

Translines EXPRESS

Feb. 7, 2018

General



Jeff Colyer, M.D., left, was sworn in by Kansas Chief Justice Lawton Nuss, right, as Kansas' 47th Governor on Jan. 31 at the State Capitol. Colyer was joined by his wife, Ruth, and daughters for the ceremony. He has served as the Lieutenant Governor for Kansas since 2011.

District Six



Ulysses Subarea crew members have moved into a new shop after 62 years in their previous shop, which was built in 1955. The building houses a four-bay shop, break room, restrooms, additional office space and a conference room. Construction on the new shop started last summer and was completed late last fall.

District One



Crews remove a semitrailer that crashed on I-35 near Mission Road in Kansas City on Feb. 1 and closed portions of the highway for 19 hours.

I-35 closed for 19 hours: A semitrailer crashed into a median and caught fire on northbound I-35 near Mission Road just after midnight on Feb. 1. Lamar Highway Maintenance Supervisor Rick Looper was the first KDOT employee on the scene to assist in closing both north and south I-35 traffic.

The closure distance around the crash site changed at times due to toxic fumes from the fire and cargo, Looper said, but it was necessary to keep portions of I-35 closed for about 19 hours. Four KDOT Equipment Operators, three impact attenuators and a truck with a message board helped direct traffic.

“Our responsibility is to close the highway down to keep the traveling public away from the danger of the fire and accident scene,” he said. “We also provide a safe working environment for the fire department, local police, KHP, haz-mat crew, clean-up crew and tow trucks and protect the scene for investigative purposes.”

Closing highways is always a challenge, Looper said. “We have many locations with ramps and interchanges that can get congested real fast with traffic backups,” he said. “Closing a major highway is not always popular with the traveling public, but we do this for safety reasons.

We want to be in and out as quickly as possible with little to no impact to traffic, but that does not always happen as with this crash involving hazardous materials.”

It’s important to know how, when and where to deploy KDOT employees to be safe and effective in situations like the Feb. 1 crash.

“We have to be quick in responding and quick in closing a highway,” Looper said. “We put our lives on the line each and every day that we step out on the highway. My safety and the safety for my crew comes first while planning out my road closure.”



Above, the burned semitrailer is shown, and below, haz-mat crews work to clear the scene.



District Four



Work continues on the grading and bridge-building phase of the U.S. 69 expansion in Bourbon County. The project begins south of Fort Scott and continues south to the Bourbon-Crawford county line. Koss Construction of Topeka is the contractor on the \$21 million improvement. Mark Hurt's bridge squad and Stephen Bass' road squad designed the project.

Work Zone Contest

The KTA is hosting its third annual design contest for National Work Zone Awareness Week, which is April 9-13. Students in grades 8-12 can submit their design for a chance to win a Wacom tablet or \$200 gift card. Also, their work will be featured in VYPE Magazine, the high school sports magazine for central and northern Kansas including the Wichita and Salina surrounding areas. Full contest rules and details can be found at www.ksturnpike.com/contests

2018
NATIONAL WORK
ZONE AWARENESS
DESIGN
CONTEST!

ksturnpike.com/contests



In Memory

Condolences to the friends and family of KDOT employee Paul Whipple who passed away on Feb. 5 in Beloit. He started in the Wellington KDOT office 35 years ago. He was the Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Beloit for the past 24 years. A celebration of life will take place on Feb. 17.



Paul Whipple

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Rex Owen who passed away on Jan. 19. He served at the KDOT office in Dighton for 36

years, retiring in 1992 as the Highway Maintenance Supervisor.

