

# Translines EXPRESS

May 1, 2019

## District Three



*Repair work is underway on a pair of bridges along I-70 in Ellis County. At left is the bridge carrying westbound I-70 over K-247 at exit 145 in Ellis and below is the bridge at the U.S. 183 at exit 159 in Hays.*



*Work began in early April and is expected to be completed by the end of August. KDOT's Dean Jay took the photos. The bridge set-aside squad designed the project.*

## Retirees

The following employee will retire from KDOT in May.

### District Three

**Linda Schurz**, Engineering Technician Senior, Norton

The following employees will retire from KDOT in June.

### Headquarters

**Richard Kreider Jr.**, Bureau Chief, Research, Topeka

### District Five

**Greg Bayless**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Anthony

**Dale Holsey**, Program Consultant I, Wichita

**Robert Revel II**, Equipment Operator Senior, Lyons

### District Six

**Ronald Edwards**, Equipment Operator Senior, Jetmore

## Trivia!

### County names - from the Kansas Historical Society

1. This county was named after a man who served as an Ohio Senator and Governor.
2. This county was named for the man who served as the U.S. Senator from Missouri at the time of the Kansas-Nebraska Act.
3. This county was named after a river, which was named after an animal.
4. This county was named after the General who

established a military post on the west bank of the Missouri River.

5. This county was named after the Major General who commanded the first military escort along the Santa Fe Trail in 1829.

6. This county was named for a county in New York, which was the birthplace of Edward Jaquins, a member of the Kansas House in 1875.

## District Two

*New culvert pipe was placed on I-35 north of I-70 on April 24.*



*Scott Allen, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Salina, said that they had started to run into a lot of drainage problems recently due to old pipe and that's in need of being replaced.*



*Below, Jared Winter and Tim Frederiksen, Equipment Operators from Salina, remove the old pipe and at left, it was hauled away.*



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Allen County – William Allen
2. Atchison County – David Rice  
Atchison
3. Elk County
4. Leavenworth County – Gen. Henry

- Leavenworth
5. Riley County – Maj. Gen. Bennett  
Riley
6. Chautauqua County

## Safety Honor

**Safety honor:** KDOT's District Three, Area Three construction and maintenance crews were presented with the Kansas Department of Labor's Safety and Health Award for Public Employees (SHAPE) during a presentation in Hays on April 30. The SHAPE program recognizes safety-conscious employers and employees in the public sector. Entities whose employees have not had a lost-time accident for a specific number of consecutive days are eligible for the award. Employers must also have completed a comprehensive safety inspection from KDOT within the last two years, submitted an OSHA 300 log and either have a DART and TRC rate below the most recently available Kansas state average or documented a minimum number of safety training hours based on the entity's size for at least three months prior to the application.



*Peter Brady from the Kansas Department of Labor (center) presents KDOT Area Three Engineer Kevin Zimmer (left) and KDOT District Three Safety Specialist Trent Alexander with the Safety and Health Award for Public Employees for Area Three construction and maintenance crews.*



*KDOT employees in District Three, Area Three attended the ceremony and accepted the safety honor.*

## Aviation

**Airport improvement projects:** Forty-one projects totaling a combined award of \$5 million have been granted for the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) funding for planning, constructing or rehabilitating public use general aviation airports. The aviation industry represents \$20.6 billion economic impact and employs more than 92,000 Kansans. In addition, 94 percent of the state's population is within 30 minutes of air ambulance operations. "We are proud of the collaboration between our department and airport sponsors to increase safety, enhance economic development and support the transportation needs of Kansans," said Secretary Julie

Lorenz.

The KAIP program requires airport sponsors to share in project costs by paying a portion of the total project. The KDOT Division of Aviation, which manages the program, considered 119 project applications this year with a combined total value of more than \$29 million. "KAIP has not only funded key improvements at local airports, it has helped create a statewide aviation network that enhances both the health and economic wellbeing of the entire state," said Bob Brock, KDOT Director of Aviation.

To see all of the communities selected for funding and the amount requested, click [here](#).

