

# Way to Go

## MAKING A CLEAN IMPRESSION

Department of Public Safety Executive Officer Merritt Carlton was fueling up a state vehicle at NDOT District 1 offices when he decided to give the car a quick wash. Meanwhile, NDOT Crew 153's **Dorothy "Dottie" Sewell** had arrived early to clean a state vehicle and, seeing Carlton dressed in a business coat and tie, offered to wash his car as well.

*"In other words, Dottie shows up to work early to take care of her equipment, and she goes out of her way to help another state employee. I was very impressed," Carlton said.*

## A HELPFUL HAND

On a recent morning, Karen Uhal was driving to work when her tire blew out on a Carson City freeway. With her cell phone not working, the Carson resident didn't know what she was going to do until NDOT headquarters Materials Engineering Tech **Kevin Marshall** pulled up to offer a helping hand.

*"He changed the tire for me and really helped me out of a tough situation," the thankful citizen said. "He is a very nice person - thank you so much!"*

Kevin also recently received a thank you from a Winnemucca-area police officer for assisting with traffic control following a freeway accident.

## SMOOTH ROADS AHEAD

Reno resident Steve Murray wrote to the Reno Gazette-Journal in appreciation of NDOT road improvement and maintenance.

*"Thank you to all the people involved in the planning, implementing and construction of the freeway system that we travel on. I am very impressed."*

## ELY CREW IS THERE TO HELP

Traveling from Idaho, Phil and Betsy Eldredge found themselves stranded between Ely and Lund with a flat tire. But not to worry, **Javier Llona and Roger Weber** of Ely crew 380 were soon there.

*"Before we could even get a jack out, they were pulled up behind us and offering help. They really were a blessing to us and we want to commend them for their help," the thankful travelers explained.*

## THE LINEMEN

After hearing Pahrump resident Maureen Sherwood's request to restripe State Routes 160 and 372, District 1's **Joe Martinez and Todd Marty** vowed to fulfill the request in the interest of roadway safety. Soon after, District 1 maintenance crews had placed new yellow lines down on the roads.

*"Thank you, Joe Martinez, Todd Marty, and the Las Vegas highway maintenance office," Maureen Sherwood wrote to the Pahrump Valley Times newspaper. "People that keep their word are very special, and I found two of them."*

## FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL BEATS THE HEAT

In Las Vegas' blazing summer heat, Johnny Centineo's truck overheated. But Freeway Service Patrol's own **Dan Stafford** was soon there to help.

*"He placed flares behind my truck, determined the cause of the problem, the thermostat, removed it and added water to the radiator so I could drive it home," Centineo wrote, thankful for the professional and helpful service.*

## Welcome

Youssef Alhwayek, *Las Vegas*  
Merlyn Crutcher, *Battle Mountain*  
Nicholas Drost, *Elko*  
Ronald Siegel, *Carson City*  
Suzan Slaughter, *Carson City*  
James Thomas, *Las Vegas*  
Alexander Wurth, *Carson City*

## Thanks for Serving!

Byron Fillmore, 26 years, *Carson City*  
Horace Jeffrey, 27 years, *Tonopah*  
Dale Newlin, 17 years, *Carson City*  
Michael Palazzolo, 26 years, *Carson City*  
Michael Sourhouet, 31 years, *Tonopah*  
Steve Stutheit, 25 years, *Las Vegas*  
David Swallow, 23 years, *Elko*  
Scott Thorson, 25 years, *Carson City*  
David Woods, 21 years, *Reno*



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## BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE

Following last month's collapse of Minnesota's I-35W bridge, the Nevada Department of Transportation has shared in the grief and impact of a national transportation tragedy.

"We continue to extend our heartfelt sympathy to all of those affected," NDOT Director Susan Martinovich said.

Following the collapse, Director Martinovich personally contacted the Minnesota Department of Transportation to offer NDOT's assistance. Also just days after the collapse, bridge inspectors reviewed Nevada's only deck-truss bridge similar to the Minnesota I-35W structure. That Nevada bridge, located on U.S. 93 over Meadow Valley Wash in Caliente, had additional truss lines and redundancies the Minnesota bridge did not have and was found to be in excellent condition with no indications of deterioration.