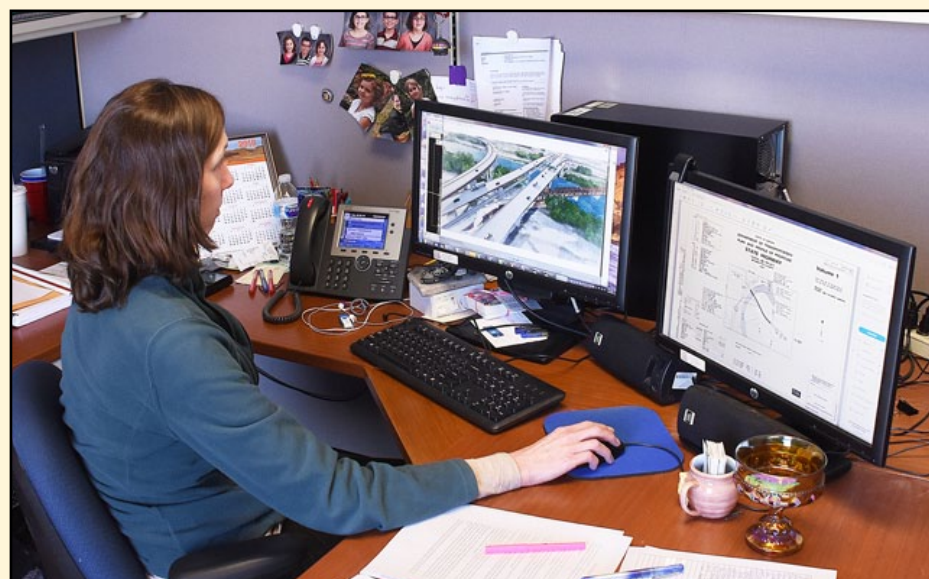
Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Rita Roblyer who passed away on Jan. 29 in Hays. She was a former Area Office Manager in Great Bend and retired from KDOT in 2008 after 25 years of service.

Condolences to the friends and family of KDOT retiree Joe Parker who passed away on Jan. 7 in Colby. Parker retired from the Colby Subarea as an Equipment Operator Senior in December with 34 years of state service.

Headquarters/District One

Who designs the highways?:

When KDOT undertakes any construction project, there's always a team that leads that project, taking it from a study, through the coordination and design, to handing it off to the construction team to break ground. And every team has a leader responsible for implementing the project and coordinating all aspects. For the Lewis and Clark Viaduct, one of those key people is Debbie Tanking, a 13-year Road Design Engineer with KDOT and Project Manager for the I-70 westbound bridge replacement. "It's a team effort," Tanking said. "I worked with a lot of great people on this project."



Road Design Engineer Debbie Tanking reviews plans and graphics of the Lewis and Clark Viaduct project.

Tanking's team has been working on the Lewis and Clark Viaduct project since its inception in 2012, and it's the biggest she's seen in terms of traffic impact and the long-term options it delivers. "We all knew this was going to be huge," she said. "The coordination between all the stakeholders was one of the biggest challenges we faced as we developed proposed concepts." As a Road Design Engineer, it's Tanking's responsibility to understand how humans, vehicles and the roadway interact with each other. "We look at the geometry of the road to check factors such as curves, grades, sight distances and clearances so they are appropriate for the speeds, volume and uses the road is designed for." Tanking said she takes pride in being part of a team whose work benefits Kansas long term. "The great thing about being part of the KDOT team is that we all work here because we want to help make infrastructure work better for Kansas," Tanking said.

"All of us at KDOT have families that use our state's roads and bridges. It's one reason we try so hard to do the right thing."

No project, no matter how big or small, happens without a team of experts who work closely together and with all the stakeholders to plan, design and construct the roads and bridges.

The \$64 million bridge replacement addresses not only the projected expense of repairs that would have been needed to maintain the bridge long term if it had not been replaced, but also addresses the need for a future route of travel as downtown Kansas City continues to grow. It also addresses the commercial traffic, airport traffic and even the railway that passes under the bridge.

"The design process and construction can be difficult to work through but when things are back to normal and the traveling public appreciates the improvements, that's the best feeling."

KDOT Blog

Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Black History Month transportation legend: Bessie Coleman

She said that she refused to take no for an answer, even when she was denied entry to flight school. She taught herself French and moved to France where she became the first black woman to earn a pilot's license in 1922. Her name was Bessie Coleman and she quickly became known as "Queen Bessie."

Born on Jan. 26, 1892, to a family of sharecroppers in Atlanta, Texas, Coleman was one of 13 children. She attended a one-room, segregated school and excelled in math and reading.

According to Biography.com, in 1915, Coleman moved in with her brothers in Chicago and became a manicurist. But not long after she moved to the "Windy City," she read stories about World War I pilots and heard stories of their adventures in the skies. This sparked her interest in aviation.

