

# Way to Go

## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION



Wells



Hawthorne



Elko

NDOT is inspiring the next generation of transportation engineers with recent visits to elementary and preschools.

Whether stepping into the driver's seat of large NDOT equipment or donning a children's hard hat, the visits give kids a chance to learn about transportation and dream of a potential road-building career.

In December, crew 237's Charles Jones, AJ Kintz and Dennis Miller visited Hawthorne Elementary School along with District 2 administration staff Sheri Jester and Leonor Turner. The event followed many visits to Reno-area schools by district team members.

District 3 Assistant Engineer Mike Murphy, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Mendive and Crew 350 team member Gregg Thompson visited Elko's Mark Dawson preschool in March. Later that month, Wells crew 332 took a snowplow to the Wells Head Start classroom and handed out NDOT activity books, children's hard hats and winter driving safety ice scrapers.

Wherever they are held, the visits always lead to smiling young faces and positive feedback.

"Thank you for letting us climb on your trucks," a thank you letter from one of the students read. "You guys are great!"

## LEGAL EAGLE

Keeping a close eye on all NDOT legal interests, **Senior Deputy Attorney General Norman Allen** has been assigned by the Attorney General's Office to NDOT for over 20 years. In that time, he has provided legal counsel and advice to nearly all NDOT divisions.

*"Norman's knowledge and experience is invaluable," Chief Deputy Attorney General Daniel Wong said.*

## SPARKING A NEW STREETSCAPE

When the City of Sparks was looking to revitalize their downtown with streetscape upgrades, NDOT assisted by coordinating to receive federal enhancement funds. The city recently sent a thank you letter particularly recognizing Roadway Design's **Rick Oxoby** and **Kristena Shigenaga** for their help.

*"This project is an important part of our downtown redevelopment plan, and we wish to thank you and your staff for making this project a reality," read the thank you letter.*



## Welcome

- Brian Alumbaugh, *Las Vegas*
- Tonia Andree, *Carson City*
- Shaun Bartholomew, *Las Vegas*
- John Bowlen, *Elko*
- Thomas Buckner, *Reno*
- David Estes, *Las Vegas*
- Frederick Holden, *Las Vegas*
- David Lake, *Carson City*
- Amy MacQuarrie, *Carson City*
- Brandon Monette, *Las Vegas*
- Lawrence Wade, *Goldfield*

## Thanks for Serving!

Martial Brochon, 27 years, *Reno*

Remember to recycle this Centerline newsletter with your other magazines.



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## TOM YANUZIS: HIGHWAY SURVIVOR

Tom Yanuzis had over 20 years of construction and road work experience when he became an NDOT maintenance employee eight years ago.

He enjoyed his job on NDOT crew 153, enthusiastically giving all to keep his assigned sections of Las Vegas roadway clean and safe. That is exactly what he was doing the morning of March 19 when he pulled his NDOT truck onto the left shoulder of Interstate 215 westbound, turned on the safety lights and diligently went to remove a construction barrel that had blown into the road. As he removed the object, a passenger car smashed into Tom.

"When the car hit him, he rolled onto the hood and then down into the road, face down," described co-worker Mike Braddy.

Braddy immediately radioed for help and began giving life-saving medical assistance to Tom. Within minutes, Nevada Highway Patrol and emergency medical responders were at the scene, along with concerned NDOT co-workers from throughout the city.

An ambulance whisked Tom to an emergency center, where he was found to have a broken collarbone, fractured upper left arm, dislocated shoulder and elbow, crushed left wrist, broken bone in the left leg and a mouth full of broken teeth, along with painful bruises and contusions. A concussion left him with no memory of the accident.

"The first thing I remember afterward is seeing Rudy Malfabon, Charles Campbell, Hector Villalobos, Dave Sangster and Amber Dewitt," Tom said of some of the many NDOT co-workers who kept vigil and visited him in the hospital alongside his wife Darneta and family.

Over the next five days, the NDOT employee underwent two surgeries, one two-hour shoulder operation and a four-hour hand surgery to place three metal plates in his shattered wrist. After



*Tom is comforted in his recovery by his Pomeranian dog Bear, a fellow highway survivor Tom found on the side of the interstate.*

being transferred to a rehabilitation hospital for one week, an infection developed in his arm. Throughout it all, NDOT employees from across the state visited Tom, sent e-mails and cards of hope and encouragement and offered assistance.

The doctors credit Tom's strong physical condition and positive mindset for getting him through the ordeal. Tom himself thanks crews 150, 153 and his entire NDOT family for the supportive calls, e-mails and cards that gave him the energy and resolve to recover.

"That, and Mountain Dew soda," he says with a smile.

Tom's experience has left him with some important tips to share with other transportation workers.

"Follow protocol, and always be alert for whatever drivers might do," he says. "It's like that saying on the Candid Camera TV show, 'It can happen when you least expect it.'"

