

# Translines EXPRESS

April 17, 2019

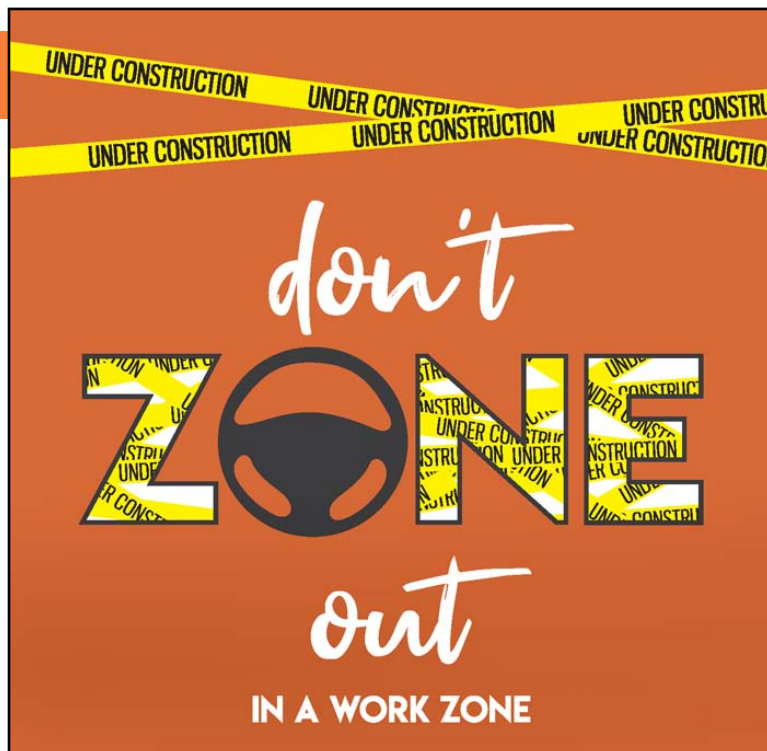
## Work Zone Safety



State Transportation Engineer Burt Morey spoke at the National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week statewide news conference on April 11 in Topeka. Also speaking, from left to right, were Kayne Kraus, KTA; Scott Swanson, KDOT; Kade Cooper, KDOT; and Col. Herman Jones, KHP. The cone display at left honored KDOT and KTA employees who have died in work zone crashes since 1950. See more photos in this edition.

### KTA

**Congratulations to Madison Kunze of Olathe for winning the 2019 National Work Zone Awareness Week design contest. Her submission took first place out of a record-setting 187 entries. You can see her submission here and the other six finalists by clicking [here](#).**



### In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Helen Shubert, who passed away on April 4 in Wichita. Shubert worked as an Office Assistant at the Hays office. She retired in 2000 after 31 years of service.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree James A. Bernica, who passed away on March 28 in Topeka. Bernica was an Engineering Technician Senior and worked at the Materials and Research lab for more than 20 years. He retired in 2011.

## Trivia!

### Sesame Street - part two

1. Who has an identical twin brother?
2. Which characters are left handed?
3. How old is Elmo?
4. What is Snuffleupagus' first name?
5. Who was the first celebrity to appear on Sesame Street?
6. Which is the only character that has five fingers?

## District Six



*Above: Work is underway on the Garden City bypass. At left: Traffic is being detoured around the construction*

**Garden City bypass:** The Garden City bypass is one of the most heavily traveled highways in southwest Kansas carrying almost 11,000 vehicles per day - with 23 percent of those being heavy commercial traffic. Construction to replace concrete on the U.S. 50/83/400 bypass began March 20.

According to Brian Kierath, Jr. with KDOT's Bureau of Road Design, "This project is a full depth pavement reconstruction to replace concrete and asphalt pavement, some of which dates back to 1984. Pavement age combined with a high percentage of truck traffic makes this a necessary project at this time."

The project will be completed in two phases and includes:

- The addition of turn lanes at Campus Drive facilitating smoother traffic flow;
- Improved lighting at the Fulton Street interchange;
- A dynamic messaging sign (DMS) being added

along U.S. 50 east of Campus Drive to advise drivers of road conditions;

- Improvements to the city system at Spruce Street through a partnership between Garden City and KDOT, which will limit road closures at this intersection. Koss Construction of Topeka is the contractor on the \$11.2 million project. Traffic will follow the signed detour until the project is completed in December. Aaron Frits' road squad designed the project.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Bert – his brother, Bart, appeared in a 1974 episode.
2. Cookie Monster and Ernie.
3. He is always three and a half years old – even on his birthday.
4. Aloysius.
5. James Earl Jones.
6. Cookie Monster.

## Retiree

The following employee will retire from KDOT in May.

