# LOG TRUCKER

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 8

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Hannah

AUGUST 2013

## For Hannah

SEE PAGE 6



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From the stump...

## The dog days of summer

by Mike Crouse, Publisher

The good news this summer continues to be L a gradually improving market demand for the wood, which has meant a relatively stable demand for logging. Most loggers are working with a backlog of projects for some time out in front, and while not flush with cash (and still recovering from the past several years) overall rates are allowing that sometimes illusive position of profit.

It appears, from most of the contractors we talk with, that we're at the start of a pretty good uptick, with a huge backlog of domestic demand for wood and fiber, which means we're seeing new equipment and improved technology in the woods. Good news for logging.

### **Only in California**

Over the Fourth of July I flew down to Southern California to visit the grandkids and step in the sometimes surreal world of California. While the entire left coast (Oregon, Washington and California) share some loony characteristics, particularly in politics, the California of today leads that loonyness in numerous and varied (at least to outsiders) ways. It makes one wonder if anyone at all is paying attention or considering if their policy path is improving or leading the desired results, or leading to further negative

This particular item popped up as we were driving west towards Los Angeles on a 10-lane (or more) freeway thick with traffic, although that is what brought some confusion because the three lanes were bumper to bumper (at 65 or more MPH, a whole separate issue) two of the lanes were essentially empty.... Yes, empty. And while I'd expected there to be barriers and "road work ahead" signs none, appeared YET with the exception of a few hybrid cars flashing past, for as far ahead as one could see, there were three lanes moving slowly and two empty.

Finally I asked my daughter/driver "...what's

up with the two empty lanes?" She explained that the first empty lane was for "high occupancy" vehicles with more than two in the car, and that the far empty late was for the "FĀŠT TRACK"Metro ExpressLanes... whence we enter into the California "Twilight Zone"

of bureaucratic contempt, and weirdness.

### You've got to read the bureaucratese to fully appreciate this:

Metro ExpressLanes is a one-year demonstration program overseen by Metro, Caltrans and several other mobility partners that have joined forces to develop multi-modal solutions to improve traffic flow and provide enhanced travel options on the I-110 and I-10 Freeways in Los Angeles

The program includes the introduction of congestion pricing by converting High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes; improving transit service and other alternatives to driving; updating transit facilities; and providing demand-based parking pricing in downtown Los Angeles.

It is about improving mobility and offering a safe and reliable trip for users. Everyone benefits with reduced congestion and greenhouse gas emissions (see the Green Fact Sheet ), increased travel time savings, and better trip reliability. Metro ExpressLanes is primarily funded with a \$210 million congestion reduction demonstration grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Tolling began on November 10, 2012 on the I-110 and February 23, 2013 on the I-10.

All sounds well, provided you accept, without question, the thinking and ideological motivation of the bureaucratic class who have taken a free ride from the legislature to impose their vision on "the masses."

The substance of the system is a vehicle transponder, and centralized tower it transmits too, to keep track of when you're in the "fast track" lanes, at what hours, and with how many passengers... nice (but no Big Brother of course). What's rich in this: the transponder/towers and such are owned and run by an outside company, who (we're told) turns over a percentage of revenue then to the government (this must be what is meant by the new ecoomy).

Those bodacious enough to question authority might be tempted to question what the driving interest is in this system. We'd suggest the motivation is not about voter convenience, but two fold: 1) a new revenue stream for government and 2) yet another method of forcing mass transportation on a public, which is not especially interest-

What occurs to this cheerfully non-Californian is the California Mass Transit authority has far more bureaucrats on staff than needed with far too much time on their hands. I'd suggest dramatically reducing their upper and middle-level management teams, then reducing general staff as

As we looked at the open lanes, contemplated the sheer cost, the waste of open lanes, and the ideological excess driving this process it serves as yet another reminder of WHY people need to be involved in the political process. This is the spawn of indifference to the process, which allows it to become an entity with limited accountability, under the shell of political correctness. While California seems to revel in such absurdity, this should serve as a warning to other free people to open up your eyes and call BULLsh\*t when you

FastTrak in California can stay in California.

