

OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION NO. 3

ENGINEERS

NEWS

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November 2011

Where they belong

Operators expand Los Vaqueros Dam/Reservoir





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For The Good & Welfare

By Russ Burns, business manager

Think BIG again

If you read through this month's District Reports, you'll notice a pleasant trend: Even with winter approaching, districts are reporting increases in dispatches and the need for new and renewed certifications to get working. Both of these mean the work picture is improving for our industry, and that is news we can all be thankful for.

Other good news for labor is that California Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed Senate Bill (SB) 922, which prohibits bans on Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for public-works projects and requires cities that currently have these bans to end them or risk their funding. This is a big win for us and a slap in the face for anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), which has been trying to get the bans passed through signed petitions.

Brown has also voiced his approval of High-Speed Rail (HSR), urging officials to move the project forward. "I would like to be part of the group that gets America to think big again," Brown said in a recent *Fresno Bee* article.

This project, along with many other future projects, means more employment ahead for our membership. See pages 20-26 to see what's on the books throughout the local's jurisdiction.

Many of you may have received voter-registration letters in the mail. The deadline to register to vote for this month's elections has passed (our endorsements can be found on page 14), but that doesn't mean you can't get registered in time for next year's big elections.

There are several things to be aware of for next year's elections. One new element is the top-two primary system, affecting California, which means all candidates, regardless of political party, run in the same primary. What does this mean to us? When two pro-union candidates run against each other, we may have to come up with some creative measures on how to choose one. Stay tuned for more details on this. Another aspect of next year's politics is that both Nevada and Utah will be increasing their congressional representatives from three to four, which may be an opportunity to get another pro-union representative in each state.

It's a complicated and confusing time right now for Americans. Protests continue nationwide, urging the

government to make banks, CEOs, etc. accountable and asking that the middle class be heard. Our industry certainly understands those frustrations, which is why we must keep learning about the candidates and legislation that impact working families. Then, we need to use that knowledge and volunteer through our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program to educate others. Plenty of phone banking and precinct walking has already begun. Call your district to see what else you can do.

While a lot of controversy surrounds President Obama's jobs bill, the bottom line is that it seeks monies for roads, bridges, schools and other public-works projects. Economists claim it could create 1.9 million jobs nationwide and grow the economy by 2 percent. Whether you love or hate his policies, Obama is looking out for jobs in infrastructure.

Speaking of infrastructure, the Surface Transportation Act, which we've discussed for years, is finally pending, meaning \$700 billion may be devoted to improving the nation's failing infrastructure. As Brown stated, new technologies and advancements in project-building and planning can improve our roads, if we're just given the funding – if we're just granted the ability to think BIG.

I urge you to think BIG. Think ahead. Think about your future by getting upgrade training and certifications to improve your marketability (see page 15 for details). There's a reason we are the biggest construction trades local in the country – it's because we aren't afraid to keep pushing ahead, to keep getting trained and to keep our union strong. You can do this by staying current on the issues: Read your *Engineers News*, keep in communication with your Hall by attending your District Meetings and visit our website at www.oe3.org.

In the spirit of the holiday season, I want to thank those of you who are already actively involved in this union. During the fourth-quarter 2011 District Membership Meetings, the membership decided, by secret-ballot vote, to adopt the proposed changes to the Local 3 Bylaws, which will go into effect Jan. 1, 2012. Voting is and always has been a privilege of this country and this union. Exercise that right.

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving this month with your family, your union family and your friends.

Central Valley members hold their own on High-Speed Rail

Meetings held in Merced, Fresno, Madera

Several High-Speed Rail (HSR) public hearings scheduled in late September drew many Local 3 members and staff from the Central Valley in support of the proposed 220-mph train from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The routes planned through the Valley – starting north and south of Fresno – are scheduled to be built next fall.

Stockton District Rep. Nate Tucker told the *Merced Sun-Star* about the project's boost for Local 3 members and the local economy. "We'd like to see this project built sooner than later," he said at a meeting in Merced.

At the Fresno Convention Center, Fresno Business Rep. John Prichard was quoted by the *Fresno Bee*, stating that the project is "the only big job generator in the works for people right now" and "a gift to the Central Valley."

At a meeting held in Madera, Jim Patrick, a shop steward for the city, told *Engineers News*: "It [HSR] definitely will help with jobs, and we need them badly. It will really help the economy."

The train's final route will be decided soon. Contact your district office to see if there are any more meetings scheduled. Your voice could guarantee the success of the project and ensure many Local 3 jobs.



Member Lonnie Otey addresses the HSR public-hearing committee at a meeting in Merced.



Seven-year member and Job Steward Jim Patrick attended a Madera public hearing in favor of HSR.

Talking Points

By Fred Herschbach, president



It's that time of year again

Leaves are changing colors, pruning and raking needs to get done and the outside patio chairs need to be put away.

Jobsites are also buttoning up for the winter. Brothers and sisters from Utah and Nevada are putting on warm-weather gear and waiting for the snow. Members from Hawaii are waiting for more work, and those in Northern California are looking forward to next year, since signs point toward a recovery.

Politics are going to be a huge part of our lives in 2012, with the presidential election. The results of that race will affect us for a long time. I will be the first to admit that President Obama missed some opportunities to get more things done for the middle class during his first term, but on the flip side, he has done some good things at the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) level, such as re-enacting Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on federal jobs. We must do what we can to keep him in the White House. You may not agree with him on every issue, but he is the only candidate in the race who is looking out for labor. My gut tells me that if President Obama gets re-elected, we will become stronger in the next four years. For more information on politics, visit us online at www.oe3.org, see page 14 in this edition and keep reading your *Engineers News*.

If possible, volunteer in our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program – it's a must! When Oakland District Rep. Mike Croll, Business Rep. Cliff Thompson and I had the privilege of representing OE3 at the ground-breaking of the new Calaveras Dam project, the importance of political involvement was apparent. This job came about because of the hard efforts of VOTE volunteers who spent hours lobbying on labor's behalf. It has been years in the making and will now employ many members. Thanks to all for your efforts.

Projects we secure and finish are more than just money in our back pockets. In the August *Engineers News* I mentioned what our grandparents and parents left us as far as infrastructure projects go

and how this generation will leave our kids and grandkids something they can use and enjoy for decades. These projects create a legacy, and we need more of them to improve not only our current economy but our children's future.

According to Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC) Executive Director Kris Morgan, the Ranch is gearing up for upgrade training, since 2012 should be a good year. If you are a little rusty, Morgan and his instructors are more than happy to help you knock off some of that rust! Call the Ranch for details at (916) 354-2029.

Another reminder: We need your e-mail address. It will only make communicating the most up-to-date information on politics, jobs, etc. that much easier. E-mail us at subscribe@oe3.org. I'll admit that I am no technological genius – I'm still amazed how a fax machine works – but we all must improve our means of communication.

Speaking of communication, I would like to thank the members for their input on saving money for our Trust Funds. I have gotten a few suggestions on different health-insurance policies and had analysts do a comparison between our current plans and other plans. So far, our plans are by far the most cost-effective. Health-care reform has and will continue to dramatically change health insurance as we know it. But I assure you that we officers are being diligent about keeping our funds solvent and ensuring you get the best coverage for the best price.

Even though hours are up, there are still quite a few members who haven't gone back to work full time. The holiday season is upon us. Nobody likes a handout, but the reality is that we all know someone who is struggling. If possible, let's give to each other. What goes around, comes around. If you can't do anything materially, maybe just give a brother or sister a phone call.

Together we can get through this down time and keep looking toward the east. The sun will come up every day, and that's something to look forward to. Be safe, be positive and have a great Thanksgiving.

Just what the doctor ordered

Big hospital job puts members to work

Story and photos by Jamie Johnston, associate editor

Finally! Some good news from the health-care industry: Sutter Hospital is building a new, state-of-the-art facility in Santa Rosa and in doing so, is creating more than 1,500 construction jobs.

Many Local 3 members have already been dispatched to the project, which started in November 2010 and should continue through 2014, when the hospital opens to the public.

Unger Construction is the general contractor on the \$284 million job. Subcontractors Ghilotti Construction and Concrete Services are responsible for the parking lot and underground work. Other work includes site development, rebar installation, structural steel framing and the interior construction of the 183,000-square-foot, 82-bed hospital.

In addition to the site itself, more than \$6 million invested will provide roadway improvement to 2035, including widening the northbound Hwy. 101 off-ramp at Mark West Road to include two, right-hand turn lanes, which will improve access to the facility.

When finished, the hospital will be seismically safe and environmentally friendly. Thanks to Sutter's construction-recycling program, at least 75 percent of all construction and demolition waste will be recycled, and energy-efficient materials are being used to make the hospital a "green" facility.

However, while the job has back-to-nature elements, the construction involved is extremely high-tech, said Gradesetter



Loader Operator Louis Lovell backfills trenches for Ghilotti Construction.



Ghilotti Supervisor Paul Damgaard.



Fifth-step Apprentice Kevin Olsen operates a scraper for Ghilotti Construction.



Gradesetter Matt Hermsmeyer.



Operator Patrick Dunham works for Concrete Services.



Blade Operator Andrew Cameron makes a windrow.



Matt Hermismeyer. In addition to his tools, Ghilotti Construction's blade, dozer and compactor are also equipped with GPS.

"It keeps everything very, very efficient," said the 10-year member. "[Without it] there would have to be a million stakes out here."

There's also a lot of experience on the job. Loader Operator Louis Lovell has 24 years in Local 3, Ghilotti Supervisor Paul Damgaard is a 47-year member and Foreman Bill Cowdrey is going on 30 years in the union. This makes for a good training ground for any novice worker onsite, like fifth-step Apprentice Kevin Olsen, who is operating a scraper for Ghilotti.

This job is the perfect prescription for our industry and the economy.



Operator Troy Bohny works for Ghilotti Construction.



RX: MORE HOSPITAL WORK



From left: Operators Juan Becerra, Wayne Ferrare and Jose Arrizon work on the San Francisco General Hospital upgrade project in District 01.

In addition to District 10's big Sutter Hospital project profiled at left, Local 3 is sending operators to work on at least six other medical facilities in California alone.

Two of these projects are in District 01. Members are still working on Webcor's \$887 million San Francisco General Hospital upgrade project that started in 2009 (A&B Construction is relocating the utilities), and work just broke ground on a 149-bed, 280,000-square-foot Kaiser hospital-replacement project in Redwood City.

In District 30, members are working on the Arch Road prison medical facility. The first phase of the project was awarded to O.C. Jones, which is working with subcontractors W.C. Maloney, Professional Asbestos and Lead Services (PALS) and Preston Pipeline. The second phase went to Granite Construction and was scheduled to start in September.

In District 20, operators are working on two projects for Kaiser: Rudolph and Sletten is building a new, 264-bed, 434,000-square-foot hospital in San Leandro, and McCarthy Building Companies is expanding the Broadway Medical Office Building and Cancer Center in Oakland.

In District 80, the two tower cranes set up for the Sutter Health Hospital project in downtown Sacramento are hard to miss and a very welcome sight in the area. Signatories on the job include Bragg Crane, Peninsula Crane and Rigging, Psomas, Blue Iron, Clipper International and Boldt.

For more information on these jobs, check out this month's District Reports on pages 20-26, and keep reading your *Engineers News*, as we highlight the projects in more detail.

From left: Excavator Operator Aaron Bowman and Foreman Bill Cowdrey, on dozer.



High-flying work

By Gary Rocha, business representative

Quads, 4x4s and fast-flying motorcycles – oh my! When visiting a state park, you don’t always run into Yogi Bear or Boo-Boo. At California’s State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs), you’ll find Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) and a lot of happy people enjoying the area.



From left: Heavy Equipment Operator David Burns and Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Mechanic Doug Lampman work at the Carnegie SVRA.

In Local 3’s jurisdiction, there are four SVRAs: Carnegie – 1,500 acres located in the hills of eastern Alameda and San Joaquin counties; Clay Pit – 250 acres out of Oroville; Prairie City – 836 acres, 20 miles from downtown Sacramento; and Hollister Hills – 4,100 acres just an hour’s drive from San Jose. Each one offers something different.

I visited the Unit 12 members who work at the Hollister Hills and Carnegie SVRAs in the last few months, and our heavy equipment operators there stay busy, either on a grader, making repairs to a trail, or bringing in a racetrack on race day. Sometimes I see them on a water truck, as they have to keep the dust down, not just for the OHVs, but also for the many plants and animals that call the state parks their home.

At Carnegie, you might catch a glimpse of a red-tailed hawk, a kestrel or a golden eagle looking for its next meal. You may also see black-tailed deer, coyotes, Tule elk and “wild hogs” – no, not the movie. All state parks have great wildflowers and many kinds of trees and bushes. But avoid the poison oak! You’ll be glad you did.

At Hollister Hills, there are other things to do, like visit the restored vineyard schoolhouse built in 1891, the olive and walnut orchards that were planted in 1865 or the San Andreas Fault – what’s a little shaking? Kind of like a Cat 657, right? There are also California red-legged frogs, tiger salamanders and burrowing owls.

All in all, California state parks have a lot to offer. If you’re not into flying on a motorcycle, maybe a quiet walk down the street of an old, gold-mining town is your speed. Or how about a stroll around a mission courtyard or a trip to the High Sierra Mountains for a picnic with a friend? (If it’s with Yogi Bear, you better bring an extra picnic basket!)

Have a great time traveling to our California state parks, and remember to Move Over – It’s the Law!



Heavy Equipment Operator Anthony Terry works on a trail at the Hollister Hills SVRA.

Pump-house maintenance can be dangerous

By Gladys Perry, business representative

The following is part of a series on the detailed tasks of specialized Unit 12 bridge crews.



Members David Douglas and Will Stevens operate a boom truck to remove pumps at the Ravenswood Pumping Plant.

There are a lot of things that Caltrans bridge crews are responsible for, including pump house, Drain Inlet (DI) and drain maintenance.

Pump houses pump storm water into the city water system, area rivers and the Bay. The Foster City Yard maintains eight pump houses, and the San Jose area maintains 28.

Pump houses keep the roads safe from flooding. A lot of groundwater flows beneath the surface, and pumps keep the water moving.

Inside these pump houses, workers perform their tasks in confined spaces. Not just anyone can do this type of work. It takes special training and certification. Because of the complexities, several agencies have to be notified and special equipment is needed. Pumps need adjustments, fittings need alignments and hardware needs to be stabilized.

Repair or replacement could take one day or several weeks, depending on the issue. Pumps run on electricity, and when the electricity goes out, back-up generators are used. Some generators are stored at the site, and some pumps use towable generators. During bad weather, bridge crews are on storm patrol, which means they work 24 hours with 12-hour rotating shifts.

During the rainy season and unexpected storms, bridge crews are dispatched to drains that are flooded or clogged with debris from the highways. Crews work in the elements and in traffic to clean and remove the problems. Sometimes, they work on very slippery surfaces. Sometimes the drains are so flooded that it takes a while to figure out exactly where the drain is located. Members sometimes use a pitch fork to find an opening. It’s dangerous, but they get the job done.

DIs are located all over, so water has a place to go, however, finding them can be problematic in low-lying areas.

For more about what Caltrans bridge crews do, read my article next month.



Report & Review

By Carl Goff, vice president

Scholarship Foundation reaches \$1 million mark

Better wages and top-of-the-line health coverage are only a few of the advantages of belonging to Local 3. Another huge benefit that some members may not even know about is the union's thriving Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation, which helps members pay for their children's college education. With tuition rising every year, every bit helps.

As president of the Scholarship Foundation, I'm more than pleased to report that in August, the Foundation surpassed the \$1 million mark, which means we are now able to help even more members by awarding even more scholarships worth even more money to the sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members. Grandchildren are also eligible to apply for the scholarships, if their grandparents are their legal guardians.

