

Translines EXPRESS

May 2, 2018

District Four



KDOT crews from Columbus, Pittsburg and Chanute install a metal Kansas 66 shield near the roundabout at U.S. 400 and K-66. Members of the Riverton High School FFA constructed the shield, which now enhances sections of historic Route 66 in Kansas.

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Harold Sauvage who passed away on April 22. He was from Topeka. Sauvage was a Network Service Technician III for Construction and Maintenance at the KHP Gage office, retiring after 15 years in 2005. Then he did temporary work for KDOT until 2012.

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Arlen "Chili" Childress who passed away on April 14 in Cimarron. He worked for KDOT for 19 years, retiring as the Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Cimarron.

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Richard Squires who passed away on April 18 in Wichita. He was an Equipment Operator Specialist for 29 years, retiring in 2010. His son, Nick, is the District Five Construction and Materials Engineer.

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Gerald Alford who passed away on April 19. He resided in Angola. Alford worked for KDOT for more than 40 years and retired as the Area Engineer in Independence.

Trivia!

Around the state -

1. How many distinct geographic regions are there in Kansas?
2. How many of those regions can you name?
3. Kansas was covered by a shallow ocean of salt water at one time. What kind of marine animals have

been found in fossils around the state?

4. During this time, a water source was created that spans from South Dakota to Texas. What is it called?
5. Paleontologist George Sternberg found numerous fossils, including a unique skeleton, in 1952 – what is it called?

General

New training

course: A new Field Maintenance Manager Training course specifically focused on giving Highway Maintenance Supervisors and Superintendents information, people to contact and ways to be successful is taking place this week in Topeka.

“We have no training for a highway supervisor when they step into that role other than what they have obtained through their time of coming up through the ranks,” said Field Maintenance Manager Jim Frye.

This hands-on training covers what KDOT employees deal with on a daily basis by people who are experts on the subject, said Assistant to the Director of Operations Troy Whitworth.

“This training is going to help explain cause and effect of many topics. You have an accident out on the road, what do you do. You get called in the middle of the night, how do you handle that. You document that a sign is down, why is that important,” Whitworth said. “The training will help them build mentors and hear from people who have



Director of Operations Larry Thompson speaks at the new training course in Topeka for Highway Supervisors.

been doing the job and see the ways they have been successful.”

KDOT Supervisors are managing millions of dollars of infrastructure, equipment and buildings, Whitworth said. “That’s a lot of responsibility so we want to invest our efforts to get them trained to be well prepared to do their jobs,” he said.

KDOT has about 160 Highway Maintenance Supervisors and Superintendents, so training sessions will take place quarterly until all have attended. Then training will be provided on an as-needed basis. For more information, contact Frye at 785-296-7140.

KTA

Work underway on KTA: Construction to improve drainage and ramps near the South Haven Interchange (mile marker 4, I-35/KTA) has begun. The project includes constructing reinforced box culverts at mile markers 4.4 and 6.2 on I-35/KTA and lengthening the acceleration/deceleration ramps to the South Haven/U.S. 166 interchange. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2Kbfl3p>

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. 11.
2. Arkansas River Lowlands, Chautauqua Hills, Cherokee Lowlands, Flint Hills, Glacial Hills, High Plains, Osage Cuesta, Ozark Plateau, Red Hills, Smoky Hills, and Wellington-McPherson Lowlands.
3. Clams, oysters, fish and sharks.
4. The Ogallala Aquifer.
5. “Fish within a fish.”

District Six

Sign honors veterans: KDOT, Kansas Sen. John Doll and the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ceremony on April 21 to designate a six-mile section of U.S. 50 east of Dodge City as the Sgt. Gregg Steimel and Pfc. Richard Conrardy Memorial Highway.

Sen. Doll introduced legislation earlier this session requesting that this section of U.S. 50 be renamed in honor of the Wright natives, who were both killed in combat in July 1970 in Vietnam. Sgt. Steimel was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Pfc. Conrardy was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and a National Defense Service Medal.

Family and friends of Steimel and Conrardy were joined by local and state officials at the event, which took place at the Dodge City KDOT shop.

At top, Alison Arnett, Sgt. Gregg Steimel's sister, spoke at the sign unveiling event. At right, family and friends of Sgt. Gregg Steimel and Pfc. Richard Conrardy attend a memorial sign unveiling ceremony at the Dodge City KDOT Subarea Shop on April 21.



District Four



Asphalt paving operations began in April on the K-7 modernization from K-102 south to U.S. 160. Koss Construction of Topeka is contractor on the \$36.6 million project. Thomas Rhoads' road squad designed the project.

District Two



An open house took place at the new Concordia Subarea office on April 20. The new facility includes KDOT and KHP offices attached to a shop that holds four dump trucks and is attached to a wash bay. The chemical building and the equipment shed are also new buildings on the complex. Secretary Richard Carlson, State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick and Director of Operations Larry Thompson were joined by numerous KDOT employees and retirees as well as Kansas Sen. Elaine Bowers and Concordia City Manager Amy Lange. Construction began on the new facility in July 2017 and was completed in February. The crew is moving in during April as time allows.



