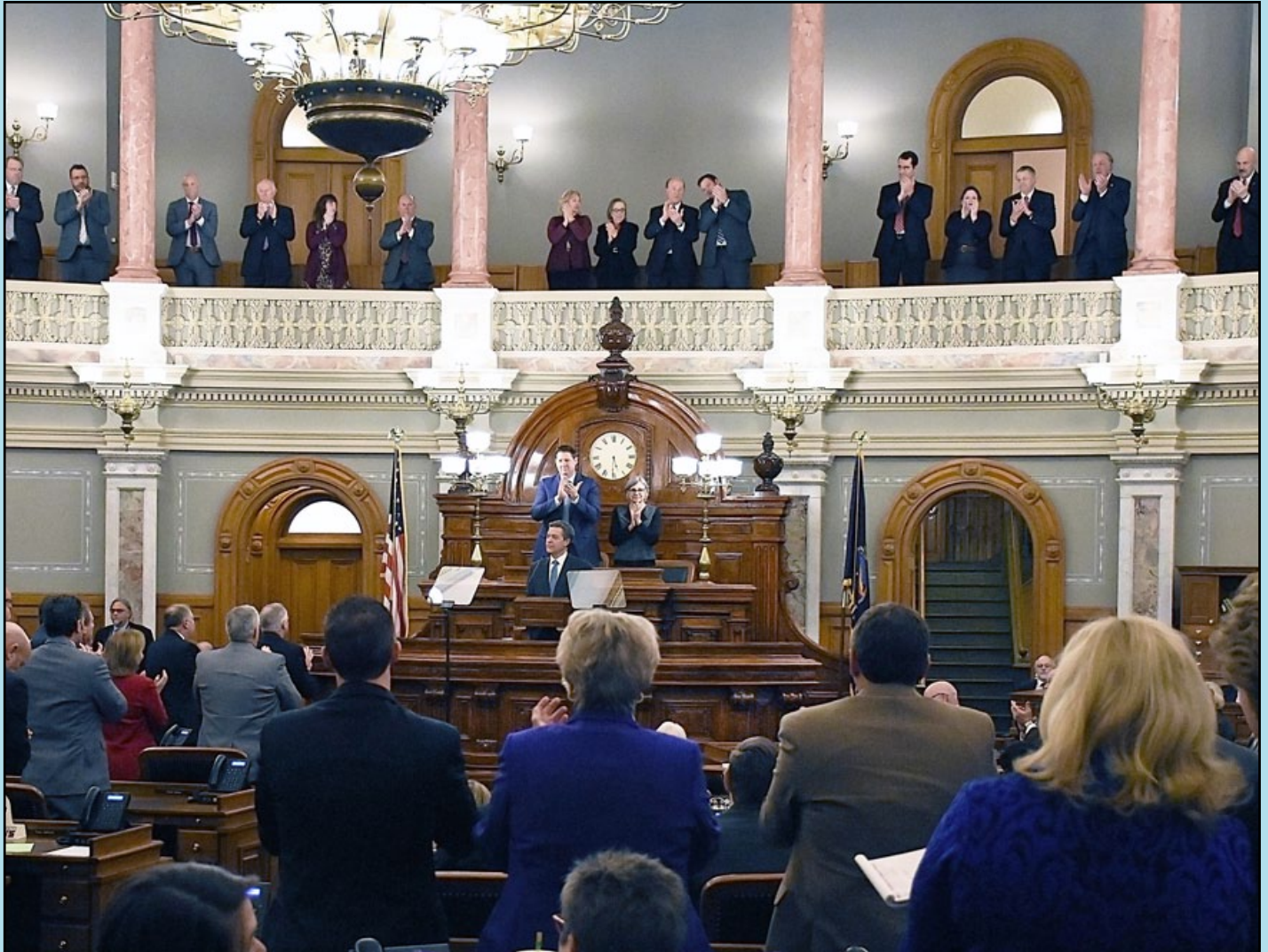


# Translines EXPRESS

Jan. 10, 2018

## State of the State



*Gov. Sam Brownback delivered his final State of the State address to the 2018 Legislature on Tuesday night at the Capitol.*

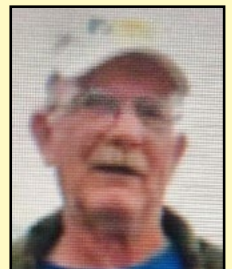


**Chuck Oldaker**

### In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT employee Chuck Oldaker who passed away on Dec. 22 in Orlando, Fla. Oldaker began at KDOT in 1990 and has served as the Ulysses Area Engineer since 1997.