## District Five



*At left, PCi Roads, LLC completes polymer overlay patching on one of the bridge decks. The polymer overlay protects the deck from further damage caused by the weather, traffic wear, and polishing and loss of friction.*

**Repair work:** U.S. 400 in Kiowa County was recently closed to complete repair and maintenance projects on two bridges. The closure was a continuation of the project which began last fall which included replacement of expansion joints on one bridge and concrete patching on both bridges. The polymer overlay had to be postponed when colder temperatures moved in earlier than expected. The bridge set-aside squad designed the project.



*Above, a crew member applies the polymer coating using a squeegee to evenly distribute the epoxy. At left, rock chips are sprayed onto the epoxy. This increases friction on the bridge deck.*



### In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Verlin "Lee" Schroeter, who passed away in Topeka on April 30. Schroeter retired as an Engineering Technician Specialist in the Bureau of Local Projects in 1998.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Douglas J. Wohler, who passed away in Topeka on April 26. Wohler was an Engineering Technician Senior in the Bureau of Local Projects and retired in 1995 after 32 years of service.

*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](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)*

## District Three



*KDOT's Josiah Jones took this photo of crews continuing work along a 17-mile stretch of K-161 in Cheyenne County. The project consists of a cold mill, a HMA inlay and an overlay starting at the U.S. 36 junction and extending north to the Nebraska border. Work started at the end of March and is expected to be completed in June.*

## District One - Flooding



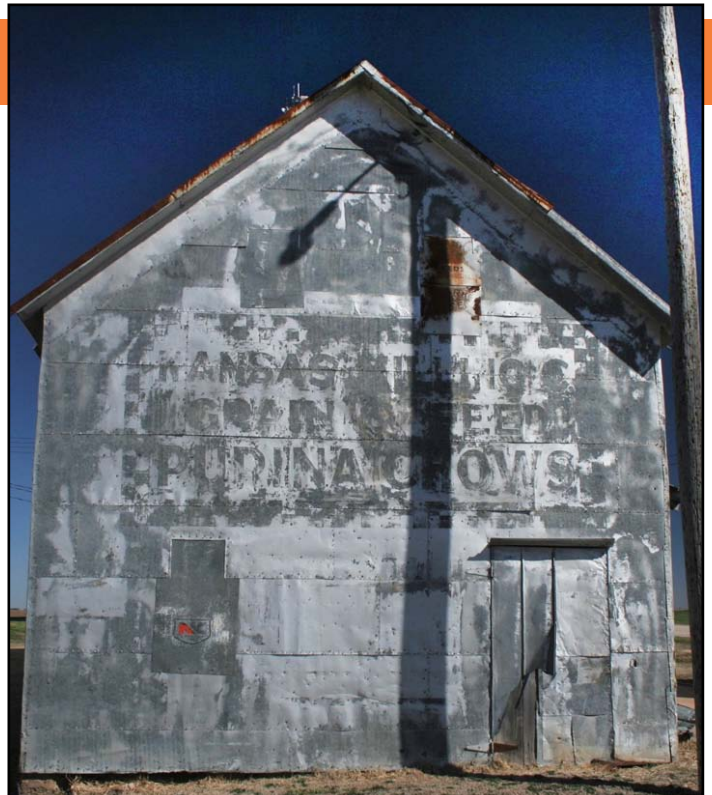
*KDOT's Tyrel Buchmeier took these photos of flooding along K-31 just east of Osage City. The highway was closed for a time but was reopened. Several other highways were also closed because of flooding.*

## District Five

**At right, Tyler Cheek, and his grandfather, Equipment Operator Specialist Jim Fulkerson in El Dorado. Cheek plans to pursue an engineering degree, and he spent a day job shadowing Joe Ausilio, Construction Engineer in El Dorado. Ausilio said Tyler showed a lot of interest in the construction projects they visited and got to interact with numerous KDOT employees.**