You can read all about these scholarships and how to apply for them on page 27, but I would like to share with you how the increases were made possible.

Local 3 has awarded scholarships to our members' children since 1965. When the other officers and I were elected in 2006, the Scholarship Foundation had almost \$600,000. One of its biggest fundraisers is the Tom Stapleton Golf Tournament, held every fall in honor of our past business manager Tom Stapleton to raise money specifically for our Scholarship Foundation.



In 2006, that tournament made a net profit of \$58,825. Our proceeds have increased nearly every year since then, and the most recent tournament held in September raised a net profit

of more than \$150,000. That's almost three times the amount we raised in 2006! Add that to the money we receive in donations and investments, and today, the Foundation has more than \$1.05 million.

Since the Foundation's a non-profit, all the money raised must go toward the scholarship program, so because of our success, we were able to increase the number of Academic Scholarships awarded in 2012 from four to six. First-place awards increased from \$6,000 each to \$10,000 each, second-place awards went from \$5,000 each to \$7,500 each and two third-place awards worth \$5,000 each were added. We also awarded 20 Merit Scholarships last year worth \$500 each, and in 2012, we'll be able to award 25 worth \$1,000 each!

I am very proud of the Foundation's accomplishment, especially because we were able to reach our goal in today's tough economic times. We officers strive to serve our membership in the best ways possible, and this is just another way we're able to do that. With the holidays coming up, scholarships are one more thing to be thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.



News & Notes

By Dan Reding, financial secretary

It is your union; stay involved

In September, we had our fall Semi-Annual. We had a great turnout, and I want to thank all the members who attended. Business Manager Russ Burns shared a lot of information when he addressed the membership. Before the meeting, many members brought up their concerns regarding health care and the changes we had to make to our health and welfare plans. I explained to them the difficulty we are facing with health care, such as Kaiser raising its rates 18 percent and not willing to negotiate anything less and our Blue Cross coverage continuing to increase about 10 percent every year. When you are already at \$9.44 per hour for health-care contributions, a 10 percent increase is a more than 90-cent increase in an economy where everyone is taking reductions. Something has to change.

We see it across all industries right now: Companies are eliminating health care or forcing their employees to pay more and more out of their own pockets. We continue to try to maintain what we have. We continue to look at every option to lower costs, but if nothing is done at the federal level, I don't know when we will see some relief.

On a positive note, we are seeing work pick up dramatically in many districts. A lot of good projects are getting started, so if your home district isn't busy and you are willing to travel, call the other districts where work is picking up. See pages 20-26 for details.

Again, it was great to see everyone who attended the September Semi-Annual. It is your union; stay involved!

ATPA Angle

By Bob Miller,

Associated Third Party Administrators (ATPA) senior account executive

Holidays and helping members

It's hard to believe the holiday season is upon us once more. Where did the year go? As we get older, time seems to go by much faster, but as I have said before, it is a simple matter of mathematics: When you are 10 years old, a year is one-tenth of your life, a long time. When you are 50, a year is one-fiftieth of your life, a much shorter time.

The Associated Third Party Administrators (ATPA) staff would like to thank the members of Local 3 and the Plan participants for the opportunity to serve them in 2011. ATPA appreciates the commitment of Business Manager Russ Burns, the officers and the Trustees to the integrity of the Trust Funds and to provide the best possible benefits to Operating Engineers and their families.

On a personal note, my time with ATPA has been productive and very rewarding. I work with a wonderful and committed team that has personally assisted me in helping many Local 3 members work through their issues this year. As a 33-year Local 3 member myself (I will *always* be a member), I know many of you from my time with the local or from working in the field, and it is just icing on the cake to help old friends.

I look forward to representing ATPA and seeing you all at upcoming Retiree and District Meetings and at the spring round of Pre-Retirement Meetings in partnership with Fringe Benefits Director Charlie Warren. Have a wonderful holiday season!



Public Employee News

By Carl Carey, director

Financial stability

In an ever-changing economic world, the idea of financial stability is a fleeting concept. Between a depressed stock market, budget deficits and low-interest earnings on savings, how can anyone look at this economy and feel secure about a financial future?

Financial stability is not attained overnight, unless you win the lotto, and even then it still is not guaranteed. Financial stability takes comprehensive planning and the resolve to follow that plan – a plan that not only takes today's needs into consideration but also the future.

Even though public employees are under attack, we are fortunate to have benefits available to us that are not normally offered in the private sector. A few that are available include defined benefit retirement plans, such as Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) plans, the 37 Act and private plans, along with 457 deferred compensation plans, enhanced disability benefits and life insurance benefits. All of these factor in financial planning.

I was fortunate to work with a company that specialized in financial planning for public employees. A common saying in the company was: "If you plan in pieces, you will wind up in pieces." All benefits – retirement, salary, life insurance, private investments, etc. – should be taken into consideration when developing a financial plan. If not, you may not achieve your retirement goals.

So, when should you start planning for your retirement? The answer is the day you start working. The more time you have to plan and invest, the better chance you have of reaching your financial goals. For example, if you save \$200 a month for 30 years at 7.25 percent compounded annual interest, you will accrue about \$243,000. Should you do this for only 20 years, this sum would be greatly reduced.

In planning for retirement, the first question to ask is: "What is my optimum retirement date?" Secondly: "How much money do I

need to have at the time I want to retire?" All of our circumstances are different, from the retirement formula we are working under to the number of children we have. These factors as well as many others affect our decision-making.

Assume that you want to retire at 90 percent of pre-retirement dollars. Due to your age and years of service, your retirement allowance is 81 percent of your compensable income. First of all, you are 9 percent behind the 90 percent goal that you set. Secondly, you have to consider what inflation will do to your retirement income. To attain your goal and maintain it, you must do something to supplement your retirement income. The 457 deferred compensation plan offered by your employer may be the best solution.

With the recent changes in federal and state law, the distribution restrictions that we previously faced are no longer a factor. We don't have to make irrevocable decisions at the time of retirement that bind us to fixed distribution amounts. Contribution limits have also risen, conforming closely to 401(k) plans.

The next question to ask is: "Now that I have decided to contribute to a 457 deferred compensation plan, how much should I contribute and what funds do I invest in?" The law governs what type of funds should be offered but not the specific funds. Unless you are very savvy in the stock market, you should seek the counsel of a certified financial planner. Your planner can assist you in determining how much you will need to save by the time you retire to achieve your financial goals.

In planning your financial strategy, you not only have to look at your salary but consider the many other tools available to you. These include life insurance, IRAs, 401(k) plans, securities, investments and living trusts, to name a few. If properly utilized, these tools can help assure financial stability for you and your family.

Keeping jobs and benefits

By Rick Davis, business representative

It is that time of the year again when we hope for quality time with family and friends. We are all a year older – and maybe even a year wiser and more thankful for what we do have.

There were little to no layoffs in my units and very few cuts in benefits and pay this year. Basically, I was able to keep most things status quo, and I have not been able to say that for the last four years. During a mid-year staff meeting, a financial speaker addressed the agents and said the most important thing we should be concerned with this year and next is maintaining health benefits and paychecks for our members. For the most part, I believe I was successful in accomplishing that.

Unfortunately, not all of my members see the positive. I have one unit that is still in negotiations, and the general mentality is: "Cut everyone else's salary or job, but don't touch me." The fighting between the members is something I have never seen before. In another ongoing negotiation, the employer actually put some money on the table, and the bargaining unit is still unhappy. I've not seen money increases in four years!

My members are still working, still have health insurance, still have a retirement and are still able to provide for their families. My members are still making overtime when it is available, but I recently got a complaint about that too. I actually got a call from a member who didn't feel it was right that the employer was making members work overtime. I can't ever remember an employee complaining because someone was getting overtime!

For those of you who dwell on the negative, there is plenty of that. None of my units, except the one I mentioned above, have seen any salary adjustments in four years. They've had no raises, no cost-of-living analysis, nothing. Health benefits continue to rise and cost more for the members. Employees are now paying into their own retirements, and new employees are paying even more for less benefits. There is plenty to complain about, but there is plenty to be thankful for too. I choose to be positive. I choose to look at my glass as half full and not half empty.

Next year will be another challenge. Public coffers are projected to have less than they did in 2011. If you have a multi-year contract, consider yourself fortunate, as we will not be at the negotiating table. For those of you who *will* be bargaining, I will work to keep your jobs and health benefits, and we must all work together to stay positive. We must all be thankful for what we have and not stress over what we do not have.

Enjoy the holidays. Enjoy your families and friends. Hug your children – no matter how old they are – and be thankful for all you have.

The fight for rights in Firebaugh

By Doug Gorman, business representative

Local 3 has represented the city of Firebaugh employees and police officers since the late 1990s. Upon joining OE3 in July 2002, I was assigned to represent these units and have been doing so off and on since then. Currently,



I am assigned to the Firebaugh Police Officers Association (FPOA), and my office partner, Business Rep. Fred Klingel, is assigned to the Public Works Unit.

While assisting Klingel with his workload, I took a call from the job stewards in Firebaugh who reported that the city had hired a part-time janitor to replace a full-time, union one, and that this new janitor was operating a city vehicle without a driver's license and working without benefits.

I made an inquiry into both issues and immediately opened a serious can of worms. The job stewards' accounts were true, but when I began looking further into the situation, our members were called into a meeting with their boss and were threatened with termination, should they pursue these issues.

In an attempt to work things out, I met with the Public Works director. As our conversation went on, the director referred to our members as, well, I won't say it here, but you get my drift. After this remark, I made a complaint to the city manager. As soon as this happened, the Public Works director retaliated against our members and again threatened their jobs.

While all this was going on, I received a call from another job steward who reported that our members were being forced by this director to perform animal-control duties without any training, some of which included animal cruelty.

Our members had been forced to kill animals without proper euthanasia techniques. They had been forced to shoot stray dogs with empty tranquilizer darts in an attempt to injure or kill them, and on occasion, they had been ordered to fill the empty tranquilizer darts with anti-freeze, with the intent of poisoning the animals if they were shot, which would lead to a terrible death.

For the most part, these duties were forced upon probationary employees, who were told to do the job or face termination. I could go on here, but it would make you sick.

Klingel and I became actively involved in these issues, and an independent investigator was hired by the city. After sitting through three interviews with our members, Klingel and I couldn't believe what we heard and that this Public Works director had remained employed.

The city manager believed everything his director told the investigator, and none of the allegations submitted by our members were substantiated by the investigator, even though we recorded the interviews.

As we continued to pursue the issue, the city decided that it would fire our job steward (his promotion was one day away) for no reason. Local 3 argued that he needed to go back to his previous city position, and the city denied it. After getting the union's legal division involved, our member was given a Skelly hearing, which we knew wasn't going to go anywhere.

Meanwhile, the city went on a hiring freeze, so it didn't have to bring the employee back to work, and performed other misdeeds that most of you wouldn't believe.

We currently are awaiting for the appeal process to continue, and for now, our member awaits his due.

Better things to come

By Mike Minton, business representative

Things are somewhat improving for public employees in Yuba City District 60. We are still negotiating takeaways from existing contracts, salary and pension-contribution reductions, furlough days and medical premiums previously paid for by the employers, but I am seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Other than the town of Paradise, which is a misnomer, as things have gone terribly bad there, and the Butte County Housing Authority Board, where the employer has thrown collective bargaining rights out the window, my bargaining units have slowed the bleeding considerably and are somewhat on the mend.

In Lake County, where negotiations have been nearly impossible until this year, the process proved how well the system can work if both sides come together toward a common goal. Negotiators with the county and the Lake County Employees' Association (LCEA) acted professionally with a true grasp of the economic situation, not just in their county but in the state and country as a whole. In record time, both sides came to an agreement for a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with both giving some to get some. My congratulations to all.



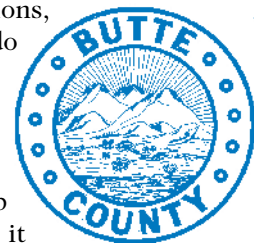
Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD)

has rescinded all but three or four of the 148 layoff notices and has decided to hold off on making any further drastic cuts until the district has a better idea of what the state decides to take away. What a novel idea! The state could care less about educating our children. It's all about how much it can take away from the school districts and increase tuitions to afford giving management salary and benefit increases. MJUSD did not fold right away when threatened by the state, holding strong for our members. Congratulations.

Olivehurst Public Utility District has completely turned around. Last year, the district imposed a contract on two of its bargaining units that included severe takeaways. This year, the district offered to partially restore many of those takeaways. As of this writing, the bargaining units have agreed to a multi-year contract. My congratulations to both.

The town of Paradise is another story. The district wants to cut salaries, reduce medical benefits to the point that employees will not be able to afford health insurance and force the employees to pay a larger portion of their Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) contributions, something the town requested them to do years ago in lieu of future salary increases. Stay tuned; this will be ugly.

The Butte County Housing Authority Board has taken a different approach. Officials have tried to tell the shop stewards what they need to give up – take it or leave it. No meet and confer, no proposals – other than ours – nothing. I can see this heading to court in the not-too-distant future.



This is the first time in several years that I have noticed a decline in management's attempts at taking away (salary, benefits) from its public employees. I hope this is a sign of better things to come.



Credit Union

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

Your Credit Union: Your family

At Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU), we know there's more behind the word "union" than meets the eye. From breaking ground on a new project to the painstaking effort in providing its finishing touches, everyone involved can take pride in the teamwork it takes to get a job done. A union is a family – just like your Credit Union – and family sticks together.

With this in mind, remember that our bond extends beyond individual credit-union members. Your immediate family is also eligible to join OEFCU, an important message we urge you to spread. Becoming a member could mean the difference between heading down a rough financial path versus a smooth one. As the economy continues its ride over bumpy terrain, please don't keep us a secret. A stable and prosperous future is on the horizon for those who take action right now. If your family is interested, they can visit www.oefcu.org and click on the "Join Us" option under the "About Us" section.

Should your family members choose to join, they'll discover the valuable advantages of being a member/owner of our cooperative financial organization, such as free checking-account services and lower fees on many products. Instead of absorbing costs during tough times, several banks have saddled customers with new burdens by implementing checking and debit-card fees and raising premiums. We invite you to consider the OEFCU difference and compare our prices with peer institutions. We are confident you'll be impressed.

One major benefit of OEFCU membership is our recently announced members' auto and homeowners' insurance program.

Because of our relationship with CUNA Mutual Group, a trusted retirement and insurance provider, we're able to offer quality auto and homeowners' insurance at rates much lower than your average financial institution. To obtain a free quote, call (888) 380-9287 or visit www.membersautohome.com. We participate in this program because it's our duty to help you protect your property, family and future through affordable options.

Additionally, OEFCU has improved convenience when you access your accounts by creating multiple delivery channels for you to withdraw or transfer your money. Options include online banking, automated phone-teller services, mobile banking and several ATM co-op partners and ATMs located inside convenience stores, such as 7-Eleven. We may not be on every street corner, but our access points are ideally located where you live or work. One of our top priorities is to continue delivering seamless services and reassess the ones already in place. We always welcome suggestions.

The dedicated OEFCU staff always looks forward to seeing you walk through our doors or logging in to your accounts remotely. Whether you have business to conduct or questions that need answered, we are committed to making your financial dreams a reality. We strive to be a reflection of our members who are on the front lines of key infrastructure projects every day, doing their part to support their communities and families. The more you interact with us, the more we learn what we can improve upon. From all of us at OEFCU, it's an honor to serve you.

