



New in Two

July 2007 Issue

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

Will Kempton, Caltrans Director

Brian Crane, District 2 Director

Caltrans Improves Mobility Across California

District 2 Honored at Awards Luncheon

District 2 proudly brought home two awards from the 18th annual Tranny Awards luncheon held on June 6, 2007 in Sacramento. The Tranny Awards are sponsored by the California Transportation Foundation in recognition of excellence in California transportation. The Feather River Bridges Project won a special award for Historic Bridges and the Ponderosa Curves Safety Improvement Project won the Highway Operational Project of the Year award. In celebration of these achievements, a Break for Excellence was observed on June 19. At the Break, District Director Brian Crane honored employees who were significant contributors to the projects.



Shown above for Ponderosa Curves Project, left to right: Derek Willis, Heidi Borders, Al Trujillo, Steve Pendergast, Chris Cummings, Thomas Balkow, and Brian Crane (Honored but not pictured: Chuck Lees, Jeff Coon, John Gibbons, Kathryn Wing, Kristi Westoby, and Gary Powell)



Shown above for Feather River Bridges Project, left to right: Brian Crane, Justin Wood, Gary Zimmerman, Steve Harvey, Chris Quiney, Jim Rogers, Larry Salhany, James Ralston, Steve Rogers, and Mike Rose (Honored but not pictured: Gilbert Ogaz, Gary Blakesley, Steve Mitchell, Dawn Foster, Phil Baker, and Christian Santos)

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

This article will be a new feature in the District newsletter. We will be gaining a better understanding of what our fellow employees do in different divisions of District 2 and how all our various duties merge to provide our customers with a quality transportation system here in the north state.

To read about our first featured group, the Office of Community & Regional Planning, please turn to page 2.

Partners on Parade

Caltrans and J.F. Shea Co., Inc. joined forces to participate in the 53rd Annual Weed Carnevale Parade on Saturday, July 14 to promote the Weed Downtown Rehab Project. We appreciate the efforts of Jim Scott and the Mt. Shasta Crew for providing drivers for the two snow blowers and the SHOP for transporting the snow blowers to Weed. Construction, JF Shea and PIO also helped to make District Two's participation in this event possible.



Superior Accomplishment Awards

The following employees were given Superior Accomplishment Awards in June:

- Julie Casey (Design R4), Chris Gaido (Design R2), Bruce Lutz (Engineering Services), Sergio Mendoza (Construction), Dave Moore (Advance Planning), Robert Reginato (Construction), Scott White (System Planning and Modeling), and Kelly Zolotoff (Advance Planning)

Congratulations!

AFRAID OF HEIGHTS?

Not Scott Lewis! The pictures to the right are representative of the type of activity required in Scott's work as an Associate Engineering Geologist. In these photos, provided by Sal Torres who was helping with the rope work, Scott was working on Plumas 70 on June 7 to review and analyze the competence of the rock face.



WELCOME HOME



Denise Wiltse's (NR Engineering Services) son, Matthew Jennings, will be coming home from Iraq in July. He is a Senior Airman in the US Air Force. He's stationed in Dover, Delaware and on tour in Iraq for 6 months. He loads and unloads C-5 Galaxies (very big planes) with heavy equipment, supplies and occasionally our fallen soldiers. His family is very proud of him and looking forward to his return. He'll be coming back to Dover around July 10th and then home for a two-week visit around July 31st.

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Michelle Millette, Senior Transportation Planner, leads the Office of Community & Regional Planning. This group has two main functions: Intergovernmental Review/California Environmental Quality Act (IGR/CEQA) and Regional Planning Liaison duties.

The IGR/CEQA responsibilities are handled by the Community Planning group: Marcelino Gonzalez, Roberta McLaughlin, and Sandy Porter. In this capacity, they review local plans that may impact the state transportation system and recommend measures to minimize any negative impact that may result from the plans.

The Office of Regional Planning, staffed by three Regional Planners, handles the Regional Planning Liaison duties. Debbie Ginn handles Shasta and Tehama counties; Linda Garner handles Plumas and Trinity counties; and Dave Luscher handles Lassen, Modoc, and Siskiyou counties. They assist the counties with their Regional Transportation Plans (RTP), their programmed projects, their annual planning activities budget, and support programming of State and Federal funds for transportation system improvements. They also assist the counties with their public transportation needs, such as applying for grants, assessing needs, and administrative oversight of transit fleets.

