Energy pours in and out of solar panel project
Solyndra creates thousands of jobs
The new year already looks positive

At the beginning of a new year, it is easy to reflect on the past. Sometimes things seem better than they were when we look back at them. But as for 2009, I’m ready to say goodbye. Unemployment rates reached an all-time high, as 700,000 jobs were lost each month, our work hours remained very low and residential neighborhoods were filled with foreclosure signs marking the meltdown of the American dream. For me, this past year couldn’t have ended faster.

So here we are at the start of 2010, and as is usual with economists, they are full of predictions. According to a recent article in the Washington Post, “Top Federal Reserve officials expect unemployment to remain elevated for years to come.” The Feds predict the rate to drop from 10.2 percent this past fall but stay far above the 5 percent level typically seen in a healthy economy. The nation has begun producing more goods and services, but the job market has been painfully slow to turn around. Even though we are making improvements, there’ll be no great boom for a while.

This news is hard for our industry, especially when it seems like just yesterday we couldn’t fill dispatches fast enough. Retirees will tell you their memories of a true depression, how they began squirreling away what little they had in coffee containers and keeping their pantries stocked with non-perishable goods. You younger operators probably can’t imagine what that’s like. The good news is, we’re not quite there today. President Obama’s Stimulus Funds will start to expand this year, including funds for infrastructure and bonds for renewable energy and energy conservation, which means construction jobs. Two specific projects in this edition relate to federal money – one in District 90 and one in District 20. There are many others ongoing and ahead.

This year, Obama is proposing a boost in investment to the nation’s infrastructure beyond what has already been included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

We elected this president in office, and while it is yet to be determined how his health-care reform plan will impact us, he’s been more open to our issues than any other president in a while, which emphasizes our role in politics this year – one of the biggest election years we have had. Political Director Mark Kyle has more to say on that in his column in this edition. But let me be clear: If you think your work in politics is done, think again. It is only beginning. With governors’ races in several states and the major water-bond bill on the ballot in California, work is available if we are willing to go out and grab it, and by that I mean voting.

This past year proved to be positive for this administration and this union, because you voted to give us another term as your officers. We accepted your confidence and have and will continue to move this union forward by providing the best training (see a schedule for upcoming pipeline training in this edition), lobbying on your behalf in Washington, D.C. and negotiating the best possible wage and benefits package for you at upcoming Master Agreement negotiations. Regarding negotiations, when you receive a notification about them in the mail, please attend any and all meetings. Your attendance at these meetings sends a loud and clear message to employers that the membership is taking these negotiations seriously. I can’t stress enough how important your participation is. It’s time to play some hardball, brothers and sisters, and we are up to the challenge.

Speaking of challenges met, I am proudest of getting the high-speed rail bond passed in California and subsequently being nominated to serve on the High Speed Rail Authority Board. I was recently re-appointed to serve another three years on this board, and it is an honor to speak on labor’s behalf to facilitate high-speed rail. Had the membership not worked on getting this bond passed, we’d have no hope for this work today. When times are tough, we must fight back together: Attend every union meeting, every Semi-Annual, every phone bank and every precinct walk. Without the efforts of all, we are only as strong as one.

Along those lines, I want to thank those who do participate and make this union not just a name but a family, a lifestyle. I appreciate all of your letters and e-mails, and I take all of your concerns very seriously. Your union is here to represent you and make sure that your rights under your Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) are complied with. However, issues regarding lunch-breaks, overtime or wage violations (as is protected under the state-mandated Wage Order 16 or otherwise provided under your CBA) are difficult to resolve if members are not willing to come forward. No matter what: I vow to stand with you and fight for you every step of the way. But problem-solving sometimes requires detailed information that only those members affected can provide.

Let us learn from the mistakes of the past and look to the future for better days. Here’s to a great 2010.
Local 3 highlighted in Honolulu Advertiser

An agreement involving the city of Honolulu and 12 major labor unions, including Local 3, was reached late November regarding the city's $5.5 billion train project intended to provide high capacity rapid transit in the east-west transportation corridor – West O'ahu with downtown Honolulu and the Ala Moana Center. Local 3's own Hawaii District Rep. Gino Soquena was photographed in the Honolulu Advertiser shaking hands with Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann on the deal that, according to Soquena, “ensures the whole project will be done union, and any disputes will be handled internally.”

"It's the first time the city signed such an agreement," Hannemann said.

The six-mile project is scheduled to break ground this month. "It's going to be big," said Soquena. "It's going to put a lot of members to work, over 100 operators with Kiewit."

More details about the project can be found in Treasurer William Kalani Mahoe's column in this edition.

What does water mean to you?
For many, it means life

A hand-drawn sign by the side of a field on I-5 in Merced County reads: “No water, no food.” This, a claim from millions suffering from California's water shortage.

Near this location in Friant, Calif., Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an $11.1 billion water bond in a ceremony in mid-November, a year before voters decide the bill's fate in the November 2010 General Election. Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, comedian and California Latino Water Coalition member Paul Rodriguez and Local 3's Executive Board member Gus McClain and Grievance Committee member Jesse Harper also attended the event.

The bond is more than double the size of the largest water bond in state history, with “perks” that include: “A dam east of Fresno, underground water banking, groundwater protection, water recycling, regional projects and environmental upgrades in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta,” writes Fresno Bee columnist Robert Rodriguez.

Yet, with all the talk of the bond's benefits, passing a billion-dollar anything at a time when California's unemployment rate climbs over 10 percent, will be a challenge.

But for California's construction climate, the price is far worth it. A breakdown of the proposed spending, includes:

- $83 billion: Potential new dams
- $2.25 billion: Projects to protect and restore the Delta
- $1.785 billion: Watershed protection throughout state
- $1.4 billion: Regional water-supply projects
- $1.25 billion: Water recycling and conservation
- $1 billion: Groundwater cleanup and water quality
- $455 million: Local drought-relief projects

Stay tuned for more updates, projects and information about California's water bond.

Talking Points
By Fred Herschbach, president

Plenty of paving and politics in 2010

Last month, California’s governor and Legislature got proactive and passed an $11 billion water bond that will overhaul the state's water infrastructure. Most of the projects equate to jobs for our members, which we are in dire need of. Thank you to the folks who took the time to call the governor's office to let him know how important this legislation is to California, however, your work is not finished. It will certainly be a challenge to get the bonds passed in this year's November election, given the condition of the state's budget, so stay tuned for ways you can get involved. The breakdown of these proposed bond projects can be found in the water story on this page.

We officers remain positive for 2010. Utah and Nevada will have a lot of opportunities to put members to work on pipelines, highways and gold mines, so if work hasn’t picked up in your area, call your district office and get on the out-of-work list.

Speaking of the out-of-work list, we still have brothers and sisters dropping off after 84 days, A and B-list operators. Remember this important rule of thumb: Choose the date of your birthday, and every month on that day, call the Hall and sign up again. You don’t have to wait until the 84th day. C-list operators must still “re-up” every 30 days.

The brothers and sisters on the District 17 islands should start seeing dirt moving for the light-rail project and for military bases. Please see Treasurer William Kalani Mahoe's column in this edition for more details.

Northern California operators should start seeing the Hetch Hetchy rebuild gearing up, with solar-panel fields, transmission lines, paving and bridges coming. There is also the possibility of a new San Francisco 49ers stadium and BART extending into Santa Clara County.

It seems paving is the word in most areas, due in large part to Stimulus Funds in the amount of $2.22 billion being allocated to California for transportation. But those funds come with one stipulation: Washington, D.C. demands that these projects be “shovel ready,” and at this time, paving is the easiest work to get moving quickly. In District 90 alone, 19 miles of roads will be re-paved, including one such job featured in this edition.

Not only is paving picking up, but this is also going to be another busy political year. We made some creative changes to our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. We want to communicate more effectively to the membership through technology: Robo-calls, e-mail, Twitter and so on. I myself understand very little about these forms of technology, but if you would like to participate, please get your e-mail address to your agents or sign up online at www.oeg.org, so we can keep you informed on the issues. When we know, you will know.

Along the lines of knowing, I would next like to touch on our health care. When we are young, not much bothers us. For the most part, we just brush things off. I'll be 56 years old this year, and as I look back over my career, just about every physical condition I've had has been related to injuries on the jobsite, such as neck, back, shoulder, knee surgeries and hearing loss. I never lost any time or filed for Workers' Compensation but just worked through it, however, let me warn you: It does catch up eventually, and the longer you wait, the more serious and more expensive the damage may be.

Have a great 2010. Please be safe, and come up and say hi at our membership meetings.

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As Local 3 brings in the new year, we honor many of our pin recipients for their years of service in the union. The following photos are also available online at www.oe3.org.

Honorary pins are given in recognition of years of service. They are given in five-year increments from 25 through 70 years. If you have not received your pin, call your district’s business agents, and they will be happy to get you one. Congratulations to all the Honorary Members in Local 3. We salute you.*

**Pin recipients honored**

- Mark Allen 30 years
- Lloyd Anders 25 years
- W “Andy” Anders 45 years
- Fred Anderson 50 years
- Martin Archuleta 50 years
- Paul Basquez 40 years
- Marty Baston 50 years
- Frank Chavez 25 years
- Rich Denicco 25 years
- Ed Donahue 50 years
- Michael Evans 25 years
- Rich Fania 30 years
- John Ferdinand 30 years
- Bob Flint 50 years
- Jan Higginbothan 40 years
- Alva Holford 50 years
- Leonard Holthouse 45 years
- James Houston 50 years
- Don Jensen 35 years
- Loren Johnson 35 years
- David Jordan 25 years
- Lon Mayer 25 years
- Ron McCleery 40 years
- Mike McCormick 25 years
- Robert McDonald 50 years
- Mike McFarland 25 years
- Bob Miller 30 years
- Frank Miramontes 25 years
- Mike Nagal 25 years
- Greg Nelson 30 years
- Daniel Palakiko 50 years
- Timothy Parker 30 years
- Lee Pearson 30 years
- Arsenio Reconoce 30 years
- Robert Renfro 50 years
- Steve Spence 25 years
- Carl Swanberg 50 years
- Matt Theodore 36 years
- John Thornton 60 years
- Johnny Tiner 50 years
- Oscar Vera 36 years
- Jim Walton 25 years
January 2010

William Baugh 45 years
Don Bese 30 years
William Bossert 50 years
Jon Brower 25 years
Sky Caravalho 30 years
Angelo Cellini, 25 years, and Bill Pursel, 25 years

Glenn Gilliland 35 years
Garrey Graves 35 years
Wade Grimm 30 years
Dave Hamilton 30 years
Leonard Hannemann 35 years
Howard Harrow 25 years
Bill Hawkins Jr. 25 years

Toshio Kajura 50 years
Doug Kilgore 25 years
Timothy Lehman 25 years
George Lema 50 years
Joey Lopez 25 years
Ralph Martinez, 50 years, and Thomas Gilbert, 50 years

Ray Molinar 30 years
Albert Montano 30 years
Kris Morgan, 30 years, Ricky Malone, 30 years, and Rodger Gordo, 30 years
William Muller 50 years
Peter Musachia 50 years

Randy Rugh 25 years
Teddy Sanchez 35 years
William Shepard 45 years
Jerry Smith 50 years
Norman Smith 50 years
Vince Snelling, 25 years, and Scott Laughridge, 25 years

Charlie Waters 40 years
Joe Wendt 25 years
Steve Windsor 25 years
Bill Wood 25 years
Bob Wright 50 years
Bill Wurz 30 years

*Please note: These are not all the pin recipients.*
The Northern Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) held its Annual Awards and Completion Ceremony in Reno on Nov. 13.

The Local 3 officers presented apprentices with several awards for their completion of the program. These apprentice graduates included grading and paving graduates Geremia Husak and David Weaver, Heavy Duty Repairperson (HDR) Graduate Dana Lopez, Grading and Paving Graduate Daniel Cozad and Lubrication Technician Graduate Steve Rodriguez.

Cozad and Lopez received the Apprentice of the Year award.

Granite Construction was awarded the prestigious Employer of the Year honor along with Jim Kelley and Ken Retherford as Supervisors of the Year, also with Granite Construction.

Congratulations to all the graduates and honorees.

Field Perspective: What the members are saying

What is your advice for apprentices?

“Diligence. Hang in there.”
– Scott Jarret, 14-year member

“What you lack in skill and knowledge, make up with hustle and a willingness to learn, and a journeyman will take you under his wing.”
– “Hippy” Paul Nelson, 17-year member

“Work hard and listen to your peers. … Find a good woman to be behind you.”
– David Josephson, 10-year member
If you’re planning to visit the Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park anytime soon, keep your eyes peeled for a florescent pink bear and his orange-colored friend.

