

## District Two teamwork

By Ashley Perez, District Two

### Helping each other:

Several employees in District Two demonstrated teamwork on Oct. 17 as they came together from Beloit, Marion, Concordia and Salina to help out when the wing wall of a box culvert collapsed just west of Beloit on U.S. 24.

Doug Newquist, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Beloit, knew that his small crew would need extra assistance to make the repairs in a timely manner, so he began calling other KDOT Area offices.

“Jason May, Area Supervisor in Marion, came to our rescue and offered his experience by helping our crew put up the concrete forms so the new wall could be built,” Newquist said.

Once May had put up the new forms, other experienced workers stepped up to help. Donnie Burkholder, Equipment Operator Specialist in Salina, and David Casper, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Concordia, headed to the Beloit area to help pour the new concrete. Traffic was



*From left to right, David Casper, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Concordia, Donnie Burkholder, Equipment Operator Senior on the District Specials Crew in Salina, and Jason May, Area Supervisor in Marion, work together to make quick repairs on a culvert on U.S. 24 near Beloit. Photo by Doug Newquist, District Two*

only affected for a short time when the pouring of the concrete took place.

Newquist appreciated all those who helped as well as those who volunteered to help in repairing the box culvert.

## In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of retiree John Meyer who passed away on Oct. 5 in Topeka. Meyer worked for KDOT for 37 years, retiring in 1987 as the Urban Engineer in the Bureau of Local Projects. He played a significant role in the design of the courtroom for the Nuremberg Trials.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Bob Warhurst who passed away on Oct. 19. Warhurst worked for KDOT for nearly 39 years, retiring as an Equipment Operator Senior at the Oakley Subarea office in 2010.



*The 2019 Employees' Council holiday ornament is now available to purchase. A form with more details is included in this edition.*

## Trivia!

### John F. Kennedy, Jr.

1. When was John F. Kennedy, Jr. born?
2. What happened on his third birthday?
3. What year did he pass the New York bar exam?
4. What television show did he appear on as himself?
5. What was the name of the magazine he and

Michael Berman founded?

6. Who was on the first cover of the magazine?
7. Who were some of the actresses he dated?
8. What happened in May 1999, two months before he passed away?

## I-235 bridge work



*Work continues on the northbound I-235 bridge over Broadway and the BNSF rail track in north Wichita. The new bridge is being built just south of the interstate so that two lanes are maintained for each direction. It is part of the Green Project which will be completed in three years in anticipation of future phases of the Wichita North Junction projects. Thomas Rhoads' road squad and Brad Rognlie's bridge squad designed the project. Photo by Tom Hein*

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Nov. 25, 1960.
2. The state funeral for his father, President John F. Kennedy, took place.
3. 1990.
4. Murphy Brown.

5. George.
6. Cindy Crawford.
7. Brooke Shields, Sarah Jessica Parker and Daryl Hannah.
8. He suffered a broken ankle during a paragliding accident.

## Cost Share Program Coordinator named

### Program Coordinator named:

Michelle Needham has been named KDOT's Cost Share Program Coordinator. In her new position, she will coordinate all aspects of KDOT's new program.

The Cost Share Program provides financial assistance to local entities for construction projects that improve safety, leverage state funds to increase total transportation investment and help both rural and urban areas of the state.



*Michelle  
Needham*

Previously she was Director of Operations and Scheduling for Gov. Laura Kelly's office. Before joining the State of Kansas, she served in several social welfare roles during the previous 20 years focused on developmentally disabled adults as well as early childhood mental health matters.

"I look forward to working with Kansas communities on moving key transportation improvements forward," Needham said.

A native of Overland Park, Needham has a bachelor's degree in social welfare from the University of Kansas.

## Looking out for co-worker makes vital difference

By Tim Potter

**Looking out for co-worker makes vital difference:** The task seemed to go so smoothly, so routinely. It was Oct. 1, and three KDOT co-workers gathered tree limbs along K-4 only about a mile from Hoisington.

That proximity to the town -- and its hospital -- would be crucial.

The whole experience would show the importance of watching out for a co-worker, of not hesitating in a potential health emergency.

The tree-limb removal had taken the three men only about five minutes. But as they finished, one of the three said something that drew the others' attention -- "I feel hot." Which was a sign of trouble because it wasn't too hot or humid, and the man was known for being energetic. But now he was having to rest by the work truck after a relatively easy task.

"We looked at him, and something's not right here," Kenney Roach remembered thinking of his co-worker. With the suddenly ill man that day were Roach, an Equipment Operator, and Jason Baze, an Equipment Operator Senior.

"It was pretty out-of-the-ordinary for him," Baze recalled.

Baze thought they were going to have to force the man to head for help in Hoisington, but they all quickly decided to go.