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*Qualified members can receive from \$1,000 to
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with repayment terms up to 12 months.*

Holiday



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*APR= Annual Percentage Rate. Subject to credit approval. Rate reflects a 0.25% discount for Member Rewards. Must meet the following requirements to qualify for Member Rewards: must be signed up for eStatements, make at least 10 checking account ATM/debit transactions per month, and have direct deposit or automatic bill pay. Rate is for terms of up to 12 months. Minimum loan amount is \$1,000. Maximum loan amount is \$3,000. Maximum of two open Quick Loans per member at one time. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. Payment Example: If you borrow \$1,000 at 9.00% APR, your payment is \$90 for 12 month term.



Exploratorium teaches on, off the job

Story and photos by Jamie Johnston, associate editor

Since the Exploratorium first opened its doors more than 40 years ago, the world-renown science museum in San Francisco has offered a smorgasbord of learning opportunities.

Now, work on its new location is providing the same thing.

Second-step Apprentice Eric Racks said he's learning (and seeing) new things on a daily basis, as his crew refurbishes and seismically upgrades historical Pier 15, which spans the length of almost three football fields over the Bay. This is where the museum will soon open its doors for visitors.

Right now, there's a conventional barge crane onsite. There are Local 3 operators, mechanics and inspectors, along with electricians, Ironworkers and Laborers.

"If you want to see something, you'll see it here," said Racks, who has had seat time on a loader, an excavator, even a skid steer hauling a water tank.

Nibbi Brothers is the general contractor on the more than \$139 million first phase of the project, which started in November 2010. Subcontractors Power Engineering, Zaccor Construction, Consolidated Engineering and Manson Construction are helping with this impressive feat, which requires 30 new steel piles and 31,680 feet of dowels to connect the pier deck to the slab. Supportive pilings will extend 160 feet into the Bay floor, and

three, two-story clusters will be added inside the main shed to preserve the historic truss work and walls and maintain a straight-shot view of the Bay. With room inside and out, the new, 9-acre campus on the Embarcadero will offer 422,166 square feet of space, more than doubling the Exploratorium's current size at the Palace of Fine Arts, where it's operated since 1969.

Pier 17 will also be upgraded for future expansion, and the parking lot between the two piers will be removed.

The Exploratorium is expected to open at its new location in November 2013 as the first net-zero energy museum in the world, with aspects like Bay-water heating and cooling, low-emitting materials with recycled content and certified wood.

When the more than 600 science exhibits move inside – from the giant ring of mist that raises 30 feet in the air to the anti-gravity mirror – the museum will be just as interesting on the inside as it is on the outside!

"The end result is going to be great," said Operator Scott Ferreira, a six-year member working for Power Engineering. "Coming off the [Bay] Bridge, I can say I helped build that. ... It's a little contribution to the city."

To see the project in action, visit us at www.oe3.org.



From left: Second-step Apprentice Eric Racks, Crane Operator Charlie Miller and Loader Operator Scott Ferreira work for subcontractor Power Engineering.



Operators Larry Thomason and Rick Baker work for subcontractor Zaccor Construction.



Senior Inspector John Hyslop works for Consolidated Engineering.



From left: Deck Engineer Dale Gardner and Barge Crane Operator Juan Apodaca work for Manson Construction.



Mechanic Mike Sills fixes a starting problem on a telehandler.



Power Engineering Superintendent Marty Garvey.



Dan Beckerdite works for Power Engineering.



Crane Operator Charlie Miller hoists a pile cap for Power Engineering at Pier 15 on the Exploratorium job.

Exploratorium by the numbers:

- 1 New York City block in length
- 1 acre of open water
- 9 acres of waterfront
- 30 new steel piles
- 5,143 existing piles
- 31,680 feet of dowels connecting the pier deck to the slab
- 422,166 square feet of space, inside and out

Life after retirement

Having a social calendar is good for the heart and soul

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

A lot has changed since Jim Gray retired in 1995, but some things never will.

It's been 16 years since the former mechanic worked for Tenco-turned-Holt of California, a signatory Caterpillar dealership in Sacramento, but the friendships he made during his time there are as strong as ever.

Gray is one of about 20 Local 3 Retirees who worked together at the Cat dealership and still meet regularly for lunch and to catch up on what's going on in each others' lives.

"It's a Caterpillar thing," said Retiree Dave Adams, who sets up these events.

Also on the guest list are Rod Rodekuhr, who was one of Adams' instructors, and Dave Saunders, one of Adams' former apprentices.

At a most recent get-together at a Sizzler in Natomas, these men were joined by about a dozen others, including Gary Williamson (Saunders' foreman at one point), Robert Zine (Adams' brother-in-law) and Alan Kirby (Rodekuhr's son-in-law). Ron Whisenhunt made the trip from Sutter, Cliff Kingsbury traveled from Yuba City and Bill Felton came from Woodland. Retirees Ted Wherry, who Gray sees regularly to help work on his rental properties, and Ed Alves, who "worked at a couple different places" with Rodekuhr, came from the Sacramento area.



Retiree Mike Rizzoli at work, 26 years ago!

"We've been friends for years," said Alves.

Though former Tenco owner Gordon Beatie never belonged to Local 3, he too

attended the recent luncheon, saying, "They're my friends; they're my family."

Keeping strong relationships like these is good for people of all ages, but especially for Retirees, claim health-care professionals. Social contact can make a big difference in how a person feels and how well they cope with problems, both large and small. Studies show that people with strong social networks are often healthier and happier.

If you can, try to combine socializing with some form of physical activity, as friends can encourage you to finish a run or a walk, and you can strengthen your mind at the same time. Look into joining a walking club or taking an exercise class.

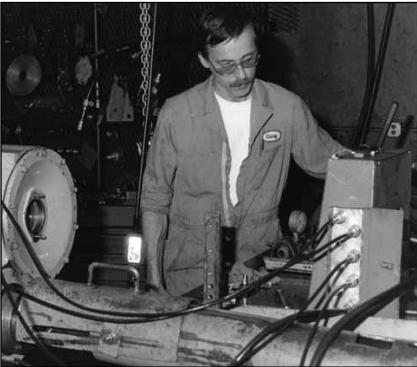
You can also stay social by getting involved. Retirees who volunteer often have busy calendars, and this gives them a reason to get up in the morning and get out of the house when going to work is no longer necessary. Many Local 3 members belong to Shriners or local Lions and Rotary clubs.

Retirees are also strongly encouraged to attend the union events that Local 3 hosts specifically with them in mind. The Retiree Picnic is held every summer, and Retiree Association Meetings are held year-round. Check your *Engineers News* for details.

These events give members an opportunity to reconnect with operators they used to work with, and who knows: Maybe this meeting could grow into something special like it did for those at Caterpillar?



Current Retiree Jim Gray grabs lunch in Tenco's welding shop in 1985.



Twenty-six years ago, current Retiree Gary Williamson "gears up" at Tenco.



Retiree Jim Griffith, second from right, was part of the Tenco crew that was featured in a photo spread in the March 1985 *Engineers News*.

About 20 Local 3 Retirees who used to work for Tenco-turned-Holt of California continue to get together on a regular basis. Those who attended a recent luncheon in Natomas include, front row, from left: Ted Wherry, Ed Alves, Dave Adams, Robert Zine and Cliff Kingsbury and former Tenco owner Gordon Beatie. Back row, from left: Dave Saunders, Bill Felton, Ron Whisenhunt, Gary Williamson, Alan Kirby and Rob Rodekuhr and former parts department rep. Wes McKeen. (Not pictured: Jim Gray, Vern Bartlett, Don Thompson, Rich Bartlett, John Floyd, Merrill King, Mike Rizzoli, Jim Griffith and Leroy Laswell.)



Fringe Benefits

By Charlie Warren, director

Medicare Crossover makes claims easier

Sign up now!

Participants enrolled in the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund Comprehensive Plan can simplify the claims billing process by signing up for Medicare Crossover. Once you sign up, your medical claim and Medicare's explanation of benefits will automatically be submitted to the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Plan. Enrolling is easy. Simply mail a copy of your Medicare card with a request to start Medicare Crossover to:

Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund
Attn: Marilyn Haynes, Medical Claims Department
P.O. Box 28415
Oakland, CA 94604-8415

Kaiser Plan changes

Effective Oct. 1, 2011, the Kaiser Plan for participants in the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund has changed to Kaiser's deductible Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plan. This change does not apply to Retirees or participants in the Hawaii Kaiser Plan.

The Kaiser Plan now has a \$500 calendar-year deductible (with a maximum deductible per family of \$1,000). Please note that some services are *not* subject to the deductible, such as:

- Well-child preventive care and routine physical exams for adults, including most preventive X-rays, screenings and lab tests (provided at no charge)
- Most immunizations (provided at no charge)
- Primary and specialty care exams and consultations (you pay a \$20 co-pay per visit)
- Eye and hearing exams (provided at no charge)
- Scheduled prenatal care exams and first postpartum follow-up exam (provided at no charge)

For inpatient hospitalization services and emergency-room visits, you will pay 20 percent after the annual deductible is satisfied. There is an annual out-of-pocket limit of \$3,000 per person, or \$6,000 for a family.

Note: Any expenses applied to your Kaiser deductible in October, November or December of this year will also count toward your 2012 deductible.

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

Stanford/Lucile Salter Packard hospitals terminate agreements

Anthem Blue Cross has notified the Local 3 Trust Fund Office that its agreements with Stanford University Hospital, Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford Medical Group and Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital Medical Group were **terminated Sept. 1, 2011**.

All treatment at these facilities on and after Sept. 1 may be paid at the non-network benefit level. You will be responsible for any dollar amounts in excess of the "Allowed Charge" in addition to the non-network deductible and coinsurance.

If you have treatment scheduled at Stanford University Hospital, Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford Medical Group or Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital Medical Group, you should consider an alternative facility for treatment.

Financial hardship on you and your family will be greatly reduced, if services are received from an in-network Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) hospital. You can find a current list of participating providers on the Blue Cross website at www.bluecrossca.com. Please discuss this situation with your doctor and reschedule planned procedures at a network hospital, if possible.

If you have questions, please contact the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014.



Looking at Labor

By Pete Figueiredo, treasurer

Union vs. non-union

In recent months, this space has been dedicated to a brief overview of labor law and its effects on the working men and women in this country, particularly union, within a given timeframe. Research on the subject has disclosed information that I would like to share with you. There are definitive trends that seem to coincide very closely with the timeframes and the enactment of laws and policies previously discussed here.

Union membership in the United States has declined significantly in recent decades. The number of union members peaked in 1979 at an estimated 21 million. In 2003, an estimated 15.8 million workers were union. As a percent of employed workers, union membership peaked in 1954 at 28.3 percent. In 2003, 11.5 percent of employed workers were union. In 2011, that number is down to 6.9 percent.

Union members generally receive better fringe benefits than similar, non-union workers. Remember: Total compensation consists of both wages and fringe benefits (paid sick leave, health insurance and pension plans). However, the decline in union market share has negatively impacted the union worker, which in turn filters through to the non-union worker.

One study concluded that, among hourly and salaried workers, the union wage differential in the late 1970s was about 23 percent. By 2000-2001, the analysis concluded that the differential had fallen to 14 percent.

Many employers seem to put short-term goals ahead of long-term ones and miss the fact that job tenure tends to be greater and turnover rates lower among unionized workers, if unions give workers and management a means to improve communications and resolve issues. This may create an incentive for employers to provide more firm-specific training, resulting in long-term competitive advantages in the marketplace. Also, higher wages attract more applicants, giving employers a larger pool to hire qualified workers from. As a result, some evidence indicates that the quality of union workers is better than that of non-union workers doing the same kind of work. What do you think?

Next month, I will focus on some of the effects labor law has on the non-union sector, which I'm sure you will find as shocking as I have.



Political Perspective

By Mark Kyle, director of government affairs and public relations

Operating Engineers 2011 General Election Recommendations

Vote Nov. 8: Your job depends on it

The following recommendations are for upcoming general elections held throughout Local 3's jurisdiction on Nov. 8. Members are urged to vote for the following candidates, as they are union-endorsed. This means we've done the research for you and stand by these candidates who promise to stand with

labor. During these tough economic times, we must elect more pro-labor politicians who will create jobs.

For the most up-to-date endorsements and detailed election information, visit Local 3's Politics Page at www.oe3.org.

**Log on to the OE3members.org website
to view and print the
Local 3 endorsements**



Rancho Murieta Training Center
for apprentice to journey-level operators
By Tammy Castillo, director of apprenticeship

Rancho Murieta Training Center offers quality training

Heavy equipment operators must be professionally trained, so they can handle construction work carefully and avoid mistakes. The keys to successful heavy equipment operation include knowledge of a particular machine and the opportunity to practice operating it properly.

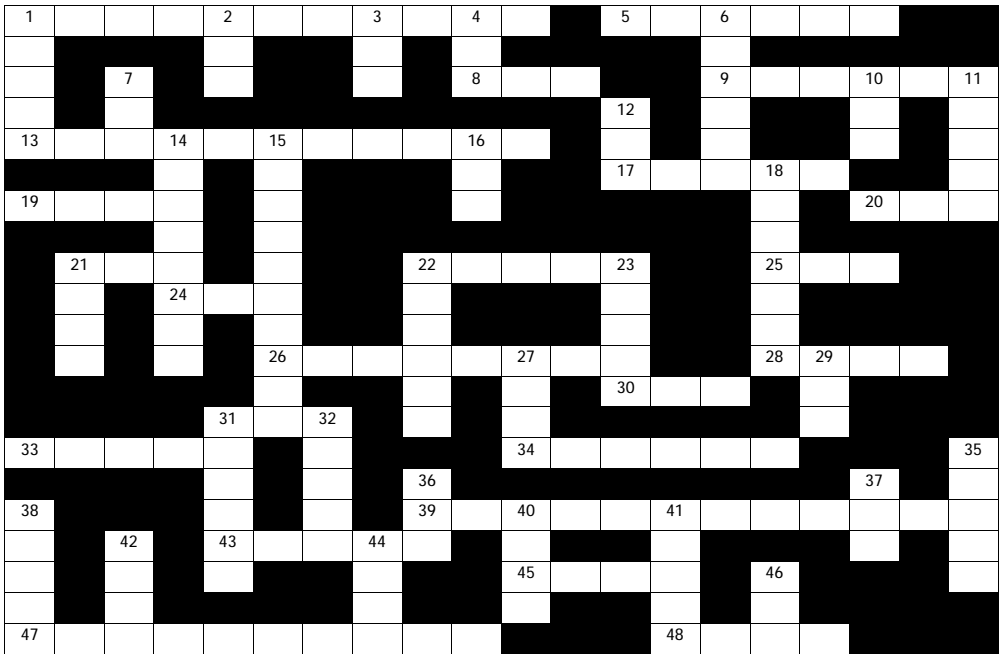
The Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC) is the place to make both of those happen with a state-of-the-art facility that provides quality training with credentialed instructors who come from the construction industry. We offer 85 types of heavy equipment, 26 simulator-software packages, six simulator stations and seven hydraulic simulators to operate.

Interested journey-level operators should contact their local job-placement center to see if they meet the eligibility requirements. Interested apprentices who are caught up on their Supplemental Related Training (SRT) should call their apprenticeship coordinators to sign up for additional training.

Take advantage of the wonderful training opportunities available to you!

