HELITANKER ARRIVES IN HOUSTON

by Jennifer Severe
Contributing Writer

The Watco Houston Team temporarily housed a helpful, life-saving piece of equipment in early May. The Sikorsky - Erickson S-64 helicopter made its way to the Houston docks at Greens Port Industrial Terminals for a couple days after helping to fight fires in Chile.

The helicopters, also referred to as helitankers, are dispatched around the world to help extinguish forest fires. The helitankers can expel more than 2,650 gallons of water every hour to help in fire suppression wherever its help is needed to protect and preserve lives and resources. The hover pump snorkel or ram hydrofoil sea snorkel are options used to equip the helitanker to allow for water intake of fresh or salt water within 45 seconds or less. The S-64 is designed to quickly take bulk items and transport.

Before arriving in Houston, the helitanker was unloaded onto a vessel for its return trip to the States. When it arrived at the Watco docks, it was discharged from the vessel, and the Watco Team began their portion of the reassembling process. Andrew Gossett, director of commercial operations, played an integral part in arranging the flight preparations for the helitanker.

The blades had to be mounted prior to the flight to Fort Worth, where the fire fighting kit would be exchanged for a winch kit. When asked what makes this machine unique, Andrew stated, “This helitanker is a workhorse, and its function is strictly for cargo.”

The helitanker mainly holds a flight crew: a pilot, co-pilot, and a third pilot for winch operations. While in Houston, Angel Vasquez, a rigger with the Houston Stevedoring Team, helped as a flagman for the installation of the blades for the helitanker. In addition, Terry Beloney, operator with the Houston Stevedoring Team worked as a forklift operator during the installation process, and directly assisted in various tasks to get the device up and flying.

The shape of this helitanker is unique to fulfill its purpose, as it has the capacity to hold a tank and other bulk items to transport them for fighting fires. Aerial firefighting is an imperative part of fire suppression, and this valuable piece of equipment has been designed to continue this vital task for many years to come. There is a possibility the helitanker might return to the Houston area after completing another significant mission, but whatever the outcome, the Watco Team had the opportunity to house a vital piece of equipment that was designed to be part of a significant task that will help in the mission to save lives and resources around the world for many years to come.

The Houston Team at the Greens Port Industrial Terminals had the opportunity to not only unload a Sikorsky-Erickson S-64 helitanker from a vessel at their dock (top photo), they also helped reassemble the helitanker (middle photo), and then send it off to Dallas, Texas (bottom photo).

Doyle named a Progressive Railroading Rising Star

By Jay Benedict
Digital Communication and Social Media Specialist

The railroad industry is one of the oldest in America and is vital to the economy. Despite its history and importance, and the fact you see trains everywhere, it manages to stay under the radar to most of the younger generations. That doesn’t mean that there aren’t younger people making impacts on the rail industry, and Mickaela Doyle is one of them.

Each year, Progressive Railroading Magazine names its Rising Stars to recognize railroad professionals under the age of 40 who are making positive impacts on the rail industry, and Mickaela was named to the 2019 list.

“I’m very humbled to receive this recognition, and it was really a surprise. I’ve always viewed everything we do at Watco as truly team-oriented. There are so many people who have invested in me and so many people I work with every day that are great at what they do. This is very humbling,” Mickaela said. “Any successes that I’ve had would not have been possible without the support of others and the team around me.”

Mickaela began her career at Watco in 2012 as a financial analyst after graduating from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. One of her college finance professors, Paul Fellows, was familiar with Watco and recommended Mickaela for the job. She was promoted to director of finance in 2017.

“I knew nothing about railroading or Watco at the time, but it seemed like a great opportunity, and I’m glad I decided to take the chance and join the team,” Mickaela said.

During her tenure at Watco, Mickaela and her team have assisted with - Continued on page 3
Western Australia driver positively loves her job

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

What makes a good team member? According to Fleur Robertson-Crewe, who is a Level 4 locomotive driver in Western Australia’s North Quay Rail Terminal, it’s all about attitude. And Fleur’s is one of the most positive ones in the rail industry. The fact that Fleur gets a gorgeous view of the beach every day at work doesn’t hurt either.

