

Translines EXPRESS

Jan. 14, 2015

KTA

New CEO: Effective Jan. 1, Steve Hewitt became Chief Executive Officer, taking over leadership of the Kansas Turnpike Authority's day-to-day operations. Director of Maintenance Eric Becker has assumed responsibility for the KTA's toll department in a newly-created Director of Roadway Operations position. These changes in KTA leadership are part of a succession plan for current KTA Chief Operations Officer Alan Bakaitis, who will serve in an advisory role until his retirement later in 2015. Learn more here <http://bit.ly/1IGJUyG>



Steve Hewitt

W-2 Forms

Online W-2 forms: 2014 W-2 forms are now available in the Employee Self Service center. W-2 forms can be accessed electronically any time ESS is open. The W-2 form contains the same information and format employees are used to seeing and can be printed on an 8.5- by 11-inch sheet of paper.

If you have not consented to receive W-2 information electronically, log on to the self service center at www.da.ks.gov/ps/subject/ssc/ and click on the W-2/W-2c consent link. For the protection of personal information, security settings on State of Kansas e-mail servers will not allow any document containing social security numbers – such as downloaded electronic W-2 forms - to be sent as an unsecured e-mail attachment to other e-mail addresses (such as an employee's personal/home e-mail). Printed W-2 forms for employees who do not receive their W-2 information electronically will be mailed the last week of January in accordance with IRS regulations.

District Three

Keeping the public informed: Snow and ice season is in full swing in District Three. Three separate winter storm events in the month of December alone kept crews busy treating and clearing the roadways. While all of the events have brought significant snowfall and wind, the storm on Dec. 23 prompted the closing of I-70 from Colby to the Colorado border for most of the day.

One of the challenges faced during these events is how to best communicate road conditions and closure information to the public. We have worked to increase our usage of Facebook and Twitter this season to disseminate information during storms. Posts have included road conditions maps, photos from our Interstate cameras and road crews, weather updates and driving and safety tips. News releases are still used to make official announcements, such as road closures, but the addition of social media gets the word out to the public faster. It has also provided an avenue for the public to send information on conditions in their areas and give feedback on how crews are doing.

Followers on both Facebook and Twitter have increased - check out District Three on Facebook as Northwest Kansas KDOT and Twitter as NWKansasKDOT. See you online!



Social media is being used more and more to get out information on road conditions.

General

State of the State

State of State address on Thursday: Gov. Sam Brownback will deliver his 2015 State of the State address to the Kansas Legislature at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the House chambers of the Kansas Statehouse. The 133rd State of the State address will be televised live by KPTS-TV and other Kansas television and radio stations. Please check local listings for viewing availability.



Secretary Mike King, while in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, met with Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-Kan.) to discuss state and federal infrastructure needs.

Trivia!

1. Where would you find the Gunfighter's Wax Museum?
2. Where would you see a Liberty Bell made of wheat?
3. Where is the oldest operating carousel in the country?
4. Where can you find a buffalo made of barbed wire?

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Dannie White, an Equipment Operator on the District Six crew who passed away on Jan. 4 in Garden City. White had worked for KDOT for seven years.