Baze directed his ill co-worker into the passenger seat up front in the extended cab, where it was roomy, accessible and where AC vents would give relief. Roach drove them on the short trip to the hospital in Hoisington, straight to the emergency room. Baze and Roach walked on either side of the man, ready to catch him if he started to collapse. (For privacy reasons, this article is not naming the man or detailing his condition.)

The two co-workers told a nurse about the man's



*Kenney Roach, left, and Jason Baze promptly made sure their co-worker got medical help. Photo by Brad Halseth, District Five*

symptoms. "And they took him right into the room," Baze said.

Baze and Roach would learn that it was critical that they wasted no time going to the hospital. Later, the man was taken by air ambulance to a Wichita hospital. He is recovering at home.

Baze and Roach have received regular first aid training from KDOT. Part of the training instills the idea that it's better to seek help and not end up needing it than to wait too long, Baze said.

The training "kicks in when we need it," said Michelle Burnett, Area Engineer in Great Bend.

Thinking back, Baze, Roach and Burnett said, it was a good thing the man wasn't working alone that day.

"I feel like they saved his life," she said.

## K-25 nears completion



A bridge project that prompted the closure of K-25 in Logan County for several months is nearing completion, as seen **above** and **at right**. KDOT began work in mid-February to remove and replace the bridge spanning the Smoky Hill River located approximately half a mile south of Russell Springs. K-25 near Russell Springs was closed for the duration of the project and reopened to traffic the week of Oct. 21. The new structure has the distinction of being the longest haunched slab bridge in the state. Steve King's road squad and Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad designed the project. Photos by Todd Anderson, District Three



## KTA



This historic photo shows the original toll gates and some classic cars getting ready to travel on the turnpike. On Oct. 25, the KTA celebrates 63 years of service for motorists across the country.

### **KTA brief:**

Highway speed electronic lanes will soon arrive at Southern Terminal, near the Oklahoma border. Click [here](#) to watch an inside look at highway speed lanes and how they came to fruition.

## Battling snow and ice

By Tim Potter, District Five

**Ready and waiting to battle winter's war on roads:** District Five crews are ready for snow and ice ("SNICE" is the KDOT abbreviation, of course).

Winter-weather preparation is a yearlong process, including all the logistics, planning and training. The work has been in high gear for the past several weeks. Crews and equipment had to be ready by Oct. 15 to plow snow or tackle ice.

One key part of the preparation is getting 117 District Five trucks set up "from spreader to plow, everything in between," says District Maintenance Superintendent Chris Collins.

And not just the trucks have to be operational. All the backhoes, tractors and front end loaders used to supply the trucks also must be working.

Brine makers – the hoppers where salt and water get mixed – must be ready, too. Because of the corrosive effect of saltwater, just about any equipment that handles brine will need repairs. So workers have been checking brine pumps, which can seize up over the summer. Wiring can corrode. Rodents can move in and chew into components.

So many steps and pieces to the preparation: from making sure workers have proper winter gear, to stocking each shed with more than 1,000 tons of salt. "You should start the year with a full shed," Collins says.

If winter storms loom heading into a weekend, for example, KDOT is ready to deploy extra crews, working 12-hour shifts. So on a Friday going into a weekend, crews would "saddle up" trucks with spreaders and plows "just so they're set and ready to go," Collins says.

This year's winter forecast, he says, is: not as tough a winter as last year, with slightly lower temperatures, slightly less moisture than an average year and with the bulk of the moisture coming after the first of the year.

"Last year, we had snow in October," Collins notes. Ice usually arrives before snow.

If he and Equipment Operator Specialist Mitch Jenkins could choose between ice or snow?

"I'll take 2 and a half feet of snow over an inch of ice," Collins says.

"Ice is a long night," Jenkins says.



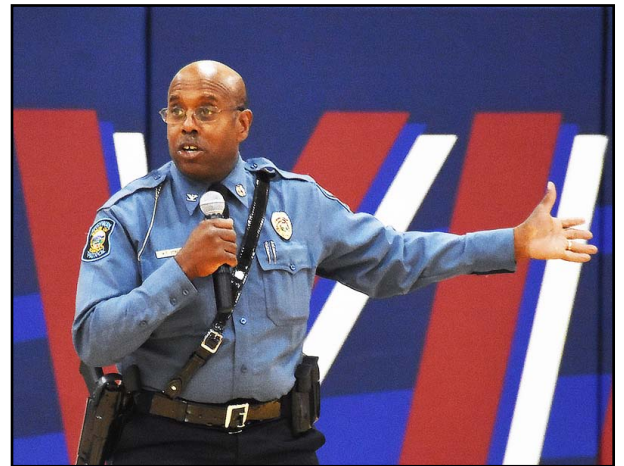
**Above:** David Alexander, Equipment Operator Senior with District Five, replaced a "sight tube" -- used to monitor how much brine remains in the tank. **Below:** Alexander stands with one of the trucks used to clear the roads. Photos by Tim Potter



## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day



An event to highlight Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day took place on Oct. 10 at Seaman High School in Topeka. The event began with Sarah Kay Broecker sharing experiences of breaking her neck in a serious crash while not wearing her seat belt when she was 16 years old and facing the possibility of never walking again. She also described the pain and fear she felt while facing a surgery with only a 30% success rate and then going through more than a year of physical therapy. Photos by Support Services



Above, KHP Superintendent Col. Herman Jones shared experiences he has faced while working vehicle crashes. At left, students and teachers raced on tricycles while wearing vision impaired goggles.