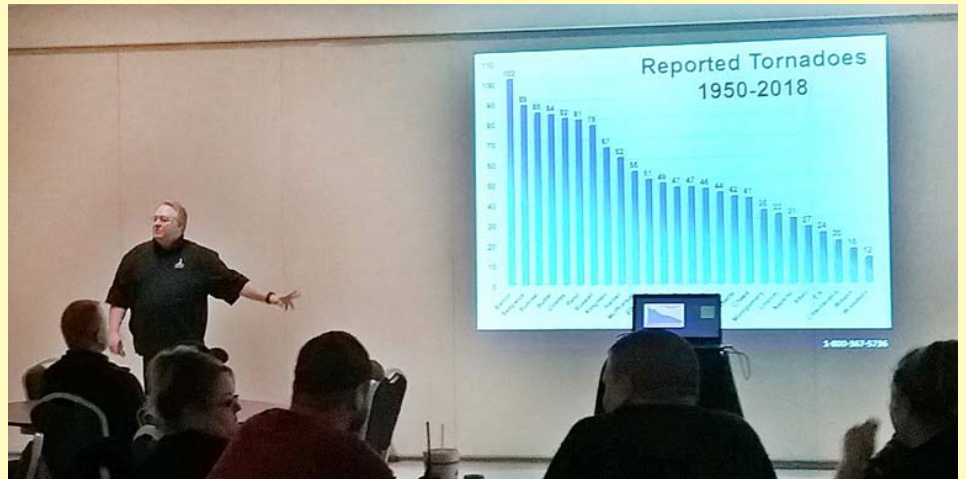


## Scenic



**Scenic photos by KDOT's Neil Croxton include (top left) crabapple blooms in Jewell County, (above) an abandoned building near Penalosa, a town in northwest Kingman County (left) and just east of Paradise in Russell County.**

**Being prepared:** In advance of this year's severe storm season, the National Weather Service of Wichita presented a series of seminars titled "Storm Fury on the Plains" in cities throughout the state. Open to the public, the Storm Fury seminars focused on building partnerships, improving communication and promoting greater trust between members of the public and the agency. "Don't be afraid to call us," meteorologist Chance Hayes told the almost 40 people attending an early April session in Independence. Hayes encouraged continual public reporting of severe weather events, either by calling NWS directly or by sending Tweets with the hashtag #kswx. If it's safe, he added, take a photo and share it in a Tweet. "We're a team. It takes a full team effort to improve." During the year 2018, Hayes said, Kansas experienced: a total of 297 severe storms with high winds, hail and flooding; 20 tornadoes that touched down; a four-inch hailstone that fell in Barton County; and 87 mile-per-hour straight line winds in Rice County.



**Wichita National Weather Service Meteorologist Chance Hayes presents information during a recent 'Storm Fury on the Plains' session in Independence.**

He discussed all aspects of the EF-3 tornado that moved through the city of Eureka without warning last June 26. Hayes described the differences between what was showing up on NWS radar and the views shared by local spotters on the ground. He emphasized that radar can't pick everything up as well as the human eye. "Let us know ..." if the conditions you see are different from those on the radar, he said. "Your eyes are just as important as the radar." Hayes also discussed storm spotting basics, describing

inflow and outflow regions and types of storms. He gave an overview of storm features such as squall lines, shelf clouds and supercells. If it's looking stormy, he told the group, "always check your surroundings" and weigh the potential risks before traveling. Study the cloud formations and the smartphone weather radar. "Observe the storm," he said, and consider whether to take a break and let the storm pass instead of driving into it. Hayes also encouraged the group to download free weather radar applications to their phones. "Use it to stay safe," he cautioned.

Touching briefly on flood safety tips, Hayes said water flowing at four miles-per-hour can exert a force comparable to an EF-2 tornado. In the event of severe weather, he stressed that people should be prepared, act quickly and seek shelter. He suggested that those staying at local storm shelters keep whistles handy so that relatives and friends could find each other in crowded conditions. "Use common sense," Hayes concluded.



**An EF-3 tornado moved through the city of Eureka last spring and damaged homes and buildings at the KDOT subarea office.**

**Concrete was placed on the second abutment of the SW 93rd St Bridge crossing over KTA at mile marker 168 near Topeka.**

## SPOTLIGHT

Each month, KTA spotlights a specific construction project along the roadway. This month, learn about the new Truck Parking System that is being installed at the six service areas, click [here](#).



