

Webster Scale Employee Newsletter



OCTOBER 2023

Volume 7 Issue 7

- **Careers in Construction Month**
- **Saturday, Oct. 7th**
Pumpkin Fest,
Webster
Parade of Lights
7:30 pm



- **Monday, Oct. 9th**
Native American Day
A state observance in 5 states; a state holiday in Arizona and South Dakota.
- **Monday, Oct. 16th**
National Boss's Day

Safety has to be everyone's responsibility...Everyone needs to know that they are empowered to speak up if there is an issue.

- Captain Scott Kelly



A busy construction season for the scale crew

Rob Kading, Scale Manager

The scale crew has installed five truck scales so far this year - three were WSI pit scales and two were Rice Lake above ground scales. The sixth scale installation starts the first week of October. Huron Energy, an ethanol plant, is getting a WSI 120' x 12' pit scale. This scale is being built in Shop 2.

Jamie and Trent have been busy with scale service work every day since mid-April! They recently had a very unusual scale problem to solve on a Rice Lake scale in Watertown. After some initial testing, Jamie said they discovered that all the wires had been cut between the scale sections by someone using an ice scraper, someone who probably thought that they were just cleaning between the sections!

This scale project in DeGraff, Minnesota for Glacial Plains Co-Op was started in mid-August, and the scale crew has now completed the installation. The scale will be put into service in mid-October.

#2317

80' x 12'
WSI Pit Scale



On a rare day when Joey Okroi was not on the road servicing or installing scales, he was busy in Shop 1 doing prep work on some scale parts.

By following Ken's drawing to set up the drill press, he was drilling two holes in each 8" x 18" steel plate, and there were 200 of these plates stacked up to be machined. These plates are used on the main levers on the WSI scales that are built in Shop 2.

When Joey finished drilling the holes, these parts went to Shop 2. It is important to have parts like this ready to go when a scale has been ordered.





ROB KADING
Manager

The Scale Team



JAMIE STURDEVANT
Scale Technician



DJ BLUEDOG
Concrete Crew



JOEY OKROI
Scale Technician



MASON BISSONETTE
Concrete Crew



TRENT ROERIG
Scale Technician



CHRIS FAYANT
Concrete Crew

CORY SHEPHERD
Concrete Crew

RAY SHEPHERD
Concrete Crew

Careers in Construction Month

(CICM) is a nationwide campaign held every October to increase public awareness of construction careers, inspire the next generation of craft professionals and make an impact on the perceptions of a career in construction.

Key Messages include the following:

- ♦ Construction is an essential industry.
- ♦ Construction is a woman's world too.
- ♦ Construction is more than a job— it's a career—and there are many types of careers in construction.
- ♦ Success is attainable without a four-year degree. Seven out of ten jobs today require less than a four-year degree.
- ♦ Average pay is high without acquiring debt or student loans.
- ♦ Demand is high in construction.
- ♦ The industry is safer thanks to improved regulations and technology.



If you know a young person trying to decide on a future career, or someone wanting to change careers, encourage them to look at all the rewarding opportunities available in construction.

Web site: <https://byf.org/discover/students-families>.

Just Married



*Congratulations
Dawson and Kally!
September 23, 2023*

Dawson works with the WSI Construction Division.

Terry Norgaard Update

Terry was released from the hospital on September 29th. He has a long road of recovery ahead of him, but is getting better every day. Terry and Terri are both grateful and appreciate all the well wishes, messages, cards, thoughts and prayers from their Webster Scale family and friends, and are very thankful for all of your support.

Terry was seriously injured on Thursday, September 7th in a truck accident east of Webster.

Terry's Address: 3363 Hwy 75, Canby, MN 56220



The concrete crew recently completed work on a 350' x 16' concrete cow slab at Joel's place.

Huck joined Joel at the project site as he was very interested in watching the concrete project. In fact, Huck was worried he was going to miss all the action because he had school in the morning, but thankfully work was still happening in the afternoon!

Rob Kading photos



Jason to the rescue!

Teresa Shoemaker

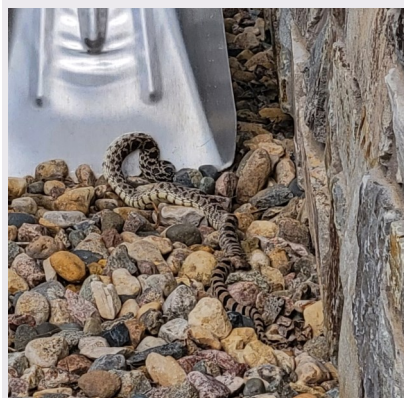
As I was working in my office the afternoon of September 25th, I could hear voices outside on the west side of the office building. To get a better look at who was there, I went into Roger's office and I could see that Jason, Angela and Mindy were looking down at the landscaping. Out of curiosity, I went outside to see what was going on, and there was Jason attacking a snake with a shovel! Angela was the one who spotted the snake when she had gone outside, and then found Jason to come to the rescue.

Jason identified it as a bull snake. Bull snakes are not common in our area of the state, but Jason thought that this one could have 'hitched a ride' on a piece of our equipment that had been out in the western part of the state.