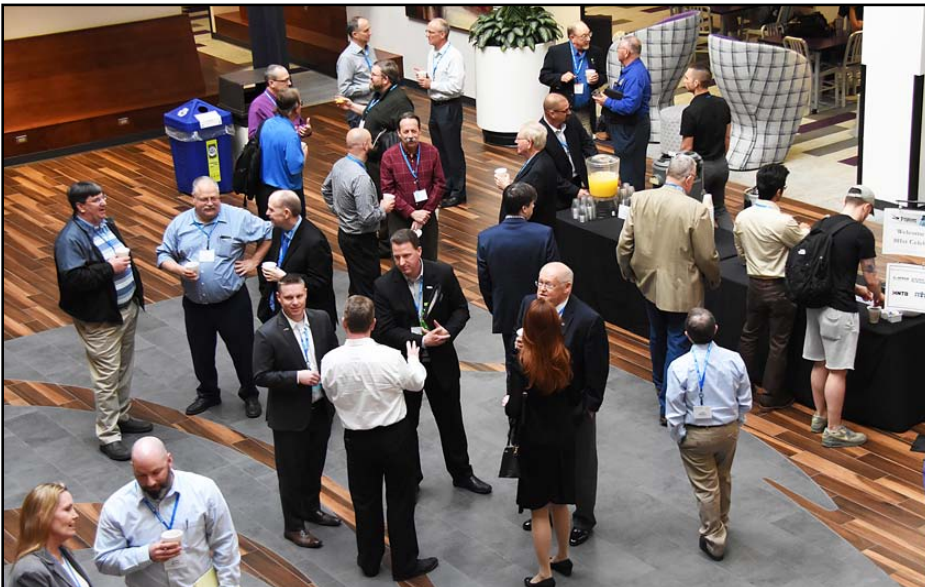
**District Three  
Stanley Robb,**  
Equipment Operator  
Specialist, Phillipsburg

## District Four



*It took the better part of a Friday to get the job done, but on April 5 a crane used in the construction of an Allen County wind farm was successfully transported from the east to the west side of U.S. 59 north of Moran. KDOT closed the U.S. 59 section during the moving operation.*

## Transportation Engineering Conference



*Above: Secretary Julie Lorenz gives an agency update at the annual Transportation Engineering Conference in Manhattan on April 9-10. Left: KDOT's Matt Messina talks about pedestrian safety. Top left: Attendees chat while taking a break.*

## Kansas Transportation

Thursday, April 11

### Words that will haunt me

**By Dominic Harrington**

1454 to Area Four, 1454 TO AREA FOUR!

Those words will haunt me my entire KDOT career. My name is Dominic Harrington and I am the District One Maintenance Superintendent in Topeka.

It was the morning of June 1, 2005, and I was a newly-minted KDOT Equipment Operator. It was a cloudy, rainy day and like so many others we were sent out to run our route, pick up trash, remove dead animals, straighten signs and so on. It seemed to be just another normal day in a Subarea, but this morning would be anything but normal.

Shortly after starting our day, we heard a frantic call over the radio, one of our co-workers had been struck on U.S. 75 highway. I thought to myself, "How could this happen?" Nobody should be on the roadway working this morning.

Another co-worker and I were near the location of the incident, so we hurried as fast as we could to see if there was anything we could do to help. Luckily, a Kansas Highway Patrol Officer was already on scene and had called for an ambulance and back up to assist with traffic control.

Scotty McDonald had been struck and killed while picking up trash down in the ditch, off the edge of the roadway. Prior to this accident, our crew had always considered this a "safe place" to be working. One moment of inattentive driving had cost Scotty the ultimate price.

In the following days we abstained from working on the roads, attended grief counseling and generally were in a state of shock. The "safe place" we had was gone, leaving everyone on edge while working along the road. Fourteen years later when I hear a call to an Area Office, I always assume the worst has happened again.



***KDOT District One Superintendent Dominic Harrington and his wife, Rachel.***

Sometimes when really bad things happen, some good can come from it. Thanks to Marvin and Shirley McDonald, parents of Scotty, who have continued to show their support for roadworkers and their safety. With their help, the Move Over Law was enacted July 1, 2006, which has greatly helped to improve roadside safety. And Shirley has spoken at many events over the years about the need for safety in work zones. Marvin and Shirley, if you happen to read this, thank you!

Wherever your travels may take you, please watch out for emergency and maintenance crews working on the road. A few seconds to slow down and move over could make all the difference to someone's father, mother, uncle, aunt or grandparent. Thank you.

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

# Go Orange



Numerous KDOT crews and offices got in the spirit and wore orange to show support and appreciation for highway workers and work zone safety awareness efforts as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week.



Top left: Independence office. Above: Dighton office.

