

Translines EXPRESS

Jan. 27, 2016

District Four



Sedan Subarea crew members, left to right, are Nathan Blankinship, Brad Harter, Tom Ware, Randy Bierle, Tim Baker, Bill Snyder, Donald Simpson and Art Wade. Not pictured is Dale Sweaney.

Heroic effort: Sedan Subarea crew members Brad Harter, Bill Snyder, Timothy Baker, Randy Bierle and Donald Simpson spent Dec. 21 cutting brush on U.S. 166 near Cedar Vale. As the crew members were returning to the office late that afternoon, they saw a semi-truck engulfed in flames. Independence Superintendent Marcus Leck said they went into action, rushed around to the cab of the truck and found the driver also engulfed in flames.

The employees ran to the driver to perform the stop, drop and roll technique to extinguish the fire. The tires started popping from the heat and were about to explode, so they moved him to safety away from the truck to provide other emergency medical care. "We go to training for things like this," said Sedan Highway Supervisor Tom Ware. "They acted quickly, and they didn't hesitate. They jumped right in there and did

all they could. I'm pretty proud of them."

Sedan Subarea employees Art Wade, Dale Sweaney and Nathan Blankinship also responded to assist with traffic control on U.S. 166 and other activities associated with the crash.

"This was one of the worst wrecks we've come upon," Ware said. "I commend everyone for their efforts."

Leck said the driver later died at the Sedan City Hospital, but "our employees gave him a chance for life that he did not have without them."

The entire Sedan Subarea crew will be honored by Gov. Sam Brownback, Secretary Mike King and KHP Lt. Col. Randy Moon at the Capitol on Jan. 28.

"I'm incredibly proud of our crew and how they responded to this tragedy," said Secretary Mike King. "They put the well-being of the driver above their own safety and went above and beyond to help."

Trivia!

State song –

1. Dr. Brewster Higley wrote a poem to describe the beauty of the site he had chosen for his Kansas homestead. What was the name of the poem?
 - A. Ode to Kansas
 - B. My Western Home
 - C. The Best Home on the Range
 - D. The Deer and the Antelope
2. What year did he write the poem?
3. Where was this homestead?
4. Where is the Home on the Range highway?

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree **Tom Brewer** who died on Jan. 22 in Topeka. Brewer worked for KDOT for 40 years, retiring from the Bureau of Information Technology in 2010.

General

Annual vehicle fee proposed in California:

According to Better Roads, California needs more money for its aging roads and bridges, but with so many electric and hybrid vehicle drivers, the state isn't getting enough funding from fuel taxes to foot the bill. Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed a new plan to try to put more funds back in the transportation budget. According to CBS San Francisco, Brown has proposed a \$65 annual vehicle fee for all vehicles that would increase highway funding by about \$2 billion a year. That would be a much-needed boost for the state's infrastructure funding, especially considering that the California Department of Transportation said last year that the state needs an additional \$5.7 billion over the next 10 years. "The roads we have to deal with. They're just there, they cost money," Brown said. Gas or electric, every car, truck and motorcycle would have to pay the annual fee. Since drivers of traditional gas-powered vehicles already pay the 40 cents per gallon gas tax, some local lawmakers want to pump the brakes on the plan.

District Six



U.S. 50 in Cimarron will see more improvements with a Geometric Improvement project set for 2016.

Geometric Improvement continues: A Geometric Improvement project that will begin later this construction season will reconstruct two blocks of U.S. 50 (Avenue A) through Cimarron. It's a continuation of concrete replacement projects taking place along U.S. 50. KDOT and Cimarron have partnered on several GI projects that have replaced about a mile of asphalt pavement with concrete through town on U.S. 50.

Traffic through Cimarron is about 20 percent trucks. Following this project, approximately a quarter mile of U.S. 50 within the city limits of Cimarron will be asphalt. J-A-G Construction Company of Dodge City is the primary contractor on this project at a cost of \$643,000. As part of the GI project agreement, the city of Cimarron will contribute \$93,000.

District Four

More than 70 people stopped by KDOT's open house Monday night at Paola for updates on the planned K-68 improvements from U.S. 169 east to U.S. 69. The first improvement, a realignment of Somerset Road with K-68, will let this fall. The remaining Miami County corridor enhancements, which include the expansion to a four-lane expressway on an eastern end section, are scheduled to start in late 2018.



Chris Meyer's bridge squad and Steve Rockers' road squad designed the project. Under the T-WORKS program, \$10 million has been allotted to K-68. Monday's open house was preceded by a well-attended briefing for local officials. A second K-68 project briefing and open house is Jan. 28 in Louisburg.