Fleur works the Fremantle job, which consists of moving containers from the city of Fremantle out to Forrestfield, a suburb of Fremantle. Because of the congestion in the area, the trains go a short route to get out of the main city to deliver the containers to a less congested area near the freeway for them to be unloaded onto trucks. This not only keeps the roads open by taking several larger trucks off the road, but it also reduces wear and tear on the roads as well.

Fleur said the routine is very similar every trip. She and her fellow driver will prep the trains, check the containers, and then safely deliver them to their destination. Some of the loads also include a stop at CBH’s Metro Grain Centre. CBH Group is Watco’s original Western Australia Customer. The team brings unloaded grain boxes to the facility and then takes the loaded ones back out to the port where they will be loaded onto cargo ships and shipped out.

There are two main crews assigned to the Fremantle job and because Fleur is a Level 4 Driver, she is now constantly partnered with a trainee. Fleur underwent hours of training to earn the mantle job and because Fleur is a Level 4 Driver, she is now constantly partnered with a trainee.

Although Fleur normally has a 40-minute drive to work, she often volunteers for other jobs at different depots because she enjoys what she does so much. “I’ve gotten some top trainees who want to do a good job, so good job Watco on the good picks. I’m a big believer in enjoying what you do and want to work with people who are like-minded in their work. My trainee now is a good guy, really keen,” said Fleur.

Another thing that Fleur enjoys is cheering people up. She said it’s important to compliment people and let them know that they are doing a good job. “I think if you make people feel better about what they are doing then they will want to do better. I don’t think people set out to do the wrong thing,” she stated. “I just enjoy communicating with people and cheering them up and making them laugh, maybe somehow improving their day.”

Russell Griffiths, Operations Zone Manager, said, “Fleur is a fantastic team member and great ambassador for our Customer First Foundation Principles. She is extremely hard-working and an asset to the team here in Western Australia. Her efforts have not gone unrecognized – Fleur has recently been promoted to a Level IV ‘Senior Driver’ for the North Quay Depot in Fremantle.”

Watco’s Western Australia Level 4 Driver Fleur Robertson Crewe gets to look at this lovely view of the beaches at Fremantle every day at work while she drives her trains from the port to Forrestfield, a suburb of Fremantle. Taking the containers out of the congested area helps with the traffic and the wear and tear of the big trucks on the city roads.

Photo by Chase Gunnoe
Numerous acquisitions and internal growth projects. In 2018, her team supported more than 85 internal capital investment projects in the Watco Team’s efforts to provide better, customized service to our Customers and develop new business opportunities. She also collaborated on multiple re-financings and played a key role in more than $475M of preferred and common equity increases.

Rick Baden, President and CFO said, “Mickaela has played a key role in Watco’s capital investment projects and many of our recent acquisitions, and she is absolutely deserving of this recognition. Our investment projects very often are the result of listening to our Customers’ needs and working with them to achieve their goals. In that respect, I think she and the Watco Team are showing the rail industry what kind of growth can be achieved by listening to your Customers.”

One of the largest projects Mickaela worked on was the acquisitions of the Permian Basin short lines. The Texas & New Mexico and Lubbock & Western railways started carrying traffic in 2015 and have been excellent success stories for Watco, the local economy, and our Class I partners. She was also a key player in the acquisition of Aspen Logistics. This addition to Watco Supply Chain Services allows them better leverage to provide domestic shipping services and gives our Customers more shipping options. The recent acquisition and startup of the Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad would not have been possible without Mickaela’s expertise.

Most recently, she has been working closely with the team at Greens Port Industrial Terminals (GPIT) in Houston. GPIT is one of the largest Watco properties and is unique because its operations cover the entire spectrum of Watco’s service divisions. Getting that on-the-ground operational experience is key to better understanding how to provide support.

“I’m getting a perspective of how the teams in the field see things and all the challenges that they face every day. Anything you do from a support services role is improved when you’ve got that perspective in mind,” said Mickaela.

Outside of Watco, Mickaela lives in Kansas City with her husband John and their pug Farley. She’s also an avid soccer fan and follows Major League Soccer closely. They regularly attend Sporting KC games as well.

When asked if she had any advice for other potential Rising Stars, she said, “First and foremost, be kind and focus on relationships. There will always be work that needs to be done, but if you focus on your relationships you will be able to accomplish great things as a team. Second, is to just show up and be helpful. Even when you are the least experienced person in the room, if you show a willingness to jump in and help, in any way possible, that will always go a long way.”