### A different solution

e'd suggest a different solution to congestion... economic opportunity in rural America. Certainly not a topic that would hold much appeal for Obama-esque style politicians, we'd suggest rather than importing resources, and removing power sources without viable alternatives, that instead, as a public policy change, open up our Federally controlled natural resources, preferably by privatizing them or actively managing them, and revive economic opportunity beyond the population centers.

There are some shocking possibilities that directly address inner city problems created by crowding created from jobs being centered within the metropolitan areas: smaller government, more participation in local governments, more responsive governments, and (shock of shock) private enterprise growing, thriving, encouraging economic growth and opportunity. Bears a resemblance to the original growth created when the west was originally opened for settlement in the mid-1800s.



COVER PHOTO: IT'S HARD TO TELL FROM HER SMILE, but Hannah Roberts, 15, is fighting for her life after being diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer. When truckers from Washington to California, and even as far away as Africa, heard of her plight, they started flying purple ribbons on their rigs to show support.

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Hell's half-acre has topped...

## \$93 Million and Growing

By Sherrie Bond

While families grieve over the loss of nineteen, young, robust "Hot Shot" firefighters, the Obama administration presses for a 41% cut in the fire suppression budget placing millions of acres of forestland in the path of deadly infernos. You have to wonder what the death toll will be at the end of this fire season.

Federal Agencies have

Federal Agencies have gotten so accustomed to robbing Peter to pay Paul, there is little or no thought given to the financial shortages they create as they continuously juggle funds from one pocket to another. Instead of a logical approach to budgeting, they develop priorities based on environmental influence peddling and common sense be damned! More than two decades ago, the preservationists planted the seeds that "untouched forests are healthy forests" and "destructive, knuckledragging loggers" had better look for a new way to make a living; when the environmental word got out to the public those dirty-nature-rapists would be considered nastier than week old underwear! You all know the history and here we are today with forestlands in disrepair, primed for lightning strikes, care-

Fuel overload has been a critical issue for years and even though funding has been established for fire prevention, the fact remains debris, blow down, bug kill, dead and dying timber continues to compound each year. It would be just as logical to park fuel tanker in the woods, than to allow forest neglect to continue! The Feds swear wildfire intensification is draining the prevention budget when in fact, reduction of wildfire fighting budgets forces confiscation of those funds just to get through each fire season. This is yet another example of the administration's double talk "...the 2014 budget will increase the overall spending for wildfire fighting... while the other side of their mouth calls for a 48% cut of the Department of Interior budget for hazardous fuels reduction.

Back in the day when timber was King, forest fires were fought with a vengeance pitting man against nature in a raw battle of wills. Today, there are more sophisticated techniques for combating forest fires using air tankers, fire retardant and bucket brigades of helicopters in an overhead attack, however complications created by encroaching neighborhoods blurring the boundaries

between residential areas and wild lands, create new obstacles. People seeking a more "rural atmosphere and interaction with nature's glory" raise the ante in fire combat as thousands place their lives on the line refusing to be evacuated yet expecting rescue and salvation in the eleventh hour! Without fail, those property owners who refuse to budge, stake their lives (and those of the rescue squads) on hope the inferno will suddenly change course, burn out or be cowed by a misty spray from a garden hose! According to a government report, 15 to 17 million new homes have been built in dangerous fire zones in the past twenty years. The Forest Service says it must clear 65 million acres just to "tamp down" the danger. In inflation-adjusted dollars there is

less being spent on fire suppression today than in 2002. Eight of the nine worst fire seasons, measured in acres burned in the U.S., have occurred since 2000. Last year, 9.3 million acres burned, with 51 separate fires of more than 40,000 acres each. Colorado suffered its most destructive season in history as a blaze on the edge of Colorado Springs destroyed 347 homes. That record stood for less than a year when an early season wildfire just outside Colorado Springs devastated at least 502 homes and killed two people in 2013.

Should the current administration push its forest budget through Congress in 2014, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, BLM and BIA budgets would see 37% of the fuels reduction budget cut from \$317 million to \$201 million; overall the budgets would drop by 41% from \$502 million to \$297 million. Recog-

> (Continued on Page 21) See "Hell's half-acre"

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## MIRROR, MIRROR...