Naturally brunettes, the bears got their new colors when a hunt for lunch went awry. Instead of a tasty treat, the bears sniffed out two spray paint cans used to mark locations on a paving job on Generals Highway. When the curious creatures bit into their “snacks,” the canisters popped. But don’t worry: Besides being a bit brighter, the bears are OK. Our members working on the secluded jobsite saw them daily, either checking out their work or, more commonly, their lunchboxes.

Gradesetter Jody Reece got an up-close look at the animals a couple of times. On one such meeting, he was setting grade about a mile from anyone else when a bear appeared on the other side of the highway. Luckily, both minded their own business and went about their daily duties with no confrontation. A second time, Reece was called because a bear tried to get into his jeep, looking for food. No damage was done.

“The bears cooperated for the most part,” said three-year member/Foreman Louie Dorado.

So did the weather. At almost 7,000 feet elevation, Generals Highway is put to the test in the winter with rain and snow. Fortunately, the Construction Development Systems (CDS) crew, which included about 15 operators at its peak, was able to widen, pave and improve the drainage on a nine-mile stretch of the highway before any severe winter weather hit. The $9 million job began in May and wrapped up in mid November.

Obstacles they did come across were varmint holes dug underneath the roadway. They were a challenge, said seven-year member/Superintendent Joel Padilla, but the crew managed. That’s one of the reasons why CDS hopes to return in the spring for a second part of the highway reconstruction – they already know what they’re working with. This work, on 1.5 miles from Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge, went to bid in December. The job includes constructing retaining walls, cantilever bridges and drainage structures as well as shoulder stabilization and rock-outcrop blasting, among other things. It should continue through at least two seasons.

This is good news for the small, local signatory, whose office is just down the street from the Fresno District Hall.

While Generals Highway is pretty secluded, winding and climbing its way through the Sequoia National Park from state Route 180 to state Route 198, it’s pretty well known, as it’s home to two of the largest and most famous giant Sequoia trees – General Sherman and General Grant (hence, the highway’s name).

According to Wikipedia, General Sherman is about 275 feet tall, and in 2002, the volume of its trunk measured about 1,487 cubic meters, making it the largest non-clonal tree by volume. It’s believed to be between 2,300 and 2,700 years old.

General Grant is the largest giant Sequoia in the Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park and was named in 1867 after former president Ulysses S. Grant. In 1926, it was proclaimed the “Nation’s Christmas Tree” and in 1956, a “national shrine,” honoring those who died in war – the only living object to do so.

With such big attractions, CDS’s small job was actually giant. And so are its resident bears – they can get up to 600 pounds! (Note: The colorful bears should fade back to their natural colors soon.)
Call to action: Don’t sign any petitions related to CalPERS

Once again, former Assemblyman Keith Richmond and his band of cronies are attempting to dismantle the California Public Employee Retirement System’s (CalPERS’) Pension benefits. Two initiatives are being prepared for signatures that will severely impact these benefits. Richmond feels all you deserve after a life of civil servitude is to scrape by and eat dog food to survive.

It’s time for all union members to talk with their families, friends, neighbors and acquaintances and urge them against signing any petitions pertaining to CalPERS retirement. The best way to stop these attacks on pensions is to keep these measures from reaching the ballot.

Some of the highlights of the current proposals include reducing your Pension benefits if you are eligible for Social Security. Richmond fails to take into account the current rule that restricts a public employee’s Social Security benefit if he or she is receiving a state Pension check. This is the proverbial double whammy. These new initiatives restrict retirements in two ways: They reduce the calculating factors, and they increase the minimum retirement age for public safety and general government employees.

The following facts about CalPERS pensions may be helpful in speaking with folks about why there is no need to change the structure of CalPERS:

- CalPERS recently recovered $40 billion in investment losses in the last three months. This equates to recovering 40 percent of its losses, meaning CalPERS is financially sound.
- The average annual Pension paid out by CalPERS is $27,600. This punches a hole in the claim that public employees’ retirement benefits are lush.
- Less than 1 percent of retirees earn an annual retirement of more than $100,000. These pensions apply to executive management positions like city managers, county executive officers and state officials, not the average working person.
- Government employees contribute half of the funds set aside for their CalPERS retirement through payroll deduction. This means they take home less pay in order to have a Pension when they retire.

Let’s all get out there and make sure Richmond does not succeed in taking away the right to live a dignified life in retirement.

CORRECTION:
The contact number for Shelley Gurule in the Public Employee Nevada office is (775) 329-5333.

Correction Officer Flores is reinstated

By Dave Cariaga, business representative

Last year, Correctional Officer Joe Flores had his world turned upside down when he was falsely accused of “inappropriate contact with a female inmate.” The Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Department was quick to judge and convict him before the Internal Affairs interview was completed.

The accusation was supposedly caught on video, and the department had a “smoking gun.” The alleged incident took place in early February, and Flores was interviewed by Internal Affairs on March 3. By May 3, Flores had been terminated.

A Skelly hearing was requested, and newly appointed Sheriff Phil Wowak was to hear our case on May 14. We provided him with new evidence and a taped interview with a witness/inmate.

On May 20, we received notice from Wowak that he upheld the termination. An appeal was filed requesting a hearing before the Santa Cruz County Civil Service Commission.

On Oct. 7, the hearing began. During two days of testimony and numerous witnesses, the county and Local 3 presented their cases.

The county offered video evidence of such poor quality, the commissioners had to look at the footage with their heads sideways! The two “credible witnesses” the county claimed to have were both “in the wind” and not present at the hearings. It should be noted that the accuser and her witness were both inmates at the Santa Cruz County Jail. Both had extensive records, but the sheriff’s office placed 100 percent credibility on the inmates’ stories, over a 10-year veteran’s account.

A third witness/inmate was interviewed by Internal Affairs, and her credibility was doubted when she failed to cooperate with the investigators by not telling them what they wanted to hear.

This witness was also in custody and testified in support of the officer. An independent police officer outside of this agency who had prior contact with the original accuser/inmate also testified and provided compelling evidence about the accuser/inmate’s lack of credibility.

Throughout the Internal Affairs’ report, the lead investigator weighed the video evidence as undisputed and compelling, however, while on the witness stand under cross examination, the investigator was unable to show the acts alleged in the Internal Affairs’ report.

On Oct. 21, the Commission released its findings and reduced the number of sustained allegations against Flores from eight to two. The Commission also ordered him to return to work immediately.

A special thanks to attorneys Christopher Platten and Carmela Woll from Wylie, McBride, Platten & Renner in San Jose, Calif.
ACMEA suit established a precedent  

By Alan Elnick, business representative

As recently reported in Engineers News, Superior Court of California, Alameda County employees represented by Local 3 affiliate Alameda County Municipal Employees’ Association (ACMEA) were laid-off in June as part of a general reduction in force. Many of these employees should have been entitled to a transfer or demoted to other positions in which they previously held tenure by virtue of their seniority. Despite the best efforts of ACMEA representatives and negotiators to have the court abide by its policies and the law, the court laid them off anyway, forcing ACMEA and OE3 to pursue a legal remedy against the court.

In July, ACMEA filed suit for 13 of the affected employees. The suit alleges violations of the Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act (TCEPGA), the court’s negotiated layoff policy and the constitutional employment protections afforded to public employees. The U.S. Supreme Court decision in Skelly vs. the State Personnel Board established that public employees who have attained tenure under merit systems of employment have a property interest in that employment protected by the 14th amendment. That property cannot be seized without due process, an opportunity to have a fair hearing before that removal. That is the basis for what we now refer to as a open Skelly hearing. Earlier this year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit issued a decision in a matter known as Levine vs. city of Alameda, where the court decided that the city violated the due-process rights of an employee who requested a pre-removal hearing before being laid-off by the city. The employee contended that the city did not afford him that hearing and that his layoff was for a disciplinary purpose and not from economic necessity.

Until this decision, it was more or less assumed that layoffs did not require such due-process protection. In the matter with the court, the ACMEA members similarly requested pre-removal hearings contending that having been denied the rights accrued under the TCEPGA in a negotiated layoff policy, their removals were actually disciplinary in purpose and not for economic necessity.

The TCEPGA was passed in 1999 as one of the acts governing the transition of the courts from county jurisdiction to independent authority. One of its purposes was to assure that employee rights accrued from those county systems were protected in the transition. Rights accrued by virtue of seniority were among those rights specifically protected. These included the motion and transfer rights for which ACMEA is suing the court. The court had an interest in protecting such rights as the court is reliant upon the knowledge base of its senior employees for its efficient operation and service to the community. The Alameda Court, however, ended into an agreement with State Employees’ International Union (SEIU) that impinged upon those rights accrued by the ACMEA members. Among the issues that will be decided is whether the court can enter into such agreements without negotiating with the bargaining agent of the affected employees, in this case ACMEA.

Already, the case has established a precedent. Normally, labor relations with the court under the TCEPGA are administered by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). Specifically excluded from such administration, however, are the collective bargaining rights of management-designated employees, which is how the Alameda Court has identified the ACMEA employees. Within the TCEPGA, there exists an unused section that provides violations of the TCEPGA for matters in which the court holds jurisdiction, will be assigned to a committee of appellate judges who will then assign an appellate judge from a non-involved appellate district to hear the matter. In August, Appellate Judge Robert Mallano, from the 2nd District California Court of Appeals in Los Angeles, was assigned to the ACMEA case.

Both the court and ACMEA/OE3 agreed to a joint stipulation of facts, and the litigation procedure was approved by Mallano. Briefs have been filed, save document and the parties are awaiting scheduling of the hearing for oral arguments. Representing ACMEA/OE3 in this matter is Ari Krantz of the Leonard Carder Law Firm in Oakland.

We remain hopeful for a successful conclusion to this matter. Without the backing of OE3 and ACMEA, employees similarly affected would have found themselves “up a creek without a paddle,” as this section of the law is little-known, has never before been contested and would be much too costly for individuals on their own. We thank Business Manager Russ Burns, the officers and Executive Board of OE3 for their support and backing.
Happy New Year’s

All of us at Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) remain committed to the same solid financial principles on which we were founded. These principles have allowed us to maintain our strong financial position during a challenging 2009 and remain confident for continued success in 2010.

During our 45 years in existence, we have repeatedly weathered difficult economic times and have always emerged successful. While this current economic downturn is more severe, we are certain that our fiscally responsible approach will keep us financially strong for the long run. We attribute our continued success directly to our core mission: Providing the best possible service to our members, both individually and as a whole. As an example of this commitment, we worked diligently during 2009 to assist members affected by this worldwide recession in managing their money and staying in their homes.

The goal of every person on staff, as well as our board of directors, is to help improve each member’s financial well-being. As we move into a new year, remember that we are here to help you. Whether you’re in need of competitively priced loans and deposit products or confidential financial consulting, we are committed to your long-term financial stability.

Throughout 2010, we will continue to keep members informed of our products and services through our newsletter – MoneyWise, our ever changing Web site – www.oefcu.org and personalized e-mail messages. We also ask that you keep an eye out for our randomly distributed membership surveys. Your feedback and suggestions are critical to the continued success of OEFCU.

Here’s to a prosperous new year for all. Working together, I know we can help make 2010 financially successful for you and your family. As we have in the past, we look forward to serving you in the future.

Happy New Year’s

Credit Union
By Jim Sullivan,
Credit Union secretary/financial officer & recording - corresponding secretary

Retiree Post

Retiree Ed Valdez and his wife, Leona, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary July 4, 2009. With 148 family members and friends, they renewed their vows before their parish priest, Father Rudy Ruiz. The barbecue lunch and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Valdez is a 38-year Local 3 member who worked as a heavy equipment operator and plant operator for Hank Matosa at Hillsdale Rock before retiring in 1988.

Do you have an event coming up, recipes you’d like to share or good news worth repeating? Contact Engineers News at (916) 993-2047, ext. 2505, mail us your suggestions with your photo at 3920 Lennane Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834 or e-mail us at mjessup@oe3.org.

Retiree Ed Valdez and his wife, Leona, renewed their vows before Father Rudy Ruiz on July 4.

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Celebrating 45 Years of Service!
Surviving spouse medical plans

If you die while covered by the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Plan, your surviving dependents may continue their eligibility for benefits. The specific benefits involved and the payments due will depend on the situation.

If you were a retired employee (other than an owner-operator), who elected the 60-month guarantee Pension and died before receiving 60 monthly Pension payments, your surviving spouse can continue the benefits he or she had before your death until 60 months from the effective date of your Pension award. To do so, your spouse will need to make monthly payments in an amount determined by the Board. Your spouse can continue the benefits your children were receiving until they cease to be eligible dependent children by paying the applicable premiums for them.