Pat Carr also works in the Office of Community & Regional Planning. As the District Transit Coordinator and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Coordinator, he provides District 2 counties with program support and guidance in these areas.

Special Message from Dispatch:

Please welcome our new Permanent Dispatcher Clerk, Kristen Miller. She comes to Caltrans from California Highway Patrol and we're glad she's here!

Thanks,
Vickie Lamoureux



Special Recognition...letters of appreciation

June 11, 2007

Subject: North Red Bluff Rest Stop

In April 2007 on a trip to Oregon, my husband and I stopped at the North Red Bluff Rest Stop. It was remarkable. The bathrooms were spotless, the grounds beautiful and the gentleman I spoke with, very polite. We have never seen such a welcoming rest stop.

Thanks,
Diane and Fred Wilt
Traffic Operations
(Retired)

* * * * *

Feedback form submitted online to John Dobson regarding Rest Stop #52 (Grass Lake) in Siskiyou County:

June 17, 2007

Just stopped by Grass Lake Rest Stop today on our way home from Oregon. We found it clean and a comfortable place to stretch our legs. Keep up the good work.

Anonymous



A Special Letter of Appreciation:

June 7, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

On June 5, 2007, I was driving westbound on Hwy 299 from Fall River Mills when a bald eagle dove in front of my vehicle. I braked and swerved but hit the eagle anyway. After stopping my vehicle I attempted to find the eagle. I spotted it over the embankment down a steep hill and grabbed a towel and went down the embankment to either recover the body or attempt to help an injured bird. The eagle was very much alive and as I approached it retreated farther down the hill.

By this time a Caltrans truck had pulled up behind my vehicle. Steve Schwegerl and Rodger Sleight were driving in the opposite direction and had witnessed the collision. They were extremely helpful and reassuring and they made contact with Caltrans dispatch to call Fish and Game as well as Shasta Wildlife Rescue. They located the closest mile-marker to reference where the eagle was last seen and helped me build "rock markers" to also identify the area. They also followed through with maintaining contact with the rescue folks from Shasta Wildlife.

After arriving back at home in Redding, Myrlane from Caltrans dispatch and Dave Handa from the Burney station also were helpful in providing the details on the rescue of the eagle.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of these Caltrans employees that truly went "above and beyond." They are definitely a credit to your organization.

Sincerely,

Martha Mitchell, RN, MICP

EMS Systems Director



Daryl Chase, who coincidentally is a retired Caltrans employee of 37 years, is caring for the eagle while it recovers from its injuries. He was kind enough to give me an update on July 9. At that time, the eagle was still being held for recovery. He suffered a broken radius and ulna of his wing and will be undergoing another x-ray next week to determine if he will be able to fly again. Mr. Chase has named the eagle Talker because he is very boisterous and vocal for a species that is usually very quiet. In fact, I got to hear him chattering in the background while I was on the phone with Mr. Chase. Hopefully he will make a full recovery and be released to his natural habitat soon.

Coincidentally, on June 28, 2007 the Interior Department removed the American bald eagle from the Endangered Species list because their population is now thriving.



Retha Rubiec, retired District 2 employee turned world traveler, shares pictures of her recent trip to Europe



Top left: Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany. Built by Ludwig II between 1869 and 1886. Served as the inspiration for Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland.
Top center: Boathouse on shore of Lake Lucerne, Switzerland



Top right: Alps viewed from Mt. Blanc, Chamonix, France

Bottom right: Estate on Isola di Comacino, the only island on Lake Como in Italy. In the 12th century the island was ransacked and burnt by angry residents of Como. Prior to that it had been continuously inhabited since prehistoric times; therefore, it has enormous archaeological importance.



*** NEWS FLASH ***

Michael Mayor and George Bravo recently recorded the Caltrans Update, an informational bulletin about the status of projects throughout the District. This will be updated periodically to keep the traveling public informed and will be available to view at our new Web domain caltrans2.info.



Have a teenage driver at home?

It can be nerve-racking when your child begins driving. To help them learn to safely navigate through construction/cone zones, the District 2 Public Information Office has developed a brochure with safety tips specifically for teen drivers. If you would like a copy of this brochure for your beginning driver, please contact Don Lamb in the PIO office at (530) 225-3278.

