

# Translines EXPRESS

June 5, 2019

## Tornado



*KDOT and other emergency-response organizations were on the scene in Linwood on May 28 after a tornado struck the town. More details and photos can be seen in this edition.*

## Run for the Wall

*Several hundred motorcyclists moved through eastern Kansas on May 20 and stopped at the KTA rest area east of Topeka as part of the 31st annual Run for the Wall event. It concluded in Washington, D.C., on May 27. According to the Run for the Wall website, the event was founded by Vietnam veterans and, "recognizes the sacrifices and contributions made by all veterans who have served our nation. Veterans of recent conflicts, those currently on active duty, non-veteran supporters and patriots are especially welcome to join and ride with us, as we ride for those who can't." More photos from the May 20 stop can be seen later in this edition.*



## Tornado



*Left: During clean-up efforts in the Linwood area, a huge tree is loaded in the KDOT truck. Below: five message boards were blown over and destroyed at the Lawrence Subarea Office - the tornado came within a quarter-mile of the complex.*

A May 28 tornado did significant damage in Douglas and Leavenworth counties, and KDOT crews have assisted with emergency and clean-up responses.

According to information from National Weather Service (NWS), the tornado started south of Clinton Lake in southwestern Douglas County and continued through southeastern Lawrence before crossing into Leavenworth County, moving through the town of Linwood and the area west of Bonner Springs.

The NWS reported the tornado on the ground in Douglas County at 6 p.m. and in Leavenworth County at K-32 about 6:25 p.m. Crews were on the scene in Lawrence soon after as high winds overturned a semi-truck on U.S. 59 south of Lawrence, closing the highway for a short time.

Lawrence Highway Maintenance Supervisor Mark Mestagh said crew members worked with law enforcement and emergency responders the rest of the night and for several days afterwards in blocking roads to keep turn lanes and ramps closed to the public so that utility companies and other clean-up crews could work. They are continuing efforts there for the next week or so. Mestagh said the tornado passed about a quarter-mile from the Subarea shop. High winds lifted a crash attenuator over the shop and it ended up 700 feet away on the other side of the lot. One corner of the roof was peeled up. In addition, five message boards were destroyed and brine tanks were knocked over, he said. Bonner Springs Superintendent Peter Wiehe was in



Linwood by 6:50 p.m. with crew members on their way with equipment loaders, backhoes and other vehicles. "We were on it as quick as we could get there, probably a little too quick as the weather was still very bad out," he said.

Wiehe said there was a lot of hand work the first night cutting trees off the road with chain saws. Two crew members had to hold lights as they worked into the evening.

Efforts will continue in the Linwood area and on K-32 for the next couple weeks. Wiehe said he talked with Linwood Mayor Brian Christenson and his wife during clean-up efforts, "and they said we are doing a great job and thanked us for the work we have done."

# Tornado

*Right, below and middle right: KDOT crews cleaned up and hauled away debris and limbs in various areas around Linwood after the tornado that struck May 28. Lower left: Traffic is stopped while work takes place along the roadway. Lower right: This attenuator was carried over the Lawrence Subarea office and landed about 700 feet away. Other equipment was moved or blown over around the complex, yet the trash bin stayed in the same spot. Bottom: KDOT crews block the main road off U.S. 59 to the area that was damaged south of Lawrence.*



## Trivia!

### 75th anniversary of D-Day

1. What is D-Day?
2. Who gave the go-ahead for the mission, called Operation Overlord?
3. The D-Day order was given the day before. How

4. many vehicles and troops were sent at that time?
  4. What other support was sent the night the order was made?
  5. What was the outcome?
- Information is from History.com.

## Flooding



***Flooding continues across the state recently. Above, K-58 in Coffey County; top right, K-4 by Gypsum; right, K-18 east of Manhattan; and below, K-140 at State Street in Saline County.***



## Appreciation Lunch/Training

**Job well done:** An appreciation lunch and training took place on May 23 at all KDOT Area offices for people involved in snow and ice operations last winter.

After lunch, attendees participated in training, which included a video from Secretary Julie Lorenz and State Transportation Engineer Burt Morey.

Following safety training, employees heard updates on the organizational assessment and KDOT's long-range transportation plan.

On this page are pictures from events around the state.