If you are an active Operating Engineer and you should die after becoming eligible for a Pension but before your Pension-effective date, your surviving spouse will be eligible for benefits under the Pensioned Operating Engineers Trust Fund after your hour bank is exhausted and can no longer provide coverage under the active plan. To begin and maintain coverage under the Pensioned Operating Engineers Trust Fund, your spouse will need to make the required monthly payments. Your spouse will also need to pay the required premiums for any eligible dependent children he or she wants to cover.

In any other case (including all cases involving owner-operators) your spouse will be able to continue eligibility for all benefits except hearing aid, chemical-dependency treatment and vision-care benefits by making monthly payments in an amount determined by the Board. This type of continuation is also available to a spouse who has reached the end of the 60-month period described above. Your spouse can continue benefits for your children (except hearing aid and vision-care benefits) until they cease to be eligible dependent children by paying the applicable premiums for them.

Pre-Retirement Meetings

The Pre-Retirement Meetings begin this month. Participants 50 years of age and over will receive a postcard reminder of the meeting in their area, though participants of any age are welcome to attend. If you do not receive a postcard, please check the schedule below to find the meeting in your area. We encourage you and your spouse to attend to familiarize yourselves with all aspects of your retirement benefits, which have a direct bearing on your financial security.

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

Emanuel Medical Center returns as provider

Please note: Emanuel Medical Center in Turlock, Calif. is now a participating hospital again.

Other Anthem Blue Cross contract hospitals in the area are:
- Stanislaus Surgery Center
- Doctors Medical Center of Modesto, Inc.
- Memorial Hospital Medical Center – Modesto

If you have any questions, please call the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.

Dependent children information

Members covered by the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund with dependent children between the ages of 19 and 23 should submit proof of full-time student status at the beginning of each semester or quarter to ensure uninterrupted coverage.
Life is about choices

Now that the holidays have ended, you may be facing the stress of the slow winter season (working less than 40 hours per week or dealing with unemployment). You may also be worrying about next year’s work picture.

This season can place a strain on anyone, but I have good news: Hopefulness, not helplessness, is just around the corner.

With a little creativity and flexibility, consider investing in your future by taking advantage of the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) this winter. Not only can training help take your mind off the stress of the winter season, but it can also add quality skills to your resume.

Journey-level operators and apprentices I’ve spoken with often admit how difficult it is to set aside time, as well as deal with financial obligations, to get more training. Yet, they later expressed, once they decided to come to the RMTC, their perspectives changed. Several said they were happy they decided to sharpen their skills and explained the training center’s calm environment gave them a proactive approach to their stress, rather than a reactive one. On the other hand, I’ve also heard apprentices share their resentment: They would rather be working than training. I gently remind them that training is very important for them, and that it is the reason they're in the apprenticeship program to begin with.

Others admitted that being at the RMTC not only helped them get better training but positively affected their relationships spiritually, personality and socially with other journey-level operators, apprentices and their families.

Life is about choices, and I have learned that sometimes small sacrifices can offer great rewards, especially when you don’t expect them.

As we face 2010, rather than stress about hardship, I pray for peace and prosperity for everyone, especially those throughout our union.

I believe making the right choices can go a long way, especially when experienced and positive people point you in the right direction.

Whether you’re a journey-level operator or an apprentice, the RMTC is committed to offering you positive choices for your training success. Please consider coming to the Ranch to enjoy the benefits of top-quality training, along with some good, ol’ hospitality to minimize your stress.

We look forward to seeing you and wish you success in the new year.

Apprenticeship Spotlight

District 04 congratulates Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Apprentice Ramon Espinosa for joining the ranks of journey-level operator. He did his entire apprenticeship with Harold Smith & Son.

Mechanics Corner

By Dave Bibby, Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) instructor

The solar system

Epicyclic gearing, most commonly referred to as the planetary gear set, is found in many equipment applications, and sometimes in the home.

The benefits in using planetary gear sets include compact design, increased gear-tooth contact for smoother transmission of power, balanced load on the gears and infinite gear ratio combinations. A disadvantage is weight; they are heavier and more expensive when compared to other drive mechanisms.

Planetary gear sets are so named because they resemble the solar system. Referring to the illustration, the planetary gear set consists of the sun, planetary and ring gears. The center, or “sun” gear, is constantly meshed with two or more planetary gears (also referred to as planet gears, pinions and idler gears). The planetary gears are mounted onto their own shafts on the planetary-gear carrier, where they rotate around the sun gear. The planetary gears are also in constant mesh with the inside teeth of the ring gear that surrounds the planetary assembly.

Different gear ratios, speeds and directions of rotations are possible when using the planetary gear set, but three conditions must be met for power to be transmitted: One member is driven, while one is held, and the third member becomes the power output. For example, if the sun gear is driven and the ring gear is held stationary, the planetary gears will “walk” around the ring gear. Because the planetary gears are attacked to the planet carrier, it rotates in the same direction as the sun gear but at a slower speed and a higher torque.

The chart below indicates the various planetary gear set combinations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Held</th>
<th>Driven</th>
<th>Power Output</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Torque</th>
<th>Direction of Rotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ring Gear</td>
<td>Sun Gear</td>
<td>Planet Carrier</td>
<td>Reduced</td>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>Same as Driven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring Gear</td>
<td>Planet Carrier</td>
<td>Sun Gear</td>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>Reduced</td>
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<td>Sun Gear</td>
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<td>Ring Gear</td>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>Reduced</td>
<td>Same as Driven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planet Carrier</td>
<td>Sun Gear</td>
<td>Ring Gear</td>
<td>Reduced</td>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>Opposite of Driven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planet Carrier</td>
<td>Ring Gear</td>
<td>Sun Gear</td>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>Reduced</td>
<td>Opposite of Driven</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Torque dividers, final drives, swing drives and differential steering units typically consist of one planetary gear set, while transmissions are multiple sets connected together in series. For example, the sun gear of the first planetary is driven, and by holding the planet carrier, the output of the ring gear is the opposite direction. Now envision the ring gear attached to and driving the sun gear of the second planetary. Holding the ring gear will result in the planet carrier becoming the output but at an increased torque. This combination is the basic planetary transmission in first gear, reverse.

So, the next time you are gazing at the stars, think of the planetary gear set. Did you think of a household item that is a planetary gear set? The pencil sharpener! Turn the handle, and you turn the planet carrier, which causes the plane to the planet gears (blades) to rotate around the ring gear. The pencil is the sun gear. If allowed to, it will rotate. Hold it stationary, and the blades sharpen the pencil.
Pipeline Steward Training:
Are you interested?

Pipeline projects are booming. Therefore, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) will be hosting Pipeline Steward Training. Training dates, locations and contact information is as follows:

March 1, 2: Salt Lake City, Utah. Contact Utah District Rep. Dale Cox at (801) 596-2677.

Members are required to call their Hall to be placed on the list. A maximum of 25 applicants will be accepted. Participants are also required to complete two of the eight-hour trainings to be considered for the job steward position(s).

All members are encouraged to apply. Previous pipeline experience or training is required. Members must have a working knowledge of the pipeline industry and a desire to be a steward on future pipeline jobs.

Testing & Inspection
By Ed Wodzienski, business representative

Classes offered to diversify your skills

Happy new year! The Technical Engineers Department and Local 3 officers wish you a prosperous 2010.

Last year, several articles discussed the importance of continuing your education and diversifying your skills. This year, there are opportunities to acquire additional training with various equipment at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC), for those who qualify.

Looking at Labor
By William Kalani Mahoe, treasurer

New year starts out on positive note Hawai‘i’s largest infrastructure project will be done under exciting PLA

Aloha, brothers and sisters of Local 3.

Having recently celebrated the holiday season, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on just how much we have to be thankful for. In November, the city and county of Honolulu awarded a $482.9 million contract to Kiewit Pacific Co. for the first phase of construction on Oahu’s Mass Transit project. I am proud to announce that soon after the contract was awarded, Hawaii’s 12 major construction unions signed one of the most exciting Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) in the state’s history. Known as the Rapid Transit Stabilization Agreement (RTSA), the lead negotiators included the Operating Engineers, Carpenters, Laborers and Iron Workers.

The RTSA will ensure that this mass-transit project, one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of the islands, will be built by the brothers and sisters of our construction trade unions. Most importantly, the RTSA will provide prevailing wages to Operating Engineers in accordance with Chapter 104 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) and Davis Bacon, Fringe Benefits as provided under our Local 3 District 17 Trust Fund Agreement and badly needed job opportunities and security for our members.

As 2010 begins, Local 3’s leadership team looks forward to creating even more job opportunities and building on successes like the RTSA. Without the support of you, our members, none of this is possible.

In closing, we would like to mention that our Web site at www.oce3.org/surveyors is up and running. There are links to the NCS-JAC and upcoming training opportunities, some details about what a Chief of Party and Chain Person does and, most recently, a link to the Department of Industrial Relations and the prevailing-wage determinations by county. Surveyors are considered a separate trade, and therefore, there may be a huge discrepancy based on which county the work is being performed in. We encourage submissions for our Web site: Digital photographs of work in the field that may be out of the ordinary and in good taste will be accepted. However, the resolution needs to be six megapixels or better. Sorry folks, camera phones don’t have the necessary resolution. It’s your link, and we welcome all suggestions. Check it out.
CVIS members keep highways safe

I visited the California Highway Patrol (CHP) weigh station on Hwy. 101, north of Gilroy, and I was amazed. Alma Cruz keeps a watchful eye on some 900-plus trucks coming across the scales every day and more than 50,000 a month. Cruz is looking for safety violations like loose tie-downs, oil leaks, bad tires and outdated inspection numbers. As I watched, I saw trucks of all sizes. Some were given a green light and others a red light. The trucks that were given the red light would undergo a safety inspection, where our Unit 12 Commercial Vehicle Inspector Specialist (CVIS) then took over, making sure they were safe to travel our highways.

I want to thank the many CVIS members, like Cruz, Jose Gutierrez, Manuel Salinas and Mike Farias, who inspect the unlimited number of trucks that travel California’s highways each day, making sure no tires come off and the springs don’t spring out. Thank you for looking out for the overall safety of the motoring public.

Drive safely, and slow for the cone zone.

Politics is jobs

By now, you have already heard that politics is the life blood of this organization. As we begin the new year, this will be more apparent than ever, as every state in our jurisdiction is involved in major elections that will dramatically impact the construction industry for years to come. Politics is not a perfect game. It is a guessing game with many moving parts; each part directly affects the next with the economy as the backdrop. While we, the membership of Local 3, cannot control the ever-changing economic climate of this nation, we can control who we put in office. Let me stress that with nearly 40,000 members in this union, if every single one voted, we would have unimaginable power to move legislation on our behalf, create jobs and ensure our stability for years to come. Unfortunately, too many of our members are not registered to vote. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary this union engages in an aggressive voter-registration drive and that you fully understand the power you are capable of wielding if you accept your responsibility to vote.

I emphasize this because in every state, elections could go in our direction, or they could go terribly wrong. Below is a summarized version of some of the major elections coming up. I will go into greater detail regarding candidates, bonds and local elections throughout the year as Election Day grows closer. My focus is mobilizing the membership to get registered to vote and educating you on the best choices to make on your ballot.

These are tough times for all of us, but we can do something about it. The most important thing is to educate yourself and then vote. See what’s ahead for Local 3 politics:

- **Federal Issues**
  - Health-care reform
  - High-Speed Rail funding
  - Surface Transportation Re-authorization
  - Pension support/reform
  - Climate/Energy bill
- **California** (Primary Election: June 8; General Election: Nov. 2)
  - Senate race
  - Various targeted Congressional races (out of 53 races)
  - Governor’s race (ranked in top 10 elections nationally)
  - Other statewide offices and state legislative offices
  - Ballot initiatives attacking union pensions, health benefits, political power; constitutional convention; others
- **Nevada** (Primary Election: June 8; General Election: Nov. 2)
  - Senate race (ranked in top 4 Senate races nationally)
  - Congressional races
  - Governor’s race
  - Other statewide offices and state legislative offices
  - First-time impact of term limits
- **Hawaii** (Primary Election: Sept. 18; General Election: Nov. 2)
  - Senate race
  - Congressional race
  - Governor’s race
  - Local elections
- **Utah** (Primary Election: June 22; General Election: Nov. 2)
  - Senate race
  - Congressional races
  - Governor’s race
  - Local elections

As you can see, there’s a lot coming down the pipe and a lot at stake in turning this economy around and creating jobs.

