



# BITS

Photo courtesy of Randy Drake



Idaho Falls Fire Dept. burns old building donated by District 6. The training exercise was off U.S. 91 south of Idaho Falls March 26.

NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF ITD DISTRICT 6 – JUNE 2015 (VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2)

## 30 projects in '15

District 6 plans 30 highway-construction projects in eastern Idaho this year (see map on pages 4-5). Estimated construction cost is \$12.7 million.

## A smarter way

“Let your head save your heels.”

That's what grandpa said.

Based on District 6's showing in “Innovate ITD!,” eastern Idaho employees do just that: They find better ways to do their jobs.

As of June 18, Denise Cooley, Drew Meppen, Darrin Johnson, Wade Allen, Ben Burke, Todd Grover, Dave Nickel, Karl Martin, Tim Cramer, Tracy Bono, Fred Tucker, Mike Cummings, Karen Hiatt, Nancy Luthy and Shawn Madsen had submitted improvement ideas via the Innovative Business Practices SharePoint site on the ITD intranet.



Denise Cooley

ITD has awarded Denise, Drew, Darrin, Wade, Ben and Todd framed certificates signed by Director Brian W. Ness and Chief Administrative Officer Charlene McArthur, because their ideas have generated public recognition, saved money or improved customer service for the agency. ITD dubs such ideas as innovations.

Exceptional innovations have resulted in cash awards and regional or national recognition in a variety of competitions. ITD also offers an Employee Suggestion Bonus Program, which recognizes outstanding innovations with bonus payments for qualified submissions.

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**innovate ITD** —



Frank Unrein, Trent Maupin, Scott Robinson and Brian Lenz excelled at the District 6 truck roadeo June 2. Trent went on to win the state roadeo June 9 (see story bottom).

## Maupin, Robinson win 'roadeo'

Trent Maupin, Sugar City maintenance, won the District 6 Truck Roadeo in the Arco maintenance yard June 2, earning 2,330 points.

In second place was Brian Lenz, Ashton maintenance, with 2,300 points, and placing third was Frank Unrein, Gibbonsville maintenance, also with 2,300 points. Brian finished 33 seconds ahead of Frank in the plow-truck events.

Taking fourth place was Lucas Richins, Driggs, with 2,245 points. Trent, Brian and Frank qualified to compete in the state roadeo June 9 in Pocatello. Lucas was named an alternate for the event.

Scott Robinson, Sugar City, won first place in the foreman category, with 2,168 points, while Dan Hawkins, Arco, finished second, with 2,100 points. (See photos of the roadeo on page 6.)

## Maupin wins statewide 'roadeo'

Trent Maupin went on to win the 2015 State Truck Roadeo in Pocatello June 9, doing himself and District 6 proud. He beat the runner-up by 57 points, a comfortable margin.



“Things went my way,” Trent says. The win was especially gratifying in that six of the 24 contestants were past state champions, he says.

He won third place at the state meet last year, his best showing in six tries. He has won the District 6 roadeo five times, including his first year at ITD in 1999. He enjoys maintenance.

Trent received the first-place plaque, a Cabela's cap and boasting rights in Pocatello. He also secured for District 6 the traveling state roadeo plaque, which will hang in the district office until another district wins the state roadeo competition in future years.

At the end of the contest, Trent had amassed 2,145 points, compared with 2,088 for the second-place winner and 2,083 for the third-place winner. He aced the second run of the plow-truck course, earning 1,350 out of 1,350 points. He will compete in the national truck competition in Colorado this fall.

Brian, Frank and Scott competed in the state roadeo but did not place. District 5 repeated as the team winner. ■

# District 6 honors employees for years of service

District 6 Engineer Kimbol R. Allen presented service awards to employees at the employee benefit luncheon April 29 at the Chuck-a-Rama café in Idaho Falls.