***“This is an opportunity to celebrate and for us to let you know how much we appreciate your efforts all year round, but especially during the extremely long and drawn-out snow and ice season we’ve just had.”***

**Secretary Julie Lorenz**



**Top: District One in Olathe. Upper right: District Two in Ellsworth. Middle left: District Three in Phillipsburg. Middle right: District Six in Liberal. Above: District Four in Chanute. Right: District Five in Wichita.**



## District Three

**Sinking roadway:** KDOT crews have been monitoring an active slide area on U.S. 281 approximately two miles north of Russell that has reduced traffic to one lane. Crews completed a patching job on May 14 to even up the pavement after it was noticed that the northbound lane was subsiding at a faster rate than KDOT had previously observed. The following week saw heavy rains soak the region, causing the slide to sink further.

Another patch job to even up the lanes was completed on May 24 and again on May 27, however the area immediately began to settle again after a few hours following the May 27 repairs. A 24-hour flagging operation was then set up around the slide zone until temporary traffic signals were put in place on May 30. The total subsidence over the 2 1/2-week span has been approximately 15 inches, according to Area Engineer Kevin Zimmer.

The slide is active due to a failing zone in the Graneros Shale, which contains bentonite seams making it susceptible to slope stability problems.

This portion of U.S. 281 is among the reinstated T-WORKS projects that were included in the governor's \$160 million transportation investment announced earlier this year. Project plans include realigning the roadway in this section around the slide area, which will help avoid future issues.



**Above:** A flagging operation had to begin on May 28 as the slide on U.S. 281 got worse. **Far left:** A picture of the highway on May 13 shows the highway slide starting. **Left:** This photo taken May 29 shows the eight-inch drop in the pavement.



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. D-Day is often used as military lingo for the day an operation takes place. For many it is also synonymous with June 6, 1944, the day Allied powers crossed the English Channel and landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, beginning the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi control during World War II.
2. U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower.
3. There were 6,000 landing craft, ships and other

vessels carrying 176,000 troops.

4. That night, 822 aircraft filled with parachutists headed for drop zones in Normandy. An additional 13,000 aircraft were mobilized to provide air cover and support for the invasion. By dawn on June 6, 18,000 parachutists were already on the ground.
5. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans.

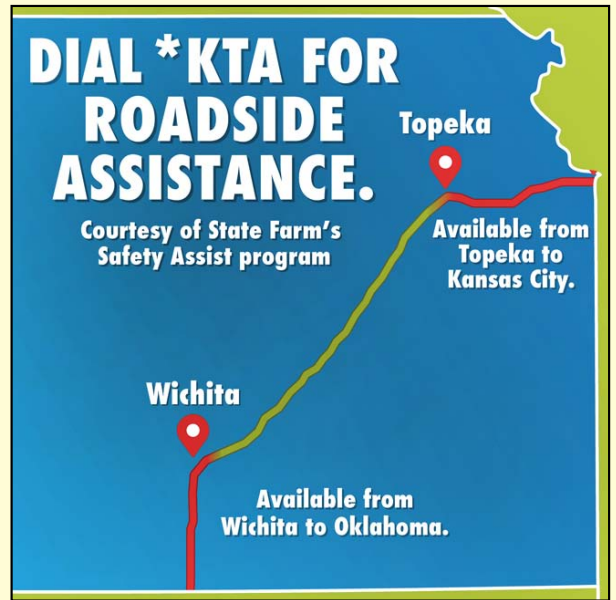
**In Memory**

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Clifton J. Combs who passed away on May 17 in Kansas City. Combs started at KDOT in 1978 and retired as an Engineering Technician for District One in the Olathe office in 2014.

**Briefs:**

♦The State Farm Safety Assist summer program has begun again. Customers who need roadside assistance can call \*KTA on the Turnpike. This covers Topeka to Kansas City year-round. During the summer months, Wichita to the Oklahoma border is also covered, as seen at right.

♦The KTA spoke with travelers to test their knowledge on seat belts. Check out the video [here](#) with Kansas Highway Patrol's Trooper Tiffany Bush.



**District One**



**High waters are delaying work on the Lewis and Clark Viaduct reconstruction project.**

**Project delayed:** Spring rains are delaying the completion of the Lewis and Clark Viaduct I-70 westbound bridge reconstruction as the pier sites are inaccessible due to high water. It was scheduled to be finished this December.

The viaduct crosses the Kansas River 1,500 feet from the confluence of the Missouri River, making it susceptible to high water conditions from both rivers. "We need the water level to come down to safely continue the work," said Jason Van Nice, KDOT Metro Engineer in Bonner Springs. According to the National Weather Service, the Kansas River at 23rd Street

exceeded 36 feet on May 22, twice the daily average. Above-average spring rain and late season snow contributed to elevated flood risk for 25 states facing major or moderate flooding from March through May, including Kansas and Missouri, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Spring Outlook.