## IS THIS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN TRUCKING?

by Darin Burt

Owner-operator, driver, mom, wife are all among the list of words that describe Tina Comer. But as one of three finalists in Overdrive's Most Beautiful Contest, she never gave much thought to beauty being another one of those words.

"It's just so shocking to me," says Tina, who hauls logs with her husband Robert as Comer Trucking out of Pollock Pines, California. "I just don't see myself that way. I'm just me."

Even though she had heard the wonderful compliments about her eyes and smile from family and friends over the years, it never occurred to Tina to enter any sort of contest that would recognize her for her attributes.

"I was encouraged by someone else to enter the contest," explains Tina. "I was sent the link and told 'You have to do this'."

But the contest put on by the national trucking magazine was bigger than just a "beauty contest." Tina, and others, saw this as a chance to represent the trucking industry that she loves so much. More importantly, the log trucking industry. It's not a stretch to imagine that the outside world has a stereotype of what a trucker is, and that's it's not entirely flattering. Ask someone to describe a trucker and they might draw the mental image of the guy with a beer belly, stubble on his face and a dirty cap on his head. But trucking is a noble, honest profession just like any other made up of hard-working people who want to make a difference — and a living.

"What people don't understand is that we really are just one big happy family," says Tina. "We all have our own struggles, but when necessary, we're right there to support one another. No questions asked."

"It doesn't matter what your political beliefs are or whether you have a red oval or a Kenworth



**TINA COMER** 

emblem," she continues, "When it comes down to it, we're all just family."

But let's be real, it has to be flattering for people to single you out for being beautiful. Every woman wants to feel beautiful.

"Of course it's flattering," Tina says with a laugh. "I just don't think of 'beautiful' as a word that applies to me."

"Do I do my hair? Do I spackle on the makeup?" she continues. "Yes, but I'm very uncomfortable going out without my armor."

And that includes when she's on the job.

"I at least start out the day looking good and feeling good," she says. "I might look like I've been run over by my truck and drug behind it at the end of the day, but at least I know I've accomplished something."

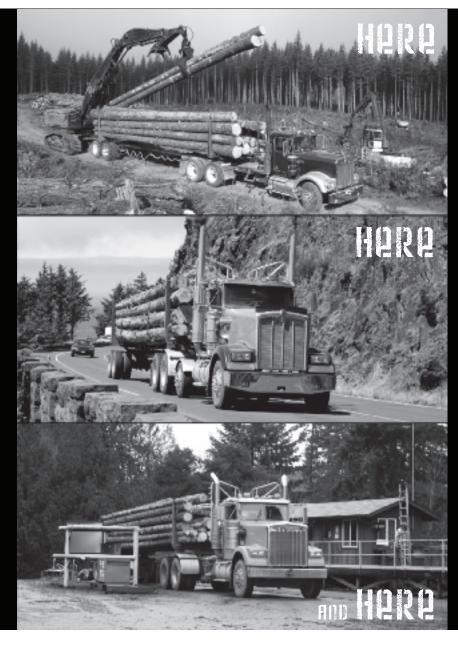
One of the other unexpected benefits of the contest is all of the new friends that have come in to Tina's life to further widen that trucking family.

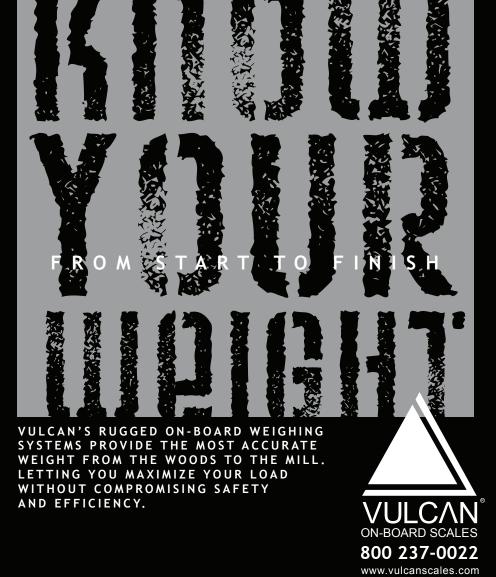
"It's been so amazing to hear from people all over the country who support what you're doing," explains Tina.