Top: District Two Engineer Randy West and Secretary Richard Carlson check out one of the trucks while at the Concordia Subarea office open house at April 20. Above, attendees look at the new truck bay.



The new Subarea office and shop, above, and the new chemical building, at right, are part of the new KDOT Subarea complex in Concordia.



District One

Historic marker: As part of their job to preserve evidence of government monuments, survey crews in District One recently discovered and preserved a General Land Office marking stone dating back to before Kansas became a state. The stone was found just south of U.S. 56 near Admire as crews prepared for a mill and overlay project. "Prior to any pavement maintenance project, KDOT verifies the proper depths of existing monuments according to KDOT policy," said Steve

Willett, District One Land Surveyor. "I actually go out and search for geodetic markers so we can mark them and then set them so they can be found with metal detectors and people don't have to dig up our highways."

Willett said the stone was under the highway and dates back to about 1855 when surveyors were marking the territory that included what became the states of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota and North Dakota.

"These stones mark the baseline survey of Kansas that started at the Missouri River in 1854," said Willett. "The baseline surveys eventually determined our state lines and measured townships."

Willett explained as surveyors moved west through Kansas, they walked across the state carrying a compass and a 66-foot long chain. Every 40 chains, or 2,640 feet, they placed a stone marker in the ground.

"Each stone is marked in a way that other surveyors know what they're looking at," Willett said.

As the state became more populated, the stones were



This marking stone, dating back to 1855, was found just south of Admire as preparation for an upcoming project that was taking place.

used to draw the boundaries for townships, which were 36 square miles, as well as section lines to create farm land and personal property.

Those markers also helped plan the original roadways that became the state routes, U.S. highways and interstates.

Willett said it's important to preserve these stones because they're the original survey markers, and if they are moved even a foot they can affect boundary lines and even property values in more densely populated areas.

"They're still the original point of reference for all property and road surveys," he said.

The stone found under U.S. 56 was marked and tagged with rebar and buried deep enough to prevent highway work from damaging it. In the process of verifying the stone, KDOT surveyors were able to remove a nearby unofficial marker, ensuring the accuracy of any future surveys in that area.

"What a great find it was for posterity," Willett said. "I was very excited to find this so unexpectedly."

Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express?

Please e-mail your suggestions to Kim.Stich@ks.gov

District Four



Aerial photography captures crews paving a bridge on the U.S. 69 expansion south of Fort Scott. The six-mile project, which started in 2017, adds two lanes to the existing highway to create a four-lane upgradable expressway from Fort Scott to the Bourbon-Crawford county line. KDOT awarded the \$21.7 million contract to Koss Construction of Topeka. Stephen Bass' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.

Aviation

KAIP projects selected: Twenty projects at 18 airports have been selected for Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) funding for planning, constructing or rehabilitating public use general aviation airports. The aviation industry represents \$20.6 billion economic impact and employs more than 92,000 Kansans. "Kansas is known as the 'Air Capital of the World' for good reason, and we are working to grow every segment of the aviation industry," said Gov. Jeff Colyer. "These projects will make our citizens safer and bolster the infrastructure that launched our aviation pioneering legacy." The KAIP program requires airport sponsors to share in project costs by paying a portion of the total project. The KDOT Division of Aviation, which manages the program,

considered 148 project applications this year with a combined total value of more than \$42 million. "This \$3 million combined award will satisfy the top 20 aviation projects," said Bob Brock, KDOT Director of Aviation. "And we will aggressively pursue additional opportunities to meet aviation needs statewide." Kansas communities are engaged more than ever in growing their airports as economic development engines. "The applications we receive each year for KAIP projects are very competitive, indicating the value local officials attach to maintaining and developing their airports," said Secretary Richard Carlson. "KAIP allows us to advance the effectiveness of our airport system on a statewide basis."



Bicycle Map

New maps available: Whether you're looking to ride a bicycle from one county to the next or across the entire state, the 2018-2019 edition of the Kansas Bicycle Map has a lot to offer for those planning a short trip or a long ride.

"This map is a great resource for those who are already familiar with cycling in Kansas and for those who are interested in trying it for the first time," said KDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Matt Messina.

"It's full of resources and information that will help people plan ahead to find a route that suits their needs, make connections to our state byways system, and even discover bikeshare programs."

All state and local roadways where bicycles are permitted are color-coded by traffic volume and indicate where paved shoulders exist. No traffic volumes are shown on the map on Interstate routes as cycling on Interstates in Kansas is against the law.

Maps are available by emailing bikeped@ksdot.org or by calling (785) 296-7448. For more information on cycling in Kansas, go to www.ksdot.org/bikeped.

Scenic



KDOT employee Neil Croxton took these photos of the abandoned railroad bridge that was built in 1936 - it's over old K-96, about four miles west of Beaumont

in Butler County. "The Frisco" was the nickname for the St. Louis - San Francisco Railway, which merged with Burlington Northern in 1980. The track was removed years ago, but the art deco remains.