Despite gender and racial discrimination, which was common in the early 1920s, she earned her pilot's license from a Fédération Aéronautique Internationale in France. She had high hopes of starting a flying school for African Americans. Although she didn't get a chance to see that dream become a reality, she did return to the United States and soared to fame with exhibition flying. Coleman performed complicated stunts and aerial tricks while



flying for spectators across the country. During this time, she earned her nickname. Only a few years after she received her pilot's license, Coleman was tragically killed during a show rehearsal when her plane crashed. She was only 34. Although she left this world at a young age, she continues to inspire all who wish to achieve their dream of flying. "The air is the only place free from prejudices," she once said.

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

Trivia!

Aviators and astronauts -

1. This former NASA astronaut, who was born in Chapman, was the commander of the second orbital test flight of the space shuttle Columbia in 1981.
2. What was the name of the plane the Amelia Earhart flew on her round-the-world flight attempt in 1937?
3. Former NASA astronaut Steven Hawley was born in Ottawa - how many U.S. Space Shuttle flights did he fly on and how many hours did he log in space?
4. Aviator Donald Hudson, who was born in Topeka, was a World War I flying ace. After the war, he was the first person to do this.
5. Former NASA astronaut Ron Evans, who was born in St. Francis, is one of 24 people to have ever done this.
6. This aviator, who grew up in Rago, was the first person to build and fly an airplane between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains in 1911. He later founded an aircraft corporation.

District Six

Grading and dirt work have been completed on the U.S. 56/Morton Street project in Elkhart that will add turn lanes from U.S. 56 to Morton Street. Work is contained to the north side of U.S. 56 during the project keeping Morton Street to the north of U.S. 56 closed. Morton Street south of U.S. 56 remains open. Crews are expected to pour concrete this week, weather permitting. Bryant & Bryant of Halstead is the contractor on this \$536,468 project, which should be completed in March.



District Three

Groundhog Day was a lucky day for this puppy as he was found on Feb. 2 by KDOT employees and the cleaning crew members who work for KDOT near Colby at the rest area on westbound I-70. He was adopted by one of the KDOT employees in Colby.



Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT in March.

Headquarters

John Hobson, Professional Civil Engineer II, Bureau of Research

Stephen Swartz, Public Service Executive II, Planning & Development

District Six

Lewis Bedker Jr., Equipment Operator Senior, Garden City

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Joe Engle.
2. Electra.
3. Five flights, more than 770 hours in space.
4. Fly over the Andes Mountains.
5. Flown to the moon.
6. Clyde Cessna, who founded Cessna Aircraft Corporation.

Weather

I-70 at Colby exit 53



Central and western Kansas received an inch or two of snow on Tuesday morning. Above is I-70 at Colby, top right is U.S. 36 in Phillips County and at right is U.S. 81 near Concordia.



District Four

A project to reconstruct a seven-mile section of U.S. 169 in Allen County is scheduled to be let this spring. The pavement reconstruction would begin at the intersection of U.S. 169 and Delaware (Tank Farm) Road and continue north to the Minnesota Road interchange. The highway will be closed to traffic for about 18 months, with a detour signed on state routes. Mark Hurt's bridge squad and Aaron Frits' road squad designed the project.



General

“Had the call not been made that brought law enforcement out to the truck stop, doctors said she would have died within the next few days,” said Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), a non-profit organization that strives to train, equip and empower truck drivers across the country to recognize the signs of Human Trafficking. “That call was made by a professional truck driver, Kevin Kimmel, who recognized that something was off — something was wrong — and instead of turning a blind eye, he picked up the phone. She calls him her guardian angel, he calls himself a Trucker Against Trafficking.” Thanks to legislation passed last year in Kansas, drivers who want to receive a CDL will now be expected to undergo Truckers Against Trafficking training. According to TAT, at any given time there are more truck



drivers on our nation's roads than there are law enforcement officers. Because of their numbers, truck drivers can be the ears and eyes of the country's highways. According to TAT, nearly 500,000 trucking industry members have undergone training. The National Human Trafficking Hotline has received more than 1,900 calls from truckers. More than 500 cases of potential human trafficking instances have been

identified. Around 1,000 potential victims were identified thanks to this training. “If every driver, prior to hitting the road, had this life-saving information and training, imagine how many more calls will be made,” TAT said. January was National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. More information about this organization is at <http://www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org/>.