By Jay Benedict
Digital Communication and Social Media Specialist

Commodity: Crane
Customer: Watco Terminal & Ports Services
Location: Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Houston, Texas

One of Watco’s newest offices is in Joplin, Missouri, and houses a new branch of Watco Supply Chain Services (WSCS). The team there excels at helping our Customers transport their commodities domestically and internationally, sometimes those Customers are other divisions of Watco.

That was the case recently when the Baton Rouge, La., terminal purchased a new crane for its facility. The old crane needed to be disassembled and removed from the property before the new crane could arrive and be erected. It was decided that the old crane would be moved to Greens Port Industrial Terminals in Houston, Texas, but the next challenge was getting the crane there. That’s when Baton Rouge Terminal Manager Geron Crotwell decided to get WSCS involved.

“The Supply Chain Team was great. I didn’t have to worry about finding truckers, lining up truckers like I did in the past. They took care of everything so I could focus on getting the crane ready and preparing for the new one,” Crotwell said.

WSCS has a database of more than 25,000 carriers that can be contracted to move our Customers’ freight. The team vets the carriers by looking at factors like their safety ratings, how long they’ve been in business, and their insurance policies. If they meet the WSCS requirements, they can be set up as an active carrier. This is what Account Manager Ryan Frazier looked at before hiring a group to transport the crane for Watco Terminal & Ports Services (WTPS).

“We’d done a few smaller loads for them, and we went to work on it. It was a unique type of move being oversized, but we started reaching out to carriers that had done this type of thing for us in the past. Once it all came together, it was about making sure everyone got in there at the right time and got the best rate while providing the full solution to Watco as a whole,” Frazier said.

It took seven trucks to haul the disassembled crane. The plan was to get it loaded and off the Baton Rouge property on a Friday because the new crane was arriving on the following Monday. Six trucks arrived on time and were loaded successfully. One driver was held up at a previous stop, but was able to get loaded first thing on Monday and begin the trek to GPIT.

“We don’t like having those snags, but they do happen sometimes. Fortunately, we were able to adapt and complete the move without any other issues. Both Houston and Baton Rouge were thrilled that we were able get it taken care of with minimal mishaps,” Frazier said. “We feel good about being able to help out when we can. We definitely don’t want to have to reach outside of our own network if we can do the job ourselves.”

Crotwell has used WSCS before. Prior to moving the crane, he needed a bucket delivered from the Vicksburg, Mississippi Terminal, and WSCS assisted in shipping that to Baton Rouge.

“We’re getting so big and so large now, sometimes you don’t think to use another part of the company. If you don’t use it, you forget about it. I’m glad I didn’t because they’ve been a prayer answered. They’re a great part of the company and took care of everything,” Crotwell said.

The Joplin WSCS office has a history of assisting other Watco properties. When Director of Locomotive Support Tex Inman was piecing together the new switcher for the Zwolle, La., Mechanical Shop, some of the parts he needed were at the Junction City, Kansas, shop. He called WSCS to help get them to Zwolle.

“When we’re working for our Customers to broker trucking shipments for them, most of the time we just see that piece, we don’t see the end product. So, it was cool, in that regard, seeing that switcher and say that we took the engine down that they needed to get it running,” said Branch Manager Will Bailey.

They also work closely with the Zacha Terminal in Dallas, Texas on freight from Nucor in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Recently, the team also brokered trucks for Trafigura Trading. They’re taking zinc ingots from Watco’s Port of Memphis operation to Millington, Tennessee.

“We’re trying to make more connections between Watco Companies and Watco Supply Chain. There’s a lot of opportunity for collaboration between different sides of the company and we want them to know what Supply Chain does and that the team can help,” Bailey said.

If you’d like to contact the WSCS Joplin Team, they can be reached at joplinsps@watcosupplychain.com.

The boom of the crane is loaded on the bed of the trailer at the Baton Rouge Terminal in Louisiana, before traveling to Greens Port Industrial Terminals.
Stillwater Central Railroad Team celebrates with Oklahoma City Dodgers Team

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Stillwater Central Railroad's (SLWC) General Manager Nathan Champion had the opportunity to throw out the first pitch when the SLWC Team celebrated family night at the ballpark. The good news is, he won't be quitting his day job, but he did at least get to the plate.