District One

The southbound I-435 bridge right lane over Midland Drive in Kansas City is closed to traffic as emergency bridge deck pavement repairs begin today. It's expected to be completed in late February. Travis Malone's bridge squad designed the project.



Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, Jan. 19

KDOT annual report posted

KDOT's annual report detailing 2015 activities and achievements has been posted on the agency's website. The report, "Moving Kansas Forward," includes a progress report on the 10-year T-WORKS transportation program, highlights partnerships, provides safety statistics and offers examples of how KDOT uses technology in design, construction and traffic management. The report also includes revenue and expenditure numbers and links to an appendix that lists projects, project selection criteria and more. To see the report, go to <http://www.ksdot.org/publications.asp>

To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>



Kudos

KDOT offices received thank you notes recently through Facebook, tweets and emails.

Emails -

- Just came home from work in Ottawa, and want to give a big "THANK YOU" to all the State Workers! Hwy was good and safe coming home. Scary ride to work, but thanks to them, I didn't have to stay, and got to come home to my loved ones. I was so, so Thankful.
Kathy King, Garnett
 - Hey, just a shout out to thank you for your road conditions maps and the optimized smart phone app. I have been running into and away from this week's freezing rain and I would imagine I have looked at the maps a dozen times in 2 days. Just this evening driving from Chanute to KC. Thanks so much . . . it's a great resource.
 - Thanks for the light at Hwy 75 and NW 35th street. We appreciate your work.
- ### Facebook posts -
- You are all heroes, thank you for all the hard work and please be safe. - Marcos Ramirez
 - Thanks for the updates and a big Thank You to the crews working the roads! - Bill James
 - I and the thousands of truck drivers really appreciate the hard work KDOT does in the state. You folks do a heck of a job. Thanks and be safe. - Richard Koleber

Twitter -

- A big hearty thank you to @KansasTurnpike and @KDOTHQ crews for the great roads that got me back home last night for my son's birthday party
- @NEKansasKDOT: thank you kdot crews!
- @KansasCityKDOT: Yes, thank you for keeping us safe! Rest up for the next one. Nice job!
- @TroopCandiceKHP @kshighwaypatrol @KansasCityKDOT: Thank you! Did speed limit from OK to KC up I-35. You made my day trucking stress free.
- @TroopCandiceKHP: Look how great the roads are looking! Huge shoutout to @KansasCityKDOT! You guys are #Awesome
- @KHPRecruiting: ● Thank you @NEKansasKDOT @KDOTHQ for all of your hard work.
- @KansasCityKDOT: You guys did a great job yesterday, like you always do. Thanks!
- @KansasCityKDOT: Good job on the roads. Took my time and never slid on K7.
- Thanks @KDOTHQ & @kshighwaypatrol for all the snowy work! Everybody #GoSlowEnjoytheSnow #GoSlow 4 safety.
- Thank you #ChaseCountyKDOT for making the first half of my commute on Hwy 50 to Emporia easy! #welldone @KDOTHQ



Construction at the Bazaar Cattle Pens begins this week. Throughout the duration of the project, the cattle pen area is closed to the traveling public. The \$3.2 million project is scheduled to be complete by mid-fall 2016, weather permitting. Read more about the project at <http://bit.ly/1nk6MQR>. Find designs and more photos of the area can be seen at <http://bit.ly/1UmrPwY>.

Aviation

Interim Aviation Director

named: Secretary Mike King has named Dennis O'Connor the state's interim Director of Aviation. O'Connor, who has been at KDOT since July 2014, has been serving as the agency's aviation manager of federal and state affairs. In 1986, he earned his first pilot's license; since 1998 he has served in a variety of capacities at airports and aviation agencies in Tennessee, New Jersey, California and New York. He is an instrument-rated commercial pilot and flight instructor and has a communications degree from State University of New York at Geneseo. Former KDOT Aviation Director Tiffany Brown has taken a position with the Federal Aviation Administration in Denver. A search for a permanent director is underway.



Dennis O'Connor

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. B. My Western Home.
2. 1871.
3. On the bank of the West Beaver Creek in Smith County.
4. On K-8 from U.S. 36 and extending 17 miles to the Nebraska state line.

KTA

KTA study released: The Kansas Turnpike Authority released its Long Term Needs Study on Jan. 20, outlining plans to preserve, modernize and enhance the Turnpike system during the next 10 years. The study serves as a resource, allowing people to better understand what to expect from KTA during this time. Learn about it and read the study at www.ksturnpike.com/about.

Retirees

The following employee retired from KDOT on Jan. 1.

Headquarter

Jo Palmer, Technology Support Consultant, Structures and Geotechnical Services

The following employees will retire from KDOT on Feb. 1.