Top right: Hays office. Above: Blaine office.



Left: Wichta East office. Below: Beloit office.

To see nearly 100 photos in the Go Orange photo album, go to the KDOT Headquarters Facebook page (not on work computers) and click on the photos tab on the left.



# Go Orange



Above: Partner vehicle display with law enforcement and emergency responders. Right: KDOT's Kade Cooper speaks at the news conference. Below, State Transportation Engineer Burt Morey, second from left, joins donating partners to Give 'Em A Brake efforts. Below right, KHP Col. Herman Jones speaks at the news conference. Far below left: District Three employees Lacey Hansen, Lisa Mussman and Catrina David go orange with "Cone Critter."



Left: District One is lit in orange at night. Above: The Governor's Mansion highlighted in orange.

## District Four



**Work continues on the U.S. 69 expansion to a four-lane upgradable expressway in Bourbon County. Two-way traffic is running head-to-head on several tie-ins along the six-mile project, which is expected to be finished later this spring. Koss Construction of Topeka is the contractor, with a construction cost of \$21.8 million. Stephen Bass' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.**

## District Two

**Helping others:** Acts of kindness at KDOT are not uncommon and they do not go unnoticed. Many employees have earned the utmost respect from their surrounding community by lending a helpful hand when it's needed the most.

"It's common for equipment operators to pull over in their plow truck to help stranded motorists and check on the safety of those who may be inside," said Donnie Burkholder, Equipment Operator Senior in Salina.

When Strong City Equipment Operators Carl Zorn and Dean Switzer were doing route checks, they pulled over to help two motorists who blew a tire. They not only helped the couple to safely change the tire on a busy road but also helped to call a local shop and locate a new tire. Dave and Debbie McCarthy then wrote a nice thank you letter to KDOT expressing their gratitude to Zorn and Switzer.

In another example, on an afternoon heading west on I-70 after a day of training in Topeka, Kenny Cohen, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Junction City, pulled over to help a woman change a flat tire. "The



**KDOT Equipment Operators Dean Switzer and Carl Zorn from the Strong City office assisted two motorists who blew a tire.**

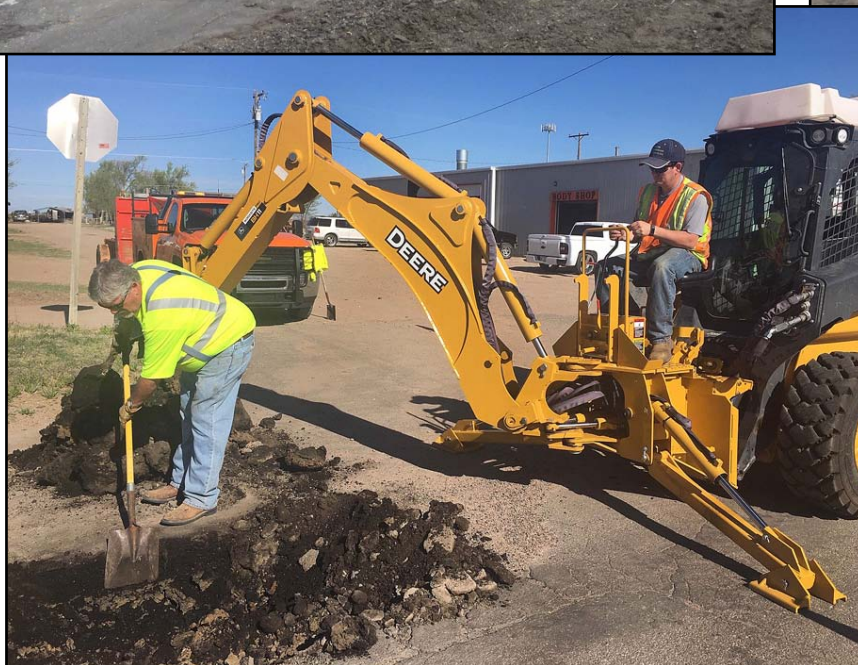
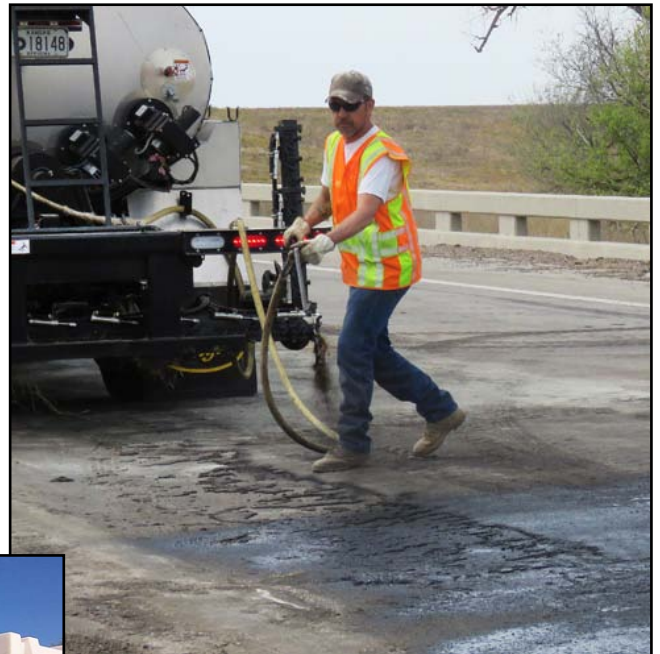
young woman had tears in her eyes and expressed sincere gratitude when I helped her," said Cohen. Cohen says he and his crew have also helped to deliver fuel to stranded motorists and assisted motorists to find help for a broken-down vehicle. To read more of this story, go to the KDOT transportation blog [here](#).