## Kudos

*Recent notes on KDOT's Facebook -*

♦We recently broke down with a tire issue and a KDOT employee stopped to check on us. We didn't get his name but we were on I-35 passing Salina - we thank him for checking on us. We had tire trouble but no tire or jack available so he couldn't do much but he quickly got help!

♦I would like to thank two men who were working on highway 54 this afternoon around 230 east of Toronto... last names were Craft and Bishop...I blew out a tire and they fixed it. Craft saw me and rushed over followed shortly by Bishop. Craft immediately began helping me change the tire (lucky for me esp. since my lugwrench wasn't the correct size!) Bishop helped find tools and also ensured Craft and myself were safe by warning of approaching cars/trucks. This was a tremendous relief that such nice people went out of their way to assist me and because of their help I was able to make it to my son's track meet in Yates Center! Bless them and bless KDOT for employeeing such noble men!

*Note sent to KDOT's Jerry Glassman -*

♦Earlier this year, on January 11, 2019, Quinter High School was scheduled to play boys and girls basketball games at Wallace County High School. The weather forecast for the evening was questionable with snow predictions of anywhere from three to five inches late

in the evening. After considerable debate and checking multiple weather forecasts, we made the decision to go forward with the games. At the conclusion of the games, we quickly realized that the snow fall totals approached the eight inch mark and that the drive home would be treacherous! However, that night our bus, our parents and our students who had made the trip to Sharon Springs were guided home by a series of snow plow trucks provided by your department and other Kansas Department of Transportation regional departments plowing a path so that we could all get back to Quinter safely. On behalf of the students, parents, faculty, staff and administration of Quinter Junior/Senior High School, I want to thank you and all of the drivers from the area KDOT departments for escorting us home from the game that evening. Every person from Quinter who went to the game that night was able to make it back safely due to your efforts! We are grateful for the work you did that night and for the work you do daily.

Mr. Glassman, I apologize for this letter being sent so late after the fact. However, I didn't want the school year to end without expressing our gratitude to you and your staff. I ask that, if possible, you share my sentiments with the other departments responsible for helping guide us home safely that night. Thanks once again!

Toby Countryman - Principal, Quinter Junior/Senior High School



## Kansas Transportation

Thursday, April 25



### Big Kansas Roadtrip

It's time to hit the road to northwest Kansas for the Kansas Sampler Foundation's second annual Big Kansas Road Trip the weekend of May 2-5. Cheyenne, Wallace and Sherman counties are this year's featured destinations for the event, which was created to be an active, fun way to bring people together to explore the state, and to make an economic and social difference in the showcase counties.

Participants choose where to go and what they want to see over the course of the weekend, as there is no organized tour. The event serves as somewhat of an open house for each county to offer up what travelers can see, do, hear, taste, buy and learn in their communities.

Highlights of the weekend will include self-guided tours of the Arikaree Breaks in Cheyenne County, a lemonade contest and lawn croquet at the historic Ennis-Handy house in Goodland, Michael Martin Murphy performances at the Fort Wallace Museum in Wallace and a poker run through all three counties along the Land and Sky Scenic Byway. A complete list of events and attractions can be found on the Big Kansas Road Trip website at

[www.bigkansasroadtrip.com](http://www.bigkansasroadtrip.com).

Some tips and reminders to keep in mind during this year's road trip:

- Pack a lawn chair
- Restaurants will serve until the food is gone
- Grocery stores are located in each of the county seats (St. Francis, Goodland and Sharon Springs) and in Bird City.
- Not every town has gas stations, so gas up whenever you can
- When crossing cattle guards, keep an eye out for cattle on the roads - they have the right of way!
- It's a courtesy to bring rolls of toilet paper and offer them to businesses that are opening their bathrooms.
- MT or MDT is Mountain or Mountain Daylight Time; CT or CDT is Central or Central Daylight Time.

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