

# Translines EXPRESS

Oct. 3, 2018

## District Three

*Progress continues on the reconstruction of the box bridge structure located approximately one mile west of Nicodemus on U.S. 24 in Graham County. The bridge and adjacent roadway sustained significant damage during a Memorial Day weekend flooding event. John Jones' bridge squad and Kris Norton's road squad designed the project.*



*Crews are currently preparing for the bridge deck pour, which is scheduled later this month. King Construction is the primary contractor for the project with a total contract cost of approximately \$559,000. The project is expected to be completed in November, weather permitting.*

## Aviation



*Attendees at the Fly Kansas Air Tour check out the planes at the Wellington Municipal Airport on Sept. 27. More photos and a story are in this edition.*

## Trivia!

Candy – part two

1. In 1900, the Clark Gum Company introduced Teaberry Gum. What dance craze did it inspire?
2. M&M Mars introduced the Snickers Bar – what was it named after?
3. When was cotton candy invented?
4. What were some of the messages on mini heart candies in the 1950s?
5. When were gummy candies invented?
6. Candy was often sold unwrapped from carts in the street where it was exposed to dirt and insects. What happened to change this?

## In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Stephen Leslie Hammersmith, 72, who passed away on Sept. 21 in Wichita. Hammersmith retired as an Engineering Technician Specialist in Great Bend in 2009 after working at KDOT for 36 years.

## Scenic



*KDOT's Neil Croxton took this photo of a sunflower in southern Geary County.*

## Kudos

Welcome to the world, little one. The mother of this baby boy born Sept. 3 reached out to KDOT to thank us for keeping her updated about a road project on U.S. 50 in Newton. She wanted to map out her route to the hospital where she planned to deliver, and El Dorado Construction Engineer Joe Ausilio and Public Affairs Manager Deb Gruver worked together to keep her informed.

"I just appreciate you being so intentional to tell us what was going on with construction," she wrote to District Five.  
*Photo - Pam Weaver Photography*





## District Five



*Employees from District Five, Area Two and the District Bridge Crew have been working together to patch the I-135 bridge over 12th Street in Newton. Crews coordinated the repair work with another bridge project on westbound U.S. 50 over I-135, opting to keep a detour in effect to help control traffic. John Jones' bridge squad designed the project.*



## KTA

◆ In the photo at right, progress is coming along at the East Topeka plaza that is being converted to open road tolling. Last week, crews continued working on the new cash toll booths.

◆ Electronic customers (class 2-4) are now receiving up to a 25 percent discount on their tolls. With this increased discount, now is the time to order a K-TAG. Go to <https://www.myktag.com/order-tags> to order a K-TAG.



## National Drug-Free Work Week

**Drug-free workplace:** The National Drug-Free Work Week was initiated by the U.S. Department of Labor as a cooperative agreement focused on improving safety and health through drug-free workplace programs. It will take place from Oct. 15-20.

“At KDOT, we take our employees’ health and safety seriously and it’s why we support and promote a drug-free workplace,” said Barbara Montgomery, who is in charge of KDOT’s Drug & Alcohol Testing Program. Drug-Free Work Week highlights the importance of everyone working drug-free to maintain a safe and healthy workplace, prevent accidents, improve productivity and reduce costs while also encouraging people with alcohol and drug problems to seek help.



The first Drug-Free Work Week was observed in 2006. The State of Kansas’ Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides confidential counseling to employees and family members, Montgomery said. Call toll-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (888) 275-1205, Option 1, or go online at [www.guidanceresources.com](http://www.guidanceresources.com) (enter state ID: SOKEAP).

For more information, go to the National Drug-Free Workplace Alliance website at <http://www.ndwa.org/>.

## Deer

**Deer-vehicle crashes:** Mating season and the quest for more secure habitat have deer on the move this time of year, increasing the chances of vehicle collisions.

Typically, the greatest number of deer-vehicle crashes are in mid-November when the rut, or mating season, peaks. In addition to the rut, deer are also on the move in mid-fall seeking new food sources and shelter as crops are harvested and leaves fall from trees and shrubs, leaving them less secure than in their summer habitats.

According to KDOT, 10,226 (17 percent) of the 58,834 vehicle crashes reported in 2017 were deer-related (crashes in which a deer and vehicle actually collided or the presence of a deer was a contributing circumstance).

Crashes involving deer occur in every part of the state throughout the year. In 2017, Butler County had 438 vehicle-deer crashes, the most of any county.