"Nevada bridges have been ranked the nation's best," NDOT Chief Bridge Engineer Mark Elicegui explained. "Now, we look to bring our strong bridge program into the future to further ensure the preservation of our bridges."

The future of NDOT bridge inspection will include increased use of non-visual inspection methods such as phased-array ultrasonic testing, portable ground-penetrating radar and eddy current examination. The new technologies supplement visual inspection methods with high-tech techniques that allow inspec-

tors to discover and evaluate elements invisible to the naked eye.

The NDOT Bridge Division also has a head start on new federal bridge design mandates requiring use of AASHTO Load and Resistance Factor Design for bridges designed after October 1, 2007. The new requirements, which provide uniform levels of safety for all bridge components and more precisely account for the variability of bridge loads, have already been used in designs for some newly-advertised contracts.

Bridge repairs and replacements rely on funding from federal and state sources. With a \$3.8 billion deficit projected for just major road projects in Nevada through 2015, and the Federal Highway Trust Fund which supplies federal interstate road funds projected to run dry in 2009, bridge improvements are carefully prioritized based on bridge condition and available funding.

NDOT carefully prioritizes bridge improvements by first replacing or rehabilitating structurally deficient bridges before they become hazardous or burdensome to users. Then, the same is done for functionally obsolete bridges, followed by seismic retrofitting of bridges that do not meet current seismic standards and making any other necessary improvements.

Further NDOT bridge information is available at [www.nevadadot.com/reports\\_pubs/highway\\_preservation](http://www.nevadadot.com/reports_pubs/highway_preservation).

## PUTTING DOWN THE FLAMES

As Nevada wildfires burned over 800,000 acres this year, NDOT assisted firefighters and ensured motorist safety when road closures became necessary, such as those for the Bob's Flat fire east of Battle Mountain, which had I-80 closed for nearly 6 hours (pictured to right).

"Nevada's state agencies are working together to battle these wildfires, and I am proud of how everyone is pitching in," Governor Jim Gibbons said in his weekly message to state employees. "The Nevada Department of Transportation has joined our Division of Forestry, the Nevada National Guard and city and county governments in supplying manpower and equipment."



## DISTRICT 3 CHIPS IN TO HELP



Roger Weber (left) and Janet Van Camp are the Ely team members who helped test materials for the Pioche-area chip seal job.

In rural northeastern Nevada, NDOT District 3 recently chipped in to help test materials on a District 1 chip seal project.

With District 1 chip sealing 25 miles of U.S. 93 in the Pioche area, and District 3 making similar road improvements nearby on U.S. 50 just west of Ely and U.S. 93 in White Pine County, teamwork kicked in. Oil for both projects was purchased and delivered from the same Utah source. District 3 volunteered to test oil viscosity for both projects, saving District 1 the necessity of establishing testing facilities in remote Pioche.

"It's a great cost savings for the Department," District 1 Highway Maintenance Supervisor Nick McMurray explained. "Otherwise, we would have had the cost and time of bringing a materials trailer out there from nearly 100 miles away."

District 3 maintenance pros Janet Van Camp and Roger Weber were the experts who tested the approximately 100 tons of oil used daily for the District 1 Pioche-area project.

"They're both very team-oriented," District 3 Maintenance Manager Dennis Brooks explained. "They test our aggregate and other materials, and also work many long hours on snow removal during the winter months."

## SAFE SCHOOL CROSSWALKS IN DISTRICT 2

With many schools returning from summer break, District 2 is enhancing safety at school crosswalks with new pavement markings.

Every August, Crew 241 spends between three and four hours striping many of the approximately 30 school zones throughout District 2 with reflective 3M tape. At a cost of just over \$650 per roll, the crew uses one and a half rolls per crosswalk. The tape lasts longer and has more reflective properties than traditional painting methods, providing safer and more cost-effective pavement markings that last up to two years, a full year longer than painting.

The school zone improvements require more than just a roll of specialty tape. The work is often scheduled in the evening hours during lighter traffic. Traffic control for the striping is carefully planned, with flaggers and the support of other district crews used in heavily-trafficked areas. But, the improvements are worth it in the vital crosswalk areas.