In the coming months, Tom will try to regain full use of his left hand through physical therapy. He will be left with permanent steel plates in his wrist. But,

just as he did on that fateful morning before the accident, the dedicated NDOT employee looks forward to working with his crew again. Doctors expect him to be able to return to work in September.

"People talk about dangerous jobs, like police and firemen, but they don't talk about the road workers, the ones who hold the signs and make our roads better," explained Tom's father, Ted Yanuzis.

"Thank God we have people like Tom, Charles and James (Gutierrez) who work our roads," mom Joyce Yanuzis added in reference to NDOT crew 153 and all transportation employees.

## TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE SAFETY REMINDERS

- Use correct traffic control devices, signs and boards
- Watch out for yourself and co-workers
- Wear high-visibility clothing
- More safety tips: [www.t2.unr.edu](http://www.t2.unr.edu) or [www.workzonesafety.org](http://www.workzonesafety.org)

## 511 NEVADA TRAVEL INFO: 1 MILLION CALLS AND COUNTING



Nevada Travel Info

*Drivers can dial 511 for updates on Nevada state road conditions and construction.*

Whether looking out onto a blustery, snowy morning or looking ahead to possible road construction delays on their commute, many Nevadans turn to NDOT's 511 Nevada Travel Info system.

The one millionth call recently came in to the service that provides automated state road conditions, construction updates, weather forecasts, chain controls and other road information. The road updates are available toll-free by dialing 511 from within Nevada, or 1-877-NV-ROADS from out of state. The same information is available under "511 Travel Info" at [www.nevadadot.com](http://www.nevadadot.com).

The service was activated for testing in August 2006 and officially introduced to the public in November of that year. Since that time, 511 has continually received more calls for road information. In January and February 2008, the system received 350,501 calls. An astounding 223,160 calls came in January 2008 alone, the system's peak call month.

NDOT Assistant Chief Operations Engineer Denise Inda oversaw funding for the \$168,000 system start-up costs and ongoing service charges through NDOT's roadside logo sign program. By embarking on an agreement between six other states, Nevada's 511 system takes advantage of volume discounts and lower interstate phone charges, offering a higher level of service at a fraction of what would be paid by individual states. Feedback from 511 users is continually reviewed, creating opportunities to expand and improve the system, whether technical programming fixes or pursuing opportunities such as posting additional visitor information.

"It's great that we've been able to serve a million calls," Inda said. "We look forward to providing the information to even more drivers as they commute or travel on Nevada roads."

**THANK YOU FOR  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
FOR ALL NEVADANS**

**Nevada State Employees  
Recognition Week**

**May 5 - 11, 2008**

**Celebrate all month!**



## FIRST NDOT DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT BREAKS GROUND



*Governor Jim Gibbons and NDOT Director Susan Martinovich (pictured in center) are surrounded by transportation and government officials as they break ground on NDOT's I-15 widening project.*

The Nevada Department of Transportation kicked off the state's first design-build road project with the recent groundbreaking of the Interstate 15 widening project.

Using the design-build concept of designing final phases of construction at the same time that earlier phases are being built, the project will help bring congestion relief to ever-growing northern Las Vegas. The design-build formula is also expected to help avoid some inflationary costs in construction materials by completing the project an estimated two years earlier than traditional design-bid projects.

The project will widen Interstate 15 from six to 10 lanes from the U.S. 95 spaghetti bowl intersection to Lake Mead Boulevard, and from four and five lanes to eight between Lake Mead Boulevard and Craig Road. Ramps at four interchanges will be reconstructed, along with certain bridge structures. The project will also improve secondary travel along I-15 with construction of auxiliary lanes between interchanges and a new connector road between I-15 and Bonanza Road. Throughout the project area, lighting, landscaping, sound walls and intelligent transportation systems such as digital message signs will also be enhanced. The majority of work will be accomplished without major inconvenience to motorists through nighttime lane closures and periodic ramp closures.

"This project will improve travel and commerce through the heart of Nevada's busiest city," NDOT Project Manager Jeff Hale explained. "With an upcoming transportation funding deficit, it's a targeted way to provide transportation benefits to the greatest number of drivers."

The approximately \$240 million project is funded in part by money appropriated from the State General Fund and from transportation bonding funds recommended by the Governor and approved by the Legislature. The project is expected to complete in 2010. More information is available at [www.i15project.com](http://www.i15project.com).

The 5.5-mile stretch of interstate to be improved is traveled by approximately 170,000 vehicles daily. Las Vegas' I-15 corridor is also the lifeline for over 75 percent of southern Nevada goods movements. The corridor was first constructed in the 1960s, and has never been reconstructed in the project area.

The I-15 corridor has been selected a "Corridor of the Future" by the U.S. Department of Transportation because of opportunities to relieve congestion, improve mobility, support economic growth, and develop project delivery and finance innovations. The designation makes the interstate corridor through Nevada, California, Arizona and Utah eligible for accelerated federal funding and project development.



**SAFETY SIGNS**

*Wear your safety glasses. You only have one set of eyes, and you may not get a second chance to protect them.*