I found out later that Buck Jorgenson took the dead snake because he does taxidermy work. So I guess this snake gets a second life as someone's hat band!

I admit, I DO NOT like snakes. I am so thankful that I did not see it as I was walking back and forth to work that day!

Mindy Charlson photos



Behind the scenes with the shop crews



Stacy has been working on Semi #36. The Cummins engine was taken out and a used Cummins engine purchased to use for replacement parts. He anticipates #36 should be back on the road the first part of October, but is waiting for parts.

Dump truck #99 is waiting in the shop for a head replacement.

Shop 1



One of the scale weight carts broke an axle in September. JD first did some welding on it, and then Jason and Jamie had it in Shop 1 (photo top right) where the axle surface was refaced using a dial indicator to make it even again.



The second weight cart was in Shop 1 for wiring connection problems. Jamie and Trent opened it up looking for the problem, and Stacy and Ken were also consulted about the problem.

For testing scales, BOTH carts are needed, so getting both back into service is a priority.

Shop 2

JD, Buck and Joey U. have been working on another portable scale in Shop 2. That has been set aside for now as they are building the 120' x 12' pit scale for Huron Energy.

JD shared that 90% of the steel for the scales comes from West Central Steel in Minnesota. When Ken orders steel, he orders the big stuff like I-beams, for three scales at a time. This is enough to fill a trailer load to be delivered.

Once the construction season is over, equipment will be coming to this shop and the crew will be busy with repair work.

Attention to Details



Far left: Buck is using a grinder he calls 'Wild Cat' to smooth each of the welds on a bridge section.

Notice the sparks!

Left: Joey is using a chisel and hammer to clean up any 'BBs' (weld spatters) left after parts are welded together.

This bridge section will be lifted by a machine and turned over to continue the 'detail' work on the other side.

Construction Division

Donald Fellbaum, Project Manager

We started job #2302 three weeks ago. It is a DOT job which involves two box culverts. Site 1 is a triple barrel 10' x 6' box culvert and Site 2 is a double barrel 11' x 6' box culvert. We have built two traffic diversions. There was a lot of fabric on those and 1,100 tons of rip rap at the creek bottoms.

#2302

We moved traffic to the diversions on Monday, September 25th. We milled the highway on the 26th, and the next day we started demolition work at Site 1.

Dawson loaded all the trucks with fill dirt from the Barrow pit. Eric dozed it all out, and Zach has been doing a little bit of everything. We hired Lana Rencountre to flag for us after we moved traffic to the diversions. She is also learning how to run the ground controls on the milling machine. Eric is currently digging out the box to demo it.



One of the traffic diversions.



Eric running the mill, and Lana learning the ground controls.

Tim and crew have continued work on Project #2304 that was first reported on in the August newsletter. This is a South Dakota DOT project in Hutchinson, McCook and Yankton counties.

#2304

Tim Woods, Project Manager

We got done 15 miles south of Freeman and it is paved and painted. We are now just a mile south of Freeman and should be done with this one next week, and then we will be moving north and east of Freeman on Highway 42 to do two more sets of turn lanes.

Reminder from Angela....

TRUCK DRIVERS! Fuel Mileage Reports

Please remember that your
mileage must be
broken down by state if you
are traveling beyond state lines.



A shout out to all of our hardworking skilled employees who are working on construction and scale projects, both on the scene and behind the scenes.

You are also helping to interest our youth in considering a career in the construction industry. Thank you for all you do and for working with Webster Scale.

You are appreciated and celebrated this month!



It's that time of year....

Be on the lookout for deer while you are on the road this fall season. Insurance claims for collisions with animals rise significantly in the fall when deer are mating, with November having the highest claim frequency.

How to avoid collisions with deer this fall:

- **Slow down.** Watch for deer, especially around dawn and between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. when they're most active. Use your high beams when possible at those times.
- **Be aware.** Look out for deer-crossing signs and wooded areas where animals are likely to travel.
- **Brake, don't swerve.** Swerving to avoid an animal can put you at risk for hitting another vehicle or losing control of your vehicle. Instead, just slow down as quickly and safely as you can. Your odds for surviving an accident are better when hitting an animal than when hitting another car.
- **Assume they have friends.** "Where there's one, there are usually more" often holds true. Deer travel in groups, so if you see one run across the road, expect others to follow.
- **Buckle up.** A seat belt is your best defense for minimizing your risk in a crash. Most of the people killed in animal-vehicle collisions weren't wearing their seat belts.

If you hit an animal, move your vehicle safely off the road. Call the police or animal control, and photograph the scene. Call your insurance company when you get home.



DRIVER REMINDERS!

1. When driving a truck or equipment on a gravel road and a vehicle is approaching, it is our policy to slow down and move over until they pass.

2. Also, ALL drivers of company vehicles and equipment are reminded that you are expected to clean up and dispose of any garbage in your company property at the end of EVERY day.

3. And remember, DO NOT put aluminum cans in the burning barrel. There is a blue barrel located near the burning barrel for your aluminum cans.



WEBSTER SCALE

- *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*

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