

THANK YOU, TRADESWORKERS

National Tradesworker Day is September 15—Join Klickitat PUD in thanking those who help keep the utility running

By Jorgia Bean, Office Summer Intern

A trade job is any occupation requiring specialized skills, typically learned through advanced training rather than a four-year college or university. Common types of career preparation for trade jobs include vocational training at a trade school, an apprenticeship or on-the-job training. Tradespeople often work in plumbing, electricity or similar industries.

We would like to highlight these often unseen employees for their hard work and contributions to the utility. Each plays a unique role and possesses skills that make them valuable assets.

Renewable Natural Gas:

The Renewable Natural Gas facility in Roosevelt converts our local garbage into natural gas. Because only a handful of RNG facilities exist in the country, the Roosevelt facility serves as a model for

many others.

KPUD's tradespeople did most of the work to develop our RNG facility. Our tradespeople are still working hard to keep the facility growing, functioning, generating and harnessing the fuel produced from the breakdown of our garbage.

The RNG team is: Site Superintendent Doug Tuning; Gas Field Tech/Maintenance Douglas Strathdee; Instrument and Controls Tech Daniel Bartholomew; Operation and Maintenance Techs II Jeff Link, Pat McLagan, Dale Ransom, Hart Shelden, Torey Jimenez-Spaulding and Leonard Swift; and Operation and Maintenance Techs I Cody Austin and Michael Hauner.

Water-Wastewater

Each member of the water-wastewater team ensures we all have access to safe, efficient water. Thirteen water and wastewater facilities around the county are continuously in operation to produce and purify our water as well as decompose the county's wastewater.

Our water-wastewater crew is a large, hardworking group of tradespeople with an array of backgrounds, knowledge and the ability to think outside of the box

to make sure everything is functioning and efficient. The team includes: Superintendent Brandon Walter; Lead Operator Gregory Watson; and Operators Michael Krause, Zain Gasparovich, Rodney Kiser and Noah Halm.

Meter Shop

Our meter shop performs many essential operations, including wiring, meter inspection, testing and repair. The shop also responds to service requests, making connections and disconnections, and reading meters, valves, pressure regulators and flow-testing meters. The meter shop covers many hidden and valuable areas to ensure the facility and meters continue to function.

The meter shop staff includes Superintendent Jim Brokaw Jr.; Foreman Darren Shattuck; Substation Wiremen Rylee Van Belle, Jeremy Kerns, Tomas Navarro and Christopher Warner; and Journeyman Wireman Craig Osborne.

Operational Maintenance

The KPUD maintenance department performs a range of operations calls for upkeep. This includes keeping our trucks and computers running; keeping our mapping software and other systems



functional; and trimming trees to prevent fires and damage to the power lines. In addition, the maintenance department makes sure everyone has access to the supplies they need to perform their duties. The department also works on the PUD's landscaping and keeps utility buildings in working order.

The department includes Tree Trimming Crew Foreman Dale Stelter; Mechanic Carl Spratt; GIS Specialist and Drone Pilot Phillip McMillen; and Groundskeeper Casey Sholdebrand.

Operators

KPUD's equipment operator is Travis Heilman. Travis' daily demands include digging trenches for customers or utility work. He is also often found operating the dump truck. His dump truck has been unanimously voted as the least favorite vehicle to clean.

Staking Engineers

Staking engineers are vital to the start of home water and electricity installations. The crew of staking engineers individually meets with customers to stake and give estimates depending on the future of the property. All of our staking engineers are also licensed drone pilots, which allows them to help maintain power lines and find the cause of power outages more effectively.

The KPUD staking engineers are Aaron Estes, Jared Balcom and Nathaniel Hill. Justin Beierle is the engineering superintendent.

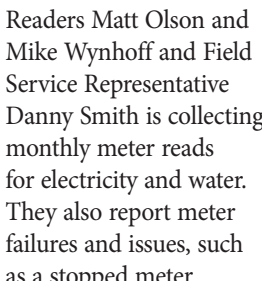
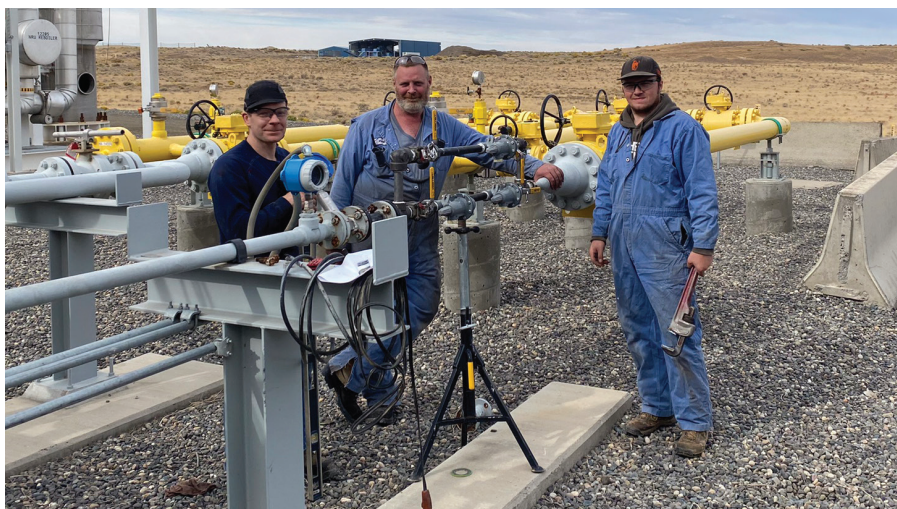
Warehouse Staff

The inventory and supplies for all of the workers at KPUD are organized, maintained and tracked by the warehouse personnel.

Kirt O'Leary and Bill Rogers are KPUD's warehouse workers. They do everything they can to make projects go smoothly. From preorganizing materials for the crew's jobs to managing all of our warehouse inventory, they go the extra mile for all of their internal and external customers.

Customer Service

The primary duty for KPUD Meter



Readers Matt Olson and Mike Wynhoff and Field Service Representative Danny Smith is collecting monthly meter reads for electricity and water. They also report meter failures and issues, such as a stopped meter or meter tampering. Field service reps also work on disconnects and reconnects and are backups for electric locates. ■

TOP ROW: From left, Daniel Bartholomew, Hart Sheldon and Mike Hauner. **SECOND ROW:** Meter readers Matt Olson, left, and Mike Wynhoff, and Field service representative Danny Smith, center. Groundskeeper Casey Sholdebrand. Mechanic Carl Spratt. **THIRD ROW:** Equipment Operator Travis Heilman. The Water-Wastewater team. **BOTTOM ROW:** Tree Trimming Crew foreman Dale Stelter. Warehouse workers Kirt O'Leary and Bill Rogers.