

Translines EXPRESS

March 20, 2019

Example of Excellence



Congratulations to members of the Dighton Salt/Sand Bunker and Tractor Shed Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the fourth quarter of 2018. The team was honored by State Transportation Engineer Burt Morey and others at a ceremony on March 6 in Garden City. The team worked together to rebuild the salt and sand bunker and also the tractor shed near the Dighton Subarea while also taking care of regular duties. And this was the first time for many of them to do this type of work. Members of the group include, front row, left to right, Jason Lawrence, Tyler Cooley, Perry Wilkinson, ER Redburn, back row, Larry Thompson, Brian Beard, Burt Morey, James Armknect, David Piedra, Mike Johannsen and Ron Hall. Members not pictured include Ron Munyan and Marlen Sherar.

KTA Design Contest

The countdown is on as the deadline for the KTA's fourth annual design contest as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week activities is March 31.

This contest is open to students across the state in grades 8-12 to create a design about work zone safety. The winning submission will be featured in VYPE Magazine and the winner will receive a \$200 gift certificate.

Full rules and more details are online at www.kstumpike.com/contests.

Designcontest



KTA

Trivia!

Frontier Forts

1. The U.S. Army established nine forts in Kansas during the 19th century. What fort was the first one established in Kansas? What was it originally known as?
2. Fort Riley was established in 1853. Whose regiment was organized there in 1866?
3. What fort was named for a brigadier general?

4. What fort was established in 1859 as the "Camp on Pawnee Fork?"

5. This fort was moved to higher ground after a flash flood in 1867 and is now a state historic site.

6. Name as many of the nine forts as you can.

From the Kansas Historical Society

In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Bobby Gassmann who passed away on March 6 at Salina Regional Health Center. Gassmann was an Administrative Specialist in the Oakley Area Office and worked for KDOT for more than 50 years. She retired in 2015.

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 ANSWERS

1. Cantonment Leavenworth was established in 1827, it was renamed Fort Leavenworth in 1832.
2. George Armstrong Custer, of the 7th U.S. Cavalry.
3. Fort Dodge – for Brigadier Gen. Grenville M. Dodge.
4. Fort Larned.
5. Fort Hays.
6. Fort Leavenworth, Fort Scott, Fort Riley, Fort Larned, Fort Zarah, Fort Harker, Fort Wallace, Fort Hays, Fort Dodge.

District Four



High waters flooded K-31 in the Fulton area east of U.S. 69. Heavy rains saturated the area the second week in March, closing the K-31 section for a day.

Maintenance



At right, nice weather on March 15 allowed members of the McPherson Subarea crew to patch potholes on I-135 south of the city of McPherson.



Pothole patching is taking place around the state. Superintendent Jeff Romine shared pictured of the Manhattan Subarea office above and at left making repairs on K-177 by the river just east of the city.



District Four

District Four's annual Construction and Materials Meeting took place on March 14 in Chanute. Talking during the morning break are, from left: Construction and Materials Bureau Chief Greg Schieber, Independence Engineering Technician Senior Kelly Wilson, Iola Engineering Technician Wade Park, State Transportation Engineer Burt Morey and Office of Civil Rights Compliance Program Consultant Deb Dillner.



Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, March 20

#IAMKDOT - Frankie Burns

Chances are that wherever you see a KDOT crew in Grant or Stanton County, you will also find Frankie Burns, the Ulysses Highway Maintenance Supervisor. During his 12 years with KDOT, Burns has served as an Equipment Operator Trainee, an Equipment Operator and as the Highway Maintenance Supervisor in

Garden City and Ulysses.

Burns is always there, leading and helping the Ulysses crew. He may be filling potholes or edge ruts, mowing, flagging traffic, snow plowing or even paving. Burns says the best part of his job is working with new operators and being able to teach them and help them learn.

During his time with KDOT, he and his team were awarded the Example of Excellence award for their work paving the Division of Motor Vehicles' yard in Garden City so that it could be used year-round for CDL training.

Burns has many memorable moments, but says 2017 was an especially memorable year. During the April 30 blizzard, which dumped over a foot of snow in southwest Kansas, Burns was plowing between Garden City and Deerfield when he stopped to assist a car stranded in the ditch. With below freezing temps and the heavy snow, he was surprised to find several teenage girls in t-shirts and shorts trying to make their way from Garden City to Deerfield to see a friend. After calling the KHP to



transport the girls to Deerfield, Burns waited with the girls until the KHP arrived.

Later that same year, Burns was assisting with traffic control following an anhydrous ammonia leak on the Garden City bypass. They had just moved traffic control back when Burns turned to walk back to his KDOT truck. He saw lights coming at him and heard the vehicle accelerate. He turned and ran just in time to escape serious injury. His KDOT truck was totaled by the driver that crashed into it at full speed. Fortunately, Burns escaped without injury.

Burns has three children and two granddaughters. In his spare time, Burns enjoys woodworking, working in his shop, NASCAR (especially Martin Truex Jr.) and is very attached to his Harley.

Do you know a KDOT worker that deserves recognition? Nominations are open - email Mallory.goeke@ks.gov today to get started.

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

Wichita

Smart work zone: It's not often that a multi-year highway project finishes a full six months before its deadline. But that's what drivers in Wichita have experienced with the first phase of the I-235/U.S. 54 Interchange improvements in west Wichita.

While the three-year project still has some work that is waiting for spring weather, drivers have been enjoying the benefits of the lane and ramps improvements since December. The remaining work items should not affect traffic and the project will wrap up before the planned date in June. The project eliminated dicey merge points. Dedicated directional ramps make the busy interchange much easier to maneuver.