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT employee Terry Rink who passed away on Dec. 28 in Pittsburg. Rink started in 1999 and was an Equipment Operator at the Pittsburg Subarea Office.



**Terry Rink**



## District Five



*Eight steel bridge beams were placed during the Jan. 5-7 weekend for the new northbound I-235 flyover ramp to westbound U.S. 54 in west Wichita. Two more weekend closures (Jan. 19 and Feb. 2) are scheduled to complete the placement of 20 girders. Mark Hurt's bridge squad and Kelly Keele's road squad designed the project.*

## Publications

**Publications updated:** KDOT's Annual Report and Kansas Transportation Quick Facts publications are available to view on the agency's website.

The annual report includes performance details, updates and facts from 2017. The quick facts booklet has a variety of information about KDOT and the KTA.

The annual report, along with the accompanying appendix, as well as the quick facts booklet can be found on the KDOT website, [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), under the "Projects/Publications" tab at the upper right of the home page.





## District Six



*At left, Equipment Operator Senior Butch Bedker and Equipment Operator Ciro Chavez scrape and clean all the paint off of the paint tanks on the truck. Below, Garden City District Crew Superintendent Rodney Crone cleans the bead hoses and the bead valve on the back of the truck.*



**Preventative maintenance:** KDOT paint crews stripe more than 9,000 miles of highway across the state each year during warm weather. But as temperatures drop outside, the paint crews move inside to begin preventative maintenance so the equipment is maintained and ready to run when warmer weather arrives.

During the winter, the paint crew tears down and cleans the striper truck, which takes four to six weeks to complete. The process includes circulating water through the paint tanks to clean out the tanks and hoses, steaming out the paint tanks with a pressure washer, tearing down and refurbishing the high pressure pumps and removing the truck's fenders, wheels, paint guns and other parts to clean off the highway paint with paint thinner. The striper truck will then go to the District Shop for an oil change and any mechanical repairs that may be needed.

## KTA Briefs



## DEACTIVATE + REPLACE

- ♦ Recently trade out your vehicle for a new one? Make sure your K-TAG sticker has been deactivated and order a new one today at [www.myktag.com/login](http://www.myktag.com/login)
- ♦ Two bids have been approved and contracts awarded on upcoming Kansas Turnpike construction projects. Learn more at [bit.ly/2CiM7bt](http://bit.ly/2CiM7bt)



## District Five



HARPER COUNTY CIVIL WORKS ADMINISTRATOR  
 certify that the following expenditures have been made under  
 714-10-2 -61-20 for the period February 15th, 1934  
 OF LOCAL COMMUNITY (FOR IO OR PRIVATE)

Quantity	Unit Price	Rental Value	Total
159 Leads Clay	.05		7.95
32 hrs.		16.00	16.00
22 mi.	.10	2.20	2.20
3 torches			3.00
8 Shovels	1.00	8.00	11.00
1 First Aid Kit	1.19	4.50	5.69
2 Shovels		4.50	9.19
5 Gal. Kero.	1.19	2.38	3.57
	.06	.30	.30
Total of Item 3.			44.85

At left, Senior Engineering Technician John Wiens views microfilm in the basement of the Hutchinson office, which is filled with old plans and documents. At right, a report dated Feb. 15, 1934, about a K-14 project in Harper County shows the cost of a shovel at \$1.19 and a gallon of kerosene at 6 cents.

### Pages of Kansas transportation history:

Some yellowed, others wrinkled, all fascinating – reside in KDOT offices across the state. Engineering Technician Senior John Wiens keeps watch over roughly 2,000 as-built completed construction plans for District Five in Hutchinson.

He holds the documents in high regard, believing that they deserve to be preserved. “I’ve got plans that go back to 1919 – probably even some older than that,” said Wiens, who has worked for KDOT since 1979.

Wiens’ office also features dozens of metal file cabinets holding old project files – records such as contracts, payrolls and change orders. One document dated Feb. 15, 1934, about a K-14 project in Harper County shows the cost of a shovel at \$1.19 and a gallon of kerosene at 6 cents.

District Four has a records vault filled with orange project diaries that inspectors have filled out through the years. In District Six, KDOT staff members have discovered original bills from the construction of their building.

KDOT has digital files of project documents, but Wiens thinks there’s something to pulling out a plan and spreading it out over a wooden table.

He’s running out of room in his office, but maintenance staff is building him new storage.

Wiens keeps plans hung up on racks “to keep them in good condition instead of just rolled up and thrown in the corner,” he said.

“To me, I really feel like they’re important. It’s kind of like a library. It’s history. We have a lot of outside surveyors and engineers who call me daily wanting information from these old records. It’s invaluable, some of it.”