Congratulations to the following apprentices who completed the Aug. 15 to Sept. 16, 2011 RMTTC five-week Probation Orientation Period (POP) training class:

- District 01:* CEO Ryan Quiles
- District 04:* GRA Lisa Halsey-Gunther; KRA Keith Jackson; KRA Joshua Klein; CEO Justin Raybold
- District 10:* CEO Keith Moreti; CEO Andrew Skanderson
- District 20:* CEO Ramiro Espinoza Jr.; CEO Lillian Ferrer; KRA Phillip Freeman; KRA Alan Heeney; CEO Robert Lacy Jr.; HDR Garrett Mayberry; CEO Anthony Porter; HDR Jose Ruelas
- District 30:* CEO Jamal Abron; CEO Matthew Barendgret; KRA Jonathan Cummings; CEO Victoria Duenas; HDR Kevin Kruse; GRA Lovato Benito Jr.; CEO Kenneth Lyons; KRA George Robertson
- District 50:* CEO Jason Ayler; LTA Carlos Rangel
- District 60:* CEO Garrett Brown; CEO Ronald Waistell
- District 70:* CEO Aaron Jones; HDR Mark Vestal
- District 80:* CEO Joel Anderson; CEO Matthew Hill; CEO Nicholas Lambert; LTA Marciela Rodriguez
- District 90:* CEO Monica Balderrama; HDR Nathaniel Nava; CEO Jesse-Anthony Paulsell; CEO James Sanchez; CEO Victor Sandoval



Puzzled?

By Dave Bibby, Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) instructor

See if you can answer the questions below to this crossword puzzle, inspired by a Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) apprentice. Look for the answers on page 29.

Across

- 1. Equipment manufacturer
- 5. Type of engine
- 8. Standard unit of measurement for pressure
- 9. Prevents leakage
- 13. Liquid in a battery
- 17. Nothing runs like a _____
- 19. Water begins to _____ at 212 degrees F
- 20. _____ cone seal
- 21. Center of the planetary gear set or solar system
- 22. Converts hydraulic energy to mechanical (rotary) energy
- 24. Department of Transportation
- 25. Your union
- 26. Accumulators are filled with _____
- 28. Compression results in _____
- 30. Use an excavator or backhoe to _____
- 31. Equipment-operator classification
- 33. Place the dirt in the _____ pile
- 34. Type of tire
- 39. Allows wheels to turn at different speeds
- 43. Tiparillo
- 45. Hose or fishing
- 47. Engine coolant
- 48. The end of a drive line or part of an egg

Down

- 1. Does heavy lifting
- 2. Unit of measurement of engine speed
- 3. Type of computer

- 4. Unit of measurement for current
- 6. Mechanical power source
- 7. Supports a golf ball
- 10. Metric unit of measurement for pressure
- 11. Increases intake manifold pressure
- 12. Connecting or fishing
- 14. Converts hydraulic energy to mechanical (linear) motion
- 15. _____ is measured in Ohms
- 16. Top Dead Center
- 18. First name of the diesel engine inventor or a reindeer
- 21. Stick welding
- 22. Denotes size of particle
- 23. Opposite of square
- 27. Simplest type of hydraulic pump
- 29. Electronic Control Module
- 31. Used to disengage/engage power
- 32. Viton or Buna-N seal
- 35. Allows air/exhaust into or out of cylinder
- 36. Mechanic classification
- 37. Wire-feed welding
- 38. Greeting from Hawaii
- 40. _____ extinguisher
- 41. Small current controlling a large device
- 42. Used to join items together
- 44. Ready, willing and _____
- 46. Preferred wood for blocking/cribbing or in the stove

Where they belong

Operators expand Los Vaqueros Dam/Reservoir

Story and photos by Mandy McMillen, managing editor

Many Operating Engineers do exactly what they were born to do, what they love. You can tell this not just by the quality of their work but by the way they start to fidget when you talk to them on a jobsite. They don't like to take breaks. They don't like to be in the limelight. They want to get back to work, not because they have to, but because they want to. In the seat of a rig is where they belong; it's where they are most comfortable.

Bill Mashore, a member since 1984, is one of these operators. When a grinding tool started a fire at the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion job last summer, Mashore was operating a dozer near the borrowing pile ("making a big mess," he called it). The project engineer for Barnard Construction Company – the main contractor on the more than \$120 million expansion contract under a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) – immediately phoned, telling him to act quickly.

Mashore is good at following orders.

"I stay up here until they call me," he said.

Using the dozer he's so good at operating, he "cut up a fire guard" and stopped the flames from spreading. His fire guard is still visible from below, snaking across the dry ground in a clean, black line.

You can try to give Mashore credit and ask him for the details, but he is a man of few words and very camera shy. He just wants to get back to business. He shakes his head when you say he saved the job, the habitat surrounding it and a lot of money. To him, it's not glamorous. It's just what he does.

"There is steep and sheer rock here – trying to strip it isn't fun. It's a long way to the water."

The water is from the 100,000 acre-feet Los Vaqueros Reservoir, which, with the help of Mashore and about 60 other Operating Engineers, will be expanded to hold 160,000 acre-feet.

Operators are excavating 40 feet off the existing dam and adding 70 feet. Other aspects of the job include 1 million cubic yards of zoned embankment and an extension of the existing grout curtain on both abutments.

Mashore explained that you don't always know what's going to happen on the job, because as with most, this one has had its challenges. As the dam wall was raised and new tie-ins attempted on either side, operators discovered that the sandstone was not capable of withstanding the pressure. But as good operators do, these members adapted. Plans had to change, excavations had to be made further back, holes had to be dug deeper and more concrete had to be poured (with signatory Conco Concrete Pumping) to secure the new tie-ins.

"Like filling a cavity," said Gradesetter Scott Mehawk.

From afar, Mehawk said the project "is like watching one of the world's marvels, and now I'm a part of it."

First-step Apprentice Antoine Farrish shared a similar sense of joy from being involved. "They [journey-level operators] are teaching me a lot, a bunch of equipment. I move whatever they tell me to move."

The project requires a lot of movement, with plenty of blasting, crushing, foundation-grouting and road-restoration added to the dam expansion, which will improve water supplies and water quality for residents living in the Contra Costa Water District. The dam enlargement is the first phase of a \$1.2 billion project. The first phase also includes relocating the marina and realigning 11 miles of trails, which Teichert has been responsible for.

When this phase of the project ends, possibly by next year, Mashore will surely have another job lined up, because being in the seat is exactly where he belongs.

First-step Apprentice Antoine Farrish helps crush rock to make a road for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion project.



Member Scott Mehawk sets grade on the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion job in Contra Costa County.



Walter Martin operates the water pull.



Excavator Operator Mario Giovannetti feeds the crusher to make roads for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir.



Excavator Operator Hank Steffes, also on cover, works in a precarious position on the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion job.



Conco Concrete Pumping Operator Dino Delmonte provides concrete for the tie-ins.



Some 60 Operating Engineers currently work on the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion project.



From left: Dozer Operator Randy Hays works with Bill Mashore, who used this D10 to create the fire break that saved the job.

Battle between crewmembers, SCPD wages on

Santa Cruz community continues to rally behind workers

At a Santa Cruz Port District (SCPD) public meeting held in late September, Local 3 members and staff confronted the elected commissioners with a nice symbol of community support: More than 500 signatures had been gathered urging the commissioners to bargain in good faith.

As usual, the commissioners did not respond to the petition, just as they have failed to respond to reasonable requests by the union to do the right thing.

Since 1986, the SCPD has harmoniously employed local union members to dredge the dangerous harbor, but this harmony changed with the hiring of new SCPD Director Lisa Ekers in 2010. That year, the local dredging crew was forced to take drastic cuts, and this year, the crew was fired. Members have been locked out since July 1 and permanently replaced by unskilled, out-of-state workers.

According to the SCPD, this was a cost-saving measure, but the numbers don't add up: The local dredge crew consisted of five employees, and the new, untrained crew consists of seven. As port commissioners back-pedal, realizing that they did indeed break the law, they have issued return-to-work notices to six Local 3 members, with no intention of laying-off any of the new hires, essentially increasing the dredge crew to 13 employees. The SCPD has also approved a \$175,000 dredge-program consultant and spent more than \$25,000 in legal fees (with \$50,000 more approved) to fight the union, when all the union sought in the original proposal was less than \$10,000! The real kicker is that the recent assessment of the Port's Pension Withdrawal Liability was \$913,315. How is this cost-effective? Why must local workers and taxpayers suffer?

Since September, the crew has been picketing one day a week at the harbor, educating the public about the bad business

practices of Ekers and those who hired her.

Tristan Kennedy supports the dredge crew and has been a Local 3 member since 1988. He believes the weekly pickets are sending a strong message to the commissioners.

"We have the numbers," he said, referring to the amount of union and local support. "Numbers will win over eventually."

According to Dredge Capt. Jim Riley, a 26-year member, the issue is not just about the contract but also about safety.

"I'm watching the non-union crew do what we did, and ... I'm seeing error after error. The potential for failure is increasing every moment," Riley said.

Riley and his crew can always use your help. Call your district office to get details on joining them. Every person on the line is one more symbol of support for unionism and the workers who keep the port safe.



Special Rep. Bran Eubanks hands out fliers to motorists near the port entrance.



Dredge Capt. Jim Riley, right, educates a local resident about the SCPD's bad business practices.

Staff Spotlight: Phillip Deeff



Oakland Dispatcher Phillip Deeff is being honored this month for his dedication to the membership. Fortunately, the Oakland District has had a surge of work, meaning the amount of dispatches Deeff has been responsible for has increased dramatically. Of course, this is "absolutely a good thing," said Deeff. "You want to get as many people out as you can. There's been a lot of people on the out-of-work list the last couple of years."

Deeff does more than dispatch, however. He can be found doing whatever is needed of him, whether that be working at picnics, attending District Meetings or making sure Honorary Members get their service pins. According to Deeff, his primary role as a dispatcher is service to the membership. "Dispatching is gratifying. You're opening something up for somebody. You can feel how thankful they are for it [a job] in their voice."

Deeff is also "thankful for being able to see the inner-workings of the union after being on the outside." Being on staff "has been an opportunity to put something back, return something after all I've received."

Deeff advises the members to answer their phones when the Hall calls. "Sometimes I'll call 30, 40 people for a job before someone actually answers."

Aren't you glad he's the one making the calls?

Background: Joined Local 3 in 1985 as a master mechanic; hired as a business agent in 2010 and then as dispatcher in 2011, where he has served the membership for the last 10 months

Recent achievements: Provides excellent service to the membership by handling increased dispatch load with confidence and competency; always willing to do whatever is needed of him

What the members say: "He is doing a bang-up job as dispatcher and deserves that job. He knows what he's doing now just like he knew what he was doing then [as a mechanic]." – Twenty-eight-year member Joe Aguilar (worked with Deeff for DeSilva Gates for about 17 years)

Let us know if an agent has really impacted your life, whether through negotiations, settling a grievance or regularly calling and visiting you to see how you are doing. Call our Public Relations Department at (916) 993-2047, ext. 2505, or e-mail mmcmillen@oe3.org and tell us why your agent deserves to be highlighted.

Remember: We work for you. Let us know who is doing it right.

Standing strong by standing together

By Michael Strunk, senior business representative

In an unprecedented show of unity, Local 3 inspectors working under the 2008-2011 Testing and Inspection Master Agreement unanimously voted to reject the Northern California Testing and Inspection Association's (NCTIA's) last, best and final offer for a three-year agreement. The NCTIA's proposal included a number of provisions that, if approved, would have meant a reduction of nearly 20 percent on private work across the board in Northern California.



From left: Party chiefs Chad Durant and Eric Gove.

Immediately following the vote to reject the proposal, the assembled members unanimously voted to authorize a strike and established a deadline of Aug. 19, 2011 to secure a fair agreement. Following the strike vote, Local 3 Financial Secretary Dan Reding called on the assembled members for a list of make-or-break issues he could present to the NCTIA to avoid a work stoppage and then went back to the bargaining table to get a better deal.

In a special-called meeting in Alameda on Aug. 25, the membership voted nearly 2 to 1 to accept and ratify a one-year agreement, which matches the \$3 increase to the current prevailing wage in California's 46 counties. The new agreement creates a first-ever "just cause" provision for inspectors, addresses the use of technology in the field, streamlines the supplemental dues language, rewrites the grievance and arbitration provisions and includes a Geographic Market Area provision, bringing it in line with the California Master Agreement.

Job action

Recently, Local 3 Senior Technical Engineers Business Rep. John Rector, District 90 Business Rep. Michael Wertz and I accompanied a Local 3 surveyor crew to a project in San Jose where

there was a dispute over the survey work. Another trade union felt that the work being performed belonged to its membership – a common situation in this down economy. Local 3 met with the project's general contractor, who agreed that this work has always been done by Operating Engineers. Local 3 Technical Engineers representatives met with the other trade union and put an end to the dispute. Through strong actions and solidarity, this issue was quickly resolved

due in part to the great communication between the membership, the employer and the union.

Surveying and the state

In July, the Local 3 officers, directors and Technical Engineers business representatives met with California state officials to discuss prevailing-wage issues with land surveyors in Northern California. The meeting resulted in the California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Labor Statistics and Research adopting language from the Survey Master Agreement. This newly adopted language, which is now part of the prevailing-wage determination for most Northern California counties, will require non-signatory employers to have a Chief of Party as the first person on the crew, regardless of crew size. This issue has long been a thorn in the side of both the union and the employers who have struggled with bidding work against companies that were employing multiple field crews but paying them the chainman/rodman scale. Knowing that non-signatory employers now have the same crew requirements as our Local 3 firms will allow us to bid projects more competitively, hopefully leading to new work, more opportunities for work and dispatches.

FIELD PERSPECTIVE:
What the members are saying

What is unique about working on Hilo?



"The weather is always nice, and you work year round."
– Rick Conradt, seven-year member



"Because we are on an island, there aren't too many jobs, so you need to know how to run a lot of equipment."
– William Santana, 11-year member



"Working in this rock (lava and blue) is challenging."
– Chris Pulgados, seven-year member



"The company and guys you work with are like a second family."
– Gordon Kala, 24-year member



From left: Chris Garrett, Tony Caballero, Rein Puntso and Bob Barth work for Consolidated Engineering.

Events attract members on Oahu, Maui, Kauai

On Sept. 3, the Fourth Annual Empowering Operating Engineers Oahu event was held at the Kapolei Hall. More than 400 members, families and friends attended, as did our political friends and developers. Fun, food, games, prizes and entertainment was enjoyed by all, and everyone went home a winner.

On Maui, our members were able to participate in the inaugural Teen Expo, a fun-filled and educational event for teenagers across the state. Our members

were able to share with teens the benefits of being in Local 3 at an exhibit booth. More than 2,000 participants attended. **Dee Nakooka, Bobby Ramelb and Patrick Ancheta** had an interactive display for teens to participate in.

As far as events go, members have also been attending the 40-hour Hazwoper classes offered on the islands. A class on Kauai included **Lewellyn Akana, Rodney Baptiste, Jason Blackstad, William Blackstad, Min Chang, Alex Domenden,**

Kennison Hanohano, Raymond Jerves, Destry Lumabao, Sheldon Marquiz, Wendall Navales, Allen Nonaka, Brydon Ono, Eugene Pa, Frank Rivera Jr., George Thronas, Buddy Victorino, Kassandra Wong and Lawrence Yadao Sr.

As the holidays approach and we gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, we would like to wish you and your family a very happy and joyous holiday season.



Hazwoper classes, such as this one held on Kauai, are being held on the outer islands for larger groups.

ROHNERT PARK | 6225 State Farm Drive, Suite 100, Rohnert Park, CA 94928 ■ (707) 585-2487

Paving work abundant

Work has moved into high gear in District 10. Much of the work this year is highway paving, and our contractors are working to beat the winter weather. **Ghilotti Construction** has done as much paving on its section of the Hwy. 101 widening project as possible. **Gordon N. Ball** is finishing the concrete bridge structures, so **Ghilotti Construction** can pave out the remainder of the project. **Ghilotti Construction** continues the site-work portions of Sutter Hospital (see page 4) and Burbank Elementary School in Santa Rosa and has paved out Sonoma County's overlay project.

