CBH and Watco set Australian records with longest train

by Jay Benedict
Digital Communication & Social Media Specialist

Rail and train enthusiasts and residents across Western Australia’s Wheatbelt came out in force to witness history last month. On April 19, Watco Western Australia and our Customer and partner, CBH Group, broke the records for the longest and largest grain train ever operated on the continent.

The 1.8 kilometer, or 1.1 mile, long train consisted of 120 wagons. Its three locomotives helped CBH deliver 9,000 tons of grain from Merredin to port at Kwinana Grain Terminal, just south of Perth. It’s estimated that the roughly 200-mile-move replaced at least 155 trucks.

That’s not the most important part, though. The train was run as a trial and is the continuation of an effort between CBH and Watco to maximize the utilization of CBH’s rolling stock and transport the grain as efficiently as possible.

“CBH’s belief in the value of rail and their willingness to invest capital into the locomotives and wagons is the driver behind our ability to lower freight rates and move more tonnage with less equipment,” said Watco CEO Rick Webb.

They’ve done just that. In the first year, 2012, freight rates decreased 7 percent. Today, rail freight rates are 20 percent lower than in 2010-2011. A big part of that has been the continued effort to maximize efficiency and the past five years tell the story well. The average tons of grain moved per fleet in 2017 is triple what it was in 2011, before the operating partnership between CBH and Watco started.

The record that was broken was CBH and Watco’s own 2016 record. That train was 1.3 kilometers (.8 miles) long with 88 wagons and moved 6,500 tons of grain. The success of that trial led the 88-wagon trains to be a regular part of rail operations.

“We learnt a lot when running the previous 88 wagon-train in 2016, and through this trial, we’ll build on those learnings to make sure we get growers’ grain to market in the most efficient and cost effective way possible,” said CBH general manager-operations David Capper.

Safety is also paramount when trying something new. CBH consulted with Arc Infrastructure while planning the 2018 trial. Their assistance was a key factor in making sure the record train met safe operating standards.

CBH’s investment and commitment to ensuring the best value for their growers is a large factor in what put the plan in motion, but it’s Watco’s boots on the ground that kept it rolling. Watco WA chief operating officer Grant Thompson says the outcome is especially great because senior management was not involved with the project. It was managed and driven by Watco Team Members in the field working with CBH.

“Your team is a measure of how great your company truly is. This 120-wagon train was driven and executed safely because of the discipline and focus of our operations Team Members, who drove it to execution. Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge the great relationship Watco has with our Customer, CBH. And because of this, Watco was able to break yet another record for moving grain to Port,” said Thompson. “Our focus is always to operate safely, but also continue to push ourselves to improve daily for the benefit of both companies over the long term.”

An overhead view of the longest grain train (120 wagons) ever operated in Australia.

A loaded grain train with 120 wagons rolls down the tracks in Western Australia. This is the first time that anyone in Australia hauled 120 grain wagons on one train. This was taken by Alexander Mackay at Thornlie, Western Australia.
**Safety in the South**

Safety is a key focus in all operations that Watco Companies is a part of and there are several railroads in the south that are a good example of what results from developing a strong safety culture.

The Mississippi Southern Railroad (MSR) just achieved 13 years of injury-free service and to celebrate the event, a combination Safety Celebration, Town Hall, and Team Safety and Improvement Committee meeting was held.

The event was held at the Vicksburg Southern Railroad (VSOR) depot to recognize their safety achievements as well and because the two railroads share both team members and a general manager.

The VSOR was at 310 days since their last HFI and 1610 days since the last RPI at the time of the event. Other times, the Customer has an opportunity and in that small window, things move more quickly.

That was the case when Customer Keystone Steel & Wire reached out to commercial manager Mike Wastchak. Wastchak had worked with Keystone previously to bring barges into Watco’s Jeffersonville, Indiana, terminal. Keystone had an opportunity to expand their business into the Magic Valley region of Idaho and needed a quick turnaround.