Above, shelves of orange project diaries that District Four inspectors have filled out over the years are pieces of Kansas transportation history. At left, plans in the District Five office are stored on racks to keep them in good condition.



## District Four

**Repairs on the U.S. 75 bridge over U.S. 400 at Neodesha continue. Work includes repairing girders and beams underneath the bridge and replacing an expansion joint. The bridge was damaged in a one-vehicle crash in July 2017. The westbound lanes of U.S. 400 are closed beneath the bridge, with traffic detoured along the on- and off-ramps at the north side of the interchange. A.M. Cohron and Son, Inc., of Atlantic, Iowa, is contractor on the \$426,000 project. Michael Ingalls' bridge squad designed the project.**



## Maintenance



**New safety video:** KDOT's Support Services Media Production staff have created a new winter safety video featuring tow plows. There have been tow plows in Colby and Olathe since 2015, but now tow plows have been added to five additional KDOT offices - Goodland, Hays, Salina, Ottawa and Bonner Springs. These tow plows, which are 26-feet-long, are attached to a dump truck.

The video explains that when the tow plow is in use, it will swing out of the right side taking up a full lane,

allowing a single operator to plow two lanes of highway in one pass. Drivers need to be patient when following a tow plow; they are doing twice as much work as a single plow truck and should not be passed. They also should be aware of the smaller wing plows that are attached to trucks when passing these vehicles and use extra caution. To see the new video, click [here](#).





## Trivia!

### Home on the range

1. Who wrote the lyrics to the song, "Home on the Range"?
2. How and when were the words of the song first published?
3. When did it become the state song of Kansas?
4. Who recorded a popular version of the song in 1933?
5. What President said it was his favorite song?
6. In 2010, the Western Writers of America honored the song with this distinction.

## District Six



*Replacement work continues on the U.S. 50 bridge one mile west of Syracuse in Hamilton County. Traffic is reduced to one lane with traffic signals to allow crews to demolish and rebuild the bridge one lane at a time. Crews have completed demolition of the eastbound portion (as seen at left) and have begun building abutments and piers to support the new bridge deck and hand rails (as seen above). Kris Norton's road squad and Shawn Schwensen bridge squad designed the project.*

**Do you know a KDOT retiree not receiving the electronic Translines newsletter?**

**Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)**



## District Four



*Staff from the Pittsburg KDOT office 'decked the truck' with lights and a holiday message for the Pittsburg Christmas Parade in December. They also handed out pencils and key rings along the route.*