Ghilotti Brothers Construction, along with **W.C. Maloney, Case Pacific** and **R.M. Harris**, is constructing the final bridge section of the Hwy. 101 project at Wilfred Avenue in Rohnert Park. When this project is finished, it will ease traffic congestion on Golf Course Boulevard by allowing traffic direct access under the freeway. This interchange will also ease access to the proposed casino on the west side of Hwy. 101 at Wilfred Avenue. Station Casinos has committed to building this facility all-union and should provide some good hours for Local 3 members. **Argonaut Constructors** is still doing underground work on Third Street in Santa Rosa and has a park project in western Santa Rosa and a shoulder-widening project in Glen Ellen. **Argonaut** will pave Hwy. 116 as soon as the final bridge widening is complete and is currently paving Hwy. 20 in Mendocino County.

Team Ghilotti is wrapping up an intersection-signal and shoulder-widening project near Graton and completed the

passenger drop-off at the Sonoma State University Green Music Center. **Ford Construction Company** is building a large sewer pond at the Sonoma Valley sewer-treatment facility.

DeSilva Gates is moving dirt and building pads near Sonoma State University for a new subdivision and commercial development. **Valentine Construction** is working on a slide repair on Hwy. 1 in Rockport (Mendocino County).

Granite Construction has a lot of work in Lake County, with a crew paving Hwy. 29 from the Lake/Napa county line to Hidden Valley Lakes. The company also has the Hwy. 175 overlay and paving on Hwy. 128 in Mendocino County. Because of these jobs,

Granite's Hwy. 175 quarry is in full swing, with a crew crushing a lot of rock and making Asphalt Concrete (AC). Also in Lake County, **Sierra Equipment** is widening all the shoulders on Hwy. 53 from Clearlake to Hwy. 20 and will eventually overlay the entire job.

The Sonoma County Transit Authority committed money to a right-of-way at Airport Boulevard and Hwy. 101. This is a major interchange project north of Santa Rosa that involves a new overpass and on- and off-ramp improvements. The next step will be putting the job out for bid. Bidding is also just around the corner for the Washington Street to Hwy. 101 northbound on-ramp project in Petaluma. This is ready to go with a Caltrans engineers' estimate of \$10.7 million. **O.C. Jones** is the apparent low bidder on the Hwy. 128 project north of Healdsburg for \$7.4 million.



Members with Case Pacific work on Hwy. 101 at Wilfred Avenue.

We are the best: Get the skills to prove it

Working as an Operating Engineer is a wonderful career choice. Many people would love the opportunity to do what you do. But remember, you still need to upgrade your skills and knowledge. Many dispatches from the job-placement center go unanswered, because members aren't qualified to do the job. For example, many employers ask for operators with GPS experience, special skills or certifications, and

often times, the job-placement center has a difficult time filling the order. Sometimes members don't even answer their phones or just refuse every dispatch request, because they know their skills are limited. Local 3 has state-of-the-art training centers. Utilize them! We want our union to grow. We want our union employers to know that we're sending them the best. We want to strive to be the best, because we are!

Apprenticeship Spotlight

Congratulations to Heavy Duty Repairer (HDR) **Joseph Trimble**, who journeyed out in September.



Training offered this month

Utah has a lot to be thankful for this year, with an outstanding amount of work. The pipeline projects are winding down, but they've been going strong for more than a year and have been a great boost for Local 3. Members who worked on these jobs have gained the experience they need to work on the next one. The pipeline contractors thanked our Hall several times for the quality of hands dispatched to them.

Highway work continued to gain ground this year, with our signatories landing jobs throughout the season, many of which will run into the winter months and restart in the spring. The rail lines are going well and will also continue into next season. **PNK** picked up the Echo Dam stabilization contract and will employ a few members into the winter and spring months, with the major bulk of work starting in July. **Geneva Rock** picked up concrete paving

projects at Hill Air Force Base and on I-84 through Morgan that will continue through next year. **Kiewit** picked up a sewer-line job in the Rose Park area of north Salt Lake City that started in October and will run through February. Crane rental work has also been strong this year and continued to pick up this fall.

The members of Local 3 get up early each day, put their boots on and go into whatever elements Mother Nature brings. They make the projects successful for our contractors and provide for their families. The job may require some members to work days and others to work nights. This is time away from their families, but our members make the sacrifices required to take care of business. They represent Local 3 well and make us all proud to be union.

We are fortunate for the work we've had in a sluggish economy and should continue our efforts to make our contractors successful, which in turn, keeps our members employed in a state that's very competitive with the non-union contractors. The District 12 staff wants to thank our members for their exceptional work ethics and safety-minded attitudes.

As the weather begins to turn and the work starts to slow, the Training Center is gearing up! Every year, we try to offer more training to our members, and this year is no different. Thanks to a great work season and a few pipelines running through

our state, we have been able to purchase some GPS equipment. We will also be offering Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 and OSHA 30 classes – new this year. These will be offered on a monthly basis beginning this month and running through April. The following is a schedule of classes offered this month and next, with more to come in the next issue of *Engineers News*:

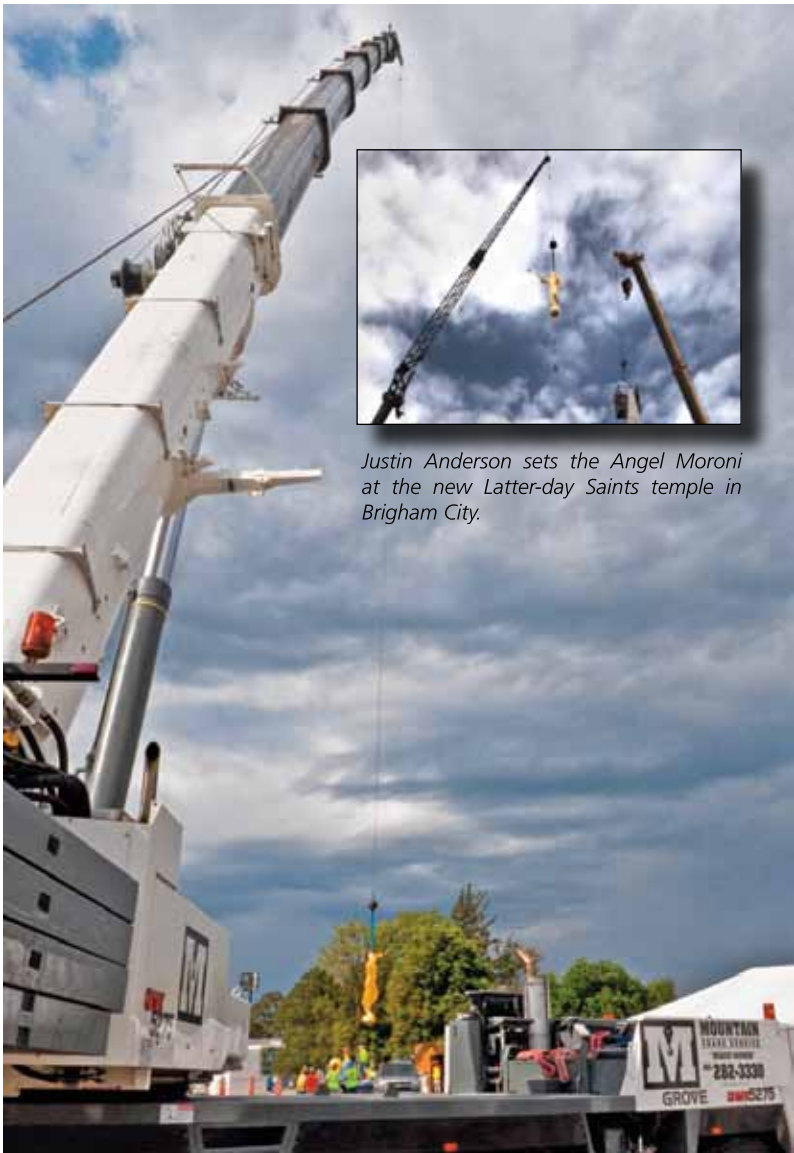
November

- 7-9** – Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) 24-hour new miner
- 10** – MSHA eight-hour refresher
- 11** – Pipeline Operator Qualification Certification (OQC)
- 14-15** – OSHA 10
- 17** – First-aid
- 21-22** – GPS training

December

- 5-7** – MSHA 24-hour new miner
- 8** – MSHA eight-hour refresher
- 9** – Pipeline OQC
- 12-15** – OSHA 30
- 19-20** – OSHA 10
- 21-22** – GPS training
- 22** – First-aid
- 27-29** – GPS training

As always, please call in advance to schedule training (these classes fill up fast) and ensure class times and schedules. All classes may be subject to change.



Justin Anderson sets the Angel Moroni at the new Latter-day Saints temple in Brigham City.

Registering on the out-of-work list

Fall is setting in, and we are entering the beginning of the holiday season. Thanksgiving is a good time to reflect back on this year with gratitude for the most work we have seen in District 80 since the start of the economic downturn. This is true in spite of the rains lasting through May, which created a short, six-month work season. We hope members were able to work enough to increase their Health and Welfare bank of hours and earn a retirement credit.

November is the month that many members get on the out-of-work list, which requires close attention to a few important items:

Item 1: If you have changed your address or phone number in the last year, now is the time to visit the Hall and complete a required, written, change-of-address form. If you have had issues during the year of not receiving information, such as your *Engineers News* or your dues-statement notifications, you should check to make sure your information is current. This is also a good time to check your beneficiary cards.

Item 2: Make sure that you are willing and qualified to perform all the classifications you have listed.

Item 3: Only sign up with districts you are willing and able to travel to. Jobs that come with the ability to work close to home everyday are more and more difficult to find. Sometimes you may need to travel to work. (Please note that District 80 covers Yolo, Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer and Nevada counties.)

Item 4: Once you register on the out-of-work list, registration on the A and B lists is only good for 84 days, so don't forget

to renew it before this time has passed. Members with C-hire status must renew their registration on the first of every month. When on the out-of-work list, you should also consider signing up for classes offered at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC). Members in District 80 should take advantage of these opportunities because of their close proximity to the training center. Classes will be scheduled when the minimum class size is reached. Some of the certification courses offered include Hazwoper, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10, First-aid and CPR, forklift, etc. Many jobs are beginning to require certifications, so make sure you are eligible for this type of work.

Item 5: Last year, some of you may have turned down work because you were unaware of the Short Duration Rule. This rule states that if you have worked 48 hours or less for an employer and call in before noon the day after being laid-off, you are eligible to return to the out-of-work list in your original position. During a short work season like this year, some members may not earn enough hours to receive a Pension credit. Short duration jobs could make up the difference, allowing members to earn credits toward retirement. The rule for Pension credits is as follows: 349 hours or less – 0 credits; 350 to 499 hours – 1/4 credit; 500 to 749 hours – 1/2 credit; 750 to 999 hours – 3/4 credit; and 1,000 hours or more – 1 credit.

With the onset of the winter season, please remain safe and be alert to changing working conditions. The District 80 staff wishes you and your families a happy holiday season.

REDDING | 20308 Engineers Lane, Redding, CA 96002 ▪ (530) 222-6093

Projects already on the books for spring

With winter approaching, many local projects have come to an end. Some jobs this year never got going for one reason or another, but we still have a lot to be thankful for in District 70. Our operators put in a good amount of hours with several projects close to home. The jobs that didn't start this year – the Buckhorn Hwy. 299 project; the I-5 paving north of Lakehead; and work at the Benton Airpark – should give us a good start to next year's work picture.

To date, we have about \$300 million of new work to bid. Many of those projects will be paving, and some are smaller bridge projects. When we get more information about these or any additional projects, we'll

publish it in upcoming editions of *Engineers News* and share it with anyone who calls the Hall.

We still have members working in Red Bluff for **Balfour Beatty**, at I-5 Lakehead for **Tutor-Saliba**, on the Stillwater Business Park in Redding for **Shasta Constructors** and on the last of the paving projects in District 70 by **J.F. Shea Construction Inc.**, **Steve Manning Construction** and **Tullis Inc.** **Granite Construction** is also working in the area.

The District 70 staff would like to wish you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Please stay current with your out-of-work registration, and give us a call if we can help you with anything.



Loader Operator Steve Proaps works for J.F. Shea.



Portable Crusher Operator Nathan Dubose works for J.F. Shea.



Excavator Operator Rodney Taylor and Articulated End Dump Truck Operator Robert Spence work for Granite Construction.

Sperry Road extension breaks ground

Winter is upon us once again, and the work that started late this season will be slowing down as the rains begin. While it's disappointing that we had a short work season, the upside is that we still have a lot of unfinished work on the table. Employers will start up again as soon as the weather clears in the early spring, and the work recalls will kick off.

At the time of this writing, **Teichert Construction** is working at the \$5.3 million Port of Stockton Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway grade-separation project. Work includes building a bridge over the railroad crossing on Daggett Road, which will allow traffic to enter the Port of Stockton without the delay of train traffic. **Teichert** is also working on the Delta levee at Lower Jones Tract, reinforcing and widening the levee and reconstructing the levee road. The project is valued at \$3.8 million.

MCM Construction continues work at the \$7.4 million Bradshaw Crossing project in Lathrop, where crews are constructing a new bridge over the San Joaquin River to connect Weston Ranch to River Island, an upcoming subdivision.

C.C. Myers broke ground on the Sperry Road extension project at Sperry Road and Performance Drive in south Stockton. This new roadway will connect Hwy. 99 to I-5, and the new extension will consist of an elevated roadway that will start at Performance Drive on Sperry Road and head west to I-5, where it will connect.

R&L Brosamer has the I-5 widening project that starts at Eighth Street in south Stockton and heads north on I-5 to

Hammer Lane. Work includes adding a carpool lane, improving the interchange and paving the northbound and southbound lanes.

As far as upcoming work goes, **Dutra** will be working on the \$3.7 million levee-maintenance and rehabilitation project in Woodward. Work includes furnishing and placing 35,000 tons of import fill, 500 tons of Class 2 aggregate, 500 tons of rip-rap slope protection and waterside slope protection.

Work on the Habitat Enhancement Setback includes furnishing and placing about 200,000 tons of import fill and 5,000 tons of Class 2 aggregate.

The first phase of the Manthey Road relocation west of I-5 will realign a portion of Manthey Road to satisfy Caltrans requirements due to the construction of the second phase of the French Camp/I-5 Interchange.

Work includes constructing a two-lane roadway, installing traffic signals, striping and widening French Camp Road. The project, valued at \$3.5 million, went to bid on Oct. 6.

The \$2.4 million south Stockton sidewalk-reconstruction project will affect Eighth, Ninth, 11th and D streets and Pock Lane.

The \$4.1 million Cabral Station platform extension/Miner Avenue undercrossing project will extend the Ace Rail Station along the undercrossing at Miner Avenue in Stockton.

As the upcoming holidays quickly approach, the District 30 staff would like to wish all of our members a happy and safe holiday season. Enjoy your families, friends and loved ones.



Jim McChesney works for R&L Brosamer.

Work continues on first-ever tunnel under Bay

The new Transbay Terminal in downtown San Francisco is progressing rapidly. **Becho** is installing buttress piles to support the surrounding hi-risers, as the site is excavated to a depth of 60 feet. **Malcolm Drilling** and **D&D Construction** are installing secant piles to shore the perimeter. **Balfour Beatty** is performing the excavation. **Eurotech Construction** is working at a slower pace onsite with archeologists, as the dig-out commences. Anything of historic interest must be documented before it is removed.

Also in the city, Oracle Racing hired Crane Operator **Ron Esparza** with **Clipper International** for the America's Cup, slated to start next summer.