“Those days, we have to take the blinders off and not just focus on serving the Customer in our area. We have to go in and remember to see if there are any other services we can provide,” Wastchak said.

He immediately put Keystone in touch with commercial manager Steve Sheldon. Sheldon manages several properties in the upper Midwest, but not Idaho. He brought commercial manager Luke Bellamy into the loop and discussions were underway.

“It used to just be, ‘How much tonnage is coming through this terminal? Is it two barges here or ten barges here?’ Now when the Customers says, ‘I can’t get barges here,’ or ‘I can’t accumulate enough inventory to fill a barge,’ or ‘I don’t need anything here, but what can we do over there?’

Now, we can step in and ask if they’re looking at trucking or rail and if we can work with them there. We’re trying to listen and react and be the one-stop-shop to follow the Customer where they need to go,” Wastchak said.

Keystone told Bellamy about the opportunity in his area and asked what Watco could offer there. The coiled steel wire rod would arrive by rail, but needed trucked to the final destination. The transload facilities in the area are geared toward agriculture, so he suggested the Burley, Idaho, warehouse, even though it specializes primarily in food-grade products.

“We hadn’t handled anything like it there before, but I figured it would be good experience for the guys at the warehouse to try new commodity, a new railcar, and broaden our horizons as well as helping out the Customer. I called the terminal manager, Brian Addis, and he was like ‘Yep, bring it on,’” Bellamy said.

They were able to get a rate in place that both sides were happy with. The whole process took about a week until Keystone called and told Bellamy they’d just waybilled three cars for Burley. With that, the Team went out and rented the necessary equipment to transload the coils.

“The guys kicked some butt. They got that first car and they were loading trucks in 30 minutes, just moving those trucks out of there,” Bellamy said.

The relationship that Burley has with the local truckers also helped the move. One of the truckers that has a contract with another Customer was delivering some of their product and asked about the incoming steel after he heard about it. When he had the arrival date for the shipment, Bellamy called the trucker and he said he was there the next morning.

“This was a slam dunk for everyone. It moved really fast, benefitted everyone, we got to see the whole story from beginning to end, and it was cool to get a new commodity into the warehouse,” Bellamy said. “We hope this will become a regular thing. They’re trying to win the business of a manufacturer out here because Keystone believes their product is superior. These first three cars are just the beginning stages of it. I’m hoping that the logistics end of it is all taken care of and we did our part to make Keystone look good and can continue to grow.”

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**Customer:** Keystone Steel & Wire  
**Commodity:** Coiled steel wire rod  
**Location:** Burley, ID warehouse

by Jay Benedict  
Digital Communication & Social Media Specialist

Sometimes freight moves are planned well in advance and the pieces to make them happen are slowly put together over weeks or even months. Other times, the Customer has an opportunity and in that small window, things move more quickly.

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**Safety and Improvement Committee (TSIC) Celebration, Town Hall, and Team members who have helped the Mississippi Southern Railroad reach 13 years injury free (l-r) Jacob Norwood (TSIC leader), Scott Bryan (VSOR), John Dellinger (VSOR), Albert Merritt (VSOR MSR), Greg Lockhart (VSOR MSR); Michael Jackson (VSOR), James Hawkins (VSOR), Matt Brown (VSOR), Roosevelt England (VSOR), Chris Green (VSOR), Richard Polk (VSOR), Danny Sims (MSR), Steve Kimball (VSOR MSR); Stacy Swinford (VSOR), Rasheda Combs (VSOR), and Robert Scoggins (MSR). Not pictured are Randy McIntyre (VSOR), Justin Dempsey (VSOR), and Jeff Buck, general manager.**

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Watco Teams band together

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

When you combine the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Grand Rivers Terminal (GRT), and Jacksonville, Florida’s GBW Railcar shop you get a good example of a business model that combines a number of Watco services.