## District One

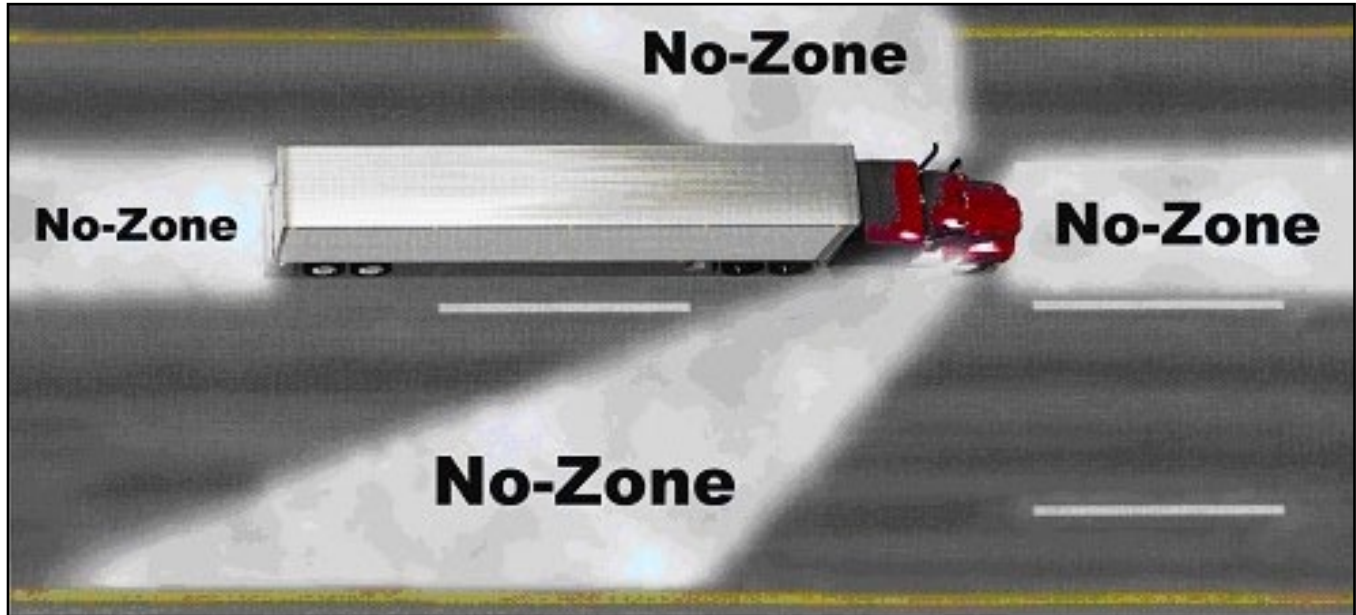


*Parts of Kansas had a white Christmas this year. Osage City Supervisor Tyrel Buchmeier took this photo at the U.S. 56/K-31 junction in Burlingame very early on Christmas morning.*

## Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, Dec. 26

#KDOTTUESDAYS: Sharing the road with semi-trailers



With more than 2 million semitractor-trailers on the road every day, it is easy for other drivers to take the semi and the driver for granted. However, by understanding the challenges that semi drivers face, others on the road can drive more defensively and possibly avoid a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are nearly 450,000 crashes, approximately 140,000 people are seriously injured and at least 5,000 motorists die as a result of a crash involving a semi or large truck in the U.S. each year. And statistics show that 72 percent of crashes involving semis are the fault of the other vehicle's driver.

Because a commercial semi can weigh as much as 80,000 pounds, and most passenger vehicles weigh 3,000 pounds or less, collisions involving commercial trucks are often the most damaging on the roads.

Drivers can minimize the risk of a collision involving a semi by better understanding these vehicles and the challenges semi drivers face. These safety tips also apply to drivers near KDOT trucks and as well as other large vehicles.

Semis have blind spots just like passenger vehicles, but because semis are taller and longer, they have twice as many blind spots. To limit the possibility of a crash, drivers should avoid the blind spot or "no zones," when sharing the road with semis.

The passenger side of a semi has a much larger blind spot than the driver side. As a result, drivers should pass on the left side of the semi whenever possible and not drive in the blind spot on either side unless passing. In addition, drivers should allow extra room before cutting back in after passing, to avoid the front blind spot.

It can also be more difficult to maneuver a semi, especially in tight situations where quick movements or lane changes are necessary. Their size also makes it impossible to come to a sudden stop. It can take a semi traveling 60 miles per hour almost the length of three football fields to come to a complete stop.

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

*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](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)*



**Annual journey:** The annual migration of North American Monarch butterflies is a long journey. Using a combination of air currents and thermals, some fly as far as 3,000 miles to reach their winter home. Populations migrate from areas in Canada to central Mexico and California throughout the year. Monarchs can travel between 50-100 miles a day; it can take up to two months to complete their journey. The farthest ranging monarch butterfly recorded traveled 265 miles in one day, said Engineering Technician Specialist Melissa Davidson in KDOT's Right of Way. Monarchs only travel during the day and need to find a roost at night. Roost sites are important to the monarch migration. Many of these locations are used year after year, Davidson said.



As the winter ends and the days grow longer, the monarchs become more active. In Mexico, they begin to leave their roosts during the middle of March, flying north and east looking for milkweed plants on which to lay their eggs. Improved pollinator habitats, such as the plots of land around the Homewood rest area along I-35 where KDOT planted more than 1,100 milkweed plugs last May, help the butterflies in their migration efforts. "It is crucial to the survival of the monarch butterfly

to have pollinator habitats to feed on as they travel southward to successfully complete the journey," Davidson said.

For more information on the Monarch butterflies, click [here](#).

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Dr. Brewster Higley, who was from Smith County.
2. From a poem written in December 1873 and published in the Smith County Pioneer under the title, "My Western Home."
3. June 30, 1947.
4. Bing Crosby.
5. President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
6. Chosen as one of the Top 100 western songs of all time.

# CRAZY BOWL

- **When:** Sunday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m.
- **Cost:** \$9 per person, free shoe rental
- **Deadline to sign up:** NOON, Feb. 7

To sign up: **Bring team money (\$36) to Kim Stich in Public Affairs**

- **Who:** Teams consisting of 4 people (KDOT employees, friends and family members are welcome to participate - it is just for fun)
- **Where:** Gage Bowl (Huntoon Street west of Gage Blvd., Topeka)



**What is "Crazy Bowl?"** People participating in the Employees' Council Crazy Bowl event bowl three games. The first two games are bowled normally. The third game is the "crazy" part. Each frame is different - one time you bowl backwards, the next time you bowl on one leg, etc. And the only rule is that you relax and have fun!

**For more details or to sign up, contact Kim Stich at 296-3585 or your Employees' Council representative.**