

# Way to Go



Bill Hoffman of the Construction Division (standing center, in blue shirt) oversees engineering camp developments.

ling the cricket mess on State Route 225 which goes north from Elko to Owyhee.

The next edition of "NDOT News" will have a two-page feature and photos on "Operation Clean Sweep" in Las Vegas. The concentrated trash cleaning effort was praised by Clark County Commissioner Tom Collins in a letter to Director Jeff Fontaine.

As in past years, NDOT hosted demonstrations and events for the UNR and WNCC Engineering Exploration Camps in Carson City. The head of the program wrote: "It is people like yourselves who make a connection for students to see how their studies can and do make an impact in their futures. When we have the opportunity to get out beyond the four classroom walls, whole new worlds open for students and they are able to generalize and transfer knowledge." As one satisfied camper put it: "Thanks for the fun stuff. The part I liked the most was the steel snapping in half."

Another compliment came in for Crew 327 out of Independence and North Fork for the good job they are doing in control-

Compliments always roll in for our Freeway Service Patrol, mostly because people can't believe the quick, efficient service is provided free of charge to keep the traffic moving on Las Vegas and Reno freeways. The latest letter of thanks is for the Las Vegas patrol, which helped a man on his way to work. "The FSP quickly changed my tire in less time than it took for me to prepare to change it. Your worker, Robert Ramirez, was extremely friendly and courteous."

Calming people who are upset regarding something about our roads is a skill receptionist Lori Young in our Headquarters Office has mastered. She was thanked for her "helpful and professional" demeanor by a caller.

## New NDOT PIO Ready to Drive the "Centerline"



Glittering casinos and scenic highways are alluring mainstays of Nevada travel. Now, they come together with the experience

of new Public Information Officer Meg Mincolla.

With nearly 10 years' experience producing newsletters, annual corporate marketing plans and more for two major Nevada casinos, as well as contributing articles to Reno-area newspapers, she will help pro-

duce "Centerline" and "NDOT News." "What a pleasure to meet the NDOT team!" Mincolla said. "I look forward to creating new friendships and spreading the word on all NDOT news and accomplishments. I hope everyone will share updates, accolades and employee happenings from their area."

Mincolla has lived in Reno for more than 10 years, where she graduated from University of Nevada, Reno's Reynolds School of Journalism. She replaces Fred Hinners, who retired with four-and-a-half years with NDOT and 25 years total as a public information officer for the State of Nevada. Mincolla can be reached at (775) 888-7172.

## New to NDOT

- Kristen Friberg, Carson City
- Ryan Hammond, Gardnerville
- William Lafferty, Carson City
- David Loar, Carson City
- Meg Mincolla, Carson City

## Thanks for Serving!

- Bob Adams, 30 years, Elko
- Bill Avansino, 24 years, Virginia City
- Philip Cammarata, 30 years, Reno
- Tod Dericco, 27 years, Reno
- Jack Gibbs, 13 years, Elko
- Fred Hinners, 25 years, Carson City
- Pete Matranga, 18 years, Carson City
- Pedro Mendoza, 31 years, Elko
- Harlan Pete, 27 years, Wendover



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## A Renaissance for Carson City?

Will completion of the Carson Freeway in the next few years mean a renaissance for the capital city? A lot of people seem to think so, and they are already making plans. The freeway is



complete between the center of Carson City northward and the next phase, to be completed in 2009, will take it from the center of town south to Fairview Drive. The final phase will go from Fairview to an interchange at US-50.

Residents are excited about the prospect of the city becoming more of a destination than a thoroughfare. The city has held workshops asking residents what downtown should look like, and about 500 provided input. Although traffic volumes may still be too great even with a bypass, many residents said they would like a two-lane street through the center of the city and more room for pedestrians and landscaping.

Other amenities people said they wanted are benches and brick and stone buildings of various heights for an interesting look.

The area will become much more friendly to cars and people when the freeway is completed and semi-trucks, buses and other vehicles are able to avoid stop-and-go traffic in the city.

Ideas have been floated for public works projects funded by the city to entice private investment. A revitalized downtown may include entertainment venues and more residential developments.

Though local residents have indicated what they would like to see, the hard questions on how to make it happen are just beginning to be asked. What are the boundaries of the area targeted for revitalization? How will storm drainage tie in to the improvements made throughout the city for the freeway? Will utilities be placed underground? Will development codes be written?

Will new parking facilities be built to handle expected growth? Who will pay? What will be the style of sidewalk amenities and other streetscape improvements?

One thing that has come through in the discussions is making the downtown area more pedestrian-friendly. Respondents to surveys say they want an old-fashioned downtown that is comfortable to walkers and an inviting place to spend time.

The main street has attractive government buildings and several attractive false-front western style businesses. Other assets include the railroad museum, the Nevada State Museum and several local events such as live outdoor music in the summer, a farmer's market, the Kit Carson Rendezvous, car shows, and others.

Carson City residents may also be excited by the prospect of a completed freeway because the downtown area has already seen major changes. A downtown redevelopment project has seen a number of derelict buildings completely renovated and now housing thriving businesses.

While there are many questions to be answered on how Carson City will be transformed, there is a lot of public interest--not to mention local support through a gas tax--in seeing that the freeway project is successful and the renaissance can take place.



## A Salute to Heroes

A section of the US-95 Veterans Memorial

Highway near Searchlight was recently dedicated to World War I veterans. With care to preventing too many freeway signs, the area was deemed appropriate for such memorial signs.



Sponsor-a-Highway corridors, such as this area adjacent to the Strip, have helped keep Las Vegas roadways clean for years.