The collaboration between the three all began with call from representatives at the TVA Shownee, Kentucky, plant to GRT asking for some guidance on how to keep the product more contained and their team members safer. While discussing methods used by the GRT Team, Nathan Tobey, terminal manager, asked them what they were looking to achieve. This led to Tobey introducing them to the GBW Team and the talks went into more detail from that point.

TVA is one of the largest energy suppliers in the central southeast and has over 2,000 railcars in operation moving coal for their various power plants. New internal policies are being put in place for the maintenance of the railcar door operating systems and TVA needed someone to perform maintenance on the cars. TVA has had difficulty finding repair locations with availability and all TVA railcar sets pass close to GRT making it a strategic location. By having a repair yard along their normal rail traffic routes that is largely dedicated to them, it adds much value for TVA and draws additional coal volumes through the terminal itself.

The Jacksonville, Florida, GBW Team went up to the terminal to teach the team members there how to perform the light repairs desired by TVA. And on Monday, April 23, the first train set pulled into the terminal to begin the project’s trial run, which will consist of a total of three trains. If everything goes as planned, they will be performing the repairs on a long-term basis.

Tobey said, “It’s been great to get to work with the different divisions at Watco and find creative ways to involve them in meeting our Customer’s needs. There is even more opportunity down the road to involve more of the divisions, so potentially, every division at Watco could get a piece of the pie.”

Watco Team Members who assisted with the first repairs were Donnie Walston, Mike Koon, Tom Beverly, Randy McPherson, Robin Doom, James Riley, Brad Fralick, Steve Russelburg, and Jewell Watson. GBW Team Members who assisted were Paul Loper, Armando Albor Ledesma, Erik DeHoyos, Hector DeHoyos, George King, and Carl Silcox.

Watco’s first Ohio switching operations are underway

Team members providing switching services at the Cincinnati, Ohio, Tropicana location are Joel Johnson, Coty Luckett, and Taylor Brewer.

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Back in 1995, Watco’s Charlie Sigley was excited to help bring on a new mechanical Customer. That Customer was Tropicana, and he never imagined that 22 years later that relationship would lead to Watco providing switching services to the company in another part of the country.

“The relationship that Charlie built and the service that was provided by the Mechanical Team in Jacksonville (Florida) definitely played a part in Watco being able to provide switching for the Tropicana Distribution Center in Cincinnati,” said Rob Thrall, vice president of business development.

The services provided by the Mechanical Team included a bolster web, end sill modifications of the cars, and painting the entire Tropicana fleet.

Keith LaCaze and Tony Clark’s Team will help support the start-up, with the operations then transferring to Nick Coomes, Rusty Smith, and the Cincinnati Terminal and Ports Team.

The Switching Team, consisting of Coty Luckett, Joel Johnson, and Taylor Brewer, provide in-plant switching twelve hours a day, Monday through Friday, at the Cincinnati plant.

“We are excited to build on our relationship with Tropicana and look forward to continuing our great partnership,” said Thrall.

A Tropicana railcar that the Watco Mechanical Team had worked on when first building our relationship.

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) Team Member Gary Sanderson rang out his years in the rail industry on April 2, with a retirement party thrown by his teammates. They gifted the engineer with a locomotive bell engraved with his name, the time period he worked for the WSOR, and the railroad’s name.

Gary started his railroading career back in 1973 as a conductor for The Milwaukee Road. They were later sold and he went to work for Metra from 1981 to 1991. Gary then joined the Wisconsin & Southern Team in 1991. He started as a conductor and worked his way quickly into being an engineer.

Gary plans on keeping busy during his retirement and is looking forward to finishing up a remodeling project, spending time with his grandchildren, and traveling to visit other relatives across the country.

WSOR TEAM MEMBER RETIRES
HOUSTON LIQUIDS TERMINAL CELEBRATES SAFETY

by Tracie VanBeecelaere
Managing Editor

Change. That one word describes what the Houston Liquids Terminal has gone through since its start up five years ago. On April 1. The one thing that has not changed has been their focus on safety.