"Our school zones are an important pedestrian area, and the crew's work enhances safety for pedestrians and drivers," District 2 Maintenance Supervisor Tom Lumpkin explained.



With the help of crew 241's Susan Linn (pictured on right), Crew Supervisor Jim Boston demonstrates how reflectometers are used to measure the reflective properties of school zone crosswalks.

## NDOT HELPS IMPROVE CHINESE SNOW REMOVAL



A recent snow removal conference attended by NDOT's Mike Stair will help enhance Chinese snow removal technology, such as the snow removal cart pictured above.

In Nevada, snow removal is vital, with over 100,000 man hours a year dedicated to providing safe winter transportation on state roads. That dedication continued this summer with accomplishments that will further improve snow removal in Nevada and across the world.

NDOT Equipment Supervisor Mike Stair was recently invited by the Chinese Ministry of Construction to give a keynote speech to an estimated 300 Chinese transportation officials. Designed to help share snow removal innovations, the conference was integral in helping China overcome the difficult snow removal challenges faced throughout the mountainous country in which elevations reach over 10,000 feet.

"Snow removal equipment in China is limited. Two years ago, they had a 200-mile winter road closure, and brought out 800,000 people to remove the snow with shovels," Stair explained.

With limited time in the country, Stair was able to share innovations in snow removal equipment and learn of snow removal challenges faced in China.

"It was an honor for the Department's Equipment Supervisor to be invited as the first American representative ever to speak at this China National Annual Conference on the Administration of Snow and Ice Control," Stair said.

NDOT Assistant Director of Operations Rick Nelson also continues to represent and further improve NDOT snow removal as chair of the American Association of State and Highway

Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) winter maintenance technical services program. Also representing the United States as an appointed member of the World Road Association Winter Maintenance Committee, he has visited Norway and other destinations to share information and bring valuable snow removal techniques home to Nevada. Nelson's other position as co-vice chair of the Transportation Research Board's Surface Transportation Weather Task Force allows NDOT to lead the charge in improving winter roadway weather forecasting.

Meanwhile, NDOT Chief Maintenance and Operations Engineer Bill Hoffman recently volunteered to lead a national snow and ice removal task force. Part of AASHTO, the Snow and Ice Task Force is the primary group in researching, identifying and sharing new snow removal technology across the nation.

"This information exchange is thanks to all the great ideas produced and shared by our hard-working maintenance staff, the ones who clear the road every day," Hoffman explained. "The task force truly is an opportunity to share all of their experience, dedication and innovation to benefit the entire nation. Plus, we can utilize new techniques from other states to help in Nevada snow removal."

Nelson confirmed how the professional affiliations highlight NDOT snow-removal excellence. "All of these efforts highlight the great work that is being done for our citizens, and how it is being recognized by our peers," he said.



## SAFETY SIGNS

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).** PPE is designed to protect the worker by reducing exposure to hazards. Always wear it, maintain it and replace when needed.



*NDOT is proud to also have many other team members, past and present, who served as active or reserve members of the military. NDOT salutes the bravery, dedication and sacrifices of each member of our nation's military.*



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Jim Gibbons, Governor  
Susan Martinovich, P.E., NDOT Director



**SERVES OUR COUNTRY**



While serving the transportation needs of our state, many NDOT team members are also bravely serving our country in the National Guard and Reserves. NDOT salutes these brave co-workers, who are part of reserve forces which, across the country, comprise nearly half of the nation's total military manpower.



### DON TWICHELL, MSgt USAF, 940th CES

NDOT recently welcomed a service member home from Iraq. As an Air Force reservist, Don Twichell volunteered for a tour of duty in Iraq beginning in January 2007 and just returned home in June 2007.

During his tour of duty, the NDOT Architecture Construction Project Coordinator III used his expertise to oversee a group of civil engineers and surveyors in a myriad of projects, from concrete guard tower construction to road resurfacing projects. He personally managed the construction of numerous roads and concrete pads, as well as an 800-by-50-foot asphalt landing strip for an unmanned aerial vehicle. That's all over and above his main task of overseeing a concrete batch plant and managing explosive ordinance specialists who inspect damage from, and even remove, unexploded military ordinance following mortar or rocket attacks.