Dannie White

Annual Report

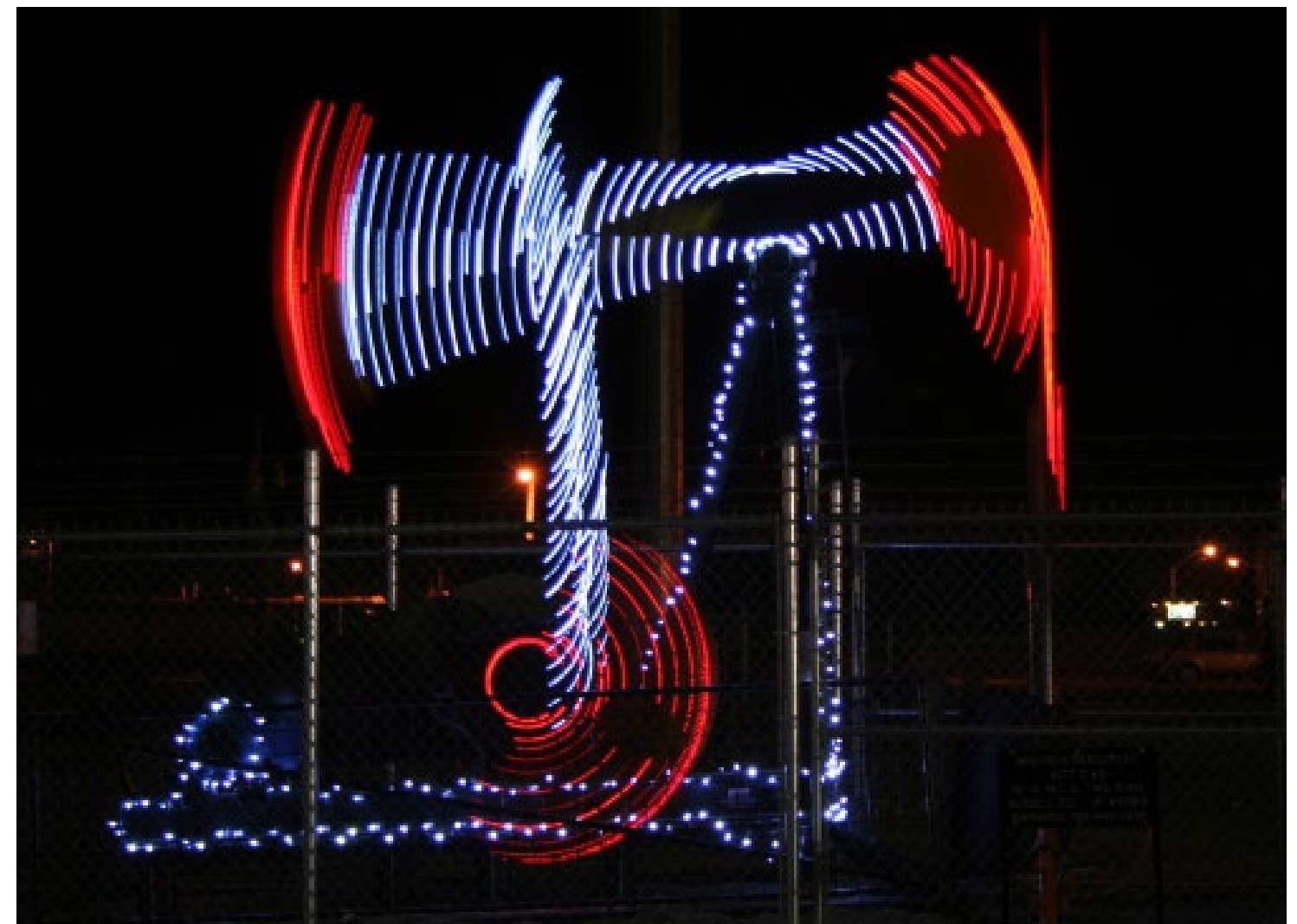
KDOT annual report posted to website: KDOT's annual report, which includes performance details, updates and facts from 2014, is available for viewing on the agency's website. The report, along with the accompanying appendix, can be found on the KDOT website, www.ksdot.org, under the "Projects/Publications" tab at the upper right of the home page.

General



Above, KDOT Videolog Engineer Bill Hughes carries his kayak to the river to take part in the Arkansas River Coalition's 7th annual New Year's Day float on Jan. 1. Hughes and several family members have participated in the event for several years. At right, this year's two-mile float took participants on a section of the river in south Wichita starting at the water center and finishing at Garvey Park. Photos courtesy of the Wichita Eagle.

General



The holidays may be over, but this oil pump jack in Russell County still looks festive in this photo by KDOT Regional Geologist Neil Croxton.

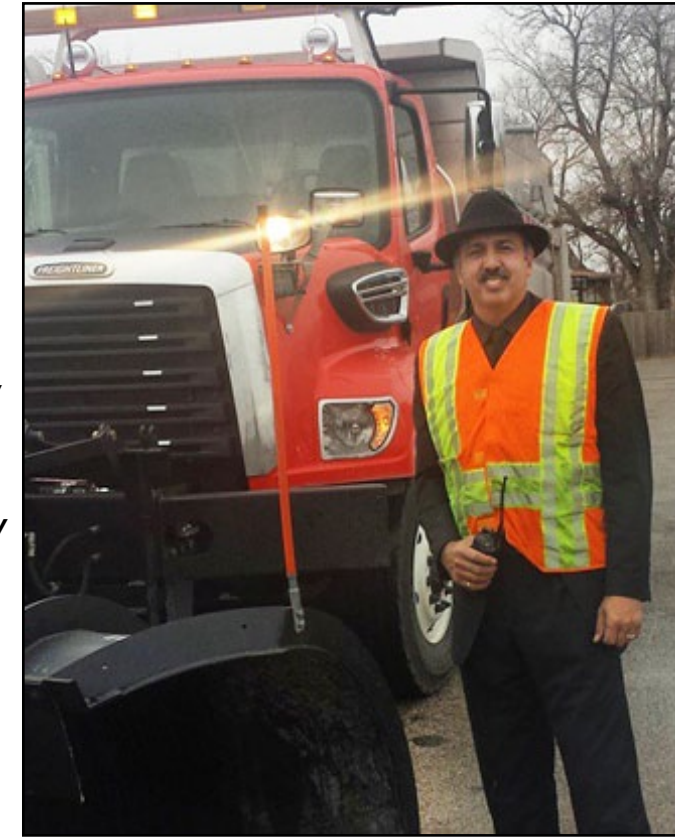
District Five

The Pawnee County All Veterans Memorial road sign was unveiled by the local Veterans Memorial Committee members in December. The signs were placed on K-156 in the city of Larned by the KDOT Larned Subarea crew members.