In San Mateo County, Operating Engineers are advancing on the first-ever tunnel under the Bay. **Michels-Jay Dee-Coluccio** Joint Venture (JV) is using an earth-pressure-balance machine to drive the Bay Division Tunnel for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). The pressure of the advancing boring machine against the earth stops water leaking in. When maintenance or replacement of teeth is required, a small area in front of the cutting face

is pressurized with compressed air, while mechanics work. Tailings are transported to the surface via conveyor belts, then a vertical conveyor piled with a radial stacker, all controlled by one Operating Engineer near the cutting face.

In Marin County, **Pacific Coast Drilling** (**Uriah Vogt** and **Ken Rose**) is working on the Novato Bridge project in conjunction with **R.M. Harris** (**Patrick Collins** and **Chris Wohn**) and **Ghilotti Bros.** Also working is **Steve Coder**, who is tearing out some of the concrete sections that are on the banks of both sides of the bridge for **De Kay Demolition**. It is great to see **Shamrock Materials** doing some of the covered work on this project. The company is supplying concrete from the batch plant in Novato that had been closed for a long time.

Word has it that the operators at **Shimmick Construction** will be working at the Golden Gate Bridge for another year or so.

The District 01 staff would like to thank everyone who has helped support our endorsed candidates in local elections. Be sure to vote! (See page 14 for details.)

Happy Thanksgiving to all our members.



Uriah Vogt works for Pacific Coast Drilling.

District 50 welcomes new signatory

West Coast Equipment Repair is our newest signatory contractor, and we look forward to working with Owner **Justin Richardson**. Fresno has seen a much-improved work picture compared to this time last year. **Flatiron** is working on state Route 180, **Teichert** is working at the Fresno International Airport, **RGW** has an overcrossing in Madera, **Bill Nelson** has a water main in Fresno and **Emmetts Construction** picked up some local jobs. District 50 has also been busy with several overlays.

As the season winds down and members get on the out-of-work list again, please remember to verify your contact information by calling the Hall. Also,

remember that your registration on the list is only valid for 84 days. You must renew your registration before the expiration date.

There has been a lot of discussion in the news about High-Speed Rail. (The project even made our In The News section on page 3.) Many Valley residents support this project, but there is also some opposition. Our staff has been diligently attending meetings and working with local politicians, but we need your help. Please call the Hall to add your name to the list of volunteers, and let us know when and where you can help.



Member Justin Richardson is the owner of West Coast Equipment Repair, our newest signatory contractor.

NEVADA | 1290 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502 ▪ For all branches, call (775) 857-4440

Work picture is golden

As of this writing, work hours in Nevada are up more than 80 percent over last year. A big reason for the increase is the price of gold, which has reached over \$1,800 per ounce and is expected to rise.

Ames Construction has projects at the Phoenix Mine in Battle Mountain and the Barrick Goldstrike and Cortez mines in Carlin. **N.A. Degerstrom, Inc.** has projects at the Rossi Mine in Carlin, the Queenstake Mine in Elko, the Spirit Mine in Wells, the Lonetree Mine in Golconda, the Turquoise Ridge Mine in Winnemucca and the Robinson Mine in Ely. **Reno-Tahoe Construction** has projects at the Argenta Mine in Battle Mountain and the Coeur-Rochester Mine in Lovelock. **Q&D Construction** is working at the Aurora Mine in Hawthorne. Many of these projects will continue through the winter, and the demand for operators has been high. More projects are expected to bid.

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Part 48 certification is required to work in the mines, and classes are usually held at the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) training site on the first Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the month. Additional classes will be held as needed. Call the training site at (775) 575-2729 for details. If you have any questions regarding mine work, please call Dispatcher **Dylan Gallagher** at the Reno office. In addition to MSHA certification, please be advised that the state of Nevada requires Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification that is five years or newer. Please check the date on your card to verify. Nevada is the only state that requires this.

Work for the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) also had a major impact on the increase in hours this year. **Granite Construction** had projects on I-580 in Reno, I-80 through Reno and Sparks (ongoing), McCarran Boulevard and various city streets. **Sierra Nevada Construction** had a lot of success with RTC projects throughout the Reno and Sparks area, picking up the lion's share of the projects put to bid. The company was also busy in the Eureka area, grading and paving the streets, performing sewer-rehab projects, building new approaches onto Hwy. 50 and providing cold-mill recycling between Eureka and Carlin. **Q&D Construction** performed the paving and grading on I-80 near Fernley, the Mayberry Drive rehab, work on Idaho Street in Elko and the slurry work on bridge decks throughout the state.

With winter ahead, most of the NDOT work will be on hold until the spring. Once spring arrives, a few holdover projects will fire back up, and the NDOT has about \$270 million of potential roadwork scheduled to bid. We are looking forward to the new year.

From Elko

Frehner Construction is finishing up for the winter on I-80. **Q&D Construction** is finishing work on Idaho Street and the second phase of the Elko waterline job and should start on the Carlin Interchange job by the first part of this month, weather permitting.

In Lamoille, **MKD Construction** will start on the waterline job and the Talbot Creek Bridge. **Road and Highway Builders** is finishing work on I-80 near Wendover.

Please remember that the Elko Construction Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Newmont Gold Corporation continues to flourish with the rising price of gold. Exploration and production forge ahead to meet the demands of the company's shareholders. *Mining Quarterly* reports that Exodus Mine is now into production with expected returns of 1,100 tons per day. The Pete Bajo project will be up and running soon, and miners will be going back to work at the Chukar Mine following the Gold Quarry pit slide.

Business Rep. **Bill Bodin** has emerged as a new face at the OE3 office in Elko. A third-generation miner, Bodin brings

20 years of mining experience to the position. For the last eight years, he's been working for **Newmont** as an underground miner at Deep Post, Chukar and Exodus mines. Bodin was also an OE3 steward for **Newmont**. Through his experience, Bodin understands the importance of union support and membership and feels a strong bond with his fellow miners. He hopes to develop a solid working relationship with the workers and companies OE3 serves. "I look forward to speaking with each of the members, so stop by the Hall and say hello," he said. Bodin plans to be a visible and approachable business representative for **Newmont Gold** employees.

Newmont Membership Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m.

The District 11 staff would like to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and remind them to be prepared for winter conditions, as they emerge.



Granite Construction paves I-80 in downtown Reno.

Members drive pile at Trinidad Pier

As the weather changes, companies are scrambling to tie-up loose ends. **Wahlund Construction** is wrapping up the Ferndale Water Treatment Plant and guardrail projects in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. **Granite** had a few members working on Hwy. 36 out of Bridgeville. **Steelhead Construction** is working on the Klamath River and rock wall in Crescent City, and **Dutra Construction** started dredging the harbor to repair the damage caused by the tsunami in March. **West Coast Contractors** started demolishing and driving new pile at the Trinidad Pier, which was also severely damaged by the March tsunami. **Bill Sheppard** has been keeping a few members busy on a waterline at the Arcata Square. **Fluor** brought back a few more operators for the decommissioning at the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Humboldt Bay Power Plant.

Peterson Tractor has been busy working on equipment and, in conjunction with **Mercer-Fraser's** shop, has been keeping jobs running smoothly. **Mercer-Fraser** has been trying to finish its paving projects and harvesting rock at the five rock plants. **Mercer** has also taken on the Klamath River Bridge retrofit,

the Rio Dell Water Treatment Plant and the Martin Slough Interceptor. This local company has been active in seeking projects to keep people working, and it has succeeded in adding a lot of work to the books this season.

Golden State Bridge will begin stripping on the Mad River Bridge project and, at the time of this writing, was ahead of the Oct. 15 deadline to be out of the river. **Powell Concrete** was also on the Mad River Bridge with an impressive three pumps churning out concrete and helping **Golden State Bridge** stay on task. **Powell Concrete** is known for its hard work and the immaculate condition of its pumps. You can imagine how fantastic the job looked when that company was doing the pour.

There are several new projects on the books for 2012, so please call the Hall for information. District 40 would like to remind everybody about the out-of-work list and the 84-day rule. Call and renew your registration often, so you don't fall off the list. Please Slow for the Cone Zone to keep our Caltrans brothers and sisters safe. We wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

YUBA CITY | 468 Century Park Drive, Yuba City, CA 95991 ▪ (530) 743-7321

Teichert finishes jobs for season, has \$7.5 million project ahead

As the work season winds down and the holidays approach, contractors are in a rush to get jobs done or buttoned up before the rain is fully upon us.

Teichert Construction is finishing the Sankey Canal job and imported about 350,000 yards of fill dirt, keeping several members working. **Teichert** also finished paving jobs on Hwy. 70 in Yuba County and on Hwy. 20 in Sutter County. These two jobs alone kept several members working for the latter part of the season, as well as those at the **Teichert Hallwood** plant. Looking ahead, the company has a \$7.5 million project on the books on Hwy. 113 in Sutter County.

In Yuba County, **R.M. Harris Company, Inc.** is working on a bridge replacement at Honcut Road over the South Honcut Creek. In Sutter County, **Mountain Cascade** is still working on the Sankey Road fish screen and weir replacement, and **Nehemiah Construction** is busy on the \$30.4 million project on Hwy. 99 with the Feather River widening and

bridge work near Nicolaus. In Butte County, **Viking Construction** is working on a \$23 million project in Chico.

Whether we like it or not, political season is here. For those of us who enjoy getting a paycheck for our hard work, it's more important than ever to pay attention to what is going on politically, not just locally but nationwide. We need to support the individuals who stand for labor and the working American. Contact the Hall and let us know you are willing to make a difference by becoming a volunteer.

We want to remind everyone not working to stay current on the out-of-work list. Remember, you must re-register before the 84th day of being on the list, or you will lose your position. When you are on the jobsite, keep your eyes open and help protect our work. Give us a call, if you see anything unusual.

As always, the District 60 staff looks forward to serving you and hopes you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



Frank Rojas works for Mercer-Fraser.



Bart Mace works for Peterson Tractor.



Gradesetter Casey Tull works on Teichert's project at the Sankey Canal.



Excavator Operator William Johnson works on Teichert's Sankey Canal project with Loader Operator Jeremy Parks, Foreman Frank Sakurada and Lubrication and Service Engineer Ralph Gonzales, above.

Pancake Breakfast and Motorcycle Toy Run held next month

Sarott Construction and Duran & Venables are working on the addition to the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant in Vacaville. The \$23 million project includes new ponds, headworks facility and perimeter roads as well as an underground piping system. Sarott is keeping excavator operators **Renee Cano** and **Rick Espinosa**, backhoe operators **Glen Marr** and **Chris Reynolds**, Haul Truck Operator **Randy Miller** and Foreman **Scott Griffiths** busy. Duran & Venables is utilizing Blade Operator **Joe Reynolds**, Scraper Operator **Mario Diaz**, Utility Operator **Eric Contreras** and Apprentice **Robert Findley**.

District 04 would like to thank all the hard-working volunteers who have helped us with phone banking and precinct walks during this political season. Please don't forget to make your voice heard by voting on Tuesday, Nov. 8. If you need help finding your polling place, there are links on the Solano and Napa county websites that will help you find it. For our endorsements, please see page 14.

We will be holding our Seventh Annual Pancake Breakfast and Motorcycle Toy Run on Saturday, Dec. 3. You don't want to miss this event. Call the Hall for more details.

MORGAN HILL | 325 Digital Drive, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 ▪ (408) 465-8260

Apprentice sets great example

Work is finally on the rise in District 90. Our members have been dispatched more in the last several months than in the same time period in years past. Let's hope this trend continues for a long time. Remember to keep all your member information current, especially your phone number and address. If you need to make updates or changes, call the Hall.

Granite Construction has overlay projects around the area, including Hwy. 85 from Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 87 in San Jose. The company also has a project in San Benito County that is subcontracted to **Pavement Recycling Systems**. This company is signatory with Local 3 and has a very unique recycling machine that is referred to as "the train." Operators use this machine to grind existing pavement, separate it via a screen and shaker, add oil and put it back down on the roadway. A paving machine then paves it back over the road. The road gets fog-oiled, and then a final layer of new asphalt is applied. This saves a lot of time, money and waste.

Cupertino Electric is busy installing solar panels at the Centennial Recreation Center in Morgan Hill. **DeSilva Gates** is expanding the cells at the John Smith Landfill in Hollister, and **R.J. Gordon** is expanding the cells at the Pacheco Pass Landfill in Gilroy. **Lewis and Tibbetts**, along with **West Valley Construction**, continues waterline replacement for the San Jose Water Company in Santa Clara County. **ARB** and **Snelson Companies**

continue to work for Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) on the hydrostatic testing of gas lines in and around several counties in the Bay Area. **Pantano Demolition** is finishing the demo of several buildings in Gilroy and was involved in the large demo project at the Moffet Field Airbase in Mountain View, taking down old hangars and wind tunnels. **Graniterock/Pavex** is keeping busy along East Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz County, constructing retaining walls, replacing underground pipe, paving, grinding and installing curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

District 90 would like to thank the other districts and members who came out to walk the picket line and get signatures at the Santa Cruz Harbor in support of the dredge crewmembers who were wrongfully terminated. We gathered pages and pages of signatures in support of our members and their families, which should make the Santa Cruz Port District (SCPD) return to the negotiating table in the hopes of getting a new, fair contract. As unions come under fire from different states and governments, we all have to start taking a stand for them.

Contract negotiations are still going slowly for our brothers and sisters at the **Graniterock A.R. Wilson Quarry** in Aromas. We are going into negotiations with **Papé Machinery** in District 90 and have had success with several contracts, including the Bay Area building materials dealers and the **Granite Construction** asphalt plants.

In tough times like these, our staff and negotiating committees have their work cut out for them, but as long as we keep fighting and stick together, we *can* get a fair contract. Remember: It's our union, and we have to stay involved to keep it the best in the nation.

Political update

To those of you who live in Monterey County, there is an important general election on Nov. 8. Please vote for the following endorsed candidates based on the district you live in: **Manuel Osorio** (District 01) and **Elia Gonzalez** (Castro

District 04) for Monterey County Hartnell Community College; **Brian Higgins** (District 04) and **Ron Panziera** (District 05) for Monterey County Board of Education; and **Jeanne Byrne** for Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. Depending on the outcome of these elections, jobs may be created, so get out and vote!

Apprenticeship Spotlight

Fifth-step Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Apprentice **Andrew Balcazar** is currently working for **Beebe Corporation Inc.** He completed his required Supplemental Related Training (SRT) as a third-step apprentice and has taken all the additional training offered to him. He has passed 11 journey-level competency tests and requested additional training!



Fifth-step Apprentice
Andrew Balcazar.

Balcazar is a great example of what it takes to be a well-rounded journey-level operator. He is willing to be dispatched to any employer and has worked for **Pacific Underground Construction Inc.**, **RGW Construction Inc.**, **Joseph J. Albanese Inc.**, **Berkel & Company Contractors Inc.**, **Flatiron West Inc.** and **Robert A. Bothman**. He started out as an employer referral, but when work slowed down, he got on the out-of-work list and has never refused a job opportunity. He is involved in the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program and has attended Fair Industry Strike Training (FIST) classes.

Balcazar is a second-generation Operating Engineer. His father, **Tino Balcazar**, said he was on equipment at 8 years old.

Andrew's fellow workers said he does what he is asked, gets off the equipment to help out, follows direction, anticipates work, asks questions and is the best apprentice **Beebe Corporation Inc.** has ever had. There's no doubt he will become a great operator.



Members operate **Pavement Recycling Systems'** unique recycling machine, known as "the train."

Local 3 Scholarship Foundation Contest Rules for 2012

Applications available at district offices, Credit Union branches and online at www.oe3.org

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 only be attained 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.

Local 3 awards two types of scholarships: *Academic Scholarships* (winners are judged based on academic qualifications) and *Merit Scholarships* (winners are selected through a raffle drawing).

