

Translines EXPRESS

Oct. 17, 2018

Flooding



Flooded areas can be seen near the U.S. 81/K-55 junction. More flooding photos are in this edition.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day



WIBW-TV Anchor Chris Fisher shares about losing his father in a crash in February during the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day news conference in Topeka on Oct. 10. He was killed because he wasn't wearing a seat belt. A story and more photos are in this edition.

Trivia!

Neewollah celebration

1. When and why did the Neewollah celebration begin in Kansas?
2. What stopped the celebration for several years?
3. In what town does the celebration take place?
4. How was festival queen, Queen Heelah selected?
5. How many days does the event run now?

District Six



With the arrival of cooler weather, crack seal projects are underway in District Six. Crack sealing is a cost-effective way to maintain roads that are in fair-to-good condition because it prevents water and extraneous materials from entering the crack and causing damage to the underlying pavement structure. In order to get the best results, the crack must be prepared by routing or sawing the crack and then cleaned using high-pressure air to remove loose material. After the crack is prepared, the sealer can be placed using a hot wand and hose connected to the rubber pot. The material used as the sealer is determined by the type and size of the crack and the environment. An added benefit of crack sealing is that the sealant requires a fairly short curing time allowing traffic to return to the treated area almost immediately after the treatment.



Top photo: Contractor employees begin by routing the crack on K-23 so that it can be cleaned and sealed. Above, KDOT Engineering Technician Larry Roberts measures the cracks in the asphalt. At right, a contractor crew member applies sealant to the crack.



Retirees

The following employees will retire in November.

District Four

James Ogden, Equipment Operator Senior, Chanute

District Three

Danny Parks, Equipment Operator Senior, Sharon Springs

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. It began in 1919 to provide positive activities for kids in place of Halloween pranks.
2. The Great Depression and World War II. In 1958, four businessmen revived the event.
3. Independence.
4. It was based on votes bought for a penny each.
5. It lasts 10 days, beginning on Oct. 20.

Flooding - Second Week of October



Floodgates were activated on K-152 between K-7 and U.S. 69.



Dow Creek north of Emporia had high waters.



Many areas across Kansas had flooding last week such as (top right) K-14 south of Lyon, (middle left) U.S. 281 in Hoisington, (above) Cottonwood River south of Emporia and (left) K-55 west of Belle Plain.

District Four



Work on the U.S. 169 pavement reconstruction in Allen County continues with concrete paving on the Minnesota Road exit ramp. Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., of Kansas City, Mo., is contractor on the seven-mile project between Delaware and Minnesota roads. The cost of construction is \$16.1 million. Aaron Frits' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.

KTA



Construction on the new KTA East Topeka plaza is coming along. Crews prepared the roadway to set a high-mast light pole and worked on tearing down the old toll booths last week.



District Six



Work on the second of two bridges on U.S. 50 west of Syracuse in Hamilton County is expected to be completed in November. Crews poured the half of the bridge deck on Oct. 3. At left, concrete forming the bridge deck is poured. Above, a crew member directs the deck finisher as the crew works to smooth the deck. Bridges Inc. is the contractor on this \$1.2 million project. Kris Norton's road squad and Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad designed the project.

Partnering Conference

Below, Secretary Richard Carlson gave an agency update at the annual KDOT/ACEC Kansas Annual Partnering conference that took place on Oct. 3 in Topeka. At right, State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick was one of several speakers at the event.



Snow Fighter Training



Snow Fighter training is taking place in each District in October and November to help employees get prepared to treat roads.



During District Two training on Oct. 3, employees learned proper techniques on how to change blades on the plow (top left) and measure the chain on the spreader (left). During District One training on Oct. 16, employees practiced attaching chains to the tires (top right) and loading materials into the truck (above).

Photo Contest

Photo contest: KDOT is sponsoring a transportation-related photo contest for the cover of the Annual Report. Photos can be submitted until Nov. 1 at kdot.contest@ks.gov. Examples of past annual reports and quick facts can be viewed at <https://www.ksdot.org/publications.asp>.

For more details about the contest, check out the transportation blog [here](#) or KDOT's social media sites.



Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

Statewide news conference: Jacque Tierce of Larned lost her daughter, Danielle, less than five months ago in a car crash.

“She was texting and driving when she ran into the back of a semi going 65 miles per hour. She didn’t brake,” Tierce said. “She simply never saw the semi because she was distracted by her phone.”