It was just one such friend who broke the news about the two of them having made it into the top 10 of the contest.

"Amy Gladen was trying to call me, but I was out in the woods and couldn't get service," says Tina. "She was finally able to text me to say 'We made it!' It was so amazing to be able to share

(Continued on Page 22)
See "Tina Comer"





AUGUST 2013

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LOG TRUCKER

## For Hannah

By Darin Burt

Dean Whalen was sitting on the landing early one morning, checking out Facebook posts on his smartphone while waiting for his first load of logs.

Among the photos of trucks and comments from guys heckling one another over their choice of hood ornaments, was a post about a young girl in Vancouver, Washington who was dying of cancer. It immediately caught his attention.

"I was wrapped up in my own life, and read this deal on Facebook,' Whalen says. "It just broke my heart."

Hannah Roberts, 15, was diagnosed in 2010 with a pineoblastoma, a rare malignant tumor that arises from the cells of the pineal gland that sits near the center of the head and brain. No more than a few dozen cases appear each year in the United States.

"It was seven months of her getting headaches and throwing up in the morning. She'd feel better after that and off to school she went. We're talking about a girl who has been a competitive cheerleader and can do 16 back flips in a row," says her stepfather Jeff Roberts, a longtime member of the logging community. "She was fighting cancer for seven months and nobody, not even her, knew that she had it.

"We kept taking her to the doctor two or three times a month, and they did all the tests, but they didn't see anything. It was about seven months to the day that her vision started getting bad and her balance was kind of goofy. We took her to the eye doctor and he took one look into her eyes and put his head down on his desk. He said we had to get Hannah to the hospital immediately because something in her head was squishing her optic nerve.

"We took her by ambulance straight to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland. They took an MRI and it showed a tumor on her pineal gland, which is in the exact center of the brain where all the nerve endings are located. It was inoperable and was also blocking the spinal fluid so it was building up in her head. They did an emergency craniotomy and put a drain in there to relieve the pressure. They also took a little sample of the tumor and tested it. That's when they came











(Continued on Page 8) See "For Hannah"

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### (Continued from Page 6)

back with the diagnosis."

Continuing her care at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital, the doctors installed an external shunt that would continue to drain the fluid from Hannah's head. They also started radiation treatment to shrink the tumor – the treatment would last an hour and a half, five

days a week for six weeks.

"The radiation wiped her out,"
Roberts says. "They had to do it though, because over the seven months, the cancer had metastasized throughout the lining of her sized throughout the lining of her brain and down through the lining of her spine. They tried one dose of chemo and it about killed her – she went from about 100 to 60 pounds; she was just a skeleton."

After bringing Hannah home, Robert's wife Tyana explored alternative treatments and brought in naturopaths to help because modern medicine was doing no good. They focused on nutrition and also got Hannah outside in the sunshine as much as she was able. Even in her weakened condition, she was amazingly able to kayak and paddleboard.

"Even as this child was fighting for life itself, she continued engaged in her sportsmanship to win the fight," says Tyana.

Slowly but surely, over the next year and a half, her health started to return. She gained weight, her hair (that had fallen out during the radiation treatments) grew back, and she returned to school and the normal life of a teenager.

"She was cancer free for six months. The doctors were amazed because they predicted that she would never walk out of the hospital," Roberts says.

Things were fine until this past April. Hannah suffered a bad headache, and having gone through it before, had a feeling that something was wrong. Roberts was back to work with Cross & Crown Logging and he rushed home after getting the call that Hannah was headed back to the hospital. The doctors performed an MRI on her left frontal brain lobe and discovered a golf ball-size tumor. Surgeons were able to remove most of the mass without much difficulty. Still the prognosis wasn't positive.

"They gave Hannah four to six months to live because the tumor was expected to come back. It was just two months later we were back in for another scan because she was getting sick, and not only had the mass that they had removed come back, but they counted some 25 tumors in her head."