## 15 Years

Nancy Luthy, Administration

## 20 Years

Tony Black, Equipment

Ken Hahn, Operations

Joe Kopplow, Residency B

Ron Miller, Shop

Sherril Weaver, Port of Entry

## 25 Years

Tony Rojas, Arco

Frank Unrein, Gibbonsville

Troy Williams, Projects/Programs

## 30 Years

Scott England, Leadore

Dave Rolfson, Port of Entry. ■



*Scott England and Kimbol Allen*



*Jon Shipp*



*Matt Davison*



*Matt French*



*April Baler*



*Tony Rojas*

*Kimbol Allen*

*Troy Williams*

*Frank Enrein*

**Smarter way...** *continued from page 1*

### Denise

A buyer in Supply Operations, Denise Cooley joined Lora Longhurst and Lori Royal, who are buyers in District 4 and District 5, respectively, to propose joint purchases of supplies.

“Since our districts are close together in the same region, it made sense to buy products together,” Cooley says. “Joining forces enables economies of scale.”

The three districts have realized a savings of 3 percent on pothole patch and 1.5 percent on crack seal. The buyers communicate regularly to determine commodities and services needed and which buyer will prepare and manage solicitations.

Rather than three district buyers advertising for bids on the same items at the same time, one district does it for all three districts, eliminating duplication of effort.

### Drew, Darrin and Wade

An engineer in training, Drew Meppen proposed identifying travel delays in work zones. He was assisted by Darrin Johnson, transportation staff engineer assistant.

“We identified construction delays by determining the time vehicles enter and leave a work zone using Bluetooth technology,” Meppen says. “The way it works is Bluetooth receivers log signals of passing Bluetooth-equipped vehicles and then compare the time traveled against travel time before construction.

“To reduce delays, we used flaggers instead of a pilot car for part of the project, saving motorists two and one-half minutes. We hope to post delay times on the 511 Travel Information website to better inform drivers.”

In another innovation, Drew and Resident Engineer Wade Allen proposed that construction engineers take time-lapse footage of the Del Rio Bridge replacement, using personal GoPro cameras. See the footage at <http://youtu.be/BX2whUAmFyg>.



The goal was to record inventive bridge removal and construction practices.

### Ben and Todd

After considerable research, Traffic Engineer Ben Burke proposed renting the Curve Advisory Reporting System (CARS), which more efficiently gathers data on safe speeds for highway curves.

CARS integrates the Global Positioning System (GPS) for automatic data collection of advisory speeds for highway curves. It requires only one technician, who drives the curve at any speed, whereas the current system takes two people, one to drive curves at variable speeds and one to read the ball-bank instrument.

The system worked so fast and well that Todd Grover of District 6 agreed to additionally drive the highways of Districts 1, 2 and 5 to gather curve data for their traffic engineers. These engineers analyzed the data and created reports on advisory speeds.

### Your turn

ITD started the Innovate ITD! program last year. So far, it has yielded 143 suggested innovations.

Ideas go into the “Idea Funnel” for further review and possible develop-

ment. As of June 18, there are 143 ideas listed in the funnel on the Innovate SharePoint site.

If an idea is implemented and provides value to the department, the employee converts the idea to an “Implemented Innovation” by changing it to an “implemented innovation” in the form. This new feature means employees don't have to recreate their previous data entry. As of now, there are 76 innovations listed in this log.

All contributors listed for implemented innovations receive the framed certificate. Those submitting ideas receive the Innovate ITD! ribbon. You can spot frequent idea submitters by the number of ribbons hanging on their cubicle walls or office doors.

“ITD's vision of becoming the best transportation department in the country will be realized through continuous improvement efforts that deliver value to ITD and its stakeholders,” McArthur says. “This is innovation, ITD style, and Innovate ITD! is where we keep score.”