The Liquids Terminal group started out with an ethanol unit train terminal, then as the oil market picked up, a state-of-the-art crude-by-rail terminal. In addition, due to Customer demand, a hydrochloric acid transload station was added to the offerings of the Liquids Terminal. The Team also handled a variety of direct transload business from a variety of sources.

Unfortunately, the once busy crude-by-rail terminal was hit by the decreased demand for crude. As the downturn in crude continued, the staff had to be reduced and team members were cross-trained to assist in other areas of the terminal if the need arose.

Because of the change and the diversity of the tasks the team was performing, Nathan Holmes, assistant vice president of operations-liquids, feels that the milestone is that much more impressive.

“There hasn’t been a lot of repetitiveness to what the Team does and because of that, they don’t follow the same safety routine, they don’t have a pattern established. They have to reassess what they are doing every day, and determine how to perform those tasks safely and efficiently,” said Holmes.

One of the strengths of the Team is their ability to innovate and a change in the way Mexico handled its fuel market opened the doors for the HLT Team. A single company controlled the Mexican fuel market until 2017 when Mexico’s Supreme Court ruled the practice unconstitutional, which leveled the playing field for others in the fuel industry. This led to the opening of the terminal in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. The terminal connects U.S. and Canadian served refineries, terminals, ports, and railroads to help supply fuel to Mexico.

The HTL Measurement Team has a Team Member at the facility on a daily basis to assist with their needs. Martin Dudley, Curtis Olson, Gilberto拉斯奎图, Alejandro Molina, and Nelson Guardado each have dedicated a tremendous amount of time to the San Luis terminal to ensure the terminal’s success.

With refined fuels moving to Mexico, the Houston Liquids Terminal is reinventing itself as a refined products distribution center. One of the key goals is to create a synergy between the Houston and San Luis Potosi facilities to deliver refined products to Mexico.

“We absolutely want to be the one to be moving that fuel to Mexico, but in addition, we also want to be the ones to move it anywhere else it needs to go,” said Holmes.

There is a three-month window to get the new refined fuel terminal operational with a 10-month window for it to be operating full scale.

The HLT Team did take some time to celebrate their safety record with a special barbecue at the terminal. Brisket, bacon, and burgers were cooked and Team Members created unique and delicious dishes that reflected now different what they do is, and how it all melds into something pretty amazing.


GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS!