"Hannah is very aware of her herself. She's been through this for three years, and she knows her body pretty well. Her reaction was like, Oh well, here we go again. Don't worry. I beat it before and we'll do it again.'

"Hopefully, we will find the science to enable Hannah to survive,"

Tyana says. "It's our greatest hope that she will live to be a feisty old lady."

"Hannah is well aware of the fight and the odds that she's up against and that she might not be here another day," adds Roberts. "She refuses to be afraid to fight."

Because of the pressure of the tumors on Hannah's brain, and the build up of fluid, she lost all movement in her right leg, arm and hand, and suffered numbness to the right side of her face. She also lost her ability to speak. Those were Hannah's symptoms in early July, but within a week or so later, she had regained some of the usage in

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her arm and leg and could walk again. While her speech was still affected, she could get out "yes" and "no" and make herself understood.

Hannah has remained at home under hospice care where she can be close to family in a comfortable and familiar setting. Even showing a little improvement, the hospice nurses, told the Robertson's that Hannah would be lucky to survive another couple of weeks. As of the third week in July, she was still hanging on; even continuing to make day-to-day improvements.

While Hannah was still able, Tyana took her on a Make A Wish vacation to Hawaii where they backpacked the beaches of Maui. When they returned Roberts posted a picture on the West Coast Log Truckers Facebook group page of Hannah enjoying the trip. He was simply updating friends on her condition and asking for their prayers.

The message first reached Brandon Davis, a driver for Cross & Crown who knew Roberts from when he'd worked there as a chaser and shovel operator.

"It hit me really hard. I'm only 24 years old and I've got a two-year old

> (Continued on Page 16) See "For Hannah"

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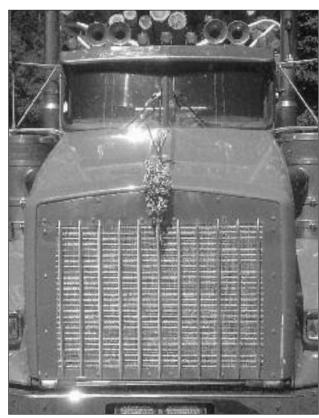
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### For Hannah

(Continued from Page 8)

son, and after reading it and thinking about it, I jut broke down and started crying for like 45 minutes,' Davis says. "It was right before bed, and I sent Jeff a message and asked what Hannah's favorite color was. He said, 'Purple. Why?' I told him that I wanted to put a purple ribbon

on my truck for her to show support and let her know that I was thinking of her."

"I thought it was a great idea," Roberts says.

Davis shared what he had done for Hannah and asked his friends and fellow log truckers to join in the cause. He even spray painted Hannah's name surrounded by hearts onto a bunk load of logs and trucked them 200 miles from Gaston, Oregon to Chehalis, Washington, going out of his way to drive right through the heart of Vancouver.

"The scalers at the mill thought it was for a girlfriend," Davis says with a laugh. "When I explained the story to the scaler, I thought he was going to cry.

"The next time I looked at Facebook there were all of these pictures of trucks flying purple ribbons,' Davis says. "It spread like wildfire.

It was so unreal."

The unity among the trucking and logging communities and the outpouring of support has been unprecedented, at least as most can recall. Not only did truckers - not just log haulers, but drivers of dump trucks, water trucks, pilot cars, commercial carriers, and equipment op-

> (Continued on Page 17) See "For Hannah"



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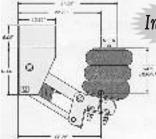


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erators, from Washington to Califor-

nia tie on purple ribbons, but photos

came from truckers as far away as

Canada, Hawaii, Ireland, Norway,

Australia and Guyana Africa. There

are even purple ribbons blowing in

the breeze atop the crane at the

Georgia Pacific mill in Toledo, Ore-

"Over the next couple of weeks, I

must have gained at least a couple

hundred Facebook friends," Roberts

says. "People were coming out of the

upon themselves." Dean Whalen, owner of Dean Whalen Trucking, in Yelm, Washington, had always named his trucks, and was still without a moniker for the new 2014 Kenworth he was driving. By chance, the truck was just the right color.