To submit your ideas or innovations, log on to the ITD intranet and click the “Innovate” box, or simply hold down the Control key and click the icon above in the electronic version. ■



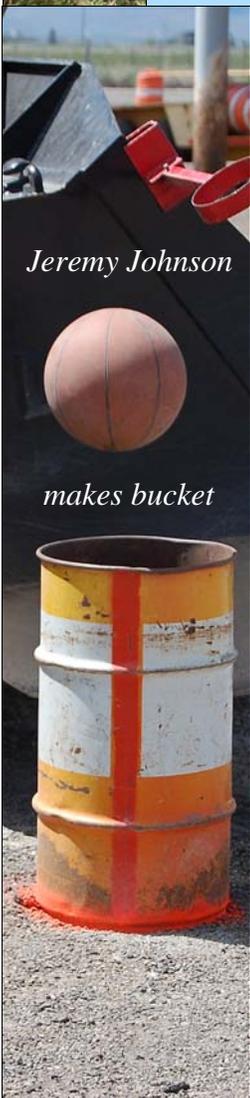


District 6 roadeo... continued from page 1

22nd Annual Truck Roadeo



Lynn Horrocks & Bob Jackson officiate at stop line event.



Jeremy Johnson



makes bucket



Trent Maupin moves through loader events.



*Transportation Technician Senior Darryl Pinnock brings down the old Shell gas station on the east side of U.S. 20 in Thornton May 4.*

## District 6 removes old gas station in Thornton

Maintenance crews removed the old Shell gas station/convenience store in Thornton May 4 in preparation for constructing the Thornton interchange on U.S. 20 north of town next year.

ITD purchased the station and nearby properties for the project. The new interchange will allow District 6 to close all remaining at-grade (level) intersections with U.S. 20 between Idaho Falls and Sugar City.

The project also will connect Madison County’s planned 5000 South project, which is designed to improve traffic flow in the southern portion of eastern Madison County.

The original owner of the station bought back the building from ITD for salvage, with the remnants to go to the future contractor of the project.

After salvage, the building was left partially collapsed, leaving debris susceptible to being scattered by the wind. District 6 decided to remove the rubble rather than let it sit until construction starts next year. ■



*Darryl loads ITD dump trucks, which made approximately 20 trips to the landfill.*



*Work Camp inmates help with cleanup.*

## Comings & Goings

New employees are Leslie Clark, transportation technician apprentice (TTA), Dubois maintenance.



### Departing employees:

Bonnie Darnell, human resource associate, Administration; Corey Casper, transportation technician (TT), Rigby maintenance; Jeff Mortel, TTA, Dubois maintenance; Jerry Mastel, transportation technician principal (TTP), Construction; and Ted Maxwell, TT, Rigby maintenance.

**Retirees:** Gary Johnson, transportation staff engineer assistant (TSEA), Rigby, 33 years; Don Gilstrap, TTP foreman, 28 years; Dee Newcomb, transportation technician senior (TTS), Irwin, 31 years.

### In Memoriam

**William Claude “Bill” Black**, 66, died April 26, 2015. He is the father of Tony Black, district equipment supervisor.

**Gladys Verle Brannon**, 85, died April 28, 2015. She is the mother-in-law of Lynn Horrocks, vegetation crew.

**Clyde William Poole**, 82, died June 8, 2015. He is the father of Mike and Brian Poole, transportation technician principal (District 6) and engineering manager (District 5), respectively. Clyde retired from a 34-year career at ITD in 2000.

**Joann M. Abbott**, 81, died June 13, 2015. She is the mother of Norman Tavenner, Dubois maintenance.

District 6 expresses condolences to family and friends. ■



Ryan  
Wright

## Letter of Appreciation

March 4, 2015

Kimbol,

Your employees Fred Tucker and Lynn Horrocks found a lady's wallet on U.S. 20 and promptly turned it over to us. In the wallet was \$400. We contacted the woman, who was from Colorado, and shipped her the belonging via UPS. She was very grateful.

These two ITD employees spotted the wallet on the centerline of northbound U.S. 20 north of Rigby and saw money scattered around the right of way. They gathered up the money and other contents and restored them to their proper folders before turning in the wallet to us.

The woman apparently put the wallet on her car and then drove off. When the wallet slid off the vehicle, its contents spilled out and were dispersed by the wind.

Many thanks to Fred and Lynn for their vigilance and honesty. This kind of customer service builds confidence in the minds of motorists that ITD employees and other Idaho workers do the right thing every day.

Chris

Lieutenant Chris Weadick  
Idaho State Police (Idaho Falls)

## Employee appreciation lunch in Driggs May 14



Wade  
Allen