It was a good start to a great evening that ended in a win for the home team, the Oklahoma City Dodgers. Each year, the SLWC celebrates the families and team members that are really the railroad’s hard hitters.

Christy Carter, SLWC administrative assistant, plans the event each year and said this year’s turnout was the largest that they’ve had to date with about 155 people attending.

“We do this to thank the families, they’re the ones who stand behind our team and make it all possible. We really do appreciate them,” said Christy.

The SLWC group was seated in the Budweiser Deck of the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark. The all-you-can-eat menu consisted of pulled pork, brats, chips, cookies, and drinks. Each attendee was also given an OKC Dodgers ball cap.

“I think the kids all had a lot of fun,” said Christy. “We were seated where the guys warm up, so the players were interacting with the kids; throwing them balls and talking to them.”

“The kids were also dancing to the music between innings and then there was a fireworks display after the game. The weather was beautiful, we couldn't have asked for a better evening,” said Christy.

Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad gets help from neighborhood college

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

When the Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad (DREI) began operations last year they had a wish list of improvements that they wanted to make. However, a group from a local college stepped in and took one of those items off their plate.

Volunteers from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC) spent an afternoon painting a graffiti-covered concrete wall long considered an eyesore in the rural village of St. Mary-of-the-Woods in western Vigo County. The underside of the concrete railroad bridge is a frequent target for graffiti and the group felt it reflected poorly on the community.

The painting was completed by eight of SMWC’s enrollment management staff, which includes employees in the offices of admissions, financial aid, athletics, and institutional research.

Painter and Admissions Counselor Jordan Cunningham said, “I want West Terre Haute to know we care about our community.”

SMWC contacted the railroad with an offer to clean it up. Although there are generally permits that have to be obtained in order to go near railroad property, the group was given special permission to access the viaduct as long as they stayed away from the tracks and that safety was a priority in their efforts.

Denon Green, general manager of the DREI, said, "I'm sure the graffiti-free viaduct will be a welcome site for those traveling through the area. We appreciated them reaching out and volunteering to paint, it looks much better and they did a great job. We'll always agree to working with the community on projects for improvement as long as safety is a priority."
AUSTIN WESTERN TEAM MEMBERS HEAD BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

By Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Austin Western Railroad (AWRR) Track Foreman and Team Safety and Improvement Committee Leader Delmer Armentrout and Senior Trainmaster George Yanas have been busy inspiring the next generation of railroaders.

The two men recently visited County Line Elementary School in New Braunfels, Texas, after the school asked if the AWRR Team could speak about railroading, safety, and inform the students of career paths in the industry. They also talked about how railroads play a key role in the modern world.

George said, "I think they enjoyed our presentation because it was very hands on. We let them hold some of the tools we use, we related how the railroad moves things they use every day, and we also gave out some items to take home to remember us by."

In addition to the Watco/AWRR giveaways, they also handed out Operation Lifesaver items to remind them to be safe around railroads. The two men visited eight 5th grade classrooms and according to the teachers, they were a hit with the entire school.

Omaha Team completes Railcar 101 training

Congratulations to the Watco Mechanical Services recently hired Omaha West Team Members for completing Railcar 101 training and obtaining their AWS D15.1 Welding Qualifications. This advancement recognizes their dedication to ensuring Watco Mechanical Services delivers railcar repairs in accordance with AAR and Customer quality standards.

Capt. Ayse Asli Basak from Mid-Ship Group placed on 10 Women to Watch List

Congratulations to Capt. Ayse Asli Basak with Watco partner Mid-Ship Group on being chosen for the 10 Women to Watch List by the jury of Nor-Shipping 2019, Young@NorShipping and YoungShip Oslo.

She was chosen because she has shown a passion for the maritime industry and its future development, demonstrated the ability to inspire others, exemplified strong interdepartmental or company-level leadership skills and decision-making qualities, demonstrated a willingness to teach and share knowledge with others, and has taken significant responsibility relevant to her career level by the jury.

Capt. Asli is the first recipient from Turkey to be honored with the award.