Between March 13 and May 21, crews lost 58 of 70 workdays due to the high water. KDOT will update the completion estimate once crews can access the work sites. Current detour and traffic control measures will remain in place until the completion of the project.

# Kansas Transportation

Monday, June 3

## Motoring Monday: Codell tornadoes

May 20 may be just another day to most people, but it's a date that will be forever etched into the history of one small Kansas town. Starting in 1916, the town of Codell along K-18 in Rooks County would be struck by tornadoes not once, not twice, but three times in three consecutive years – all on May 20.

The first tornado in 1916 touched down in late afternoon about 3 miles south of Codell and traveled northeast for roughly 15 miles, just grazing the east edge of town. Several homes and farmsteads were damaged, and a few residents sustained injuries - however no one was killed. It would later be rated as an F2 storm on the Fujita Tornado Damage Scale.

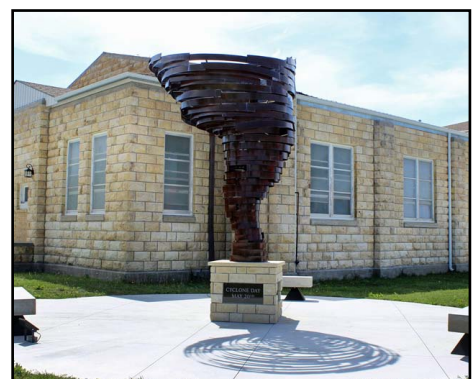
The 1917 storm was another late afternoon event, this time affecting the west edge of town. A stronger storm at an F3, the twister caused more damage than the previous year. But no lives were lost and few were injured. At the time, it was considered one of the most extensive tornadoes to hit the area, until disaster would strike again the following year. Estimated at an F4 with wind speeds of more than 200 mph, the 1918 tornado was by far the largest and most destructive of the three. The twister spanned a path from Trego County to Osborne County, traveling approximately 60 miles over a six-hour period. Unlike the other storms, which hit



**A church, above, and school, below, were destroyed on May 20, 1918.**

during the late afternoon and early evening hours, the 1918 storm struck after dark. The tornado tore a path down the middle of town, destroying a majority of its homes, businesses, churches and the school. Ten people were killed and dozens more injured. After three twisters in three consecutive years, residents and businesses were hesitant to rebuild. The town would never fully recover and currently has a population of less than 100 residents. May 20 became known as Cyclone Day in Codell with residents keeping an eye on the sky on that day for years to come. In 2018, on the 100-year anniversary of the last storm, a sculpture was erected to commemorate the trio of twisters. For more information on the tornadoes, visit [www.rookscounty.net/codell](http://www.rookscounty.net/codell).

**See more stories on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>**



**A sculpture commemorates the three tornadoes that hit Codell.**



## Retirees

### Headquarters

**James Hazelton**,  
Engineering Technician  
Specialist, Structures &  
Geotechnology

**Charles Protasio**, Assistant  
Bureau Chief, Program &  
Project Management

**Robert Stork**, Bureau Chief,  
Right of Way

### District One

**Jacob Bausch**, Equipment  
Operator Senior,  
Holton

**Kin Hickman**, Highway  
Maintenance Supervisor,  
Oskaloosa

**Peter Wiehe**, Highway  
Maintenance Superintendent,  
Bonner Springs

### District Two

**Daniel Imler**, Equipment  
Mechanic, Mankato

**Paul Langston**, Equipment  
Operator Senior,  
Belleville

### District Five

**William Springer**, Highway  
Maintenance Supervisor,  
Wichita

**Marla Walmsley**,  
Administrative Specialist,  
Wichita

## Kudos

*Email sent to KDOT:*

Dear Kansas rest areas -  
WOW !!! Kansas you're the best!!  
We live in our motor home, and  
travel 8 months out of each year.  
Having been in 40 out of the 50  
states, I have to say that your rest  
areas are the best!! Not only do  
you allow us one free night, but the  
area is gorgeous! You have picnic  
tables, dump station and beautiful  
green grass!!! I just wanted to say  
thank you so much for providing us  
a clean peaceful area to recharge  
our batteries!! I appreciate you very  
much.

## Run for the Wall

*More photos from the Run for the Wall event  
featured on page one of this edition.*