During the three years of construction, a Smart Work Zone was used to alert drivers of traffic incidents and other problems leading to congestion in the work zone. From K-42 to Central Avenue on I-235 and from Maize Road to downtown Wichita on U.S. 54, multiple monitoring devices positioned throughout the project area communicated real-time travel conditions then automatically posted travel times to common destinations in the city.

Fifteen portable message signs placed on arterial streets were used to complement the large roadside WICHway message boards. Messages with estimated drive times through the construction zone allowed drivers to make informed decisions about their route.

According to data collected during construction, as much



The I-235/U.S. 54 Interchange project opened to traffic six months ahead of schedule.

as 50 percent of the traffic was diverted once delays of seven minutes or more were reported on the message signs.

"The design of the Smart Work Zone kept traffic moving safely, both through the construction site and along the alternative routes," said Garry Olson, KDOT Smart Work Zone Coordinator. "We are encouraged by the results and look forward to maximizing this technology in future projects."

And future projects keep coming. Recently, a new three-year project on I-235 in north Wichita began that will replace six bridges, upgrade and expand travel lanes and reconfigure the I-235 and North Broadway interchange.



Above, dedicated directional ramps were added to the project. At right, a traffic camera monitors the construction area.



Aviation Day



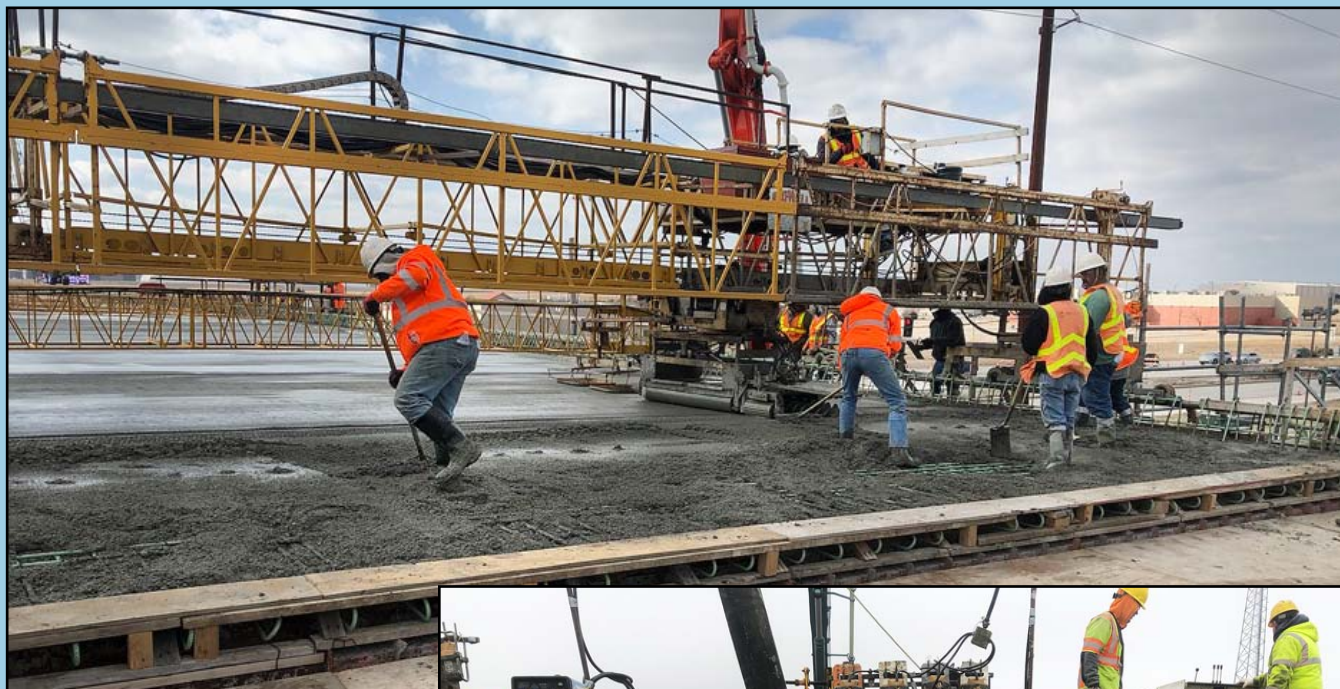
Top left: Aviation Director Bob Brock speaks at the annual Aviation Day event at the Capitol on March 7. **Top right and bottom left:** Visitors stopped by the numerous booths displaying information about aviation opportunities across the state. **Bottom right:** Secretary Julie Lorenz tests out the flight simulator owned by FlightSafety at the event.

General

Bridge work: The New Hampshire DOT is undertaking a nine-week renovation of the Honeymoon Bridge, a 143-year-old covered bridge in Jackson, the Boston Globe reports in a story reprinted in Better Roads magazine. The project will close the bridge until May 23 while work takes place on the wood deck, the bridge ends and the lighting system. "There's something about driving into the town of Jackson by coming in through that covered bridge that really, really exemplifies what the community is all about," said Jackson Police Chief Chris Perley in a telephone interview with the news agency. "Once you get over the bridge, it's really a step back into time, because it's a quaint and small community."



Bridge photo: New Hampshire DOT



Above, concrete was placed on the new westbound Kellogg bridge crossing Greenwich in Wichita. This project will ultimately provide new direct access to the KTA and the Turnpike is managing the project. You can learn more about the East Kellogg project at www.e54ict.com. At right, concrete was placed on the 30th Street South bridge crossing I-35/KTA near the Southern Terminal.



25th Annual
KDOT Transportation Safety Conference
April 2 & 3, 2019
Hyatt Regency Wichita | Wichita, KS



Last chance!!

Register now - <http://kupce.ku.edu/transportation-safety>