Headquarters

Charlotte McCall, Administrative Assistant, Construction and Materials

Donald Reimer, Engineering Technician Specialist, Construction and Materials

Sheila Robles, Program Consultant II, Transportation Safety and Technology

District One

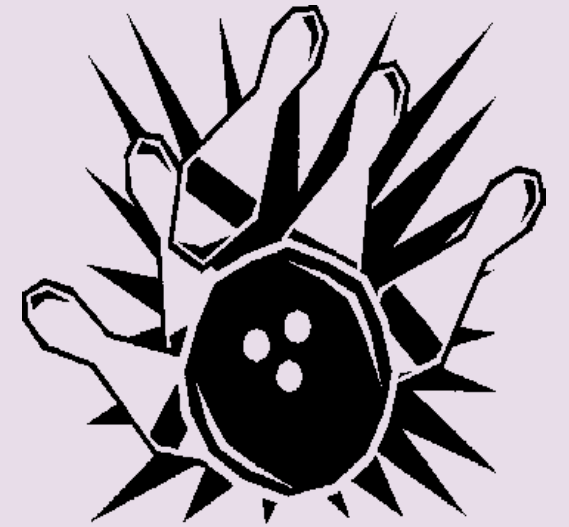
Rose Schimmel, Engineering Technician, Topeka

General

BTS provides updated guide: The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics has released the first quarterly update of 2016 for the web-only National Transportation Statics report. The update, released last week, provides new information on 53 of the 260 tables of transportation data the report supplies, including the transportation system, safety, the economy and energy and the environment.

To see the guide, go to http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/sites/rita.dot.gov/bts/files/publications/national_transportation_statistics/index.html.

CRAZY BOWL



■When: **Sunday, Feb. 28, at 1 p.m.**

■Cost: **\$8 per person, free shoe rental**

■**Deadline to sign up: NOON, Feb. 24**

To sign up: **Bring team money (\$32) to Kim Stich in Public Affairs**

■Who: **Teams consisting of 4 people** (KDOT employees, friends and family members are welcome to participate - it is just for fun)

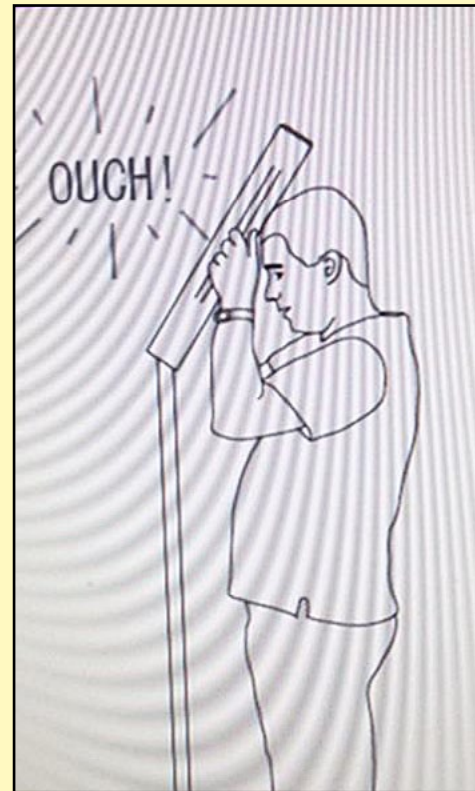
■Where: **Gage Bowl** (Huntoon Street west of Gage Boulevard, Topeka)

For more details or to sign up, contact Kim Stich at 296-3585 or your Employees' Council representative.

What is "Crazy Bowl?" People participating in the Employees' Council Crazy Bowl event bowl three games. The first two games are bowled normally. The third game is the "crazy" part. Each frame is different - one time you bowl backwards, the next time you bowl on one leg, etc. And the only rule is that you relax and have fun!

Safety

Sharing safety alerts: A story in the last Translines edition told about safety alerts being by KDOT employees and shared with crews to help prevent similar accidents from happening. One of the alerts was shown as an example, but other alerts are going to be published so everyone can benefit from the information.



KDOT SAFETY TEAM (Together Employees Accomplish More)

Hard hats or soft head -

"It has always been a practice for employees to pound delineators into the ground with manual steel post drivers. I went out to start the day, I was starting a post in and had to adjust to three different places and with multiple times of trying to get it started with little success. I finally started and as I went up to give it a good swing, the post driver slipped from my grasp and came down full force and hit me in the

head. I received eight staples from this and needless to say a splitting headache for the next several days." The employee, who had more than 10 years of experience, had never used a hard hat, but now wishes he did.

Using the hard hat as part of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for such an event is a must and supervisors need to discourage employees from using steel post driver without a hard hat.