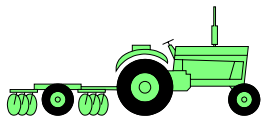


🚧 CONE ZONE CLASSIC 🚧

The Cone Zone Classic V golf tournament was held on June 28, 2007 at Lake Redding Golf Course. Brought to you by the Caltrans District 2 Employee Scholarship Committee, the tournament brought out 66 golfers and raised over \$1,300.00 for the Caltrans District 2 Employee Scholarship Fund. Donors and sponsors that helped with the event were Lake Redding Golf Course, Lake Redding Golf Pro Shop, Raley's (Lake Blvd.), Market Street Steakhouse, Jamba Juice, and Red Robin. Several Caltrans employees donated money and/or prizes as well.

Prizes were awarded to:

- 🏆 1st Place Team – Guy Richmond, Walter Bird, Jeff Mathews, and Lou Bird (golf balls, Starbucks)
- 🏆 2nd Place Team – John D'Annunzio, Marty Wimer, Carl Snibbe, and Jim Scott (golf balls, Starbucks)
- 🏆 Most Spirited Team – Sue Gale, Ronnie Panebianco, Annette Buchholz, and Cindy Anderson (Jamba Juice)
- 🏆 Closest to the Pin – Brent Clements (Ice Chest)
- 🏆 Closest to the Pin – Jim Hannigan (Weber BBQ)
- 🏆 Longest Drive (Men) – Brian Crane (Wine)
- 🏆 Longest Drive (Women) – Denise Wiltse (Wine)



See ya'll at the Fair



PIO Public Outreach Specialist Don Lamb, along with several other District 2 employees, took shifts working the Caltrans booth at the Shasta District Fair from June 13 through June 17. There were displays about local projects, driver safety, and employment opportunities. Don Lamb has also arranged for Caltrans' presence at these upcoming north state fairs:

- ❖ Lassen County Fair - July 18-22
- ❖ Siskiyou Golden Fair - August 8-12
- ❖ Plumas-Sierra County Fair - August 9-12
- ❖ Modoc County Fair - August 16-19
- ❖ Trinity County Fair - August 24-26
- ❖ Inter-Mountain Fair - August 30-September 3
- ❖ Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair - September 5-9
- ❖ Tehama District Fair - September 27-30

If any employee is interested in helping out with one of the fairs, please call Don Lamb at (530) 225-3278.



Pictured: Don Lamb and Vicky Bowman of Administration

Dana to Downtown Public Open House

On July 12, the public was invited to Turtle Bay Exploration Park to view the features and details of the Dana to Downtown project. Construction is scheduled to begin next spring. The open house was a tremendous success with about 140 people in attendance. The community is welcoming the project with open arms. It was called a much-needed improvement that would have a positive impact on mobility from the Dana/Hilltop shopping area to Downtown Redding.



Top: Lori Lipphardt,
Asst Project Manager
Bottom left: Phil Baker,
Project Manager
Bottom right: John Martin, Design



NEW CAFÉ OPENS AT DO



On June 19, the 808 Bistro & Catering Co. began operating the café located in the district office basement, formerly the Grapevine Cafe. Keith and Kathy Kakiuchi are the owners and Joy Powell works with them. They also have summer help from their son Bo. The café hours are 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. With a variety of breakfast and lunch menu choices at affordable prices, plus daily specials, the café is a great place to head to when hunger strikes. They also offer the convenience of carry out if you call your order in ahead of time to 225-3370. Their menu can be viewed on the District 2 Intranet.

Is there something you would like to see more of in the newsletter? Do you have information about news and events that might interest other employees or retirees? Have you witnessed a co-worker performing an extraordinary act above and beyond the call of duty? If so, please contact Denise Porter in the Public Information Office, 225-3318 or denise_porter@dot.ca.gov

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Promotions

Donald Clark – Transportation Engineering Technician
(T/D Assignment for 24 months)
from Redding East Maintenance

Michael Farrar – Maintenance Area Superintendent
from Maintenance Supervisor in District 4

Transfers

William Chartrand – Equipment Operator II
from District 3 to Quincy

William Groom – Equipment Operator II
from Tree Crew to Mt Shasta

Michael Lynch – Maintenance Leadworker
from Tree Crew to Yreka

Joseph Ratliff – Equipment Operator II
from Platina to Weaverville

Newly Hired

Andre Benoist – Environmental Planner
Environmental Management R2

Tommy Ellenberger – Retired Annuitant
Public Information Office

Manuel Garcia – Student
Construction

Donald Porter – Retired Annuitant
Public Information Office

Lynne Russio – Office Technician
Human Resources

Diana Tomicich – Retired Annuitant
Public Information Office

CONGRATULATIONS