## Bird watching

**Bird watching:** Celebration of Cranes is an event that provides the public with an opportunity to see cranes and other birds that gather at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge during the fall migration.

Six tours are planned on Nov. 1, 2 and 3. Early morning hours starting at dawn and sunrise are the best times to view Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes, waterfowl and many other birds and wildlife. There is no guarantee the Whooping Cranes will be present, but historically this is a good time.

The event is sponsored by Audubon of Kansas (AOK). The registration deadline is Oct. 28. Click [here](#) to register, or contact AOK at 785-537-4385.



## Photo Contest

By Mallory Goeke

**Photo contest underway:** A photo contest for the cover of KDOT's upcoming 2020-21 Kansas Bicycle Map is underway.

Comprehensive Transportation Planning Manager Matthew Messina said Kansas has plenty to offer bicyclists, whether you're a commuter, a recreational rider or even a racer.

"Kansas has a wide range of terrain and scenic landscapes that help make biking fun and enjoyable every time you ride," Messina said.

KDOT is looking for photos that capture the fun and adventure of biking in Kansas. Any Kansas resident is eligible to enter by completing the waiver and release forms in the electronic submission process. About 25,000 copies of the current edition have been distributed to 24 states.

Click [here](#) to enter - limit of two photos. Entries are due by Nov. 1.



**KANSAS BICYCLE MAP  
PHOTO CONTEST** Entries Due:  
November 1

Share your passion for cycling with a photo that shows the fun and adventurous side of cycling in Kansas! Your entry could be the cover for the next Kansas Bicycle Map. You could win other great prizes— like a free cabin stay at a Kansas State Park! **Go here for more info:** <https://kdotapp.ksdot.org/BPC/>



## KanDrive improvements

By Kim Stich, Headquarters

**KanDrive improvements will help motorists:** Numerous improvements have been made to KDOT's KanDrive website that provides motorists continuously updated conditions of highways across the state.

"The website received more than 2 million views last winter," said Alan Spicer, Assistant Bureau Chief in Transportation Planning. "It's important to keep the traveling public notified of current and changing road conditions so they can make informed travel decisions."

The main page, at [www.KanDrive.org](http://www.KanDrive.org), has been streamlined to make it easier to begin viewing details. Click on the map to open the tabs, which have been expanded. The first tab, Travel Alerts, gives a comprehensive list of incident, road work and weather closures.



Other tabs include –  
**Incidents/weather** – shows road incidents, flooding, fog, blowing dust, law enforcement;  
**Winter conditions** – this map becomes the main map on the website if any highways are affected by snow or ice;  
**Construction** – shows that are planned, active and have closed a section of highway. Also, people can

click on the map location for details on the project, and an estimated start date has been added;  
**Cameras/signs** – shows images and live feeds at certain locations and signs with messages;  
**Truck parking** – shows locations and availability of parking spots for truck drivers.

This information is also available on mobile devices. A map icon has been added to the top of the mobile website to assist users in opening the page.

***Do you know of a KDOT retiree not receiving the electronic KDOT newsletter Translines?***

***Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to [Kim.Stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.Stich@ks.gov)***

## Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Oct. 23

### #IAMKDOT: Robyn Daniels

By Priscilla Petersen, District Four

When she's not administering contracts and coordinating staff at the Independence office, Robyn Daniels can be found checking the progress on construction projects and visiting with KDOT inspectors throughout Montgomery, Wilson, Elk and Chautauqua counties.

Daniels is the Engineering Technician Specialist for the Independence Construction office. She began her KDOT career of over 30 years – 31 this May – as an Office Assistant at Independence. She continued her path forward by promoting through the construction ranks as an Engineering Technician and Engineering Technician Senior before being selected as the Specialist several years ago.