In 2010, you’ll want to get informed, learn the issues and get involved. By that I mean doing more than just voting – get involved in the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program in the spring. (VOTE is Local 3’s grassroots member-to-member outreach program: Union members talking to union members about elections, politics and jobs.)

Stay tuned for more information in the Engineers News on the races affecting you and your family. Also, be sure to check out our Web site, www.oe3.org, and sign up for Members Only access to the latest information on how to register to vote and vote by mail and important races in your area.

Mark Kyle is Local 3’s director of government affairs and public relations. A 17-year Local 3 member, Kyle is also an attorney and assists the Legal Department with cases and negotiations. Prior to becoming Local 3’s political director, he served as the Chief of Staff for the California Labor Federation, the California Undersecretary of State and as Local 3’s contracts manager. Kyle has run numerous campaigns at the state and local level throughout California.
On the lighter side …

UNIONS GET FUTURE FACE-LIFT

According to a recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle, union membership has declined over the last quarter-century. The study done by the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C., claims that in 1983, 23.3 percent of the U.S. workforce was unionized. In 2008, only 13.7 percent were union members. Perhaps more surprising, is that, according to the study, today’s typical union member is a “woman working in the public sector, whereas 25 years ago it might have been a man with a factory job.” More than 45 percent of today’s unionized workers are women, up 35 percent from 1983. If trends remain, “women will comprise the majority of union members by 2020.”

Rosie the Riveter would certainly be proud.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

This winter has proven colder and harsher than most as Northern California received record snowfall, and temperatures dipped as low as 29 degrees in Sacramento in mid December, just above the record low of 27. Nevada members scoff at this, however, as District 11’s Reno Hall received 7 inches of snowfall coupled with 5 below zero temperatures on the same date. Brrrrrr.

As part of our dedication to highlight stimulus-funded projects, this month we’re featuring the $2.9 million East Laurel Drive improvements in Salinas, Calif. (Morgan Hill District 90). General contractor McGuire and Hester began improvements Sept. 1 and finished in late December. Improvements included a tree-lined median, new bike lanes, storm-runoff cleansing devices, two bus shelters, a bus-pullout lane and landscaping, all spanning the six-mile, three-lane road. Granite Rock provided materials from the Aromas Quarry.

Engineers News caught up with several members as they laid a 5-inch base repair and a 2-inch overlay. Working together, rollers and pavers made the old road new by laying 1,500 tons of asphalt a day that sizzles at a temperature of 1,600 degrees. All this is done inches from traffic, separated only by orange cones.

Precision comes to mind onsite, but these operators have it down to a science. They don’t even blink as cars drive by.

The finished product? Six total miles of smooth, new road and happy travelers.

Stay tuned for more updates on stimulus-funded projects.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Green met during a New Year’s Eve party. After an hour talking and watching her husband gulp down several “adult” beverages, Mrs. Smith told her friend: “They call my husband the Exorcist.”

With a great surprise, Mrs. Green asked why.

She replied: “At every party we attend, he soon gets rid of all the spirits.”
There's a lot of positive energy at the construction site of Solyndra, Inc.'s second solar panel fabrication facility (Fab 2), and it's not just the kind the company is producing.

Since breaking ground in September, crews have been buzzing around the Fremont, Calif. site to finish the plant by the firm November 2010 deadline. That means 10-hour day and night shifts and teamwork from the many companies involved with the project. Rudolph and Sletten is the general contractor on the job. Dees-Hennessey drove pile. Maxim and Conco crane operators will hoist almost 11 million tons of steel. Joseph J. Albanese's concrete pump operators pumped more than 8,000 yards of concrete in just one day and continue at a record pace. Kier & Wright had four survey crews on the job at one time. DeSilva Gates mechanics are busy around the clock. By the time the project is over, Solyndra estimates the construction of Fab 2 will employ more than 3,000 people. The ongoing operation of the facility will create more than 1,000 jobs, and the installation of Solyndra systems will generate hundreds of additional jobs.

The state-of-the-art facility is designed to produce the company's innovative, cylindrical, photovoltaic systems, or solar cells that capture the sun's energy and generate clean, renewable electricity.
There's a lot of positive energy at the construction site of Solyndra, Inc.'s second solar panel fabrication facility (Fab 2), and it's not just the kind the company is producing. Since breaking ground in September, crews have been buzzing around the Fremont, Calif. site to finish the plant by the firm November 2010 deadline. That means 10-hour day and night shifts and teamwork from the many companies involved with the project. Rudolph and Sletten is the general contractor on the job. Dees-Hennessey drove pile. Maxim and Conco crane operators will hoist almost 11 million tons of steel. Joseph J. Albanese's concrete pump operators pumped more than 8,000 yards of concrete in just one day and continue at a record pace. Kier & Wright had four survey crews on the job at one time. DeSilva Gates mechanics are busy around the clock. By the time the project is over, Solyndra estimates the construction of Fab 2 will employ more than 3,000 people. The ongoing operation of the facility will create more than 1,000 jobs, and the installation of Solyndra systems will generate hundreds of additional jobs.

The state-of-the-art facility is designed to produce the company's innovative, cylindrical, photovoltaic systems, or solar cells that capture the sun's energy and generate clean, renewable electricity. Able to produce 500 megawatts per year, Fab 2 will generate enough energy to replace 300 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

“It is revolutionary. It really is,” said District 20 Business Rep. Brian Lester.

But even more revolutionary is the amount of steady jobs the plant is creating. Operators are happy to be working right now, and the community is pleased to have an environmentally friendly result.

Ten-year member Mike Borges is working as an oiler for Maxim, and said he's “never in my life” seen a project like the Solyndra job, explaining that there is so much work going on at once.

Derick Walden, a Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) mechanic for 14 years, hasn't either.

“I was on Red Hawk,” he said, referring to a major casino job he recently worked on, “and it was 24/7, but nothing like this.”

The project is financed by public and private sources. Solyndra received a $535 million loan from the U.S. Treasury and $198 million from a round of equity financing led by Argonaut Private Equity. Solyndra is the first company to receive a loan that was guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Energy under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, a “green job” so to speak. Stay tuned as we highlight more eco-friendly projects like this one.
On the job: Teichert Construction
A dozen members work on borrowed time to winterize jobsite

Story and photos by Dominique Beilke, art director

Engineers News recently caught up with Teichert at the Natomas Cross Canal project in Sutter County. This 6-mile-long canal feeds into the Sacramento River.

The main aim of the job is to reduce the risk of flooding in the Natomas Basin. Since June 2009, main contractor Teichert has been responsible for levee improvements, including de-grading and widening work, while subcontractors Envirocon, Inquip and Magnus Pacific have kept members busy building a cutoff wall.

Work also involved borrowing dirt from local rice fields and then leveling the borrow site.

The levee is now 5 feet taller and wider with improved 3-to-1 slopes, which makes Teichert Foreman Tom Wickum happy with the progress.

“We moved a ton of dirt, and the project never stopped,” said Wickum.

With winter rain in the forecast, members build stockpiles for another phase of the project and rebuild Sankey Road for local residents. In the spring, Teichert will return to work on the Natomas Cross Canal and a portion of Garden Highway.

For more photos, visit www.oce3.org, and click on the Engineers News tab and then the “photo galleries” cue on the left.
EUREKA | Crab ... crab ... crab ...

It's all about the Crab Feed

This year’s Crab Feed will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Elks Club, 445 Herrick Ave. in Eureka. We’re looking forward to a great event. The action starts with a no-host social hour at 4:30 p.m. Dinner is served from 5-7 p.m., a drawing starts at 7 p.m. and dancing is from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Come and enjoy the company of Local 3 members, retirees and their spouses. Should you have any questions or need more information, call the Hall at (707) 443-7328.

District 40 is looking forward to the Marina Center starting to take shape. Hopefully work will start in the spring, consisting of cleaning up a site known as the Balloon Tract. This site is a polluted brownfield as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The project includes establishing an 11-acre coastal wetlands preserve at Clark Slough. The Marina Center will be a mixed-use urban infill with retail, residential and light industrial development. This means jobs, not only to build it, but also in manning the shops once it’s built. This is a much-needed boost for Eureka. It will create work and infrastructure for the area, via the revenues the city will receive from its operation.

We would like to thank Bill Burns for his involvement with the Bylaws Committee for District 40. He has done an outstanding job. With that, we need to welcome our new Bylaws Committee member Brian Bishop. We look forward to working with you.

We hope everyone had a great holiday and look forward to seeing you at the Crab Feed.

Attention members: We need your help. Local 3 is on strike against Road Machinery, the Northern California Komatsu dealer. If you have Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, or if you see any service work being done by Road Machinery or any other non-union company, please call the Hall immediately at the number listed above. You are our Army.

NEVADA | Newmont membership drive draws 24 new members

Welcome to 2010. With the start of a new year comes the hope of a better work picture. Hopefully, here in Nevada, that will be the case. The state recently advertised the I-580 widening from Moana to the Spaghetti Bowl at $60 million. Upcoming projects at the state level, barring any last minute changes, include: U.S. Route 395 at Jacks Valley Road; U.S. Route 93A, including state Route 221 and state Route 223, in Elko County; I-580 at Meadowood Mall Way; I-80 Keystone to 4th Street; U.S. Route 93 at Cherry Creek; I-80 at Lovelock; state Route 227 at Spring Creek; state Route 28’s erosion project; and I-80 from McCarran to Painted Rock. The other large project in the works is the Ruby Pipeline project. The pipeline is more than 675 miles long with about 357 miles running through Nevada.

Most projects from 2009 were finished between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Sierra Nevada Construction’s project on I-80 between Vista and McCarran boulevards will start again as soon as weather permits. Q&D Construction has crews working on Vista Boulevard and Pyramid Way in Sparks and on the McCarran Boulevard widening at Mac Anne and 7th Street in Reno. Granite Construction’s project on McCarran Boulevard and Road and Highway Builders’ project at Nightingale should kick off soon, as Mother Nature allows.

At the time of this writing, the lay-down yards for the Ruby Pipeline were moving slow. Precision Pipeline has a yard outside of Elko, as does Rockford Corp. PE Bens’ yards were delayed because of permitting issues, but the project should be back to normal by the time this goes to print.

In the Elko area, Ames Construction has small crews finishing up at Cortez. N.A. Degerstrom, Inc. fired back up at the Rossi Mine and picked up a job at Independence Mine. With the price of gold doing so well, we hope more projects will be available, and our signatories will be the beneficiaries.

With the time off, we ask that you take advantage of the training available through our Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC). The state of Nevada has made Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 mandatory as of Jan. 1, 2010, and the training center is offering two classes a month. Class schedules are available at the Reno office at 1290 Corporate Blvd. or by calling the JAC at (775) 575-2729. The JAC also offers other certifications, such as Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) part 48, National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCO), forklift, natural-gas safety (which is required for any energy project in Nevada) and Global Positioning System (GPS) training.

From Elko

Winter has arrived – there’s snow, and it’s cold – but things are heating up membership-wise. The members at Newmont Mining promoted a membership drive from August through October. As an incentive, two Cabella’s gift cards worth $250 each were raffled off to those who participated. One card went to a member who sponsored a new member (won by 39-year member Garrey Graves), and the other went to a new member who signed up in the allotted time period (won by Larteresta Lyon). Twenty-four new members signed up during the drive. We want to welcome them all and thank the members who helped promote Local 3. The drawing was held at the Elko Office on Nov. 4 with the help of members Franklin Martinez and Roger Butts.

At the time of this writing, Operating Engineers Local 3 and Newmont Mining have had one preliminary negotiation meeting. We discussed ground rules, and each side gave their points to talk about, so when we meet, there should be a good, substantive discussion at the table. Gold is at a record high, at more than $1,100 an ounce, which obviously drives the economy here. We believe there should be a good and fair negotiation in a timely fashion. Anyone who has questions about the negotiations should call the Elko Office at (775) 753-8761 or stop by at 1094 Lamoille Highway.

Newmont membership meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, and construction meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month.

We look forward to the new year and wish everyone the best. Congratulations to the 2009 apprenticeship graduates featured in this edition, on page 6.
**FRESNO**  
Local 3 continues to strike Road Machinery; help us catch scabs on jobsites

Happy New Year’s to everyone! With a new year comes hope for a prosperous work season, a fresh start and new events to list on your calendar.

Our first District Meeting of the new year will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at the Clovis Memorial Building, located at 453 Hughes Ave. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. For those pondering retirement, a Pre-Retirement Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 21 at the Hall at 4856 North Cedar.

