

Webster Scale Employee Newsletter



JULY 2022

Volume 6 Issue 4

Calendar

- Monday, July 4th



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WSI office closed for the July 4th Holiday. Check with your supervisor for any other changes to your work schedule.



Employee spotlight: Steve Burnette, equipment operator

It takes many operators to run the wide variety of equipment needed on large construction projects. Steve Burnette is one of our experienced Webster Scale equipment operators.

Steve has been a full-time seasonal employee since 2019. He came to Webster Scale with a variety of experiences as well as some specific training. After graduating in 1995 from Todd County High School on a Saturday, he was on a scraper for the first time the following Monday. And so his career began.

Steve currently operates the CAT D5 dozer on the Lower Brule job. His task typically revolves around taking out the undercut and ensuring verification of sub cut grade. He loves having GPS at the touch of a button and also the power behind this bulldozer.

Steve lists previous work experience with A.G.E. Corp., C & W Construction, Schweigert Construction, Loiseau Construction, Western Construction, Rosebud Concrete, Northern Plains Construction and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. He came to WSI by way of referral from a former employee, Brandon Williams. Brando, as he was known, was a scraper operator who had passed away right before construction season, so Steve was assigned his scraper thereafter. Steve recalls, *I remember having watched the original movie Top Gun before my first day on the job, and when I was getting into the operator's seat I felt like I could relate to how Maverick felt in Top Gun after Goose dies. Later that day, I caught myself saying 'Talk to me Goose' like Maverick did when he clutches Goose's dog tags in the movie. Only I didn't have Brando's dog tag - I had his old crusty dried out pack of unfiltered cigarettes he had left in the scraper from the year before!*

Besides years of operator experience, Steve has also pursued training. When he was approached about doing equipment training for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe TECRO program, he completed and passed an online study course to be able to certify students for heavy equipment safety, general knowledge and basic survey skills. He was a TECRO instructor from 2014-2018. Steve's other qualifications include GPS Mapping certification, SD DOT materials testing certificate and a SD CDL license, even though he prefers driving equipment rather than a truck.

Steve was born in Winner and currently resides two miles north of Rosebud with his better half Jerilee, step-daughters Kim and Evelyn and his two dogs, Lady and Gaga. Other living relatives include his mom Jeneile, sister Shari Jo and daughters Savannah (26) and Lorilie (7).

Steve enjoys several hobbies outside of work. He likes Karate and Kung Fu, fishing and Aerobee, which is an advanced frisbee device. His family sometimes spends evening time tossing it back and forth and says they are getting good at it.

Comedy is another special interest, and he is currently putting together his ten best jokes for his comedy act and hopes he can get on somewhere. Steve is the kind of guy who likes to encourage positivity and hope to those in need, and maybe some comedy in life can help with that. Here is an example of how Steve has used a little humor on the job:



At work, I came up with a 'Porta Potty Report', which is basically a visual inspection of our friendly neighborhood porta potty. I put a comedic spin on it which helps to get us through the day.

*At White River, this became the 'Chigger Report' because when we first got there, the porta potty was placed in the dense grass where cattle had been. I saw Logan scratching his leg and asked him if he was getting bit because I sure was! He said yes, and after putting two and two together, the whole crew was getting eaten alive by chiggers from the sh***er!*

Thank you Steve for being in the spotlight this month, and for adding a little humor to our day!



Employee Updates

Office personnel change

Office manager/bookkeeper Dawn Monson will be retiring this summer from the position she has held at Webster Scale since December 6, 2004.



Kathy Bjerke from Groton has been hired to fill Dawn's position. Kathy will be starting some time in July and will work with Dawn during a transition period.

More information about Dawn and Kathy will be included in an upcoming newsletter.

Special Needs Committee

Thank You

Thank you for thinking of me with your gift. My accident when I broke my wrist was very painful.

Thank you very much. You are all wonderful people.

Deb (& Ed Davidson)

Jack Shoemaker recently underwent knee surgery for a torn ACL which happened while playing basketball in the gym this summer.



He had surgery on June 17th at the Orthopedic Institute in Sioux Falls. Surgery went well, but full recovery takes a minimum of 9 months. Jack missed out on the baseball season this summer and now he will have to sit out the upcoming football and basketball seasons as well.