The Kansas Highway Patrol cautions drivers to refrain from making exaggerated maneuvers to avoid a deer in the road, lest a bad situation become even worse.



***Deer are most often on the move at dawn and dusk.***

“Often, we find more serious crashes occur when you swerve to miss the deer, potentially losing control of your vehicle, leaving the road or veering into oncoming traffic,” said the KHP’s Lt. Adam Winters.

For more information and tips on avoiding deer crashes, click [here](#).



## Kansas Transportation

Thursday, Sept. 27

### Notifying next of kin a dreaded duty

By Randy Mosher

As I sit here today reflecting on my 32 years as a Kansas State Trooper, it's hard to think of a stretch of highway in southwest Kansas that I haven't seen a fatality accident. Through the years I have had many responsibilities and duties. The duty that I dreaded the most, and that affected me the most, was the responsibility to make death notifications to the next of kin of those who died in fatality crashes. I have been the messenger that has changed people's lives forever, and those notifications have changed me forever. I have been hit, called a liar and asked why more times than I care to remember. I remember every time I have pulled up to the houses of loved ones, put on my campaign hat, practiced what I was going to say, and then the long wait for someone to come to the door. Then comes the moment where the door opens, and the person realizes that there is a State Trooper at their door in the middle of the night, and their world is going to change forever.

I have told friends and complete strangers that their loved ones would never come home again. I have shed tears for all of them. Some right there, right then. Some, at home alone or in my car. I remember all of them. Some still visit me regularly in person, and some in my dreams.

I remember one of the crashes when I was stationed in Lakin when three teenagers were killed, and I was the first on scene. I remember the helpless feeling of not being able to help the victims. I remember talking to the entire high school where the kids went to school and telling them what I could about the accident, but most of all I remember their parents.

I remember an accident in Finney County that killed four people. I made notification to one person's parents in Lakin and still remember the faces of his parents today. Those same parents played in a local band for years and played at the Kansas State Fair. I was working the fair when they were playing, and they saw me on a golf cart patrolling the fairgrounds. They called to me on the microphone and said they wanted to play a song for me. They explained to the crowd that I had made the notification of their son's death and they wanted to play a song for me. That was the day that the big trooper on the golf cart cried his eyes out!

I remember one of my last notifications. I was at



***Captain Randy Mosher***

home taking my dinner break, when dispatch called me about a fatality crash involving a motorcycle north of Garden City. Dispatch told me the name of the person killed and my heart sank. It was a friend of mine. I went to Garden City High School with him and his wife and had worked with both in different capacities. I visit his final resting place often.

Fatality crashes affect so many people and communities. I have been to many of the funerals of those killed in crashes that I have worked. The families and the communities are forever changed. As I reflect on these crashes I think "only if," only if circumstances had been different and we had not lost these lives? I ask each of you who reads this to think what they can do to put the brakes on fatalities.

*Captain Randy Mosher is the Troop E Commander for the Kansas Highway Patrol.*

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

## Construction Career Expo

**Construction Career Expo:** More than 2,000 students attended the third annual Construction Career Expo day on Sept. 25 in Topeka.

The Construction Career Expo day is sponsored by KDOT and partners KDOT with industry professionals and educators to provide career information, education and training resources for students considering entering the skilled trades and the engineering and technology fields.

Students from area middle schools, high schools and technical schools participated in the expo, which provided hands-on experiences, career services and a job fair.

"This is one of our favorite events," said Catherine Patrick, State Transportation Engineer. "We want everyone to see the opportunities there are in the construction and engineering fields."



*Students at the expo learned about and got first-hand experience with several career fields such as snow removal and signage at KDOT (top right), brick laying (middle left), soil sampling at KDOT's Materials Lab (middle right), slump testing (left) and electrical (above).*



## Wichita



**Crews are putting the finishing touches on the new westbound U.S. 54 ramp to northbound I-235. It is set to open soon so that it can be used as a detour route when the interior of the I-235/US 54 Interchange closes for the weekend of Oct. 5 - 7. The weekend closure will allow crews to mill and overlay asphalt pavement, replace four bridge approaches, strip bridge deck forms and overhang brackets, erect new signs, remove old signs, paint bridge structures and stripe pavement. Completion of the first phase (Red Project) is scheduled for June 2019 but most of the new ramps, lanes and bridges will be completed before winter arrives in Wichita. Mark Hurt's bridge squad and Thomas Rhoads' road squad designed the project.**

