estate. Yarnevich revealed Wednesday that Cross left more than \$1 million to Salina Rescue Mission, \$800,000 to Martin Luther King Jr. Child Development Center, \$500,000 to the Salvation Army, and \$100,000 each to Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas and Ashby House, all of Salina. He said there could be additional, smaller donations in the future from Cross' estate to the same organizations. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

District Four

The new K-68 bridge over the Marais des Cygnes River is open to traffic. Located west of Ottawa, the structure was built on an offset highway alignment south of the previous bridge. A.M. Cohron and Son was contractor on the \$3.7 million bridge replacement.



General

Construction resumes in Illinois: According to an article in Better Roads, the Illinois House passed an override of a veto by Gov. Bruce Rauner late July 6 that puts into place the state's first budget in two years. The state Senate had passed an override of Rauner's budget veto earlier in the week. The move now lifts a work stoppage the Illinois Department of Transportation placed on transportation projects that began July 1. The shutdown affected 900

highway and bridge projects valued at \$2.2 billion. "The Illinois Department of Transportation recently advised that due to a lack of appropriated funding, work on all contracts was to cease by the close of business June 30, 2017," the agency reported after the vote. The American Road & Transportation Builders Association had previously estimated that \$127 million in construction work would have been completed on projects this week (including July 7) had there been no shutdown.

District Six

Touch a Truck: KDOT District Six Equipment Operators participated in the Finney County Public Library's first ever Touch a Truck event on July 1.

With 24 organizations participating and more than 30 vehicles available for children to see and experience, the event attracted more than 1,500 children and families to the event in Garden City. The event kicked off with the arrival of the Life Team helicopter and included lunch for those attending and those volunteering. Many of the children were drawn to the KDOT vehicles.

"The first thing most of the kids did was go straight for the loader," said District Six Public Affairs Manager Lisa Knoll. "They were intrigued with sitting in the loader and they loved honking the horn. We also showed them the dump truck."



*At left, KDOT Equipment Operators **Ciro Chavez** and **Juan Aldana, Jr.**, helped children (above two photos) learn more about KDOT vehicles at the Touch a Truck event in Garden City.*

General

Heat buckles Utah roads: According to an article in Better Roads, extremely hot weather is wreaking havoc on Utah roads, causing the roadways to buckle and crumble and keeping the state Department of Transportation (UDOT) busy making repairs, kutv.com reports.

"Utah is the perfect place for these kind of buckling issues to happen, because we have the extreme temperatures," UDOT's John Gleason told the news agency. "What happens is, you can get debris caught in the road. And the road doesn't have anywhere to go but up."

Gleason encourages people to report potholes as

soon as possible so crews can put in a temporary filler to help prevent any damage to cars or people. "It can be an emergency situation," he told the news agency. "We don't want there to be any damage to vehicles or people to, obviously, get injured. That would be the worst case scenario. It's not a huge issue if we can get out there and get it fixed quickly. But because they're on freeways, and they really can happen anywhere, it's important people let us know right away."

A permanent fix is done later the same day when traffic isn't as heavy so that the concrete has time to cure.