Jack had been part of the mowing crew for Webster Scale, along with his brother Chase and cousins Trace and Cole, but no more mowing this year. Jack will be a Freshman at Webster Area this fall and is the son of Joel and Alyssa Shoemaker.

Truck fire sends driver to the hospital

PETE #36



As many of you have heard, one of our truck drivers had a very scary experience when his truck unexpectedly started on fire on Thursday, June 16th on the I-90 Interstate in southern South Dakota. Following is Bronco's account of what happened that day.

I was between the Lyman and Kennebec exits on I-90 going west with a load of base course. My truck had been running fine, but then I started smelling fuel coming through the air vents. Then I saw smoke coming through the vents. The fuel filter gauge warning light came on and the next thing I saw was fire coming through the vents. I don't know how I got stopped but I did. The truck already had flames coming up the outside of the driver side when I got stopped. I opened the door and jumped out, and then called 911 and told them what had happened and where I was. Gene Stahnke was driving east and saw what was happening, so stopped and tried to put out the fire but it didn't work. After calling 911 I called Owen and told him to get to where I was and why. Faith came and Owen told her what was going on.



I was taken to the hospital in Chamberlain by ambulance. Faith followed and was there the whole time I was in the ER. She was in contact with my wife JoAnn, keeping her up to date. When I was released, Faith took me back to Kennebec to my camper where I stayed until the next morning when JoAnn came to take me home.

I'm healing up fast. My left arm is healing really fast and I only have a few spots with blisters still. My face is healing up fast also. My nose and lips are still blistering but doc says they are looking good. I went to the eye doctor the other day and all is good there also. I got very minor damage to the cornea but the eye drops he gave me should fix that he thinks.

All went well with my most recent doctor appointment. I should be back in the driver's seat very soon, that is after I get my glasses. (I lost my glasses in the fire.) All in all I'm doing good and healing fast from the burns.

I want to thank all for the kind words, and a very big THANK YOU to FAITH for keeping JoAnn informed of what was going on. Faith did a GREAT JOB, and I also want to thank Jon Anderson for driving my pickup back to Webster and for keeping an eye on my camper while I'm off work.

This really is a great place to work and I can't wait to get back to it.

Everett (Bronco) Parmely

At this time it is thought that the ECM shorted out and caused the fire.

Rob Kading, Scale Manager

The installation shown below was completed in June for Knife River (formerly Concrete Materials). The crew working on this project included Jamie, DJ BlueDog, Mason Bissonette, Chris Fayant, Ray Shepherd and Trace Shoemaker along with myself.

Our next project just got underway in Midland, SD. This will be for an 80' x 12' WSI pit scale installation for Bad River Ranches, which happens to be owned by Ted Turner. This is **THE Ted Turner** who was formerly married to Jane Fonda. Ted is known as an American broadcasting entrepreneur, television producer, philanthropist and environmentalist. He is also one of the largest landowners in the US, including his ranch in Midland that is getting a WSI manufactured pit scale from Webster, South Dakota!

#2201

120' x 11' Rice Lake Scale Installation



Scale Service Work

On the road with Jamie Sturdevant

It has been another busy month for the Scale Division. Jamie reports he has driven about 4,500 miles so far this month for scale work. This includes service calls from Rosholt in the northeast corner of the state to Sioux Falls south, west to Presho on I-90 and to Northville, Eureka, Aberdeen, Watertown and Huron in-between.

The new Rice Lake scale that was installed last year in Florence was placed into service this month. Jamie was with the scale crew in Sioux Falls to install the scale for Knife River. June 15-16th he met with the SD state inspector with the rail car test weights to test the rail scale at Oahe Grain in Onida and the three rail scales and one truck scale at AGP in Aberdeen.

The week of June 20th was the 3-month scale check for the four Vale-ro sites in Iowa and Minnesota. This is a 4-day road trip, where Jamie leaves on Monday morning and returns Thursday evening.

Assisting Jamie this month with service calls were Mason Bissonette and Trace Shoemaker.



Shop 1 & Shop 2

Repairing and manufacturing

Mechanics sometimes deal with more than just normal mechanical problems, like the recent damage done by animals, specifically raccoons and mice.