An eight-hour Hazwoper refresher class is scheduled for February at the Hall. Members must have a current card to attend. Contact the office at (559) 229-4083 to place your name on the list.

Any and all training is critical for today’s Operating Engineer. When a contractor places an order for a qualified journey-level operator, that is what is expected. An operator should not accept a dispatch if he or she has any doubts whatsoever in operating the specified piece of equipment. If the operator is unqualified, the contractor can return the operator to the Hall. Contact the district office at the number listed above for information on other training opportunities.

Members and previous employees of Road Machinery continue to strike the company’s facilities in Sacramento, Redding and Bakersfield. People gather in front of the Bakersfield shop every day to prevent the rat company from sending their field technicians to do our members’ work. Everyone is doing a great job tracking Road Machinery, but we can always use more help. If you see a truck marked with the company name, or just plain white service trucks servicing Komatsu equipment on a jobsite, please contact the Hall immediately, so we can take appropriate action. We appreciate you being our eyes and ears.

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**BURLINGTON**  
All-union project approved in San Mateo County

In San Francisco, several huge building projects are underway, including a new office for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the agency in charge of $8.6 billion worth of improvements to the Hetch Hetchy Water System Improvement Project (WSIP); the new Chinatown campus of San Francisco Community College; the $887 million General Hospital; and the more than $4 billion Transbay Transit Center. Tower cranes and material hoists should be up by the time this goes to press.

On Doyle Drive, Ghilotti Bros. continues the utility relocation with subcontractors Cal State Constructors, St. Francis Electric and Bass Electric. C.C. Myers will construct retaining walls and the first new sections of elevated roadway. The SFPUC continues to keep our contractors busy on the WSIP and sewer replacement in the city. Members are working for SJ Amorosso and Malcolm Drilling on the $30 million retrofit of the University Mound Reservoir North Basin in San Francisco.

In Marin, Local 3 is fighting to keep the Dutra Materials’ San Rafael Quarry open. The quarry is a multi-million-dollar operation that keeps Operating Engineers working year-round and supplies the building and infrastructure projects worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the Bay Area construction industry. These projects include the Hwy. 101 widening in Marin County by Ghilotti Bros., and levee work throughout the Sacramento Delta. The U.S. Coast Guard’s base on Yerba Buena Island is protected from pounding waves by rip-rap from the quarry placed by Operating Engineers. A big step was taken to preserve the quarry when the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified by the Marin County Board of Supervisors on Oct. 22, but other battles will emerge in the months ahead, as the quarry’s permits come up for renewal. District 01 and District 10 will be turning people out to support our work this year.

There is good news in San Mateo County regarding future work: In November, The Menlo Park City Council approved moving forward with the Menlo Gateway project. The $350 million project by Bohannon Developers will be all union and will include a 230-room hotel, three office buildings, a health club, restaurants, retail and three parking structures. This item will come back to the City Council for final approval in the spring. If things go well, ground breaking for this job could start next winter. Thanks to members Bruce Spencer, Dan Rosas and Shawn Dorsett for volunteering their time to support the project.

At the Devils Slide Tunnel project on Hwy. 1, members are encountering all the conditions that go with working underground: Hard rock and running water. Fifth-step Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Apprentice Andre Dias is mastering the trade and doing a great job for Kiewit. The tunnel work is more than halfway done and is slated to run through early 2011. At the Crystal Springs Bypass Tunnel, Shank/Balfour Beatty started production work on a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) with member Rees Tatge at the controls. This TBM was fabricated on site by a team of Operating Engineers. The boring of the 4,100-foot, 8-foot-in-diameter water line will progress at 25 to 70 feet per day, depending on conditions.

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**ATTENTION MEMBERS:** We need your help. Local 3 is on strike against Road Machinery, the Northern California Komatsu dealer. If you have Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, or if you see any service work being done by Road Machinery or any other non-union company, please call the Hall immediately at (650) 652-7969. You are our Army.
**SACRAMENTO**  Stacy and Witbeck wins first phase of light rail expansion

The District 80 staff thanks the members for their patience when dealing with our crew of “rookie” dispatchers. We have learned a lot during the past few months and continue to learn every day we dispatch. We would especially like to thank Job Placement and Office Systems Coordinator Toni Mendes and District 80 secretaries Nicki Machar and Anissa Powderly for all the help, patience and support they give us.

Currently, the Balfour Beatty Vineyard project is ahead of schedule.

George Reed, RNR Construction, Marquez Pipeline and Argonaut are working on the Bradshaw widening project with Golden Interstate doing the sweeping.

Navajo Pipelines is working in the downtown area south of the Capitol.

DeSilva Gates started on the International Avenue extension with Pacific Excavation and RNR Construction. DeSilva Gates also landed the $23.8 million Missouri Flat Road project in Placerville. DeSilva/MCM Joint Venture (JV) was awarded the second phase of the I-80 median project.

Sacramento Corridor, an extension of light rail from Meadowview Station to Elk Grove, has been awarded to Stacy and Witbeck for $36 million. The 836 million Galt Interchange is set to bid around April. Teichert picked up a $1.9 million water-meter project in South Lake Tahoe.

From everyone at District 80, we hope you had a great holiday and have a safe and prosperous new year.

Attention members: We need your help. Local 3 is on strike against Road Machinery, the Northern California Komatsu dealer. If you have Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, or if you see any service work being done by Road Machinery or any other non-union company, please call the Hall immediately at (916) 993-2055. You are our Army.

**FAIRFIELD**  Valero Refinery ‘VIP’ project puts 45-plus operators to work

Across the street from the Fairfield District Hall, the Verizon project finally started. At the time of this writing, we are listening to the rhythmic sound of pile driving. General contractor Rudolph & Sletten’s Project Manager Terry Barnacal and Project Superintendent Jim Whited recently had Ghilotti Construction break ground. Ghilotti started the job by punching in a driveway. Crews cut in the pad for the 21,000-square-foot building, and an underground crew followed. Dennis Alameda is operating an excavator, while Mike Barker is on a loader. Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Mechanic Craig Foster is keeping up on the maintenance and fueling, so nobody misses a day.

Foundation Constructors won the bid for the pile driving. Crane Operator Greg Williams and fellow Local 3 member Steve Prater will get the 273 piles into the ground. Williams will be operating a Manitowoc 4000 with fixed leads, and Prater will be on a 50-ton forklift, supplying pile to the crane. The 16-inch square piles are roughly 60 feet long, and each weighs about 15,000 pounds. They will be driven by Williams using a Delmag D46-32 pile-driving hammer. The building will be a tilt-up, so we will have a couple of Operating Engineers from Crane Rental in on the action next year.

In upper Napa Valley, Harold Smith & Son is keeping members busy in the dirt at Sommerston Winery off Hwy. 128. The company’s paving crew is also staying busy on this project and other paving jobs in Napa. The winery job will continue through the year, weather permitting. Argonaut continues work on a flood-control project in St. Helena. This job was scheduled to shut down in December but will restart in spring. Argonaut also has roadwork on Soscol Avenue and Browns Valley Road in Napa. Kiewit Pacific is constructing elevated train trestles for the Napa Valley Wine Train off First Street in Napa. The company is driving sheets and doing excavation and later will drive concrete piles for construction of the trestles. Hess Construction picked up some good work, including Vallejo Bus Maintenance Facility improvements and the Wetlands Edge Bay Trail in American Canyon. Mountain Cascade is working on sewer, water and recycled-water lines, including a water tank at Newell Road in American Canyon. This is a good rock job, and so far, rain has not been an issue. Work should continue through 2010.

T&S Construction Inc. is doing underground rehab north of the UC Davis Medical Center. The old pipe is vintage 1936. Upcooming projects include the second phase of the South Sacramento Corridor, an extension of light rail from Meadowview Spur to Cosumnes River College valued at about $270 million. The first phase of the Green Line light rail expansion from 7th Avenue to Richards Boulevard was awarded to Stacy and Witbeck for $36 million.

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From left: Loader Operator Mike Barker and Mechanic Craig Foster work on the Verizon project.

In Benicia, the first part of the Valero Refinery “VIP” project is the Butamer Plant, which is near completion with zero recordable and zero lost-time incidents. Contractors are now moving onto the fuel-gas scrubber and furnace phase of construction at the refinery. PMI, Construction & Turnaround Services and PSF Industries are working on the project with crane support from Maxim and surveying from F3 Land Surveying. Drill Tech is handling dirt work, excavation and backfill. The project has been a challenge since the start, with limited space, hills and a live refinery every direction you turn, not to mention the four, large crawler cranes and other equipment constantly on the move. Currently, 45 operators are on the project, which is about 15 percent complete with a target completion date of July 2010. Valero has plans for another phase of the VIP project but has placed them on hold to watch what the economy does.

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HAWAII | Operators work carefully on ancient burial area

Happy New Year’s, everybody! Hope the holidays kept you safe and sound.

Hawaiian Dredging’s Makakilo jobsite alongside the freeway employed several operators, including 10-year member Reno McShane, 20-year member Larry Agena and 21-year member Roger Egger. The volcanic vog was so thick on the jobsite that things looked hazy, yet operators were still able to work.

On the other side of Oahu, Hawaiian Dredging started on the Punaluu Bridge project, including 15-year member and General Foreman Bienvenido Pancipanci, three-year member and Excavator Operator Clifford Waiwaiole and 15-year member Paul Nahe. This area is highly sensitive because of the type of sand covering the ground. It’s where the ancient Hawaiians used to bury their ancestors, so the ground is carefully excavated and inspected with the utmost respect.

Reminder: The district office on the island of Oahu has a NEW LOCATION: The new district office is now located at 1075 Opakapaka Street, Kapolei, HI 96707.

OAKLAND | New power plant will be done under PLA

District 20 welcomes Layne GeoConstruction to the Warm Springs BART extension in Fremont. The company is subcontracted to Shinnick/Skanska Joint-Venture (JV) to do the jet grouting. Schnabel Foundation is also working there.

Rudolph and Sletten is working quickly and safely on the Solyndra Fab project. The company has DeSilva Gates, Dees-Hennessey, Conco and Joseph J. Albanese hard at work. For more on this project, read the cover story. Steve P. Rados is on the Alameda Siphon No. 4 project on Calaveras Road. Work should begin soon on the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Bay Division reliability project, which includes seven miles of 72-inch pipe across Fremont and Newark. Looks like Ranger Pipelines is the low bidder on the project. The SFPUC also recently approved the New Irvington Tunnel project, a 3.5-mile tunnel parallel to the existing tunnel between the Sunol Valley south of I-680 and Fremont. The new tunnel will provide an additional seismically designed connection between water supplies from the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Alameda Watershed to Bay Area water-distribution systems. Not only does it provide a seismically sound alternative to the existing tunnel, but the new tunnel will allow the SFPUC to take the existing one out of service for much-needed maintenance and repair. The tunnel will be excavated using conventional mining methods, including using a road header and, in sections of hard rock, controlled detonations. The finished horseshoe-shaped tunnel will have an internal diameter of about 8.5 to 10.5 feet at a cost of $250 million. The SFPUC expects to select a contractor this month. Construction is scheduled to begin in April with completion in early 2014.

Work started on several construction projects in southeast Alameda County to change the access to I-580 from Isabel Avenue and Portola Avenue. Work includes new on- and off-ramps to Isabel Avenue (state Route 84) and the removal of ramps at Portola Avenue. Portola Avenue will be extended almost to Las Positas College, and Isabel Avenue will take over the historic Kitty Hawk Road. The street-level bridge crossing the Arroyo Las Positas will be widened and raised 10 feet to accommodate the 100-year-old flood plain. In addition, a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane is being built from Hacienda Avenue to Greenville Road to ease the congestion on I-580 in rush-hour traffic. The main players are RGW, Ghilotti Construction and DeSilva Gates Construction. This project is estimated at almost $50 million, with about $27 million for the Isabel Avenue and Portola Avenue interchanges, $18 million for the extension of both roads and $2.4 million for the Isabel Avenue bridge widening. Money for this project is coming from state bonds, re-authorization of Measure B and Proposition 1B.

In east Contra Costa County, the new civic center building is on the way. The new Lowe’s in Concord is complete and will soon be open for business. Thanks to the hard work of O’Grady Paving, Mountain Cascade, Campanella Demo, Corp. and Independent Construction, the job was done on time. In Oakley, a new power plant will start in May. General Contractor Radback Energy will build a 740-megawatt facility with a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) in place that will put a lot of Operating Engineers to work.

Local hot plants are keeping most of the rock quarries busy. Hanson Hot Plant Operator Tim Ford says the company is busy as ever. The Gallagher & Burk Hot Plant must also be busy after watching rock trucks line up and down the street to deliver to the plant.

