

Translines EXPRESS

June 3, 2015

MAGIC Camp



Left: Students learn to use the tools given to them at the MAGIC camp to build a flower pot. Right: KDOT employee Brandon Vacek helps students design a bridge using team work skills.



MAGIC camp shows career opportunities: They aren't pulling a rabbit out of a hat, but the high school girls attending the MAGIC summer camp in Topeka are learning some tricks about career opportunities in construction and transportation fields. MAGIC (Mentoring a Girl in Construction) introduces high school girls age 14 or older to trade skill occupations such as carpentry, safety, electrical and highway construction and gives them a chance to learn from women already succeeding in these jobs. The

event is taking place this week and is sponsored by KDOT.

"It's important to let young women who will soon be entering the work force know about career opportunities in these previously non-traditional fields," said KDOT Civil Rights Administrator Doria Watson. "This camp shows the students new career possibilities they may not have considered before."

A total of 28 high school girls from the Topeka area are attending the camp, which will end Friday.

Aviation Open House

Up, up and away: A send-off open house is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 15 for Acting Aviation Director Tiffany Brown and her co-pilot, Taylor Humphry, who will be competing as team TNT in the 2015 Air Race Classic beginning June 22. The open house will be on the 2nd floor, west wing, of Eisenhower State Office Building. The four-day, 2,100-nautical-mile, all-women's air race begins in Fredericksburg, Va., and will conclude in Fairhope, Ala., on the Gulf Coast.

Flooding



K-99 in Lyon County was closed to traffic on May 25 over the Cottonwood River a couple miles south of Emporia at 10:25 a.m. as high waters covered the roadway. It opened to traffic the next day.

Trivia!

Trails – part one

1. How did the Santa Fe Trail get its name?
2. Where did the Oregon Trail run?
3. What is the Gardner junction?
4. What was the main reason the Chisholm Trail was created?

Federal Funding

Funding extension: According to a report in *The Hill*, President Obama signed a two-month extension of highway funding into law on May 29, the White House said.

The measure prevents a sudden halt in infrastructure funding that was slated to begin May 31. But White House press secretary Josh Earnest criticized the stopgap bill as a punt and urged Congress to pass a long-term measure to fund road projects. The extension expires July 31. "It's the president's view that the era of short-term patches ... must come to an end," Earnest told reporters.

It was the 33rd temporary fix for highway funding since 2008. The uncertainty caused by that approach has led states to delay major highway projects. He encouraged lawmakers to look at closing tax loopholes to fund a long-term highway measure.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. William Becknell headed his mules west from Franklin, Missouri, in 1821 loaded with goods he planned to take through what is now Kansas to the Mexican city of Santa Fe.
2. The Oregon Trail ran approximately 2,000 miles west from Missouri toward the Rocky Mountains to the Willamette Valley.

3. It's the junction of three trails – the Santa Fe Trail, the Oregon Trail and the California Trail. It's located two miles southwest of the present day town of Gardner.
4. To allow for herds of cattle to be driven from Texas to Abilene, Kan., where the Union Pacific Railway connected.

Awards



Two KDOT projects were honored as 2015 Engineering Excellence Award recipients from the national American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). In the photo above, from left, Greg Weatherd of HNTB and KDOT employees Jim Brewer, Deb Tanking and Brad Rognlie accepted the award on the K-18 improvements from Ogden to Manhattan. In the photo below, from left, Calvin Reed, Brian Hash of HNTB, Mark Hurt and Steve Hague of HNTB accepted the award on the Amelia Earhart Bridge.



District Six

Secretary Mike King speaks to several dozen people at the Dodge City Depot as part of a ribbon cutting event to launch Dodge City's new fixed route transit system. Dodge City has offered demand response and paratransit services for several years. Monthly ridership quadrupled since 2012, which justified a new fixed route system with three separate routes serving the community. For Fiscal Year 2016, Dodge City will receive \$139,748 from KDOT and \$349,370 in federal funds to help with operating costs.



KDOT Transportation Blog

Kansas Transportation

Thursday, May 28

Throwback Thursday

Here's a shot of U.S. 24 highway near Beloit. Can you guess what year it was? Here's your hint: If you know how much that doggie is in the window, you'll probably know the answer. (Answer is below.)

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

It's from 1953.