Stacy Below recently discovered a mother raccoon and her baby in the CAT 349E excavator. The coons had chewed up the door insulation and chewed on the wires, all needing to be replaced now. Mice are more common and have been especially bad this year. The cab of the excavator shows evidence of mice as well as the scraper below, the loader at the Endres pit and also the SK-6 CAT 246D skid steer at Shop 1 now.



Above: The SC-2 627G scraper is in Shop 1 because the motor had a cylinder failure. The piston, cylinder and crank shaft bearing had to be replaced. On final assembly, Stacy discovered that the turbo charger, which is water cooled, had a leak. The charger was disassembled, welded and parts were ordered. Stacy is currently waiting for the parts to arrive.

Below: JD Jorgenson identified this special red tank, designed by Ken Popham, that was built in Shop 2 last year for cleaning the radiator in the KPI crusher. The radiator was brought to Shop 2 from Lower Brule for cleaning, and has now been returned to Lower Brule where the mechanics crew put it back in the crusher. See photo on Page 7. Tannor Popham made the label, as he does now for any big stuff that needs labeling.



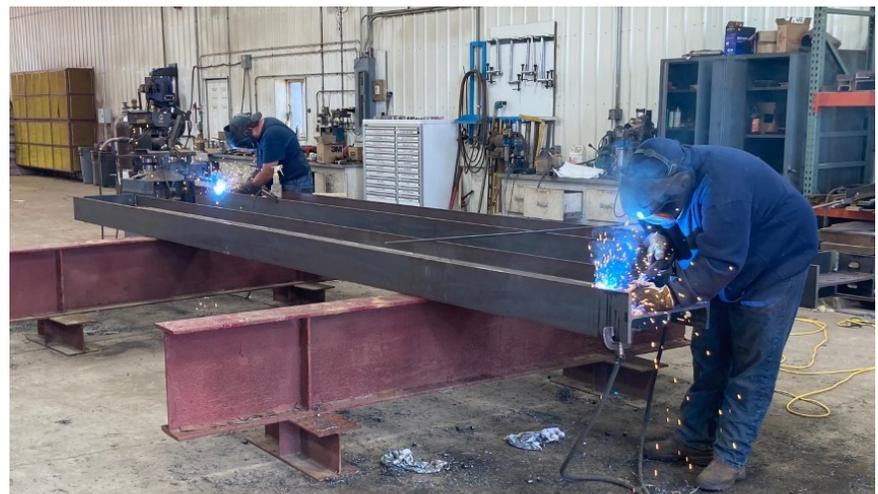
Stacy took the photos above when he discovered the raccoons in the excavator.



The door from the area shown on the excavator with the insulation chewed off.

Shop 2

Work has begun on building an 80' x 12' scale ordered by Bad River Ranches in Midland, SD. Below, Joey Utne and Buck Jorgenson are welding on the beams for the scale bridges.



Construction Division

Equipment operators in Lower Brule

It takes a lot of employees to operate all the different types of equipment needed on large projects like the BIA Hwy 10 reconstruction project in Lower Brule. From the largest equipment like scrapers and milling machines, to the smaller ones like skid steers and brooms, each one plays an important role. This month we recognize and salute our equipment operators who work in all kinds of weather to get the job done.



ALLEN BERG



DAVE BORSZICH



STEVE BURNETTE



ALYSSA ALDRICH



JASMINE GREEN



TOM KNUTSON



DAWSON MATHISON



OWEN MCGREGOR



ELIZABETH OLSON



JAMES HOHN



RON MORAN



RANDY OINES



ERIC OLSON



NICK LESSERT



LUCAS LESSERT



CADE SHOEMAKER



JAKE STAVICK



ZACH WILLIAMS



ZIPPY ZAVADIL

Tim Woods, Project Manager
Reported by Donald Fellbaum

Job 2104 is moving forward at a good rate. We have finished milling BIA 10 all the way to the end of the job.

We have been crushing the millings that came off the road and are hauling them back on the road for base course. Mudrat and Cade have been crushing millings.