In other news, District 20 is still trying to clear the environmental hurdles for the Calaveras Reservoir project. The Environmental Impact Review (EIR) is in the public-comment stage. We are looking forward to breaking ground on the Caldecott Tunnel soon.

The work picture in western Contra Costa is winding down for the season. At San Pablo Dam Reservoir, Sukut Construction is finishing the abutment section, which was repaired. Thanks to our members for a job well done!

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors voted in favor of the Point Molate Tribal Resort project. District 20 will keep you informed about its progress.

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**STOCKTON**  Lodi Energy Center to break ground this year

**All work will be union**

Brothers and sisters, a new year is upon us, and we’re looking forward to a better year in 2010. District 30 wishes everyone a happy new year and hopes your holidays were as good as could be.

Work is continually being bid, and our signatories have been successful in capturing a good portion of the work in the area. Thanks to the recently passed Local Hire Ordinance in Stockton, more of our brothers and sisters will be put to work.

As for current work, there has been quite a bit of levee work. **Asta Construction** is working at Terminous Island and Lower Jones Track at Empire Cut. **Robert Burns Construction** is also at Terminous Island as well as Woodward Island. **Niles Freeman** is at Turner Cut near Holt. All are performing levee maintenance and/or repairs by bringing in fill dirt, base rock and rip-rap. **Teichert Construction** is working on the Port of Stockton Cargo Inspection Facility project, which includes 10.5 acres of grading and paving a cargo and inspection area, security fence and rail spur. The railroad contractor had to sign a contract with Local 3 to perform the work. **Teichert** also has the new Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office near the waterfront on Lincoln Avenue in Stockton, which entails grading, asphalt, concrete and landscaping.

As for upcoming work, the Delta Water Supply Project (DWSP), worth $217 million, was scheduled to start in October 2009 but has been pushed back to April 2010. **Preston Pipeline** has the first phase of the project worth $16.5 million, which includes building a pump station at the west end of Eight Mile Road. **Granite Construction** is the general on the Lodi Avenue Reconstruction project, where work includes roadway lighting, paving, sidewalks, parking lots and storm sewers. Lodi Energy Center, a natural-gas energy plant worth $432 million, is scheduled to start this year. This project will create 200 jobs and take two years to complete, and it will be done under a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). As we all know, this means the entire project will be done with union labor. After its completion, this facility will generate more than $1 million per year in related expenditures, which will benefit the local economy. Bella Terra Plaza, a $1.5 million renovation project in Lodi, will house many new local businesses, including a Caltrans office already signed on as a tenant. California Health Care Facility, a Department of Corrections project worth $1.1 billion, is also projected to start this year and will take two years to complete. It will be an addition to the current Northern California Youth Authority Correctional Center located on Newcastle Road in south Stockton. During the seven-month peak period of construction, it will require up to 1,700 construction workers to develop 144.2 acres at the facility. When this facility becomes operational, it will directly support 2,400 to 3,000 jobs with above-average salaries and benefits while contributing approximately $676 million in output to the regional economy, which will result in more work down the road through tax revenues. The California Building Trades is working on a PLA on this project as well.

Once again, we are in an election year, and we will be asking for your help in electing labor-friendly candidates into office and keeping those who are already there. This will allow us to move our agenda forward and absorb more work for our members.

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**REDDING**  Antlers I-5 bridge coming soon

Happy New Year’s from District 70. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

We have four bridge projects currently underway and a fifth to start this year (Antlers I-5). The Red Bluff diversion-dam removal and several new projects are coming to our area, including JF Carr Powerhouse, Red Bluff Pumping Plant, Lakehead Rest Area and North Fork screens and ladders.

Please call the Hall at (530) 222-6093 to see how you can help with Local 3’s ongoing strike at Road Machinery in Redding. So far, we have logged thousands of hours with staff and volunteer help. Please help us be the eyes and ears in the district, and if you have information to share with the office, please do so. Also, please remember to stay current on the out-of-work list. We are looking forward to working with everyone this new year.

From left: Gracious Palmer, Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico, Redding District Rep. Bran Eubanks and Rick Knight picket the Road Machinery facility in Redding.

On a final note: A big thanks to our newly retired Dispatcher Deborah Fust. Thanks on behalf of the District 70 staff and membership for all you did for each and every one of us. You will be dearly missed.

Farewell from District 70’s Dispatcher Deborah Fust

As most of you already know, Dec. 31 was my last day with Local 3. I will be riding off into the proverbial sunset with my soul mate to throw our energies into who-knows-what.

In the short term, I will be focusing on enjoying my family and friends, and my husband and I will complete our “casa” in Baja.

The decision to leave was entirely my own. The time is right for me to at least temporarily shut down the computer, forget my password and turn off the alarm clock.

To all of the wonderful members and people I have had the opportunity to work for and with over the past years – thank you.

The times shared, friendships forged and the incredible successes we all have enjoyed have been an extraordinary part of my life. I am extremely grateful for the role that everyone has played throughout the years – they have been happy years that I will always remember fondly.

A very good friend said during a chat recently, “Everything has a beginning and an end.” The timing to the end of this chapter seems about as right as it could be.

Finally, I have learned that happiness is the consequence of personal effort. You fight for it, strive for it and insist upon it always.

I wish all of you every success for the future. Stay safe, and maintain the passion for life!

Fraternally,

Debbie
Eighty-ton whale washes ashore; operators assist in its removal

Recently, on the Mendocino coast near Fort Bragg, a 72-foot-long, 80-ton blue whale died after it collided with a research vessel believed to be updating maps of the ocean floor for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The whale washed ashore and was trapped in a small cove just south of Fort Bragg. In an effort to effect a positive outcome to an unfortunate accident, the local community joined forces with fishery officials, biologists, students and marine mammal rescuers to use the whale for research and education. The giant mammal had to be moved from where it came to rest at the water’s edge to a spot where volunteers could safely work on it.

Local contractor Jeff Green of Akeff Construction brought in some of his heavy equipment as well as a D-8 from a local logging company and began inching the giant whale up the bluff, but the attempt was thwarted when the whale’s tail separated from its body. Volunteers had to cut the creature into pieces that Green and Operator Aaron Morgan could haul up the 40-foot bluff.

Green, who volunteered his time and equipment, said that when you’re part of a community, helping out is a natural thing. Scientists from around the world have shown interest in the whale for research. The Marine Mammal Center of Marin County collected the whale’s fluids. A scientist in South Africa wants the larynx, and the whale’s ear bones were shipped to the Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts. The whale’s skeletal bones are buried in an undisclosed location for reassembly at a later date, when there is an acceptable location for display.

In other news: We would like to remind everyone who is not working or will get laid-off in the future to register on the out-of-work list. Your registration is valid for only 84 days (12 weeks) from the date of registration. After the 84th day, you will fall off the list, unless you re-register. You can maintain your place on the list by re-registering on or before the 84th day after the original registration or the last re-registration. Each re-registration is only good for an additional 84-day period from the last date of re-registration.

If you are unemployed for an extended period of time, it’s always a good idea to keep track of your hour-bank for Health and Welfare eligibility. You can check on eligibility by calling the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014.

Congratulations to Paul and Monica Thill on the birth of their baby girl, Clara.

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Work on Upper Yuba River to start this year

On Oct. 12, 2009, Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) submitted a $67 million application to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Just 10 days later, TRLIA received $47.5 million in Early Implementation Project (EIP) funds. On Oct. 26, TRLIA celebrated the completion of the Star Bend Setback Levee in Yuba County with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

This year, we will see Upper Yuba River work from Simpson Lane to the Goldfields.

Flood protection and infrastructure projects to be completed or started in 2010 will put District 60 in a great position for future development.

We have all driven on the freeway improvements that lead into District 60, and development for the Central Valley is moving north in our direction. Our major roadways are being improved by DeSilva Gates and a host of subcontractors.

This past year brought several projects to the area, including some of the major ones listed below:

- Natomas Cross Canal project awarded to Teichert for $21 million
- Wastewater-treatment plant in Sutter County awarded to RGW for $18 million
- Storm sewer in Colusa County with North Bay Construction for $5.5 million
- Flood control on the Lower Feather River Setback with Pead Construction for $5 million
- Sewage-treatment plant in Colusa for $13 million
- Flood control on the Sacramento River East Levee with Independent Construction for $20 million
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released $12 million for erosion control

From left: Eric Hawley and Paul Breie work on Viking Drilling’s water expansion project in Yuba City. There’s still more work to come in 2010.

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MORGAN HILL | The beginning of a new year; the dawn of a new season

... and we hope the dawning of a better economy

The District 90 staff hopes everyone had a joyful holiday. When times are lean, we still have friends and family. Now, to start planning for 2010: District 90’s picnic will be held on Saturday, June 12, so mark your calendar. Same location: Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy. Hope to see everyone there.

The economy is slowly coming around. While it may not be fast enough for many, it is changing. Be sure to keep paying your dues, so when you do get called for work, you’re ready. Attend your district meetings. District 90’s meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14 at the Hall, 325 Digital Drive. This is a good place to run into old friends, network, learn where jobs are and find out what skills are needed. You can also get updates on the progress of our new Master Labor Agreement. Get the facts, not the rumors.

Several tunnel projects are coming up in the Bay Area. Surveyors with tunnel experience, working with boring equipment and road headers, will be needed. If you have previous tunnel-survey experience, contact Business Rep. Ed Wodzienski at (415) 760-1639. If you would like additional tunnel-survey training, visit www.oe3.org/surveyors for more information. Follow the links to the Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee (NCS-JAC) for upcoming classes and availability.

As for work in District 90, Caltrain has $5.8 million in safety and crossing improvements in the works. Shimnick was awarded this project, which will span Sunnyvale and Saratoga. In Morgan Hill, there will be $5.5 million in improvements to the Tenant Avenue and Hwy. 101 interchange. McGuire and Hester will start on $16 million worth of fuel-line work this month at the Mineta San Jose International Airport.

In Monterey County, Golden State Bridge started work on a new bridge and rock-slope protection in Lucia, on the beautiful Big Sur coast. This project includes a large cut leading to a new bridge that will span an old slide area.

South of Watsonville, a new flyover and widening will start in May. DeSilva Gates was awarded the project to the tune of $11.9 million. This should provide some well-needed jobs in our district. Work has also restarted on Whole Foods’ new store on Blossom Hill near the Almaden Expressway in San Jose. We should see some parking lot grading, paving and crane work for our members at this location.

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UTAH | Help make this year better than last

Last year was an interesting year in Utah. With all of the economic hardship throughout our local union and the country, District 12 held its own. The district staff is very aware that many members struggled last year, and to that end, we are committed, along with our officers, to create a brighter future for our Local 3 brothers and sisters. The membership can help through organizing, politics, training and being the best you can be at what you do.

How do these things create more work opportunities?

First, let’s talk about the most obvious answer to this question: Organizing is foremost when it comes to creating more work opportunities. We have to work together. We need your help in organizing by calling us with leads to companies that would benefit from skilled, union labor. Also: Let us know if you are working for a non-union contractor while waiting for another union job to open up, so we can get information about that company and figure out a plan to help them. Call the Hall at (801) 596-2677.

Secondly, politics is one of those things that everyone seems frustrated with these days, but without the political clout that Local 3 has, we would be in even worse shape than we are today. We have been successful over the last few years in getting a crane-certification bill passed, health-care requirements on state work to make our contractors more competitive and transportation money allocated from a very tight budget to keep us working. We need your help with the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program to continue our success on Capitol Hill. This year, every member of the House of Representatives, half of the Senate and the governor seat is up for election. The VOTE program gives us an opportunity to work with labor-friendly politicians running for these spots through phone banking, precinct walking and participating in political rallies. These small things will help us achieve future success, such as getting a state prevailing wage back and creating labor-friendly legislation. If every member in District 12 was willing to donate just four hours a year to the VOTE program, imagine what we would be able to accomplish.

Thirdly, training is what distinguishes us from the non-union. We have training opportunities that make us better and more proficient at what we do. During the next several months, we will be holding classes to give you an opportunity to renew certifications that are expiring and pick up new skills to keep you working. Every Friday is set aside at the training site for journey-level upgrade training. Please call the Hall at the number listed above and talk with Apprenticeship Secretary Brenda Sweet to schedule some time to improve or learn new skills.

The following classes have been tentatively scheduled:

- Jan. 8 – Eight-hour Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) refresher, 8 a.m.
- Jan. 15 – First-aid, 8 a.m.
- Jan. 18-21 – 40-hour Hazwoper, 7 a.m.
- Jan. 22 – Pipeline Operator Qualification class, 8 a.m.
- Jan. 29 – Eight-hour Hazwoper refresher, 8 a.m.