District Three

Check out our state: "That's in Kansas?" may be the most common phrase heard at the Goodland Travel Information Center.

With summer just around the corner, Center Manager Mona Carver and her staff are gearing up for what is their busiest time of the year. Carver said visits to the center peak in July and average between 700 and 1,000 visitors per day. Visitors can get maps, directions, and brochures about attractions as well as work with the travel counselors to plan their visit in Kansas and make accommodations.

Carver said most visitors are surprised by all that Kansas has to offer, especially the Eisenhower Presidential Center and Monument Rocks. She noted most people don't realize Eisenhower was from Kansas.



The Goodland Travel Information Center helps people learn about many places to visit and things to do across Kansas.

The center is open year-round except New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Free coffee and tea are always available.

Hours of Operation:

- ♦ May 15 through Sept. 15 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ♦ Sept. 16 through May 14 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Multitasking is the name of the game when maintenance crews close down two of three lanes on U.S. 54 in west Wichita. The West Wichita Subarea crew patched bridge potholes (above) while the lighting contractor took advantage of the traffic control and changed out light bulbs (right). The Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) count on this section of U.S. 54, just west of I-235, is 87,800.

District Five



District Six



Secretary Mike King, right, participated with other Dodge City officials on May 22 in a ribbon cutting ceremony on The Trail Street reconstruction, a \$3.5 million project that replaced the old brick pavement with concrete. Some of the original bricks were able to be used for a border along the sidewalk and crossings. KDOT contributed \$1.04 million through the Federal Funds Exchange Program.

KTA



A concrete pavement patching project at the Kansas Turnpike's two east Topeka toll plazas (mile marker 182 on I-470/KTA and mile marker 183 on I-70/KTA) continues. It also includes four connecting ramps to K-4 and I-70. The repairs at I-470/KTA are near completion. The repairs at I-70/KTA are expected to be completed mid-June. Until then, travelers can experience periodic lane closures and possible width restrictions.

Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT in June.

Headquarters

Robert Forster, Application Developer III, Information Technology

District One

Ken Burkey, Engineering Technician, Topeka, Engineering Technician Senior

Joseph Terry, Equipment Operator Senior, Oskaloosa

District Two

Steven Schultz, Equipment Operator, Junction City

District Five

Carl Mantooth, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, El Dorado

District Six

Kevin Offutt, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Dighton

The following employees will retire from KDOT in July.

Headquarters

Mary Breeden, Engineering Technician, Construction and Materials

Ricky Bruner, Applications Developer II, Transportation Planning

Peter Carttar, Professional Civil Engineer II, Maintenance

David Gurs, Planner, Transportation Planning

Jane Holden, Administrative Assistant, Road

Perry Nolan, Network Service Technician III, Maintenance (Hutchinson)

Skip Saylor, Management Systems Analyst II, Information Technology

District One

James Clark, Buildings System Technician, Gage (Topeka)

Oscar Hamilton, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Bonner Springs

Jeffrey LaCrone, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Oakland (Topeka)

Charles Oswald, Equipment Operator Senior, Troy

James Pickett, Professional Civil Engineer III, Bonner Springs

District Two

David Kopsa, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Concordia

Gerald Mai, District Construction Mentor, Salina

District Three

Kenneth Withington, Equipment Operator Senior, Colby

District Four

Vance Bruner, Equipment Operator Senior, Mound City

Joseph Maple, Engineering Technician Senior, Chanute

Norval Schnichels Jr., Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Fort Scott

District Five

Kenneth Peitz, Equipment Operator Specialist, Kingman

In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Sharon Boyd, formerly of Holton, who died May 26 in Montrose. She worked for KDOT for many years as well as other state agencies, retiring in 2008 after 34 years in Topeka.

South Step Fridays

Grab your lunch, kick back and start your weekend right as you enjoy live music and learn more about the area attractions and activities on several Fridays this summer from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the south steps on the Capitol.

Upcoming dates:

- ♦ June 12
- ♦ June 26
- ♦ July 10
- ♦ July 17
- ♦ July 24
- ♦ Aug. 7

CAPITOL MID-WEEK

FARMERS' MARKET



TOPEKA

Every Wednesday

7:30 a.m. to noon until Oct. 14

10th Street - south side of the Statehouse grounds