We only have four pipe that need to be installed after the scrapers get the 3R undercut finished. Dawson has removed a couple of old pipe that were in the way of the scrapers and has been running water truck. We have to run two water trucks most days for dust control.

Last week Cade, Eric, Lucas, Zippy and Alyssa finished almost everything on the punch list west of the Medicine Creek bridge, so we should be finished at that end of the job.

Eric is pushing the base coarse out on the geo grid with the dozer. When they get time, Elizabeth runs the steel face roller in front of the geo grid, Alyssa runs the water truck and Zippy runs the sheepsfoot.

Highway BIA-10 (8 miles)
Reconstruction with
milling and pipe work

#2104



Above, left to right: Lucas, Elizabeth, Zippy and Alyssa rolling out the geo grid fabric. The fabric is laid over the base coarse and then covered with top soil. The fabric gives the road better stability when the sub-surface has a tendency to soften later, or as with the Lower Brule area, the dirt sits on shale which slides around as water gets trapped between the shale and dirt.



Elizabeth



Zippy



Everyone needs to keep up on their oil changes!!

Minivans	3,000 miles
Pickups (gas)	3,000 miles
Pickups (diesel)	6,000 miles
All construction equipment	250 hours
Trucks (heavy haul)	10,000 miles
Water trucks	10,000 miles or annually
Fuel trucks	10,000 miles or annually



It's July...expect heat and stay hydrated!

YOUR DAILY WORKPLACE REMINDER:

1. Don't get hurt.
2. Don't break anything.
3. Watch out for each other.
4. Be productive.
5. Clean up and dispose of any garbage in your company property.





Highway BIA-10 (8 miles)
Reconstruction with
milling and pipe work

#2104

KCI Crusher

Logan Dolney, Louie Thunderhawk, Floyd Nez and Cade Shoemaker worked together to re-install the radiator and coolers.

Photos from Tim Woods



Site preparation at the Webster airport on the east and west sides of the new hangar building.

#2112

*Faith Shoemaker
Project Manager*



Tannor Popham used a GPS Rover to determine the cut/fill needed and to verify where the edges of the approaches are. When using a machine without GPS capabilities, as in this case, the rover was used to assist Joel in the skid steer with getting the grade to match the project design that Tannor has downloaded on the rover computer.



Webster Scale, Inc.
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Webster, SD 57274

- Family owned business since mid 1960's
- Full line of scale products, services and parts
- Wide variety of heavy construction services
- Committed to providing superior products and services at a reasonable cost



Pain at the Pump



On a personal level, we are experiencing the effects of the record high fuel prices, but have you considered how the high prices are affecting businesses? Dawn provided some information to illustrate how the increase in fuel prices has affected Webster Scale.

One comparison Dawn provided is the year-to-date increase in the total cost of fuel from last year at this time to this year. Fuel costs have increased \$263,870.70 so far over last year!

Another comparison, by using the average fuel consumption of two semi-trucks from 2021-2022, shows the increase in the fuel cost for one month is about \$3,500. Take that times ten semi-trucks running and that equals an extra \$35,000 increase per month over last year. This is only in the semi-trucks, and does not include all the dump and miscellaneous trucks, pickups, vans and equipment.

Let's remember, *We're all in this together*. If you are driving a Webster Scale vehicle or equipment, do your part to help reduce fuel costs by sharing rides when possible, limiting unnecessary driving and not allowing equipment to run unnecessarily. Every little bit can help!

The busy construction season requires motel rooms for employees working away from home. This includes construction workers and truck drivers. Angela Shoemaker in the office is the one who makes these reservations. She has been booking around 15 rooms per week and she relies on the project managers to let her know how many rooms are needed. Room rates vary depending on location, but are a benefit paid by Webster Scale.* Every Friday morning Angela requests a weekly receipt from the motel(s) and also makes the reservations for the next week.

Currently Webster Scale is using rooms in the new building at the King's Inn in Kennebec as well as other motels. Sometimes construction plans change during the week and workers are moved. That means Angela needs to cancel rooms and try to find rooms at another location. Sometimes she has trouble getting enough rooms, especially on short notice.

*Employees with pets are required to pay the additional motel pet fee. Angela needs to know if you have a pet before she makes the reservations.

Currently 14 employees are staying in their personal campers.