"I didn't have a purple ribbon, but I had a purple truck," Whalen says

asked for any of it; they just took it

Whalen and son Bobby, who drives the other company truck, decided it was only fitting to christen the truck "Hannah". Whalen called his sign painter and told her the plan, and she said to stop in after his last load and she would volunteer to letter the name onto hood of the truck.

Before learning of Hannah's story, Whalen didn't know her or her family in any way, shape or form. But he knew in his heart that he was doing the right thing.

"I thought, 'I've got to do something for these people," Whalen states. "I'm just the guy who had a purple truck. There isn't anybody in our industry who wouldn't have done the same thing."

"I've saved every picture that's been posted into a file and I've brought Hannah in and showed her the slideshow on the computer," Roberts says. "She gets a lot of smiles and really feels the people 17 pulling for her.

"A group effort like this is overwhelming. I only know about three percent of the people who wish us well and post photos of their trucks flying purple. The support for Hannah and our family is just unreal."

More and more ribbons are showing up on trucks everyday, and people within the log hauling community have taken it upon themselves to raise money through T-shirt and purple ribbon window sticker sales. Lisa Holcomb, a former driver who

(Continued on Page 20) See "For Hannah"  $\S$ 

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### (Continued from Page 17)

now operates an online chrome and truck accessories business, helped to launch a fundraising website through U. S. Bank.

Roberts's friend, Todd Stoffel, a log truck owner-operator in Vancouver, even called offering to donate a load of logs to the cause.

"With the rates and the economy, I thought it was way too much," Roberts says, "But how do you say no to people who want to help you?"

"I'm a giver; I'm not a taker. I've never even borrowed ten dollars," Roberts says. "I've worked for everything I've got, so for me to accept money from people is very hard."

"I never wanted any help financially. I just wanted to get Hannah's story out there."

That it has. Positive changes are already happening, showing that the message of caring and compassion is truly being heard.

"I've gotten messages from people who were driving down the road hauling logs looking at the purple ribbon on their truck and started to rethink their whole life and plan some changes," Roberts says.

"Hopefully these guys can continue to come together and not just change their lives, but also their livelihood. Maybe they can work together and start getting the haul rates up; I'd like to see everybody get something out of this."

"When you look at our industry," Whalen says, "It's full of hard working people, and sometimes we're perceived as being rough around the edges. Then you take this little girl, Hannah, who came into this because her dad grew up in the timber industry, and she took all of these hard-nosed people and brought out their soft, compassionate caring side."

"Ultimately, I'd hope that all these people continue to pull together as one big family," he adds. "We get so wrapped up in our own problems that we tend to forget to go back to our core values. This was an opportunity to give back and not have to think twice about it." For more informtion and to donate to Hannah's fund visit www.youcaring.com/WingsofanAngel.



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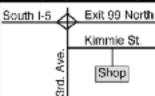
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### **First annual Inland Northwest Truck Show in Idaho set for August**

The first annual Inland Northwest Truck Show will be held at the Greyhound Park and Event Center in Post Falls, Idaho on August 2nd, 3rd and 4th from 10 am to 9 pm on Friday and Saturday, and from 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday.

This event is designed to celebrate trucks from the commercial carriers to the hobby truck enthusiasts, show officials said. Offering a variety of products, vendor booths will be located both inside and outside the Event Center. Ticket prices at the gate are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children (5-12). Parking is free.

To create interest and to encourage participation, the producers of the show invite all commercially operated trucks to be entered in the show either to compete for prizes or to represent a business. If you use a truck in your business, a \$45 entry fee will entitle your business to three days of public visibility or a \$100 entry fee will additionally

qualify your truck to vie for trophies and prizes.

Activities include:

Truck Rodeo. Demonstrate your driving skills in a 2014 model rig with trailer. A \$50 registration fee is payable onsite Friday morning. The driving competition for cash prizes will begin Friday afternoon.

Swap Meet for big rigs. \$50 registers you for a great opportunity to sell your used or spare semi-truck parts. Pre-registration is requested on a first paid, first registered basis because of space considerations.