WIBW-TV Anchor Chris Fisher lost his father in a crash in February. He was less than five minutes from the jobsite.

“It was an accident he would have undoubtedly walked away from if only he had been wearing his seat belt,” Fisher said. “He wouldn’t have even had to climb out the window because both doors still opened.”

Tierce and Fisher were joined by KDOT Traffic Safety Manager Chris Bortz, Lisa Rasor of Lawrence and Kristen Nichol with Avenue Driving in Overland Park at the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day news conference at the Capitol on Oct. 10.

A senior Car/Fit also took place. Participating in a Car/Fit shows how the fit of your vehicle affects your driving and that adjusting your vehicle to your changing needs could make a lifesaving difference.

Last year, 461 people were killed in traffic crashes across Kansas.



KDOT’s Lisa Rasor tells how a helmet saved her from serious injury from a biking crash at the statewide news conference on Oct. 10 at the Capitol.



Above: Jacque Tierce shares how she lost her 22-year-old daughter Danielle in May because she was texting while driving. Middle right: KDOT retiree Jim Brewer participates in the CarFit event to show how people can learn tips and ways to drive safer longer. He demonstrated a foot strap that can help people get into a vehicle easier. At right: Jennifer Haugh with AAA Kansas walks until her mother, Marty Frisbie, can see her to show how mirror adjustments can improve sight.



Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

Winners: Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster and video contest winners have been announced.



Abigail Coons

Poster contest: Kaymi Zink of Claflin, Finley Maloney of Kingman and Abigail Coons of Lawrence are the statewide winners. Each student was first selected as a regional winner and will receive a bicycle donated by the KTA and a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas. A total of 836 Kansas kids participated. As statewide winners, they will also receive a Kindle Fire tablet from the KTA, a \$50 gift card from the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas, a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart and movie passes from AAA Kansas.



Above, Kaymi Zink, and at left, Finley Maloney



A screen shot of the winning video created by Andrew Marshall Tabb from Shawnee Mission West High School shows that there are many ways a driver can be distracted.

Video contest: Andrew Marshall Tabb from Shawnee Mission West won first place. He will receive his choice of an iPad, GoPro or Osmo Steadicam along with a \$500 donation to the school, class or booster club, all donated by the KTA. Students from Eudora High School captured second place, and students from Lawrence High School placed third. There were 37 video entries. To see the winning videos, click [here](#).

District Four

K-7 between U.S. 160 and U.S. 400 opened to traffic Sept. 25. The seven-mile section had been closed for reconstruction since the spring 2017. The opening marked completion of the 11-mile modernization in Cherokee County. Koss Construction Company of Topeka was contractor on the \$34 million T-WORKS project. Thomas Rhoads' road squad and Karen Peterson's bridge squad designed the project.



KDOT Blog

Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Oct. 10

FHWA is helping put the brakes on fatalities with proven safety countermeasures

By Deputy Federal Highway Administrator Brandye Hendrickson

At the Federal Highway Administration, a priority is for Kansans to have safe roads. Together with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and others, we are committed to eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on the nation's roadways. This is no small feat, especially when you consider that more than 37,000 lives are lost on U.S. roads each year.

At FHWA, we believe these deaths are not only unacceptable. They are preventable.

One way FHWA is working to get us to zero deaths is by assisting states and localities to employ [proven safety countermeasures](#). After years of testing and research, we now have 20 countermeasures/strategies that can be used to address issues related to roadway departure, intersection and pedestrian and bicycle crashes, including local road safety plans and rumble strips that can be used in Kansas and other parts of the country.

We all have a role to play in making sure our friends, neighbors and loved ones get to their destination safely in Kansas and elsewhere, which is why FHWA works closely with KDOT and others.



Brandye Hendrickson

We also coordinate with our counterparts at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration to develop and implement effective safety programs.

But we also need the help of the traveling public.

The safest highway in the world is of little use when drivers are drinking and then getting behind the wheel or texting while driving. The same applies to pedestrians who are distracted while walking, or bicyclists who ignore the rules of the road.

Proven safety countermeasures used by KDOT and other state DOTs can and will continue to make a difference in the years ahead and we're committed to making them a staple of safety programs across the country. With these techniques, and the help of conscientious drivers, we can put the brakes on fatalities.