Elijah Bolyard: Son of Garrett Bolyard, Vice President of Operations in Twin Falls, ID; graduating from Twin Falls Christian Academy in Twin Falls, ID.
LeighAnna Hueter: Daughter of Bruce Hueter, Engineer in Cherryvale, KS and Jane Hueter; graduating from the Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Apparel and Textiles with a emphasis in Marketing and a Minor in Public Relations.
Anna Hislop: Daughter of Jason Hislop, Chief Mechanical Officer in Wichita, KS; graduating from Goddard High School in Goddard, KS.
Hayley Joslin: Daughter of Josh Joslin, Assistant Terminal Manager in Louisville, KY; graduating from Carroll County High School in Carrollton, KY.
Macy Kotzman: Daughter of Paul Kotzman, Assistant Manager Revenue in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Frontenac High School in Frontenac, KS.
Remy Lierz: Daughter of Albert Lierz, Data Analyst in Overland Park, KS; graduating from Wichita State University, Wichita, KS with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with a certificate in Stage Management.
Kelly Lierz: Wife of Albert Lierz, Data Analyst in Overland Park, KS; graduating from Baker University SPGS, Overland Park, KS with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.
Gabbie Massoglia: Daughter of Marc Massoglia, Senior Vice President of Commercial; graduating from the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL with a Doctor of Pharmacy.
Macie McGowan: Daughter of Joe Ryder, Terminal Manager in Blytheville, AR; graduating from ElDo rado High School.
Mattie McGowan: Daughter of Joe Ryder, Terminal Manager in Blytheville, AR; graduating from Southeastern Illinois College with an Associates Degree in Marketing.
Lauren McPhilips: Daughter of Pat McPhilips, Location Manager at Hammond PCS Switching, Hammond, IN; graduating from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago with a Master’s Degree in Architecture.
Robert O’Neal: Son of Larry O’Neal, System Analyst in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Holly Springs High School, Holly Springs, NC.
Nicholas Potts: Son of Stephen Potts, Seniorollections Administrator in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Frontenac Senior High School, Frontenac, KS with a 2-year Welding Degree from Fort Scott Community College.
Kailey Sheldon: Daughter of Steve Sheldon, Commercial Manager in Butte, MT; graduating from the University of Montana in Missoula, MT with a Master of Science in Speech Pathology.
Maggie Snow: Daughter of Brad Snow, All Aboard Foundation President in Pittsburg, Kansas; graduating from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS with a Bachelor of Science in Education.
Taylor VanBeecelaere: Son of Cindy VanBeecelaere, People Services Coordinator in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Pittsburg High School in Pittsburg, KS.
Christopher Wood: Son of Penny Wood, Purchase Card and Cellphone Administrator in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Pittsburg High School in Pittsburg, KS.
Did you know that nearly 60% of the human body is made up of water? And some of our organs are made up of even more. In order to survive and function optimally, we need to consume a fair amount of fresh, filtered H2O everyday in order to stay hydrated. Your age, weight, gender, and activity level all play a factor in how much water you should consume, but a good general number for adult males is at least 3 liters, with females being at least 2.2 liters. I generally consume way more (usually about 5-6 liters per day), but every body is different, and this is a good starting point if you are not used to drinking a lot of water throughout your day. However, I do encourage you to up your intake of water during the hotter summer months, and after a sweaty workout. In addition to just drinking water, you can also get ample hydration from eating fresh fruits and vegetables. Some of the higher water content produce include: watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapefruit, peaches, cucumber, lettuce, dark leafy greens, zucchini, celery, radish, cauliflower, peppers, and spinach, to name just a few. These yummy fruits and veggies also give your body the fiber, vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and nutrients it craves to look and feel its best. Here are some additional reasons why you should be prioritizing your water intake on a daily basis:

- **Increases Your Energy Levels** - Our brain is around 85% water, so its functionality relies heavily on our body’s hydration levels. A properly hydrated body allows the brain to think faster, focus more, and generate clarity and creativity, whereas a dehydrated body can lead to mood swings, decreased ability to concentrate, headaches, anxiety, and overall fatigue.

- **Promotes Weight Loss** - Proper hydration helps the body maintain a healthy weight by revving up your metabolism and regulating your appetite. Sometimes if you feel hungry, it’s actually just your body craving water. So the next time you want to reach for a snack, try drinking a big glass of H2O instead and see if that helps. Dehydration also leads to bloat and “water weight,” so drinking more water actually helps you flush out excess pounds you might be holding onto.

- **Improves Skin Complexion** - Water is a vital nutrient to the life of every cell. It locks in moisture, replenishes the skin, and increases its elasticity. This in turn helps diminish fine lines and wrinkles. Water also helps remove toxins from the body, leading to a clearer complexion and less puffiness.

- **Boosts Immune System** - Your immune system functions best when all of your muscles and organs are operating optimally. Water helps the kidneys remove toxins and allows your cells to absorb nutrients. The Lymph system also needs ample amounts of H2O to circulate white blood cells throughout the body’s tissues. If these two systems are compromised, our bodies ability to fight off illness and disease is decreased. Additional illnesses and ailments that can be prevented with proper hydration include arthritis, joint issues, depression, UTI’s, kidney stones, headaches, muscle cramps, constipation, insomnia, leukemia and lymphoma.