WHO MAY APPLY

Children (sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children) of Local 3 members may apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must be a member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the application. Grandchildren are only eligible to apply if their grandparent (member) is their legal guardian. Children of deceased members are eligible to apply for the scholarships, if the parent of the applicant was a member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Six academic college scholarships will be awarded to children of Local 3 members:

First place: Two scholarships of \$4,000 each will be awarded to the first-place female and male applicant, with an additional \$2,000 for the second, third and fourth years of college, if they remain full-time students. (\$10,000 total)

Second place: Two scholarships of \$3,000 each will be awarded to the second-place female and male applicant, with an additional \$1,500 for the second, third and fourth years of college, if they remain full-time students. (\$7,500 total)

Third place: Two scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded to the third-place female and male applicant, with an additional \$1,000 for the second, third and fourth years of college, if they remain full-time students. (\$5,000 total)

These scholarships can only be used for study at an accredited college or university located in the United States and do not impose restrictions of any kind on the course of study. Recipients may accept any other grants or awards that do not rule out scholarship aid from other sources. Winners must submit proof of full-time enrollment to receive payment for the second, third and fourth years.

The applicants *must be high school seniors* who have, or will be, graduated at the end of either the fall semester (beginning in 2011) or the spring semester (beginning in 2012) in public, private or parochial schools, plan to attend an accredited college or university anywhere in the United States during the academic year and 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 no less than a 3.0 (B) weighted grade point average in their high school work.

Applications will be accepted between *Jan. 1, 2012 and March 31, 2012*.

AWARDING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Upon receipt of the application and required forms, Local 3 will not exercise any choice among the applicants or indicate in any way that one applicant should be favored over another. The University of California 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 awarded through a raffle drawing; therefore, only one application is required. Merit Scholarships will be awarded at Local 3's July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

INSTRUCTIONS

The following items must be postmarked by March 31, 2012:

1. APPLICATION AND ESSAY must be filled out and returned by the applicant.
2. REPORT ON APPLICANT AND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT must 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. Transcripts must be official.
3. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION must be submitted by the applicant. One to three letters of recommendation from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the applicant must give information about the applicant's character and ability. Please submit all letters of recommendation with the application.
4. PHOTOGRAPH must be submitted by the applicant. It should be a recent photograph, preferably 2 inches by 3 inches, with the applicant's name written on the back. Professional photographs, such as senior portraits, are preferred. (The photo should be clear enough to reproduce in the *Engineers News*.)
5. NEWSPAPER INFORMATION must be submitted by the applicant. Provide the name and phone number of a local newspaper, so we can send a press release, if the applicant is selected as a winner.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the six Academic Scholarships, Local 3's Scholarship Foundation will award 25 \$1,000 Merit Scholarships. Children of Local 3 members who plan to attend college or trade school are eligible to apply. The Merit Scholarship winners will not be judged on academic qualifications but instead be selected through a raffle drawing held at Local 3's July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win; winners will be notified by Local 3. All applicants who apply for the Local 3 Academic Scholarships and do not win will automatically qualify for this drawing; therefore a second application is not necessary.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012. Previous winners are not eligible to apply.

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, postmarked no later than March 31, 2012:*

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



District Meetings

The fourth-quarter 2011 District Membership Meetings concluded in the month of October. At these meetings, the membership approved, by secret-ballot vote, to adopt the proposed changes to the Local 3 Bylaws. All changes to the Bylaws will go into effect Jan. 1, 2012. Thank you for participating in your union by casting your vote.

The first-quarter District Membership Meetings will take place in March 2012. Please check the January issue of *Engineers News* for dates and locations.

Town Hall Meetings

The following meetings will be held at the District 11 Hall in Elko (1094 Lamoille Highway) at 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2011

- 2nd Newmont Mine Meeting
- 9th Construction Meeting

DECEMBER 2011

- 7th Newmont Mine Meeting
- 14th Construction Meeting

2011 District Picnics

District 17: Maui Picnic Details
Saturday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Maui Arts and Cultural Center
One Cameron Way, Kahului, Maui
Cost: Free

Honorary Membership

The following Retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of September 2011 and have been determined eligible for Honorary Membership effective Oct. 1, 2011.

- James L. Dunn
1058405
District 90: Morgan Hill
- Kelly Eaton
1510961
District 30: Stockton
- Charles Hendsch
1615237
District 20: Oakland
- Alan W. Lamar
1679520
District 20: Oakland
- Lionel Quindica
1524009
District 17: Hawaii
- Ernest Rodriques
1558174
District 20: Oakland
- Lonnie W. Sample
0826888
District 99: Out Of Area
- Vaughn Twitchell
1535301
District 12: Utah

New Members

- District 11: Nevada*
Bridget Burchard
Chet Earl
Charles Frost
Rogelio Gutierrez Jr.
Jed Holt
Steven Lloyd
Hunter Longhurst
Harold Smith
Rick Steinfeldt

Go paperless
Engineers News online option available

Members who would rather read their award-winning *Engineers News* online instead of receiving it in the mail, can go paperless. This format will save the union printing and mail costs and will cut down on waste.

If interested, please send an e-mail to gopaperless@oe3.org with your name, mailing address and union registration number.



Dear Editor:

[In response to the Go Paperless campaign printed in the October 2011 edition of Engineers News], YES, it's great to go paperless, and I fully support this move. For a long time, I have wondered how much money is spent on printing and mailing our magazine. As much as I like the quality of the publication and its content, I have to wonder about all this ending up in the trash or on a good day in the recycle bin.

Since my move to North Carolina after retirement in 2000, the OE News is the only contact I have with Local 3. And of course the all-important and welcome monthly check.

Thanks for all you people do for our union.

Fred Deubert
Reg# 2011010

Letters to the Editor should be 200 or fewer words, should reference articles previously published in *Engineers News* and are subject to editing. The use of offensive language and unsubstantiated, personal accusations will not be permitted. Letters must include your name and registration number.

To submit a letter by mail:
Letters to the Editor
Operating Engineers Local 3
3920 Lennane Drive
Sacramento, CA 95834

By fax: (916) 419-3487

By e-mail: newsletters@oe3.org

Local 3 Scholarship Foundation

Giving gifts that last a lifetime

A charity is only as strong as its contributors want it to be, and the Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation is no exception. Today, the Foundation is strong both financially and in the support it receives from Local 3. It has grown substantially in the last several years, with much of its success due to an increase in donations from members, friends of labor and the employer community. Most contributions come in the form of traditional cash donations, but some have chosen more creative methods. Because of tax considerations, some donors are able to give a gift that is greater than they thought possible. These gifts help build the strength and future of the Scholarship Foundation and allow the donor to experience giving the gift of a lifetime. The Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation offers a variety of ways to contribute:

- Cash gifts in any amount to the general scholarship fund
- Merit sponsors and memorial and honor gifts: You can contribute to the Scholarship Foundation in the memory or honor of a loved one, friend or colleague or to commemorate a special occasion. The Foundation will acknowledge your gift to the person(s) you designate and provide written acknowledgement of your gift and the amount. A \$1,000 minimum is necessary to establish a named gift, and there are four donation levels:

Merit	\$1,000
Third-place academic	\$5,000
Second-place academic	\$7,500
First-place academic	\$10,000

- Bequests: Gifts made through your will allow you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime and distribute them as you wish upon your death. Many people choose to include a gift to the Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation. Leaving a fixed dollar amount or specific property are the most common types of bequests. A charitable bequest may reduce your estate tax. Consulting an attorney is advised any time you make or change a will.
- Securities: There may be an advantage to giving marketable securities (stocks, bonds or mutual funds) instead of cash. In some cases, you may receive a charitable deduction on your taxes, as well as avoid taxes on capital gains. Consult your financial adviser for details.

If you would like more information on donating to the Scholarship Foundation or have questions, please contact Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan at (510) 748-7400.

You can now donate online!
Visit www.oe3.org/about/scholarship/donation.html.

Yes!

I would like to support the 2012 Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Fund.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$_____

Name:

Phone:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Clip out & mail to:

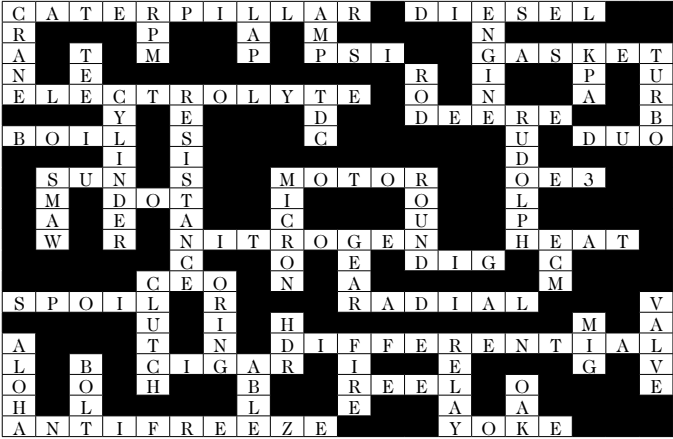
Jim Sullivan, Recording-Corresponding Secretary

Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3

1620 South Loop Rd., Alameda, CA 94502

Please note:

Anyone who contributes \$20 or more will receive a scholarship pin.



DEPARTED MEMBERS

- Andrews, David
Honolulu, HI
District 17
08-25-11
- Barney, Boyd
San Bernardino, CA
District 99
08-15-11
- Becker, John
Oakley, CA
District 20
08-25-11
- Brasier, Emil
Oroville, CA
District 60
08-09-11
- Craig, Shahn
Carlin, NV
District 11
07-30-11
- Donati, Joe
Lincoln, CA
District 80
08-21-11
- Evans, Melvin
Seminole, OK
District 99
08-07-11
- Feliciano, John
Wahiawa, HI
District 17
08-02-11
- Genn, Fred
Hughson, CA
District 30
08-12-11
- Hilton, Thomas
Mountain Home, AR
District 99
08-29-11
- Jackson, Jack
Greenville, CA
District 60
08-28-11
- Jacobs, George
Foster City, CA
District 01
08-22-11
- Johnson, Frank
Sandy, UT
District 12
08-04-11
- Johnston, Robert
Livermore, CA
District 20
08-27-11
- Kuloloia, Frank
Kapolei, HI
District 17
08-16-11

- Makainai, Jesse Sr.
Kaneohe, HI
District 17
08-14-11
- McPeeters, Roger
Sonora, CA
District 30
07-21-11
- Medeiros, James
Captain Cook, HI
District 17
08-14-11
- Moore, Michael
Napa, CA
District 04
07-20-11
- Morgan, Robert
Oroville, CA
District 60
08-08-11
- Morris, Charley
Sallisaw, OK
District 99
08-12-11
- Nardi, Francis
Spring Creek, NV
District 11
08-08-11
- Norton, Jim
Pocatello, ID
District 99
08-18-11
- Ohlen, Darrel
Richmond, CA
District 20
08-07-11
- Ostrander, Robert
Rohnert Park, CA
District 10
08-08-11
- Payne, Sam III
Oakley, CA
District 20
08-10-11
- Peerson, N
Holdenville, OK
District 99
08-05-11
- Reed, Mark
Burlingame, CA
District 01
09-01-11
- Rivera, Atanasi
Sacramento, CA
District 80
08-16-11
- Scott, Michael
Lehi, UT
District 12
08-08-11

- Telford, Fred
Hilmar, CA
District 50
08-29-11
- Wisby, Dennis
Olema, CA
District 01
08-14-11
- Anderson, Connie.
Wife of Anderson,
Matthew R.
05-09-11
- Castillo, Irmgard.
Wife of Castillo, Philip
(dec)
08-10-11
- Church, Mary Ellen.
Wife of Church, Henry
(dec)
08-18-11
- Crowder, Irene.
Wife of Crowder,
William F. (dec)
07-28-11
- Davis, Bobbie.
Wife of Davis, Clayton
(dec)
08-21-11
- Dollard, Marlene.
Wife of Dollard, Ken
08-13-11
- Douglas, Marian.
Wife of Douglas,
Gordon (dec)
08-26-11
- Fish, Leora.
Wife of Fish, Hugh
(dec)
09-02-11
- Hammond, Alberta.
Wife of Hammond,
Fred (dec)
08-15-11
- Hanger, Kathryn.
Wife of Hanger,
Michael (dec)
08-21-11
- Harn, Ellen-Rae.
Wife of Harn, Gerald
(dec)
07-24-11
- Hicks, Dayler.
Daughter of Hicks,
Dwight D.
08-27-11
- Jim, Flora.
Wife of Jim, Richard
(dec)
07-24-11

- Kimerer, Sally.
Wife of Kimerer,
Henry (dec)
08-01-11
- Lacy, Lajetta.
Wife of Lacy, Richard
(dec)
07-28-11
- Lannen, Esbenia.
Wife of Lannen,
Thomas (dec)
08-02-11
- Lewis, Emma.
Wife of Lewis, Donald
(dec)
08-07-11
- McBurney, Barbara.
Wife of McBurney,
C.L. (dec)
08-09-11
- Mitchell, Zachary.
Son of Mitchell, Brian
P.
08-18-11
- Muller, Margo.
Wife of Muller,
William
08-18-11
- Murphy, Julie.
Wife of Murphy,
Garry L. (dec)
08-13-11
- Oya, Edith.
Wife of Oya, Harry
(dec)
08-25-11
- Pelphrey, Betty.
Wife of Pelphrey,
Richard
08-11-11
- Porterfield, Vern.
Wife of Porterfield,
George E. (dec)
08-05-11
- Restad, Shirley.
Wife of Restad,
Clarence
01-25-11
- Sleeman, Nelda.
Wife of Sleeman,
Leroy
07-11
- Tuck, Barbara.
Wife of Tuck, Doyle
(dec)
08-28-11
- Wardell, Marie.
Wife of Wardell,
William (dec)
08-16-11
- Williams, Susanne.
Wife of Williams, Levi
(dec)
08-08-11

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(4) Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail (Include Pickup Stands, Trade Shows, Showrooms and Other Sources)	1,100	1,100
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A healthy angle(r)

Bass fishing has many benefits

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

The sport of bass fishing has lured many of our members. It's reeled them in and left them hooked! But what these fishing enthusiasts may not know is that they've actually taken the bait to a healthy hobby.



Retiree Bill Curtis shows off an impressive, 11-pound, 9-ounce bass he caught recently.

Fellow bass fisherman and Crane Operator Matt Evans can also tell when he has had a “good” day, because he can feel it in his arms, legs and back.

“Bass fishing is definitely physical,” he said. “Unless you’re dragging a worm, you’re constantly casting and relocating.”

When you do catch something, it can take a lot of strength to pull it in.

“You’re constantly stretching,” said the District 20 member, whose biggest catch was an 11-pound, 6-ounce bass he caught in the Delta (Franks Tract). “At the end of the day, you know you’ve been fishing because you’re tired. ... There’s nothing lackadaisical about it.”

Evans says bass fishing is also good for the mind. “The personal competition between you and the fish keeps you sharp,” he said. “It’s you versus Mother Nature, and that’s a feat in itself.”

Unfortunately, Mother Nature usually wins – “That’s why they call it fishing and not catching,” Evans said and laughed – but maybe that’s the draw.

“You get an adrenaline rush when you do catch a fish ... and that is just one of the best feelings you can get,” explains Evans. “I don’t even drink coffee before I go bass fishing, because I just have so much adrenaline.”

While cutting the caffeine, Evans increases his intake of the good ol’ outdoors and “the fresh, clean air.”

“You wake up early, you get to watch the sunrise, which is beautiful,” he said. “Going to find a nice shady spot for lunch [on the water] is always nice.”

Bass fishing offers a long list of health benefits, from physical activity to stress reduction.

“It’s not playing football,” admits 23-year member Steve Dollard, “but you’re moving around.”