Awards Ceremony for Show and Shine winners. Trophies and cash prizes will be presented at 1:00 pm on Saturday.

Drawings for prizes will be held every two hours beginning at 12:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Friday and Saturday and at 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm on Sunday in the Event Center vendor area.

The goal of the producers is to build Inland Northwest Truck Show into the premier truck show for the Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Western Montana and British Columbia

area. Over 700 personal contacts have been made in order to promote the value and caliber of the show.

Registration materials are at nwtruckshow.com or available by calling Monte at 509 844-3746 or Bob at 509 939-3360

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The most recent Transport Capital Partners Survey reveals carriers experiencing problems finding qualified employees and drivers.

In the 2nd quarter TCP Business Expectations Survey, 65% of carriers noted having difficulty finding qualified maintenance technicians. Additionally, 30% indicated they are having problems filling operations staff and fleet manager level positions.

"Fleet owners are telling us that staffing trucks is becoming a challenge," says Steven Dutro, TCP partner.

Shortages of drivers, technicians, and fleet managers are reinforcing carriers' concerns about adding capacity at this time. 70% of larger carriers in the survey say they are having trouble finding qualified technicians. Among smaller carriers, 50% are experiencing the same hiring difficulties.

"Good employees, at all levels, have always been the lifeblood of the industry," says TCP partner Richard Mikes. "Now, as we see growth in demand on the horizon,

### Hell's half-acre

### (Continued from Page 4)

nition of the danger this imposes seems nonexistent! In other words in a view from Obama's perspective, the financial slashing would be akin to him reducing his "vacation budget" from five trips costing \$502 million to two vacations and a weekend spree at \$297

We are up to our asses in alligators folks and no one can figure out how to drain the swamp!

(Sherrie Bond serves as Director of the Northwest Log Truckers' Cooperative. She can be reached via email at HYPERLINK "mailto:BONDTRUCK@aol.com"BOND TRUCK@aol.com)

excellent human resource management is critical.'

### **Driver Pay**

"The cost metrics of carriers are trending up in a period where rates are not still rising fast enough. It is no wonder carriers are hesitant to buy new equipment or raise pay to their employees," observed Steven Dutro.

In the 2nd quarter survey, only 50% of carriers reported adequate rates of return on their investments.

> (Continued on Page 22) See "LT News"

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### (Continued from Page 21)

⇔ Additionally, the 1st quarter TCP survey revealed that 40% of carriers have seen their engine-related maintenance costs rise.

As a result, most carriers are insistant that rate increases precede any wage increases. More than 90% of larger carriers reported needing to see rates increase before they can raise driver wages.

### **Kenworth's Renton plant** celebrates 20 years

The Kenworth Truck Co. assembly plant in Renton, Wash., recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Since the plant opened in 1993, it has produced more than 130,000 Kenworth trucks. The facility currently produces T660, T800, W900, C500, K500 and 963 models along with some medium-duty Kenworth T370s and T440s.

The Renton assembly plant holds ISO 14001:2004 certification for environmental management systems and last summer the facility received a 2012 Best Workplace for Waste Prevention and Recycling Award from the King County, Washington Solid Waste Division for its efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

### **Mobile tech could save** transport companies \$460,000 annually

A recent survey conducted by Intermec (NYSE:IN) revealed that transport and logistics companies could save approximately \$459,0001 per annum as a result of process reengineering and the implementation of mobile technology across workflows, but a significant proportion of companies may be missing out on these potential savings.

The survey reveals that more than one in three (39%) companies have not initiated re-engineering efforts in the past year, and of these companies, nearly three quarters (72%) have not evaluated their existing processes for at least two

With customers demanding sameday delivery services2, transport and logistics managers have identified operational efficiency as their number one area needing improvement this year3, and 44% of companies believe reviewing current workflows and technologies (process reengineering) is the most effective means of achieving that.