She graduated from Istanbul Technical University Maritime Faculty (Turkey), Marine Transportation & Management Engineering (2012) with holding 2nd honour degree of Faculty; also attended trainee student program in Kobe University, Faculty of Maritime Science (Japan, 2010).

CUDAHY MECHANICAL TEAM CELEBRATES SAFETY

Congratulations to the Cudahy, Wisconsin, mechanical shop on celebrating one year injury free.

Shop Manager Casey Lorbiecki said, "I am extremely proud of Team Cudahy’s achievement of one year without a lost time incident and how the safety culture has evolved over the past couple of years."

Casey, Neil Heerdink, and Angela Bunker manned the grill and cooked for the team and Vice President of Mechanical Training & Compliance Alan Keneipp and Safety Manager Nick Golian were on hand to thank the team for their focus on safety.

The team received hats as part of their "thank you" for putting safety and their fellow teammates first in all they do.

Team Members from the Cudahy, Wisconsin, Mechanical shop who helped reach the one year injury-free goal are Anthony Jezyl, Carl Clausen, Casey Lorbiecki, Dakota Vincent, David Harrass, Jamie Van Boxtel, Jason Broadway, Jeffrey Vandegenachte, John Janikowski, Jose Sostre, Juan Lozano, Lawrence Swenson, Mark Richter, Marty Swenson, Michael Manion, Noah Wachowicz, Rodger Tillinghast, and Travis Banks.
Watco and Watco Supply Chain Services helps with Columbia Pulp start up

By Michele Bowling
Contributing Writer

Watco’s journey with Columbia Pulp began when the Great Northwest Railroad’s (GRNW) VP of Commercial, Ted Kadau, was contacted a few years ago about rail rates, track design, logistics, and help with access to the Union Pacific’s mainline track which runs adjacent to the mill site. Ted realized that Columbia Pulp’s project was going to be very involved and that the Customer needed and deserved dedicated, full-time attention to get them up and running efficiently.

A vision and ambition to make a disruptive difference in a marketplace and a chunk of land in the middle of one of the densest wheat growing regions on earth – that’s what Columbia Pulp started with when they set out to build and operate North America’s first market-grade straw pulp plant. The only piece they needed help with – mapping out a logistics plan.

Enter Watco Supply Chain Services (WSCS) and WSCS Manager Sabin Reynolds, a former Class I railroader with a diverse background in logistics and supply chain management. Sabin was brought onboard to form a logistics strategy for Columbia Pulp, including finalizing rail spur construction and executing a plan to get the company’s pulp and bio-polymer from mill to market.

“The addition of Sabin Reynolds to our team and the expertise he has brought in the field of logistics has been invaluable. We didn’t know what we didn’t know,” said John Begley, CEO of Columbia Pulp. “He has become an integral part of our ramp-up team.”

Columbia Pulp’s facility is large and it’s located in a remote area, just a few miles west of the small eastern Washington community of Starbuck, Washington. The scope of the project and the challenges of being located in such a remote setting meant drawing on all the various areas of expertise and resources made available by WSCS and the Watco family of business units. Sabin has been able to call on Watco Terminal and Port Services to provide valuable rail safety and hazmat training and certification, WSCS operating units for multi-modal rates and capacity, the Watco railcar management team for tank car leases to facilitate sending the bio-polymer to market, and, of course, the GRNW short line to provide direct rail service to the mill.

“What makes this such an amazing and rewarding experience,” according to Sabin, “is that the whole team at WSCS and Watco are willing to do whatever it takes to meet the Customer’s needs. The mill is a true ‘start-up’, using brand new technology and making a huge difference in a critical market space, and WSCS is strong enough, yet nimble enough, to answer the call.”

Columbia Pulp plans to begin producing pulp and bio-polymer as early as July and is a true pioneer in sustainability and environmental stewardship. The economic impact to the region is tremendous, and we are very proud to be a part of their current and future successes!

To find out more about the Columbia Pulp mill go to www.columbiapulp.com.

KAW Team spots safety hazard

By Jay Benedict
Digital Communication and Social Media Specialist

Recent attentive and safe actions of Kaw River Railroad Engineer Lance Williams and Conductor Brian Butler eliminated a potential side swipe with an oncoming dimensional train along the Kansas City Terminal Railway main line which could have resulted in injuries, damages, and service delays in a corridor that sees more than 250 trains moving through it daily.