"We are extremely proud of Don for his courage and strength to volunteer, as well as for his efforts in Iraq to keep America safe and strong," co-worker Jacqueline Normington said.

Don Twichell



### MICHELLE AUSTIN, TSgt USAFR, 82nd APS

Also an Air Force reservist, NDOT Graphic Technician Michelle Austin served in Iraq in 2003. As part of her aerial port duties, she helped move massive cargo shipments needed to establish new war-time bases and missions in Iraq, working 12-hour shifts for the entire deployment until coalition forces arrived. She also performed joint inspections of the massive military pallets for airworthiness and size specifications, and created travel manifests for departing troops.

"There was no base at the time," Austin explained. "We were establishing everything from scratch, so there were no amenities; no air conditioning, mess hall or washing machines."

Even though the base was eventually determined to be safe and the surrounding foxholes and other 'hot zone' war cover removed, conflict still loomed. "One of the guys I worked with shipped the last service member's body home from the Jessica Lynch situation," she said.

Michelle Austin

### TOM RUTHERFORD – Air Transport Specialist

NDOT Electronics Technician II Tom Rutherford is a former Marine with over 25 years of military service under his belt.

Currently serving as an Air National Guard air transport specialist, Rutherford has seen his share of service. Following a deployment to Kuwait in late 2002, he served in Afghanistan in 2004, using transport planes to parachute vital necessities to troops in the field.

"We call it 'bullets to blood,' meaning that we deliver all the vital supplies those troops need," he explained, adding that he once dedicated 36 hours straight to unloading close to 15 tons of ammunition.

Rutherford's service also had a more somber, but no more important, side. He was part of the chain of custody responsible for transporting soldiers' remains back to U.S. military ground.

Rutherford plans to retire military service next year after a prestigious career of service.



Tom Rutherford

### MATT GOODSON – Air National Guard Master Sgt.

NDOT District 2 Engineer Technician IV Matt Goodson is another NDOT team member serving in the military. Goodson is an Air National Guard master sergeant who works on C-130s, maintaining the aircraft from oil to tires and everywhere in between.

In 2003 and 2004, he served in Qatar and Kuwait, providing such expert maintenance of planes that the machines performed over and above expectations for the difficult-to-fly-in region.

"The sandstorms are horrendous there and sand gets into the plane," Goodson explained, adding that 130-degree daytime temperatures were another obstacle to overcome.

A 17-year veteran of the Air National Guard, Goodson has also served in Puerto Rico, Germany, Oman and nearly every state in the nation.

Goodson points out that his prestigious military career was aided by support from NDOT.

"Support from the state was great," he said. "I didn't get any grief about needing to take time off to serve, and I was always able to return from service and right back into my job."



Matt Goodson

### NORIE CORPUZ, Lt. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion

A 19-year member of the Navy Reserves, NDOT Resident Engineer Norie Corpuz is also no stranger to serving his country.

Directly following the terrorist attacks of September 11, Corpuz was deployed to guard the scene of another large-scale foreign attack on U.S. soil, Pearl Harbor Naval Station. Part of the command center responsible for base security, Corpuz oversaw a group of nearly 100 who secured the naval station with manned entrance gates and roving patrols throughout the base.

The District I resident engineer recently transferred from District 3. But no matter where his NDOT employment has taken him, one thing remains the same.

"As far as employees doing their military duty, they are very supportive," Corpuz explained, although the dedicated patriot said no amount of time seems quite enough to fully serve his country.



Norie Corpuz

### JOHNNY DEAL

NDOT has another team member who just returned from Iraq in August.

NDOT Engineering Technician I Johnny Deal was first deployed for reserve military service in August of 2004, less than a year after beginning his position at the Department. While serving in Iraq as staff sergeant, Johnny commanded a truck crew of three as they provided security to convoys delivering supplies throughout the country.

Johnny contacted his wife, NDOT District II construction crew member Heidi Deal, whenever possible while deployed.

*All of NDOT is glad to hear of Johnny's safe return home, and salutes him for his service!*

*On the cover: NDOT team members (left to right) Don Twichell, Michelle Austin and Matt Goodson.*



Johnny Deal