The District 30 crane operator, who works for Maxim Crane, goes bass fishing any chance he can. In fact, “I fish too much,” said the three-time California Bass Federation state-team member. But at least he’s being active.

“You’re on your feet all day,” he said. “If I’m going to a big tournament, I fish for seven days.” That’s four days of practice, then a three-day tournament. “You’re worn out at the end of those seven days.”

District 80 Business Rep. Greg Dornback, yet another Local 3 bass fisherman, agrees. He likes to “turn off the phone and disconnect for awhile.”

“I think the part about getting to see the sunrise in the morning and sitting on or next to the water is always awesome for me,” he said. “A little fog on the water, hearing sounds of the geese or an osprey or eagle is very special. Also, one of the things that I really like about fishing is I have never seen anyone, no matter their age or gender, not smiling when they have a fish on the end of their line!”

Bass fisherman Matt Thompson, a diesel mechanic who works for Ryder in District 80, also enjoys his surroundings and says it gives him a chance to de-stress.

“For me, it’s relaxing,” said the seven-year member. “It gets me away from everyday life.”

Bass fishing does the opposite for District 80 Retiree Bill Curtis – instead of a break, it gives him something to do.

“When you’re getting older and about to retire, you better damn well find something to do,” he said, explaining that simply “sitting around” can harm Retirees more than they may think.

Curtis played fast-pitch softball when he was younger, but “when you get too old to run around the bases,” he said you should find a new hobby.

“Do something – swimming, bowling, fishing. Call me. Call a business agent,” said Curtis, a retired land surveyor who regularly fishes tournaments with Senior Business Rep. John Rector.

Rector and Dornback are among many Local 3 business agents who have the bass-fishing bug, and there are hundreds of members who do it as well. If you still can’t find someone to fish with, Thompson recommends visiting www.westernbass.com.

“If they [members interested in the sport] want a guide, there are a lot of good guides out there who will take you out,” he said. Another good site to check out is www.calbassin.com.

If you do hit the water, remember: A reel expert can tackle anything!



Crane Operator Steve Dollard holds a 12.77-pound bass that he caught in a tournament last year. It’s the biggest fish he’s caught to date.



Crane Operator Matt Evans caught this 11-pound, 6-ounce bass in the Delta (Franks Tract).

Fish and diabetes

Although most competitive bass fishermen catch and release, those who do feast on fish are helping their hearts. Many varieties offer lots of healthy, omega-3 fatty acids, and many doctors believe fish can help people with diabetes lower their risk of kidney disease.

According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), people with diabetes should eat non-fried fish two or three times a week, especially varieties like rainbow trout, salmon and tuna, which some of our members catch themselves. Fish is a good source of protein with fewer calories than other meats.

For more information on a fish-based, diabetic diet, visit www.diabetes.org.

Swap Shop ads are offered free of charge to members in good standing for the sale or trade of personal items and/or real estate. Please notify the office if your item has been sold. Business-related offerings are not eligible for inclusion in Swap Shop. *Engineers News* reserves the right to edit ads. Ads received by the 1st of the month will run the following month. Limit two ads per issue.

To place an ad, type or print legibly and mail to:

Operating Engineers
Local Union No. 3
3920 Lennane Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95834
ATTN: Swap Shop*

Or call:
(916) 993-2047, ext. 2506

Or fax ads to: Swap Shop
(916) 419-3487

Or e-mail to:
jjohnston@oe3.org

*All ads must include Member Registration Number or ad will not appear.

FREE: Gradesetter plywood pickup organizer. 6-½ feet length by 4 feet width. Room for grade stick, Lenker rod, tripod, two bundles lath on bottom. Platform on top has room for plans, GPS, laser, etc. Retired; don't need it anymore. San Ramon. (925) 735-9038. Reg# 1826056.

FOR SALE: Remodeled 2 bd/1.5 ba homestead on 37-plus acres in Wauconda area, near Bonaparte Lake. Rolling hills, pond, sub-irrigated pastureland, dense forest. Plenty of water. Deer, moose, elk sighted. Secluded. Completely fenced and cross-fenced. Hot tub, detached garage, pole barn with power, water, RV storage. \$265,000. (509) 486-0830. Reg# 1770647.

FOR SALE: Like new 2004 seadoo bomardie sportster 4-tec 20 hours or less. Contact Mary at (707) 480-4121 or vpd412@aol.com. Reg# 0939949.

FOR SALE: Land – 10.92 acres, 30 minutes north on Hwy. 395 from Reno, Nev. in Rancho Haven. Great owner financing with 10 percent down. Beautiful view lot. Some level, some sloping. Power less than 50 feet. Will need well/septic. Completely surveyed. \$57,700. (865) 363-3273. Reg# 1840427.

FOR SALE: 1928 five-window coupe Model A Ford. Restored. 76,000 actual miles. \$11,500 OBO. (916) 991-1530. Reg# 0486196.

FOR SALE: 302A John Deere Tractor. Bucket in front, hydraulic tilt on scraper and rippers, safety cab; set up for backhoe; has reconditioned heads, heavy-duty pump for backhoe, new valves, injectors, diesel fuel pump, booster pump and starter, good tires. Ready to go to work. \$9,500 OBO. Will take smaller tractor in trade. (916) 991-1530. Reg# 0486196.

FOR SALE: 2005 Allegro Bay 37-foot motor home. Two slides, back-up camera system, two air conditioners, two heaters, two full entertainment centers, solar, auto awning, hot water electric/or gas, queen-size bed, 47,000 miles, new brakes and rotors. \$60,000 OBO. (707) 569-8825 or (707) 953-3877. Reg# 2017003.

FOR SALE: Manual chain hoists. Quality American-made Acco Wright 4-ton lift, 30-foot chain diameter ½-inch. \$175. Also: 3-ton Pittsburg Forge “import” chain hoist. \$90. Two-ton adjustable trolley for beam 3 inches to 8 inches. \$60. (916) 487-2201. Reg# 2046985.

FOR SALE: 2003 30-foot Wellcraft Martinique boat with 2007 Nextrial trailer. Very clean. Excellent condition. 2-by-10 swim deck. White with full black canvas enclosures. Large salon, wraparound lounge, portside lounge seats eight adults; sleeps eight. Walk-through windshield. Power engine compartment hatch. 310 hours on twin 5.0 Mercruiser MPI motors (305 chev), Bravo 3 drives. Extras. \$55,000 OBO. Call Ken at (559) 960-4966. Reg# 2149218.

FOR SALE: 2007 Nu-Wa HitchHiker 11, L.S. FKTG, 29.5-foot-long 5th wheel. Three slides, queen bed, Splendide combo washer/dryer, 2,000-watt inverter, Trac Vision satellite dome, 32-inch TV and DVD with surround sound in living room, 19-inch TV in bedroom. Designer glass tile backsplash in kitchen, bathroom. Purchased new in May 2009. \$32,500. (530) 273-2489. Reg# 1025259.

FOR SALE: 2010 Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie 4X4. Long bed, crew cab, light graystone pearl coat, GPS navigation system, 6.7-liter Cummins Turbo Diesel, diesel exhaust brake, rear back-up camera, U-Connect with voice command. Fifth Airborne pin box, Reese 5th wheel hitch and large diamond-plated toolbox included. Remote start, heated steering

wheel, more. All warranties transferable. 5,800 miles. \$42,500. (530) 273-2489. Reg# 1025259.

FOR SALE: Retired mechanic is reducing tool inventory. Too much to list. Please call with what you need. Also have Tec 1000 top and bottom box. Asking \$4,000. (209) 662-0615. Reg# 2579515.

FOR SALE: 2006 550 H Case Dozer. 1,830 hours. ROPS with sweeps, rear screen, six-way blade, ripper, 70 percent UC with 16-inch pads. \$34,900. Contact Lee at (916) 768-8801. Reg# 2284201.

WANTED: Shotguns, rifles, pistols and ammunition. From one to a whole collection. (559) 351-6615. Reg# 2123273.

FOR RENT: 2 bd/2 ba ocean-front condos in Maui. Both units are right on the ocean at Sugar Beach in Maalaea Bay. Full kitchens, laundry. Sleeps six. Visit www.MarysMauiCondo.com or call (707) 480-4121. Reg# 0782777.

FOR SALE: Condo in Maui, 2 bd/2 ba. Ready to move in or use as a vacation rental. Comes furnished. Ocean-front unit. (707) 747-6727 or vpd412@aol.com. Reg# 0782777.

WANTED: Mazda MX3 GS. Running or not. '92 to '95. All of the front end sheet metal, bumper, trim, lenses, air dam, grill, hood, etc., from the doors forward, and all components in the engine compartment, must be complete and virgin or factory-replacement parts. White in color earns extra consideration. Leave message at (510) 278-2936. Reg# 2577104.

FOR SALE: D4J Cat, rebuilt engine, new clutch, battery, alternator, D2 fuel tank. New seat. \$3,000. 540 3-cylinder industrial Ford tractor. Cannon scraper. Front loader. New tubes in rear tires. New seat. Contact Bob at (707) 326-1544. Reg# 0711800.

FOR SALE: Marble collection. Approximately 4,200, all in antique fruit jar with zinc lids. Some very old. Will send pictures if interested. \$750 for all. (530) 223-4388. Reg# 0827031.

FOR SALE: 1,900-square-foot, 3 bd/2-½ ba ranch-style home with in-ground pool. One block from beach. On Gulf Coast in Long Beach, Miss. No Katrina damage. Multiple listing number 243126. \$179,000. Call Nancy at (228) 547-6161. Reg# 1589183.

FOR SALE: Reduced to \$255,000 – 16.75 acres in

south Idaho. Fully fenced, 34 shares of irrigation water. 3 bd/2 full ba. Master bath has garden tub. New fixtures throughout. New pressure tank, hot water heater, heat pump/air conditioner. Attached, oversized two-car garage with cabinets and storage 24-by-24 workshop/barn with cool room corrals and other outbuildings. Young fruit trees. (208) 733-5089 or (435) 225-3184. Reg# 0848252.

FOR SALE: 2001 11-½-foot Arctic Fox Slide In Camper with 11-foot electric slide-out room. 11-foot awning, electric jacks with remote control. Two solar panels, two door fridge, water cooler, storm windows. Two radios; one with CD player; other cassette player. In good condition. \$13,000. Call Don at (575) 388-9620. Reg# 0900556.

FOR SALE: 14-inch-by-40-inch Clausing Lathe: \$3,500. Samson vertical mill (Bridgeport style): \$3,000. Scatchman Jet Ironworker: \$1,500. Also many grinders, saws and other shop tools. All located in Beowowae, Nev., about 40 miles west of Elko on I-80. (415) 492-1476. Reg# 1098479.

FOR SALE: 2006 Athens Park Royal Mobile Home located in Elko, Nev. trailer park. Unit can be kept in park or relocated and is in good condition with some work needed. \$19,900. (New, these units go for \$70,000.) Call Gig or Susan at (775) 738-8071 or John at (866) 259-6630. Reg# 2553692.

FOR SALE: Rebuilt 1972 Ford 351 Cleveland. Standard pistons, four-bolt main, crankshaft connecting rods and pistons balanced, aluminum Edel Brock intake manifold. Chrome valve covers. Mild camshaft. Aluminum belt pulleys. Hedman hedders. Needs carburetor and distributor. More than \$3,500 invested. \$1,800 OBO. (510) 303-5228. Reg# 2380873.

FOR SALE: Acra mill. Sargon electronics. Three-phase generator. Runs on 220-1 phase power. Table has no slop in both “x” and “y” directions. Comes with 6-inch Magnum vise, 360-degree rotation table, 50-plus collets, tool holders and some tooling. \$2,500 OBO. Also: Three Kurt 6-inch double vises, model DL 640. Paid \$750 each. All three for \$500. (510) 303-5228. Reg# 2380873.

FOR SALE: 2008 Montana 5th wheel. 35-feet long. Has electric fireplace and

surround sound for movies and stereo. Has hitch and portable side patio. Has two slides (bedroom and living room) and a queen number bed. \$27,000. (541) 661-1423. Reg# 1142922.

FOR SALE: 2008 Jayco Super Eagle Lite 30.5 BHS 5th wheel: \$19,200. Excellent condition; only used four times. Below NADA RV pricing. Four bunks in rear, table sleeps two, pull-out couch sleeps two, master suite sleeps two. Large slide out in main living area for sofa, dinette. Hitch included. Remainder of five-year warranty. Pictures available. Call John at (209) 513-7840 or jsrinlodica@yahoo.com. Reg# 2657282.

FOR SALE: Generator. Portable; gas-powered. Five hours of use. Pro-Source UG2300. 2,000 watt, 5.5 hp. Output: 120 v ac, 12 v dc. Great condition. \$180. (510) 278-2936. Reg# 2577104.

FOR SALE: 2006 34-foot Presidential 5th wheel with 2006 F350, Super Duty Combo. Both are in excellent condition. Call for more details. (707) 778-3160. Reg# 1826093.

FOR SALE: 1982 GMC Sierra Classic 4X4. Rebuilt motor, 20,000 miles on new motor, fresh paint, new tires 35X12.5 all-terrain, full power, dual tank, short bed, smog legal. \$3,500 OBO. (510) 551-7933. Reg# 2387132.

FOR SALE: 1974 Chevy Step Side dual tank need restoration, complete some parts. \$1,500, trade, OBO. (510) 551-7933. Reg# 2387132.

FOR SALE: 2003 35-foot Montana 5th wheel. Three slides, new hot water heater and Dominic refrigerator. Clean. \$20,000. (530) 343-2070. Reg# 1862038.

FOR SALE: A Denon AVR2801 Amp, a Sony STR-DE 2801 Amp, a Yamaha HTR 5990 Amp, Sony 5.1 speaker system with rear speaker stands, Audio Vox 5.1 speaker system with rear speaker stands plus Kliptch subwoofer. All remotes included, owner manuals, plus speaker wire, connections, etc. Will accept any reasonable offer. Located in Roseville, Calif. Call Tim at (415) 559-6500. Reg# 1986429.

FOR SALE: 12-inch digital caliper, Mitutoyo (digimatic). \$110. Also: A Fowler 0-1-inch micrometer with syltvac digital 6-inch caliper. \$110. (530) 622-7026. Reg# 1051395.

Operating Engineers make TOP-10 LIST

Forbes magazine, a leading source for reliable business news that is well known for its best and worst lists, recently published the top 10 happiest jobs in America. No. 10 was Operating Engineer.

Survey takers credited the ability to “play” outdoors with “giant toys,” like bulldozers, loaders, backhoes and scrapers. Being a Local 3 Operating Engineer makes the job even more satisfying, as union members enjoy better pay, better health benefits and a better retirement than most non-union operators.

This makes sense to 12-year member Dave Collings, who is working on the three-year Lower Silver Creek flood-protection project in San Jose for R&L Brosamer.

“My mom said I would play for hours and hours with the trucks in

the dirt. ... Here I am years later still playing in the dirt,” he said.

Even though his crew must work 11 hours a day, six days a week, no one seems to complain.

“When I’m moving dirt I’m happy,” said 24-year member John Nordquist.

Twenty-four-year member Perry Sabin has a perfect explanation: “Big boys; big toys.”

The other jobs on the top-10 list include religious leaders, firefighters, physical therapists, authors, teachers, artists, psychologists and financial-services sales-agents. But if you ask our members, there’s no comparison.

“I love getting paid to play in the dirt,” said 14-year member Chris Davis.

It’s No. 1 on our list!



Operator Chris Davis.



Operator Frank Garcia.



Operator Dave Collings works on a flood-protection project in San Jose.



From left: Operators David Esparza, Perry Sabin and John Nordquist work in the Lower Silver Creek for R&L Brosamer.