Key to improving operations is the deployment of mobile, locationbased technology, an area where managers believe savings of more than \$282,000 can be achieved in the next 12 months. However, almost a quarter (23%) of the companies surveyed have yet to deploy location-based technology, citing a number of barriers including lack of need and cost, which is preventing them from capitalizing on these ben-

"Deploying mobile technology for pick-ups and deliveries has long been seen as a way to improve efficiency and reduce costs, and these findings prove that point emphatically. Ignoring process change simply isn't a long term option," said Jeff Sibio, Intermec Industry Director for Transport and Logistics.

Automating Processes

Managers see broadband mobile communications such as 4G and LTE as the single biggest future driver of ROI (60%) followed by integrated vehicle telematics (44%) and

But those who have not deployed new technologies through process re-engineering remain significant. Of those who have not automated processes, nearly 40% cite a lack of business need and 33% attribute cost as the key reasons for not doing

Consequently, the survey finds that 60% of organizations still use paper-based systems to complete tasks associated with pick-up and delivery, and 9% have plans to deploy paper in some form in 2013.

Demanding greater accuracy

When asked to rank the demands received from their customers, 77% of managers claim that accuracy of service is the biggest pressure point.

Nearly a quarter (24%) of companies add that improved accessibility of data in back office systems is the area most in need of improvement, followed by an increased amount of detail (23%) and greater accuracy

### Tina Comer

(Continued from Page 5)

that with her."

No matter what, this is an honor that Tina can share with her family. She's showing that you can be a strong woman accomplishing whatever she wants with the added bonus of being beautiful while doing it. That's certainly something to be proud of. But what does her husband think about all of this?

"He's my rock," says Tina. "He's going to be proud and supportive of me no matter what I'm doing. He's always told me that I'm beautiful."

So what's the next step? Tina will be travelling to Dallas in August for The Great American Trucking Show where the winner will be announced. But that's not what she's most excited about.

"I can't wait to see all of the beautiful trucks!"

You can take the girl out of the truck, but . . . well, you know.

(22%).
"We can see from this research that deploying technology is not just a cost-saving initiative, it's increasingly essential to maintain new

> (Continued on Page 23) See "LT News"



acting assistant regional adminis- 23

trator. "We'll have a better idea as

ridor carries 71,000 vehicles daily.

June 19 on a temporary replacement span and reopened I-5 to traf-

we get closer."

### LT News

(Continued from Page 22)

higher levels of service to keep cus-

tomers happy," said Sibio. "One additional validation we are receiving is that the end customer is different and many transportation organizations are scrambling to meet the

evolving needs of these new decision makers. Many factors need to be considered, but through a thorough process review, companies can quickly find the solution that will elevate their operations to the next

## Work begins on I-5 bridge

Work to install the new permanent span for the Interstate 5 Skagit River Bridge in Burlington,

Washington State Department of Transportation have begun driving piles parallel to the temporary spans into the riverbed. The piles will eventually hold work platforms

The next big step comes after Labor Day, when crews close I-5 to make the swap.

"We expect the closure to be days,



After constructing the four-lane, 160-foot-long replacement span on one side, crews will use a rail system to move the new span into its final location and to shift the temporary spans to the other side for dis-



Wash., is officially underway. Contractor crews working for the

not weeks, but we just can't be more specific yet," says Jay Drye, WSDOT

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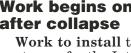
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on both sides of I-5.



### **Phillips combines** electrical and air assembly products

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The new 3-in-1 assembly combines Phillips straight ABS Lecdle that includes a hanging clamp

The 3-in-1 ABS Lectraflex cable is outfitted with Phillips Sta-Dry QCMS2 plug/socket hybrid that locks out road contaminants and a QCP (Quick Change Plug) that makes field repairs simple. The QCMS2 plugs directly into the tractor, is rarely removed and is a builtin theft deterrent. The air coils have large grips for easy coupling and uncoupling with the tractor end including a swivel fitting for easy installation. All cables are abrasion resis-

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2006 Western 4900FA, self loader, C13 Cat (475hp) motor, 18spd Eaton Fuller, 16.600 front, 46k rear, dbl lockers, Whitlog hop on log trailer, SI scales, 282k miles, 2006 Serco 160 loader......**\$100,000** 

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