During movement, three rails came out of their racks, (as pictured on the right), and were unable to move freely, causing them to buckle out and foul the main line. Our team was focused on not only the track and signals ahead, but observant of the portion of the train they could see, spotting the rail buckling, stopping the train, and contacting KCT traffic control to take that track out of service.

Well done team, and great job living our safety culture daily.
Congratulations to the following Team Members celebrating anniversaries this month

1 Year: Clifford Birch, Kyle Bost, Joshua Boudreaux, Clayton Brown, Chase Cannon, Christian Cedeno, Kellie Christensen, Sean Cochran, Robert Cooper, Joseph DaRonne, Jerry Davis, George Donald, Vidrayona Dozier, Joshua Dreece, Joshua Floyd, Krystle Freeman, Marquet Freeman, Eduardo Garcia Prado, Justin Green, Hunter Griggs, Gina Hansen, Ellis Harwell, Brian Hess, Joshua Klossen, Marshall Lafontaine, Michael Lawyer, Kenneth Meincke, Nikki Morcher, Saleh Mothana, Patrick Nemic, Sheldon ONeill, Dustin Osborne, Kristi Pelfrey, Jessica Retzke, Sloan Sanders, Caleb Schmidt, Riley Seger, Travis Sinn, Ivan Smith, Justin Vlaclavik, Evan Walker, David Weber, Daniel Wilson, Mark Woznicki, Julia Yeatts


3 Years: Jacob Baker, Austin Barton, James Cooper, Ryan Dotson, Chad Easterling, Derrick Jackson, Howard Jackson, Ricky Justice, Beth Patterson, Antonio Perez, Gregg Robbins, Nicholas Sharp, Elizabeth Tatum, Jordan Wagner, Paul William, Joseph Zachmann


7 Years: Ronald Abbott, Thomas Barnes, Sean Benzmillner, Susan Buffington, Tara Carpenter, Jordan Cheatham, Sean Cox, James Degano, Thomas Hearst, Curtiss Heimbry, Jeff Kelly, Carey O'connor, Audie Pankhurst, Justin Pankhurst, Brian Pindell, Jacob Remfroe, Steven Renn, Johnathan Robertson, Jose Rodriguez, Angela Schaefker, Amanda Shaholzter, Derrick Thomas, Mashauela Thrall, Duff Wagnon, Dana Willkord, Lloyd Young

8 Years: Christian Breeck, Felicia Feamonti, Roy Foster, Cynthia Johnson, Tylor Jones, Brian Keith, Nathan Kime, Benjamin May, Kristi Nunnelley, Michael Stotts

9 Years: Robert Betts, Jeff Everitt, Silvestre Garza, Paul Goins, Russell King, Michael Mangan, Melissa Pennington, Tom Scheidemantel, Douglas Steed, Brandon Tomblin, John Wimberg

10 Years: Sean Crowe, Brent Marsh

11 Years: James Hite, Adam Jones, Bernardo Santos, Richard Smith,Randall Thompson, Matt Troth

12 Years: Michelle Hubbard, Casey Miller, Gregg Scoggins, Curtis Testerman

13 Years: Mikal Canterbury, Randy Chaney, Ivan Etherton, Phillip Forrest, Timothy Ragsdale, Pete Tavernaro

14 Years: Franko Carpino, Paul Christenson, Rodger Gibson, David Gonzales, Nicolas Hanson, Jeremy Hollis, Leslie Kissel, Bubble Lundy, James Marr, Randall McIntyre, Angelina Pridemore