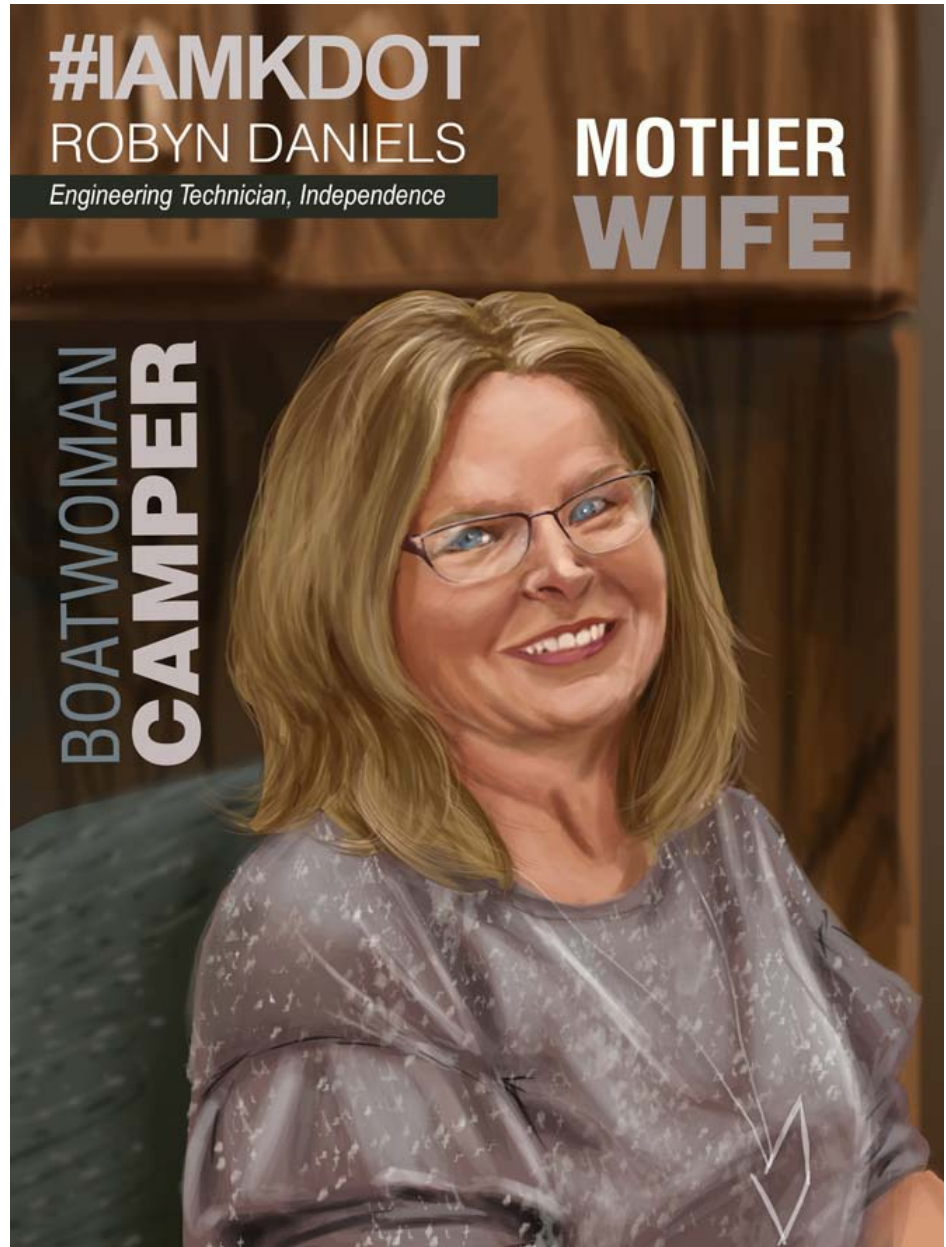
Daniels was among the KDOT employees who developed and constructed 11 miles of new roadway for U.S. 400 through Wilson and Montgomery counties during the 1990s. She remembers how different it was back then as construction personnel traveled from place to place along the new highway corridor.

"Every part of the work zone was torn up," she recalled. "We had only hand-held radios – it was hard to track down other people on the project."

Another great change that she has experienced through the years has been in the progress of office paperwork – the transition from using carbon paper to making multiple copies of change orders

to a much more streamlined electronic systems for contract administration and record keeping.

She and her husband, Terry, live in Independence. The couple has three daughters. In her free time Daniels and her family enjoy camping and boating at Elk City Lake.



*Illustration by Mallory Goeke*

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



# KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

# 2019

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
<b>2019</b>		<b>\$5</b>	
2018		\$3	
2017		\$3	
2016		\$3	
2015		\$3	
2013		\$3	
Total enclosed			



Please Print -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Retirees only - home address)

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## How to Order:

Headquarters: Contact  
your Council Rep.

Districts/Retirees:

Mail form to -

Kristie Eakes,  
ESOB - 14th Floor,  
700 SW Harrison,  
Topeka, KS 66603

Make checks  
payable to KDOT  
Employee Council

For more details, call  
Kristie at (785) 291-3501

## ----- Past Ornaments Still Available-----

2017



2016



2018



2015



2013