## Photo Contest

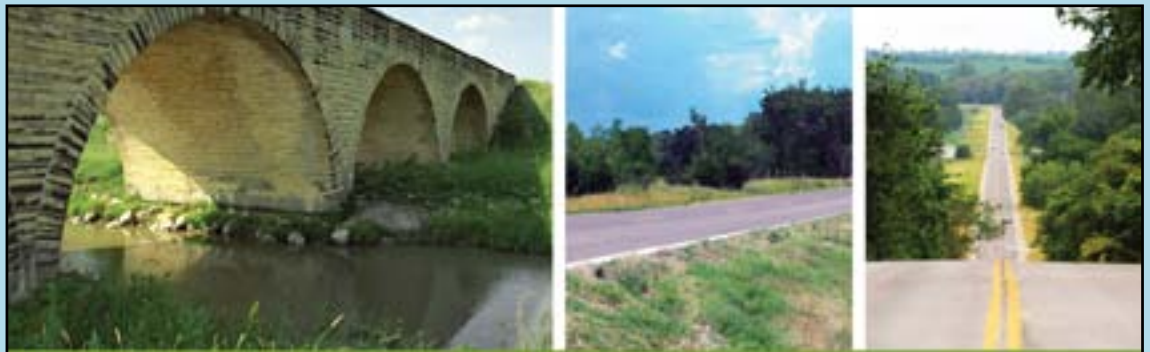
### Photo contest:

KDOT is sponsoring a transportation-related photo contest for the cover of the Annual Report. Copies of the report are printed/published on KDOT's Internet in January.

The theme of the contest is Road Trip, and submitted photos should focus on landscapes, byways and transportation to

places in Kansas. Photos can be submitted until Nov. 1 at [kdot.contest@ks.gov](mailto:kdot.contest@ks.gov).

Examples of past annual reports and quick facts can



 **KDOT Photo Contest**  
Open call for photos: Sept. 10 – Nov. 1

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.

## Fly Kansas Air Tour

**Fly Kansas Air Tour:** KDOT's Division of Aviation hosted the fifth annual Fly Kansas Air Tour on Sept. 27-29.

KDOT partnered with the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education (KCAE) to promote aviation and economic growth. A total of 60 pilots with nearly 50 aircraft participated with nine communities hosting events.

"We introduced the joy of aviation to more than 800 children this year," said Lindsey Dreiling, President of KCAE. "This is a unique opportunity for Kansas youth to gain insight to a profession that holds great promise for a bright future."

This year's events took place in Wellington, Hutchinson, Junction City, Abilene, Salina, Clay Center, Rooks County, Great Bend and Rose Hill (Derby).

"The air tour makes communities aware of opportunities their local airports represent," said Bob Brock, Director of Aviation. "Services like air ambulance, aerial application for agriculture and regional transport enable access to critical resources for rural communities."



**Federal Aviation Administration Representative Nancy Cullen taxis in for the event in Wellington.**



**Above, Director of Aviation Bob Brock speaks to students. Below, students watch airplanes take off.**



**Parachutist Chuck Powell comes in for a landing.**



**More than 50 aircraft participated in the Fly Kansas Air Tour.**





## General

**KDOT State Signing Engineer Eric Nichol, left, and KDOT Pratt Area Engineer Scott Mullen talk to a student at Kansas State University at the Engineering Career Fair on Sept. 20. The event gave students majoring in engineering and technology the opportunity to learn more about the agency. KDOT is participating in several career fairs this fall.**



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The Teaberry Shuffle.
2. The Mars family's beloved horse.
3. In 1897 by a dentist and a confectioner. It was introduced to a big audience at the
4. Hep cat, hot dawg, sugar pie, yak yak.
5. In the early 1920s.
6. The polio outbreak in 1916.

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day



**Gov. Jeff Colyer signed a proclamation on Oct. 1 at the Capitol designating Oct. 10 as Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day in Kansas. Joining Gov. Colyer at the event were, from left to right, Merlin Eck, KTA; David LaRoche, FHWA; Brock Simone, KHP; Phyllis Marotta, KDOT; Larry Emig, KDOT retiree and founder of Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day; Tanner Blakesley, KHP; Jennifer Haugh, AAA; Adam Winters, KHP; and Kim Stich, KDOT.**