15 Years: Nolan Darthard, Otis Jackson, Joey Meadows, Marco Mendoza, Billy Mott, Chad Schilleman

16 Years: Donnie Creed, Mark Glover, Wade Lunt, James Waite

17 Years: Jean Camphort, Matthew Diestler, Carl Silcox, Mark St Aubin

19 Years: Barbara Crawford, Nancy Newbery

20 Years: Dion Baltzell, Anthony Jones

21 Years: Gabriel Carrilazes, Luke Hartman, Christopher Jacobson, Jason Rossman, Daniel Tank

22 Years: Chad Wilson

23 Years: Ronald Beach, Jason Ford

24 Years: Brian Lanham

26 Years: Sally Berkstresser, Willis Iverson, James McDaniel

27 Years: Teodoro Arellano, John Nippa

28 Years: Paul Lawson

29 Years: Herman Kelley

30 Years: William Gamble, Gary Harville, Michael Pollard, Kevin Stewart

31 Years: Jerry Elliott, Janice Ferrin, Barry Jack

32 Years: Todd Meshell, Jack Sepulvado

36 Years: Debbie Moody

38 Years: David Cherry, Michael Koon

42 Years: Kenneth Socie

44 Years: Ronald Crissman

46 Years: Billy Golden

Births

Axl Wayne Kichler

Devin and Miranda Kichler are proud to announce the birth of their son, Axl Wayne. Axl was born on April 16, 2019, and weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz., and was 20.5 inches long.

Miranda is a people services coordinator manager and works out of the Pittsburg, Kansas, office.

Grandpa Kevin Anslemi works out of the Pittsburg location as well and serves as the director of facilities.

Rowen Maxine Prestholt

Derek and Brenna Prestholt are proud to announce the birth of a daughter, Rowen Maxine.

Rowan was born on February 8, 2019, and weighed 7 lbs., 21 oz., and was 21 inches long.

She was welcomed home by her sister Evelyn, 2. Derek is a project manager for the Business Solutions Team and Brenna is the manager of fleet, leasing, and storage, both working out the Pittsburg, Kansas, office.

Lucas Anthony Cheatham

Jordan and Trinidad Martinez Cheatham are proud to announce the birth of a son, Lucas Anthony.

Lucas was born on May 5, 2019, and weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz., and was 19.5 inches long.

Lucas is the assistant CMO for the Texas & New Mexico Railway in Hobbs, New Mexico.

GRADUATIONS

Nicolle C. Bell: Wife of Chad Bell, conductor for the Birmingham Terminal Railway, graduating with an Associates Degree in general studies from Bevill State Community College in Jasper, AL, and entering the Nursing Program in August.

Elisa Briseno Hernandez: Wife of Michael Hernandez, Texas & New Mexico Trainmaster at the Texas New Mexico Railroad, Monahans, TX; graduating from Odessa College with a Associates Degree in Health Science.

David Kunes: Son of Dave Kunes, switchman in Genoa, NE; graduating from Twin River High School, Genoa, NE.
DOW DEER PARK SWITCHING TEAM WINS FIRST PLACE IN CHARITY EVENT

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Each year the Dow Deer Park Switching Team supports their Customer by playing in their annual golf tournament to benefit the United Way. What was different this year is that the team had a secret weapon who goes by the name of Travis Wiley, who is the Greens Port site manager. Others on the team included Yeibi “JB” Gutierrez, Dow Deer Park site manager, Damien Cantrell, director of switching operations, and Dennis Sawyer, Galena Park site manager.

JB Gutierrez said that Travis pretty much carried the weight of the team, although Damien played pretty well too.

This is the second year a team from Watco has participated in the event. Both last year and this year the game has been played in similar conditions, rainy weather.

“It’s not what you would hope for but it’s going for a good cause, so you do what you can,” said JB.

The Watco Team took home the above plaques from the Dow charity event.

Winners of the first place trophy were (l-r): Travis Wiley, Greens Port site manager, Yeibi “JB” Gutierrez, Dow Deer Park site manager, and Dennis Sawyer, Galena Park site manager. Not pictured is Damien Cantrell, director of switching operations. The gentleman on the right presented the trophies to the team.

Idaho's 168 Gang helps a motorist in distress

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

While going over some railroad tracks on her way to work, Bobbie Jo Page heard a loud bang. And when she pulled over, she found the head of a huge nail sticking out of her tire.

“I could tell it wasn't a nail from the railroad, it must've fallen from a farmers truck or something,” said Page.

After several cars passed by, Eastern Idaho's 168 Gang hit their brakes and went back to see if she needed assistance. Five guys bailed out of the tuck and within 5-10 minutes they had her back on the road and on her way to work again.

Page said, "I want to send a huge shout out and thank you to Ben May and the 168 Gang working on Eastern Idaho Railroad. They were extremely nice and helpful. It is so nice to have trustworthy, willing-to-help people around! Thank you so much for taking the time out of your morning to help a gal out!"