Staff and members: We need to be the best we can be at what we do. We are union members and get paid some of the best wages and benefits in the industry because we are more skilled and productive than anyone else.
DISTRICT MEETINGS

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

JANUARY 2010

12th District 20: San Leandro
Sheet Metal Workers
1720 Marina Blvd.

12th District 30: Stockton
Italian Athletic Club
3541 Cherry Land Drive

13th District 50: Clovis
Veterans’ Memorial Building
453 Hughes Ave.

13th District 80: Sacramento
Operating Engineers’ Building
3920 Lemmele Drive

14th District 01: Burlingame
Transport Workers Union
1521 Rollins Road

14th District 90: Morgan Hill
Operating Engineers’ Building
325 Digital Drive

19th District 04: Suisun City
Veterans’ Memorial Building
427 Main St.

19th District 40: Eureka
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway St.

20th District 10: Rohnert Park
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive

20th District 70: Redding
Operating Engineers’ Building
20308 Engineers Lane

21st District 60: Marysville
Buddhist Church of Marysville
125 B St.

FEBRUARY 2010

9th District 17: Honolulu
Operating Engineers’ Building
1075 Opakapaka St.
Kapolei

10th District 17: Hilo
ILWU Hall
100 W. Lanikaula St.

11th District 17: Maui
Maui Arts and Community Center
One Cameron Way
Kahului

MARCH 2010

10th District 11: Reno
Operating Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

16th District 12: Salt Lake City
IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.

Semi-Annual Meeting notice

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that the next Semi-Annual Meeting of the membership will be held on Sunday, March 21 at 1 p.m. at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Calif.

Everyone’s doing it

Using the Internet, that is

Whether you’re e-mailing your friends, paying your bills online or surfing the Web, you spend more time online than you think. That’s why Local 3 wants your e-mail address and wants you to get registered for our Members Only Web site, which gives access to important, confidential information. Visit www.oce3.org to get started:

- Members Only: Register for up-to-the-minute information (election information, voter registration, meetings, important legislation, job actions, political events, etc.)
- E-mail Campaign: E-mail us at subscribe@oce3.org to sign up to receive information faster and cheaper.

New members

Sacramento: District 80
George Morros

Election of Market and Geographic Area Committee Members

Business Manager Russ Burns has announced the election of Market and Geographic Area Committee members will take place at each district’s regularly scheduled district meeting, except for Hawaii, during the first quarter of 2010 with eligibility rules as follows:

1) Must be a member in good standing of the parent local
2) Must be living in the committee’s geographical area
3) Must be working/making a living in the industry in that area
4) Must be an “A” journey-level operator
5) Cannot be an owner-operator
6) No member will be nominated unless he or she is present at the meeting and will accept the nomination and position, if elected
7) No member is allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Market and Geographic Area Committee

The schedule of the meetings at which these elections will be held appears on this page under “District Meetings.”

2010 Political Action and Grievance Committee Election

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Local 3 Bylaws, the election of Political Action and Grievance Committee members will take place at the first regular quarterly district meeting of 2010.

The schedule of meetings at which these elections will be held appears on this page under “District Meetings.”

Honorary Membership

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of November and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective Jan. 1.

Joe Anaya 1615544 District 99: Out of Area
Gordon Guerrero 1590851 District 17: Hawai’i
Charles Kramer 1589180 District 90: Morgan Hill
Steve D. Miller 1627922 District 04: Fairfield
Frank Morales 1571622 District 20: Oakland
Alfred Pacheco 1427840 District 17: Hawai’i
Steven Paris 1584399 District 11: Nevada
James E. Parker 1046810 District 17: Hawai’i
Ted Sanchez 1620782 District 90: Morgan Hill
Wayne Swinyer 1624267 District 01: Burlingame
Edwin Switzer 1628137 District 12: Utah
Confirm the address of TWIC enrollment centers

Please note: Some Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) enrollment centers have moved. Please confirm the address in your area before visiting one for enrollment or card activation by calling (866) 347-8942.

**DEPARTED MEMBERS**

Angioli, Arthur
Clifton Park, NY
District 99
09-22-09

Baekens, Paul
Fort Bragg, CA
District 10
09-30-09

Basquez, Mike
Sacramento, CA
District 80
08-26-09

Bettencourt, William
Auburn, CA
District 80
08-19-09

Brochini, John
Manisopa, CA
District 50
09-24-09

Crawford, Edward
Waiaena, HI
District 17
08-05-09

Davis, Rik
Winnemucca, NV
District 11
08-03-09

Davis, S
Richmond, CA
District 20
08-17-09

Dowing, William
Sanger, CA
District 50
08-31-09

Ellsworth, Bennie
Fair Oaks, CA
District 80
10-05-09

Farnen, Dennis
Danville, CA
District 20
09-17-09

Finney, Harold
Prescott Valley, AZ
District 99
09-29-09

Ford, John
Rio Linda, CA
District 80
09-10-09

Furgerson, C
Napa, CA
District 04
08-27-09

Garcia, Stanley
Sund, CA
District 20
08-30-09

Gausins, Albert
Roseville, MN
District 99
04-05-09

Harding, Lawrence
Kaysville, UT
District 12
08-21-09

Hills, Richard
Palermo, CA
District 60
09-25-09

Honda, Roy
Kahului, HI
District 17
09-13-09

Jarin, Lor
Alameda, CA
District 20
09-06-09

Johnson, Grover
Yuba City, CA
District 60
09-30-09

Jones, Robert
Pleasant Hill, CA
District 20
10-17-09

Lewis, John
Porterville, CA
District 50
10-15-09

Lucio, Darwin
Antioch, CA
District 20
07-04-09

Marasco, Frank
Danville, CA
District 20
09-24-09

McCullough, William
Spring Creek, NV
District 11
07-22-09

McQueen, Paul
Pinole, CA
District 20
09-20-09

Mead, David
Orangevale, CA
District 80
08-19-09

Mom, Mark
Morgan Hill, CA
District 90
09-22-09

Monzon, Dector
Carmichael, CA
District 80
08-24-09

Nason, Gary
Fresno, CA
District 50
10-02-09

O’Keefe, Alvin
Menlo Park, CA
District 01
08-16-09

Oshiro, Seishun
Pearl City, HI
District 17
09-16-09

Otanez, F
Felton, CA
District 90
08-12-09

Pace, Morris
Yuba City, CA
District 60
08-03-09

Pang, Winston
Paia, HI
District 17
08-08-09

Patterson, Doyle
West Plains, MO
District 59
10-08-09

Querubin, Daniel
Ewa Beach, HI
District 17
06-28-09

Ray, Wesley
Visalia, CA
District 50
09-05-09

Sawtelle, Guy
Redding, CA
District 70
08-08-09

Sebus, Howard
Fallon, NV
District 11
09-09-09

Shigaki, Robert
Honolulu, HI
10-03-09

Slevin, Tim
Santa Rosa, CA
District 10
09-18-09

Solillo, George
Stockton, CA
District 30
08-29-09

Spowre, William
Jacksonville, FL
District 99
05-22-09

Stamler, Thomas
Bay Point, CA
District 20
09-20-09

Stefan, Ronald
Carmichael, CA
District 80
09-01-09

Swicegood, George
Sebastopol, CA
District 10
07-14-09

Vannucci, Louis
Lodi, CA
District 30
09-10-09

Welker, Wesley
Shingle Springs, CA
District 80
10-09-09

Wolff, Craig
Auburn, CA
District 80
09-09-09

Young, Nolen
Oakdale, CA
District 30
05-25-09

ZEAVEDO

Azevedo, Gervis.
Wife of Azevedo, George
09-29-09

Brower, Betty.
Wife of Brower, Tom
08-15-09

Carell, Betty.
Wife of Carell, Bobby
10-19-09

Danuser, Beatrice.
Wife of Danuser, Richard (dec)
09-22-09

Davis, Emma Mae.
Wife of Davis, Charles (dec)
10-03-09

Doye, Lorraine.
Wife of Doye, Thomas (dec)
10-07-09

DECEASED DEPENDENTS

Erickson, Sharlyn.
Wife of Erickson, Kent
08-19-09

Graham, Gail.
Wife of Graham, Willard (dec)
10-06-09

Gunter, Lorene.
Wife of Gunter, Leo (dec)
10-01-09

Halliday, Julie.
Wife of Halliday, Darril
10-06-09

Hickey, Janet.
Wife of Hickey, Kenneth (dec)
10-05-09

Holland, Delores.
Wife of Holland, Kenneth (dec)
10-02-09

Krepepin, Betty.
Wife of Krepepin, Helmut (dec)
10-18-09

Lencioni, Isabel.
Wife of Lencioni, Robert
08-31-09

Levy, Vicky.
Wife of Levine, Jay
07-12-09

Lewis, Norma.
Wife of Lewis, Jerry (dec)
10-29-09

Mackay, Elizabeth.
Wife of Mackay, David
04-20-09

McBride, Diane.
Wife of McBride, Elmo (dec)
10-31-09

Mitchell, Mary.
Wife of Mitchell, Elvin
10-03-09

Orouke, Marian.
Wife of Orouke, Bill (dec)
10-07-09

Pete, Francie.
Wife of Pete, Elton
09-19-09

Peterson, Frances.
Wife of Peterson, Richard
10-23-09

Pratte, Jamie.
Wife of Pratte, Jason
05-09-06

Selleck, Dorothy.
Wife of Selleck, William (dec)
10-02-09

Teglia, Helen.
Wife of Teglia, Leo (dec)
09-22-09

Thornburg, Elise.
Wife of Thornburg, Merle (dec)
10-24-09

Williams, Marsha.
Wife of Williams, Jerry
03-15-09

Green leaves memories, legacy

Member Donald Joseph Green passed away Oct. 10, 2009, after a hunting accident. He was born July 20, 1958, in San Mateo, Calif.

Green was a member of Operating Engineers Local 3 for 23 years and worked for Top Grade Construction for the same time period.

He is survived by wife Shari; sons Michael, Kyle and Kevin; sister Kennetha (Jesse) Salazar; stepbrother John Presnall; stepsister Laura Castro; and stepmother Penny Green.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. He has blessed us with wonderful memories that will be told forever.

“My all your haul roads be smooth ones; we know you’ll be waiting for us at the top of the road.” – Push-pull partner and fellow Operating Engineer Rick Elsea

**DISPATCHER’S DESK**

Hawaii District 17 Dispatcher Arley Nozawa would like to tell members: “Please take advantage of Hazmat and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) classes at the Kahuku Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) site. I believe that with the rail-job coming up, some companies might be working on jobsites with Hazmat materials (old sites of gas stations, etc.), like dirt with some oil/gas mixed in. A lot of members took the 40-hour Hazmat class but did not renew with the eight-hour refresher. You will probably have to repeat the 40-hour class again.

“Call the JAC at (808) 232-2001 on Oahu, and for outer-island members, call (800) 482-3162.

“Always keep your credentials updated, especially your driver’s license and crane cards.”

“Hauoli Makahiki Hou! Happy New Year’s!”
The Local 3 officers, Executive Board and the Scholarship Board of Directors understand that the workplace is rapidly changing, and many jobs require skills that can be attained only with a good education. Local 3 is dedicated to giving our young people the opportunity to succeed by providing them with the chance to further their education and training. For this reason, Local 3 awards annual scholarships to sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Four college scholarships will be awarded to children of Local 3 members: Two scholarships of $3,000 each will be awarded to the first-place female and male applicants; two scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded to the second-place female and male applicants. These scholarships must be used for study at an accredited U.S. college or university.

Winners also receive an additional $1,000 per year from the Scholarship Fund for the second, third and fourth years of college, provided they remain full-time students.

The academic scholarships will not impose restrictions of any kind on the course of study. Recipients may accept any other grants or awards, which do not rule out scholarship aid from other sources.

WHO MAY APPLY

Children of Local 3 members may apply for an academic scholarship. One parent of the applicant must be a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the application.

Children of deceased Local 3 members are eligible to apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must have been a Local 3 member in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

The applicants must be senior high school students who have, or will be, graduated at the end of either: 1) the fall semester (beginning in 2009) or 2) the spring semester (beginning in 2010), in public, private or parochial schools who are planning to attend a college or university anywhere in the United States during the academic year and who are able to meet the academic requirements for entrance in the university or college of their choice. Students selected for a scholarship must have achieved not less than a B cumulative average in their high school work.

Applications will be accepted between Jan. 1, 2010 and March 31, 2010.