General

Equipment Operator Miguel Padua may seem a little dressed up for winter weather operations, but when the Wichita West Subarea Crew members were called in last weekend for emergency frost control on the bridges, he rushed to the office in the clothes he wore to church.



FHWA

The first edition of this year's Federal Highway Safety Administration's safety newsletter was posted last week. Check it out at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/newsletter/safetycompass/2015/winter/#s1>

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Dodge City
2. Goessel
3. At the C.W. Parker Carousel Museum in Leavenworth
4. In front of the Ft. Wallace Museum in Wallace

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 translines@ksdot.org

Praise from the Public

Below are a few comments from people about the recent snow storms across the state.

My friend and I would like to express our extreme gratitude for the snowplow operator who stopped to help us when we had been blown off of Hwy 24, east of Hwy 83 near Rexford and Menlo. It was 9 degrees with very high winds, in the middle of the night, but this gentleman, whose name I neglected to get, expressed concern for our welfare, and took the time to work with a Thomas County Sheriff's deputy to get our car back on the road. AAA had been unable to find anyone to come help us so we were basically stranded in a blizzard. This gentleman was wonderful, and he very easily could have stayed in his warm vehicle and kept plowing rather than stop to help us.

I wish I had gotten his name, but hopefully this is enough information for you to identify him and commend him for a job very well done. We were able to make it home with a minimum of anxiety thanks to these two gentlemen.

Carol Mills

Yes! Roads were great on Thursday morning!
Melanie Pearson Townsend

Marshall County roads this morning were cleared before I got on the highways. These guys are awesome.

Pat DeMelo

Drove from Dodge City to Wichita this afternoon and the roads were clear and easy to drive. Big thank you to the road crew!

Erica Wisteria Sholander

Dear Sir or Madam: I would like to say thank you to everyone who keeps the roads cleared during the winter time. You people are appreciated very much. I hope that everyone at the KDOT has a very merry Christmas and a very happy new year. Thanks again. Sincerely, Rocky Harris

@NWKansasKDOT great job on highway 36. Just got to CO. and they never touched it. Keep up the good work.

Mark Keller

When everyone is wondering if there's anything they need to go out for..you're already out there making it possible..

Carl Chiles

District Two

Emergency repair work continues on an I-70 bridge between the 9th Street and Ohio Street interchanges in Salina. One lane has been completed with traffic switched to the other lane on Monday. The repairs involve removing and replacing the concrete and steel connection between the bridge deck and the roadway. Other winter work taking place now in District Two includes light poles being replaced in Lincoln, Ottawa, Ellsworth and Saline counties and bridge repairs on Low Road near Kanopolis.



Work Zone Fatalities

Work zone statistics: According to an article in Better Roads magazine, the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse has released the latest data tally of deaths in motor vehicle traffic crashes in construction work zones, broken down by state. Of 32,719 traffic fatalities in 2013, 579 occurred in work zones. Texas topped the list, with 104 fatalities occurring in a work zone. The NWZSIC pulls the data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Rounding out the top five were Florida, 69 fatalities;

California, 51 fatalities; Illinois, 30 fatalities and Georgia, 23 fatalities. Only Vermont and Washington, D.C. had no work zone fatalities.

The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse is a project of the American Road and Transportation Builders' Association's Transportation Development Foundation.

To see statistics on all 50 states go to http://www.workzonesafety.org/crash_data/workzone_fatalities/2013

CRAZY BOWL

■ **When:** Sunday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m. (note time change)

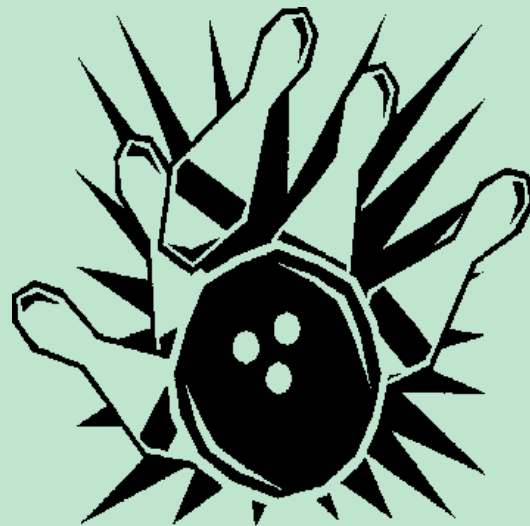
■ **Cost:** \$7.50 per person, free shoe rental

■ **Deadline to sign up:** NOON, Feb. 11

To sign up: **Bring team money (\$30) 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)



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!

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