An important litter control program that has helped the Las Vegas area for the past three years is now catching on in northern Nevada. Sponsor-a-Highway has been of significant assistance to NDOT maintenance staff in keeping roadways clean.

A demonstration of the program in Washoe Valley at the end of July yielded huge results: 560 bags of litter were gathered on about 6.5 miles of US-395. Tony Decker of Adopt-The-Highways Companies of America volunteered to have five workers pick up litter as a demonstration of what his company could do.

There is an important difference between Sponsor-a-Highway and Adopt-a-Highway. Sponsor-a-Highway programs such as Decker's have businesses paying for a company to pick up litter. Adopt-a-Highway is usually undertaken by service groups whose members pick up litter themselves. NDOT wants more Sponsor-a-Highway participants because it is safer to have trained workers doing the clean up work.

"The local contractor for Sponsor-a-Highway now has 14 sponsored miles of coverage, mostly in the Reno area, with an additional 16 firm commitments," coordinator Ed Wilson of NDOT said. "The company feels they will have 30 sponsored miles by October," Wilson said.

Washoe Valley's appearance is much improved since the cleanup, and the company has committed to pick up litter at least once a month until the area receives sponsors.

"In the Las Vegas area we have about eighty miles of sponsored freeways with litter removed on a bi-weekly or monthly

## Sponsor-a-Highway Program Picking Up at Both Ends of State



Representatives of northern Nevada's first two sponsors, Emily Listman (left) of Morrison Homes and Beth Anderson of Gold Dust West Casino, attend a press conference in Washoe Valley on the Sponsor-A-Highway program's benefits.

basis," Wilson said. Cost of sponsorship is about \$200 per mile. Sponsors receive a highway sign acknowledging their contribution. NDOT district engineers determine which highways, or sections of highways, are available for sponsorship.

"Roadside litter is a significant problem in all states," Wilson said. "State DOTs don't have the workforce to devote to frequent litter removal. We need innovative public and private partnerships to remove litter to improve the appearance of our roadways."



Ed Wilson of NDOT is interviewed by a reporter from KRNV Reno about Sponsor-a-Highway.

## NDOT Engineering Graduates Build Exciting Careers NDOT Team Members Pass Their Fundamentals of Engineering Exam



**Lisa Green**

Lisa Green is an engineering tech. III who joined NDOT a little more than a year ago and works in Right of Way Engineering. An electrical engineering graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2003, she was formerly employed by Hytek, a manufacturer of hybrid micro-circuitry

which sold to the military, commercial and medical sectors.

In her current position she completes reports on parcels obtained or disposed of by NDOT "to make sure everything is stamped and mapped and properly scheduled."

"We need to make sure all changes made show up in the document mapping and we also do right of way verification to determine what we own and do not own."

Green says she has enjoyed learning surveying principles and how to dig through documents to find out who the underlying property owners are. Most of her research is done in the office and often with original records. However, maps and other documents, some of them in a fragile or worn condition, are being scanned so they can be available on a computer screen.

"I'd like to make the state my career," she says. "The state has a lot of opportunities for advancement and there are a lot of different directions you can go."



**David Fox**

David Fox passed his FE exam and graduated from UNR within a few days of each other at the end of 2005. Hired at the end of May, he is working in Roadway Design as a staff engineer on the I-580 project after putting in two months with a Reno

construction crew.

While studying engineering, he was interested in environmental and traffic projects, "but UNR didn't have much in traffic engineering." Fox plans to further his career by taking the professional engineer's exam in April.

"So far, I like NDOT a lot and would like to stay here," Fox said. "Everybody I've met is good to work with."



**Sam Lompa**

Most of Sam Lompa's four-and-a-half year career with NDOT has been involved with the I-580 project, first with package "A" and now with package "B." Lompa started with Rich Holmes' crew as an engineering tech. III, and is now a supervisor I on

Pete Booth's crew.

Lompa studied civil engineering at UNR, and then began working for Stantec Consulting. Consultant work led to NDOT, and earlier this year he marked a professional milestone by passing his Fundamentals of Engineering Exam. He received some assistance from Jerry Conners' study course. Lompa said he plans to take the Professional Engineer Exam in the fall.

Of his career, Lompa said: "My goals are to pass the P.E. and one day become a Resident Engineer. I like the field construction aspect of my job, and I'm excited to be working on I-580. It will be a great project to be part of."



**Shawna Loop**

Shawna Loop is a recent UNR graduate and NDOT employee who has passed her Fundamentals of Engineering Exam and has a lot of experience with the department even though she was just recently hired in July.

Loop had three internships with NDOT during college: the asphalt lab in her hometown of Las Vegas, and both Pavement Analysis and Roadway Design in Carson City. With her FE Exam completed, she plans to take the Professional Engineer Exam in October. A change in the law allows those who have passed the FE to take the PE exam, and be designated a professional engineer once they have the required experience.

While earning her civil engineering degree, Loop was interested in transportation and environmental subjects. In Roadway Design she is involved with one of our most vital projects: improvements to the Blue Diamond Road in Las Vegas.

"I'm thinking of NDOT as a career," Loop said. "The rotator program is a good way to figure out where you want to go within the department." When she completes her rotation in Design, Loop will experience Bridge and Hydraulics.

## — IN MEMORY —



**Scott Huntsman**

For a recent engineering grad, Scott Huntsman saw a lot of NDOT. He graduated from University of Nevada, Reno in May of this year and started with NDOT the same month.

With three internships already completed at that time, Huntsman went into the rotational engineer program, worked in Right of Way, Maintenance Headquarters and Bridge.

Huntsman passed his Fundamentals of Engineering Exam in 2005.

Tragically, Scott Huntsman recently passed away. We will all proudly remember him as one of our own.