## District One

*With work continuing on the winter pothole damage and the construction season starting, KDOT crews took the opportunity to remove trash last weekend. The crews picked up approximately 10 dump trucks worth of trash along Wyandotte County and Johnson County highways in the spring clean-up effort.*



## District Six



*It's no secret, all that winter weather and snow has created pothole and pavement problems across Kansas. The Syracuse Subarea crew removed and replaced damaged pavement on K-27 in Syracuse. At left: Jed DeVaughan (on skidsteer) and Rick Carson remove damaged pavement to prepare the area to be resurfaced. Above, the Garden City Subarea, with help from the Lakin and Syracuse Subareas, work to repatch a bridge approach on K-156 following a winter that left many areas in need of resurfacing. Left: David Cartwright and Jerry Stevenson clear the highway. Above: Cartwright sprays oil on an area to patch.*



## Aviation

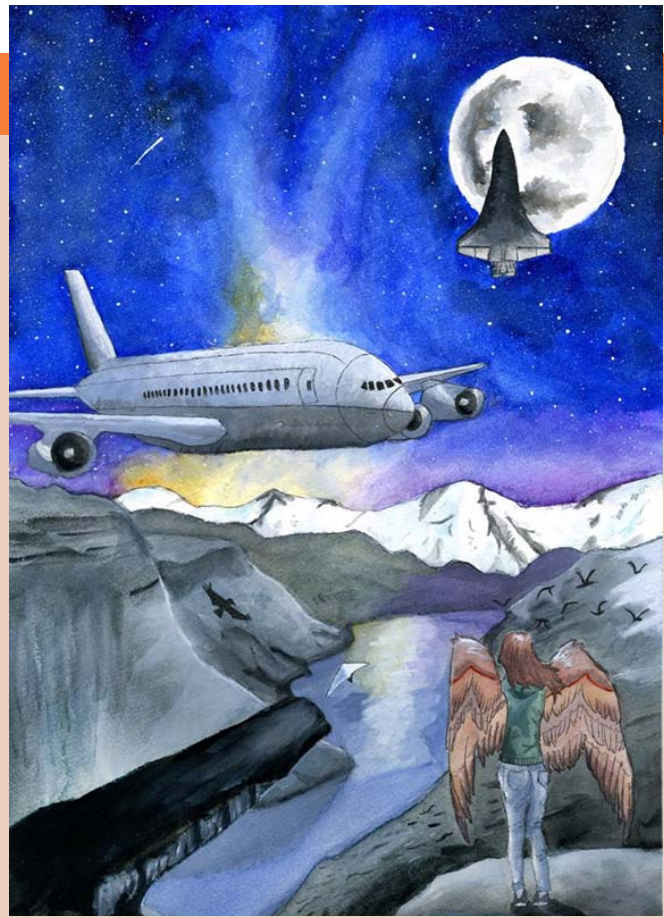
**Art contest winners:** KDOT's Division of Aviation announced the Kansas winners of the 2019 International Aviation Art Contest. The theme was "My Dream to Fly." The art contest is designed to challenge young people to illustrate the importance of aviation through art. Artists ages 6 to 17 were eligible to submit art.

The first-place winner in each age group receives a prize package from the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education (KCAE), which includes a drone and a tablet among other prizes.

"This is an opportunity to demonstrate the impact of aviation in a fun and interactive way and to foster a new generation of aviators," said Lindsey Dreiling, Deputy Director of KDOT Aviation and President of KCAE.

The artwork can be seen on the KDOT Aviation Facebook page.

**At right, first place Category III winning artwork by LeeAnn Skinner from Lawrence.**



## Scenic



**Pretty flowers are popping up around the state. KDOT's Neil Croxton found these, along with a big bumblebee on one of the white flowers, in Clay County.**