AWARDING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Upon receipt of the application and required forms, Local 3 will not exercise any choice among the various applicants or indicate in any way that one applicant should be favored over another. Based on factors normally used in awarding academic scholarships, the University of Berkeley Scholarship Selection Committee will submit recommendations for finalists to the Scholarship Foundation’s Board of Directors. The list of potential winners and their qualifications will be reviewed by the Board, and the winners will be selected.

Academic scholarship winners will be announced at Local 3’s June Executive Board meeting. Checks will be deposited in the winning students’ names at the college or university they plan to attend.

Applicants who are not selected for an academic scholarship will automatically be eligible for OE3 Merit Scholarships, which are discussed in detail at right.

INSTRUCTIONS

All of the following items must be received by March 31, 2010:

1. The application and essay are to be filled out and returned by the applicant.

2. The report on the applicant and transcript is to be filled out by the high school principal or person he or she designates and returned directly to Local 3 by the official completing it.

3. One to three letters of recommendation giving information about the applicant’s character and ability from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the applicant should be submitted with the application.

4. A recent photograph, preferably two inches by three inches, with the applicant’s name written on the back should be clear enough to reproduce in the Engineers News.

5. The name, address and phone number of the applicant’s local newspaper for the purpose of sending a press release on behalf of each winner.

OE3 MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the four academic scholarships, Local 3’s Scholarship Foundation will award 20 $500 Merit Scholarships through a raffle drawing to be held at Local 3’s July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

OE3 Merit Scholarships are available only to the sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members. One parent of the applicant must be a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the application.

Children of deceased Local 3 members are eligible to apply for the scholarships if the parent was a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

Children of Local 3 members who plan to attend college or a trade school are eligible to apply. They will not be judged on academic qualifications. All applicants who apply for the Local 3 academic scholarships and do not win will automatically qualify for this drawing. A second application is not necessary.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010. Previous winners are not eligible to apply.

The money will be funded when the college or trade school confirms the winner is a full-time student.

WHERE TO GET APPLICATIONS

OE3 Academic and Merit Scholarship applications are available at the local’s district offices, credit union branches and online at www.oe3.org. It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit the application to the address below, which must be received no later than March 31, 2010:

Jim Sullivan
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
C/o Lisa Ward
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA  94502-7090

Applications available at district offices, credit union branches and online at www.oe3.org
Breaking Ground: Hot off the press

The following is an account from Communications Director Charlie Costello. He recently visited the Jostens Printing Facility, a union print shop in Topeka, Kan., to do a press check on the first printing of Local 3’s history book Breaking Ground. Costello was the main researcher and writer of the book, which has been many years in the making.

My visit to Jostens Printing Facility in Topeka, Kan. was the last step in what has been quite a process: Researching, compiling, writing and editing the 176 pages of Local 3’s first-ever history book, Breaking Ground.

The “press check” is the last chance to make any changes to a piece of published material. While there, I watched the pages of the history book literally fly off the press. I got an education on what it really takes to produce a book.

Jostens’ Commercial Estimator and Coordinator Deb Potter said, “People don’t realize when they pick up a book how many people have touched it, how long and involved the process really is.”

As we toured the facility, we returned to the Lithrone 40 SP Komori Press about every 20 minutes, waiting for the plates to change for each 16-page signature. Each eight-page side of the book is burned onto a plate and then loaded into the press to print the double-sided, 16-page signatures that are eventually sewn and bound together to form the book. Pressman Bob Bigger has been doing this for 39 years and has seen the technology change. Now with the help of a computer, he can adjust each color on the page to get the right levels of reds, blues and blacks. The entire press time for our book totals about 22 hours, including the drying of the ink. The covers are printed first (commemorative, leather and standard versions). Then sections are sewn together and bound with the end pages to complete the process.

The Jostens Company is famous for class rings and has been in business since 1897. The Topeka printing facility is the largest with peak employment of about 750 people. The bargaining unit employees are members of Local 49C of the Graphics Communications Conference and have been affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for the past few years. I met many employees with more than 20 years at the plant. It seems fitting for the book to be printed in this environment, as the labor industry is known for its longevity, and Local 3 is no exception. As we head into our 71st year, we have many third- and fourth-generation members who continue to break new ground.

To get a glimpse of this history by ordering Breaking Ground, visit www.oe3.org.

Features:
• Hard Cover
• 11” x 8 1/2”
• Approx. 176 Pages
• Quality Printing-Binding

www.mtpublishing.com or (888)263-4702

OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 3 70TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK ORDER FORM

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SUBTOTAL

7% Sales Tax (IN residents only multiply subtotal by 0.07 to calculate sales tax) 7% Tax

TOTAL

Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐

Make check payable to: Operating Engineers History Book

Send order form and payment to: Operating Engineers Local 3 History Book
c/o M.T. Publishing Company
P.O. Box 6802
Evansville, IN 47719

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  Ck# Amount  BR RV SH
Since October, thousands of people have been hospitalized in California because of the widespread H1N1 flu virus. Hundreds have died. The toll is higher nationwide, forcing President Obama to declare the outbreak a national emergency. To combat the effects of the new strain, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced more than 5 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine would be distributed among 61 local health jurisdictions.

Local 3 County Employees’ Management Association (CEMA) members with the California Children’s Services (CCS) recently held vaccination clinics for high-risk patients in Santa Clara County. A smiling crew of about 16 Registered Nurses (RNs), also referred to as utilization review coordinators, screened, assisted and administered the H1N1 flu vaccine to hundreds of high-risk children 9 years old and younger and their siblings, during two-dose clinics this past fall. These children have neurological or neuromuscular diseases and are part of the population considered at the most risk. Others at risk for contracting the H1N1 virus include pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, health-care and emergency-medical-services personnel, people between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old and people between the ages of 25 and 64 who are at higher risk because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

While everyone is aware of the common flu, this new virus presented a concern because it is “a new influenza strain to which humans have little or no immunity,” said CEMA member Trish Haines, nurse manager of the clinics. She stressed: “The virus is no more severe than what is normally experienced with seasonal flu,” with the only difference being larger numbers of people will be affected more rapidly. “The flu morphs every year to survive,” she explained.

According to Haines, “The staff enjoys the clinics because it gives them the chance to be hands-on and provide good care to these kids.”

A visit to the clinic proved this, as nurses greeted young patients, some in wheelchairs, with bright smiles, while calmly explaining what the vaccination entails. Not all recipients received a shot. The healthier patients received a nasal dose. Both vaccinations require two doses if the recipient is younger than 10 years of age.

CEMA health-care professionals administer flu vaccine to at-risk children

By Mandy Jessup, managing editor

Healthy. To prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus and any other contagious illness:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

From left: CEMA Senior Health Care Program Manager Amando Cablas and Registered Nurses (RNs) and utilization review coordinators Maryanne Ortiz, Claudia Bizer, Trish Haines, Lilly Vu, Fran Bryan, Janet Callaway, Arica Ramos and Karen Chen.

From left: Thanh Le, Emma Mendez, Luann Velez and Christine Tollner perform screenings for the H1N1 vaccine.

From left: Senior Health Care Program Manager Heidi Hudson.

From left: Occupational and physical therapists Louise Sumpter and Felix Armah assist patients receiving vaccinations.

From left: Chief Therapist Louise Sumpter is a physical and occupational therapist for CCS and “assists the children who may need positioning while they receive their vaccine.”

CEMA member and Senior Health Care Program Manager Heidi Hudson oversaw the entire operation and said it was her humor that kept things running. She urges people concerned about the virus to contact their primary care physician or to visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web site at www.cdc.gov.

According to the site, people should take actions every day to stay healthy. To prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus and any other contagious illness:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

FOR SALE: A 2001 Itasca Sunriser, 30-feet, 1 slide, Vortec V8, two roof air, 60,000 miles. Runs strong. Also: A 2004 Jeep Wrangler Sport tow vehicle, with tow cover. Jeep is set up with Roadmaster braking system off of Motorhome while being towed. $44,000. Call (530) 273-3891. Reg# 225392.

FOR SALE: A 2011 19-foot Marlin Cruiser on a Hawkins trailer. Radar-chart plotter, depth finder CB and VHF radios. Two electric downriggers and crab pot puller. Has 1,500 hours. Also: A Straton engine, has all parts. Call (599) 670-9898 or (599) 654-5924. Reg# 173311.

FOR SALE: A 2001 Dodge Ram 1500 truck. 10 speed. 181,313 miles. $14,000 OBO. (707) 703-9912. Reg# 2072199.

FOR SALE: A 1957 Bel Air two-door hardtop. Beautiful car. 327 Chevy motor, 350 Chevy turbo transmission with shift kit. $45,000 OBO. Also: A 1934 Ford five-window coupe. Rickard. Str. 327 Chevy motor, Saginaw four-speed transmission, Oldsmobile Pawsie traction rear end. Steel $50,000 OBO. Will trade one or both for property. (916) 381-8007. Reg# 1171929.


FOR SALE: A 1999 Ford E450 HD Chassis Triton 10-cyl engine, six brand-new all-season tires, 24,500 miles, walk-aroundqueen bed, onan 4000 genset, new carpet throughout, awning, full-vehicle cover. Sleeps eight. Super Cat rear end is not included. (530) 514-4891 or gramped@digitalpath.net. Pictures available. Reg# 2204741.

FOR SALE: A 1975 Bel Air two-door hardtop. Beautiful car. Has 350 Chevy motor, 350 Chevy turbo transmission with shift kit. $45,000 OBO. Also: A 1934 Ford five-window coupe. Rickard. Str. 327 Chevy motor, Saginaw four-speed transmission, Oldsmobile Pawsie traction rear end. Steel $50,000 OBO. Will trade one or both for property. (916) 381-8007. Reg# 1171929.

FOR SALE: A 2007 Sport Super M 4x4-4. Cab with air, ride control, quick coupler. Has 1,500 hours. Also: A 2002 International 466 bobtail dump truck, 167,290 miles, 15,000 hours. GWB. Has 37,000 miles. Also: A 2003 Millennium trailer tag-along. 24.5 new tires. All three: $86,500. Call (510) 915-7156. Reg# 185829.

FOR SALE: A 2000 Durwinds 5000 – 28-foot, self-contained Ford F450 HD Chassis Triton 10-cyl engine, six brand-new all-season tires, 24,500 miles, walk-aroundqueen bed, onan 4000 genset, new carpet throughout, awning, full-vehicle cover. Sleeps eight. Super Cat rear end is not included. (530) 514-4891 or gramped@digitalpath.net. Pictures available. Reg# 2204741.

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Rallies, donations boost morale on the line

Road Machinery strike continues into fourth month

It’s not easy walking the picket line. First, there are blisters. Striker Shane Walthers began the strike in flip-flops. He now wears tennis shoes. Then, there is sunburn. Director of Special Operations Bob Miller can be seen lathering on sunblock before the sun even rises, thanks to days of sun exposure. Then there is rain. One week in mid-October brought torrential downpours in the Sacramento region that broke trees, said Striker Mark Matney. Even as businesses lost power, the strikers walked the line. Now, there is the winter season. Coolers once filled with iced drinks have been replaced with hot chocolate and coffee as strikers wear boxy coats and gloves.

Since Sept. 15, when the strike against Road Machinery officially began in protest of the company’s Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs), it is the camaraderie of the strikers, the support of members and friends and the occasional rallies that keep spirits up, along with the signatory companies that turn away from the nearly empty shop in West Sacramento and the picketed Redding shop.

This winter, it was visits to the strike line from Business Manager Russ Burns and Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan, who professed the union’s full support of the strikers’ mission, that kept morale high. Holiday rallies drew several supporters, such as Laborers Pacific Southwest Regional Organizing Coalition reps. Robert Peugh, Maggie Campbell, RW Carpenter and Armando Corarrubias and the strikers’ families.

Perhaps most important to the strikers’ cause, besides physical support, has been the generous donations from members and community businesses during the holidays. A special thanks to Attorney John R. Parker Jr. from Kershaw, Cutter and Ratinoff, LLP, who donated $250 in gift cards; Raley’s Manager Dave Duncan, who donated $25 to each striker; Safeway’s Rich Lopez, who donated $125; Teichert Perkins’ Bill Owens, who donated a holiday turkey and 2 pounds of ground venison to each striker; Local 185, which donated six food baskets; and the District 20 staff, who donated $25 each. If you are interested in donating time or money to the Road Machinery Strike Fund, contact your local district office.

Please be aware:

The fight for these workers’ rights happens mainly in the field. If you have Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, or if you see any service work being done by Road Machinery, a non-marked truck or any other non-union company, please call your district office immediately.

Our fight is won, when we are one.