



December 2008 ~ Special Edition

THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT



A Time To Give Thanks

**A Tribute
to the Dedication of NDOT Employees**

Throughout this and every year, NDOT employees dedicate themselves to helping the motoring public, partner agencies and each other.

In this season of thanks and sharing, this special edition of Centerline shares thanks received by NDOT staff throughout the year.

I-15 ON THE EXPRESS TRACK

On Interstate 15 alongside the Las Vegas Strip, NDOT is constructing five miles of express lanes. Separated from regular travel lanes by 3-foot-high 'candlestick' delineators, the express lanes will whisk through traffic past vehicles exiting within the resort corridor, all to reduce weaving, merging and congestion.

"As the state tries to address a multibillion-dollar highway funding shortfall for the decade ahead, projects such as these will be a big part of the solution to the region's traffic problems," a Las Vegas Review-Journal editorial declared.

ACCESS GRANTED

After five years at their current Lake Tahoe residence, Jack Snyder and Nicolette Camello-Snyder found that their driveway off of U.S. 50 was an illegal access.

"District 2 employee ROBERT NEWBERG made a comprehensive search to try and locate a previous permit, to no avail," the Snyders wrote. "He then walked us through the process of filing the correct application in the correct manner. Throughout the entire process, he was always extremely pleasant, professional and helpful."

BUILDING I-580

Between Reno and Carson City, NDOT is constructing Interstate 580, a 8.5-mile divided freeway. While awe-inspiring, the project's signature 700-foot-long, 300-foot tall Galena Creek Bridge main span isn't as impressive as the rewards the project will bring when finished in 2011- 2012.

"It will provide an alternate route to the capital city, relieving congestion on the undivided highway that has been the site of numerous accidents," a recent Reno Gazette-Journal editorial said. "NDOT and the contractors [Fisher Sand and Gravel] and subcontractors deserve credit for bringing this project safely [toward] fruition."

A HELPING HAND

Between Hawthorne and Tonopah in western central Nevada, Crew 176 and Crew 177 assist each other with maintenance and other road work. More importantly, they help motorists traveling the remote stretch of State Route 360 between Mina, Nevada and Bishop in northern California.

"I want to give a special thank you to the wonderful gentlemen from NDOT, CHRIS DONAHUE and EDWARD CROCKETT [retired], who gave so much help at the time of my accident on State Route 360," Rickey Evans wrote to the Hawthorne Independent News newspaper.

GIVING DRIVERS AN EDGE

In closely-supervised training conditions, the non-profit Driver's Edge program provides young drivers with hands-on experience in driving in adverse conditions, making necessary defensive lane changes and more. NDOT maintenance forces in Las Vegas and Reno assist the program with such support as wetting the track for wet pavement driving drills (pictured from left to right, NDOT District 2 maintainers **RALPH LOPEZ** and **RANDY STEPHEN** stand at the event while behind them is the track they recently watered).

"Thank you for NDOT's continued support," wrote Driver's Edge CEO Jeff Payne. "You are truly helping us to save lives and make a difference throughout Nevada."



AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

When a 6.0-magnitude earthquake hit the small town of Wells early this year, District 3 immediately moved into action to ensure public safety and roads, as detailed in the March 2008 "Centerline". The District also supported the efforts of others to restore the community after the quake.

"We gratefully express our appreciation to NDOT for your unprecedented efforts and assistance in the deployment of temporary seismographs in the Wells area," wrote the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the University of Nevada, Reno's (UNR) Nevada Seismological Laboratory. "We specifically thank KEN WILEY for arranging the use of NDOT's snowcat, and thank snowcat drivers MIKE MURPHY, PHILLIP MENDIVE and TOM PEARSON (pictured below from right to left), for supporting the seismograph deployments to safely transport UNR and USGS personnel and instruments to remote, snow-covered locations. Information gained from the Wells earthquake will benefit not only Nevadans, but scientists, engineers and citizens throughout the United States."

The district also issued permits for a fundraising event benefitting Wells earthquake recovery.

"Thank you for your assistance in helping us put together our first annual off-road motorcycle trail ride to benefit the ongoing earthquake recovery efforts," the Gold Diggers Off Road Motorcycle Club wrote. "We raised just over \$900. We will be donating every dollar to the City of Wells."



A CHILD'S THANKS

A precious hand-colored thank you letter from the children of Head Start in Wells was the reward after **ROBERT O'NEAL** and **RICH MILLSAP** of crew 332 took a snowplow to the classroom and handed out NDOT activity books and children's hard hats.

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Infrastructure construction is critical to the future of Nevada, and NDOT personnel recently introduced the future generation to the construction industry with informational equipment displays at the Construction Career Day, held in Las Vegas. Organized by the National Association of Women in Construction, the event taught over 400 southern Nevada high school students about construction. NDOT staff from various divisions including District 1 maintenance, construction, structures and materials participated.

"Thank you for donating your valuable time, energy and knowledge to a worthwhile cause and the future of our community," event chairperson Sherry Hashimoto wrote.

LEGAL EAGLES

The Nevada Attorney General's Office oversaw the state's defense in a civil lawsuit regarding compliance with federal environmental laws during design and construction of sections of I-215 in Las Vegas. The lawsuit was dismissed by a federal judge.

"I want to let everyone know how thankful I am to KENT COOPER, ELAINE MARTIN and DARYL JAMES for their expertise and support during this lawsuit," Deputy Attorney General Gilbert Garcia said. "The Attorney General's Office always appreciates the hard work and dedication shown by all NDOT personnel."

KudosKorner

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

In 2008, the spirit of giving was truly alive in the generous donations and fundraising efforts of NDOT employees:

- \$8,000 to the Children's Heart Foundation of Nevada through the Dick Morris Memorial Golf Tournament
- Approximately \$3,000 to the United Way of Nevada through NDOT's annual United Way fundraising campaign, including \$276 from District 1 to benefit the United Way of Southern Nevada Community Impact Fund, \$1,432 for the United Way of the Great Basin from District 3 employees and just under \$1,000 from an NDOT headquarters chili feed
- 30 boxes of holiday items and 26 boxes of general donations to brave U.S. service members in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan

WATER SUPPLY

When continual earthquake clusters just west of Reno damaged a water supply flume and put the community's water supply in jeopardy in the summer of 2008, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's (TMWA) solution included use of NDOT right-of-way to install a temporary pipe system.

"Your [District 2] staff, led by THOR DYSON and including JANET RECK, ROBERT NEWBERG and STEVE SMITH (pictured below from left to right, with Janet Reck not pictured) went above and beyond in assisting TMWA in getting the necessary approvals and permits," wrote TMWA General Manager Lori Williams.



THANK YOU TO ALL!

Welcome

Nicholas Adams, *Elko*
Nevada Baldwin, *Elko*
Ann Delahay, *Carson*
Seng Keovorabouth, *Las Vegas*
Brian Matthews, *Carson*
Dwight Menzel, *Carson*
Dennis Palmer, *Alamo*
Kenneth Thomie, *Las Vegas*
Zewdu Gizachew, *Carson*

Thanks for Serving

Harvey Cannon, *24 years, Las Vegas*
Donald Chamberlain, *19 years, Reno*
Richard Hanson, *30 years, Carson*
Jack Hoots, *30 years, Battle Mountain*
James Krause, *18 years, Tonopah*
Kent Mayer, *38 years, Carson*
Rick Oxoby, *29 years, Carson*
Edward Parker, *19 years, Carson*
Rudy Trujillo, *31 years, Ely*

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