- **Promotes Digestion & Elimination** - When the body is dehydrated, both the digestive and gastrointestinal tract become compromised. Water and other liquids help with the breakdown, digestion, and assimilation of food so that the body can absorb nutrients. When the broken down food hits the intestines, adequate amounts of both water and fiber are needed to help the bowels function properly and eliminate what the body no longer needs. So make sure to drink up and eat plenty of fruits, veggies, and whole grains to stay regular.
Dan Martin grew up telling himself and his friends and family he wasn’t going to be a mechanic. He’d maintained the machines for an equipment rental company, then moved over to construction for a while. Until in 2002, when his friend, who was chief mechanical officer for Trans-Global Solutions, which operated the Austin Area Terminal Railroad (AATR), the precursor to the Austin Western Railroad (AWRR), asked him to apply for a job there. “It took me a little while because I didn’t know anything about the railroad. I didn’t know if it was a good job, a bad job, or one of those jobs that doesn’t go anywhere,” said Dan. “So it took a little convincing, but the first day on the job, I realized I absolutely loved it and it’s definitely what I was meant to do.”

He’s now approaching 16 years in the rail industry and most of it is with Watco. He’s been in the CMO position on the AWRR since September 2015. “The joke when I was younger was always that I’d tell everyone, ‘No, I don’t ever want to be a mechanic,’ and then everybody goes, ‘But you’re so good at it.’ When I finally got the chance to work on something big enough and awesome enough, I thought, this is exactly what I want to do,” Dan said.

Dan originally became CMO for the AATR in 2005. He stayed on when Watco took over in 2007 and started the AWRR, and in 2012 left the mechanical department to work with Larry Jensen, then a Watco SVP and CMO. There, as corporate director of locomotive support, he was responsible for special project development and helped provide training and support to all Watco locations. “I worked with Larry until April 2014. They kind of dropped some of the support functions around that time. I was offered different positions with Watco, but I didn’t want to leave Austin, so I took a little time away and hired on with the local commuter train,” Dan said. “When the CMO job opened up again, I did whatever I could to get back over here to Watco.”

He had a number of reasons he was eager to get back and one was the support and training offered. “When I hired on it was a baptism by fire kind of thing, just working my butt off to learn how to do something and then do it and retain that knowledge. There were a few times where I was on my own for long periods of time with nine locomotives. It got pretty hairy there sometimes. Then, when Watco came in, they brought along all kinds of training and classes and support and expenditure cards. That made it a lot easier to fund the locomotive department,” said Dan.

The main reason Dan gave, though, is the family environment. “I’ve worked for several different companies, but I’d never worked for a place where I felt like I was a part of the family. Being able to have (Watco CEO) Rick Webb’s phone number and being able to call him if I ever need anything is pretty amazing. I still haven’t had to make that phone call because Watco has the best support group and the leadership Team here is so great, but having the opportunity to do that makes me feel like I’m valued here,” Dan said. “I feel useful here. I get re-energized and recharged every time I get to go out and do something new. It’s a good feeling because it gives you a sense of accomplishment.”

When Dan’s not working on the AWRR’s 20 locomotives with the railroad’s four mechanics, he says spending time with his wife, Amy, and their three girls, Makenzie (12), Jacey (8), and Madison (7) keeps him busy too. The two younger girls are in gymnastics and the Makenzie plays volleyball.

McNichol to lead government relations

Although Laura McNichol graduated with a degree in journalism, her real passion is helping people and being a part of something bigger than herself. And that’s exactly what she’s doing in her new role as Watco’s Senior Vice President of Government and Industry Relations. Laura said one of her favorite things is to get a call from someone, who may not even know, saying “I can use your help.” It’s a fair bet that she’s received plenty of calls like that since she joined Watco in early 2017.

Laura has visited “the Hill” more times than she can count in the 20 years that she has been a DC regular, advocating for policies benefiting the industry she’s represented at the time. She got her start in DC working for the National Association of Conservation Districts, where she lobbied on natural resources conservation programs for farmers and ranchers.

This go around, Laura will lead public policy efforts for railroad, waterways, and terminal industries. A big effort will focus on the 45G short line tax credit, seek funding for the nation’s inland waterway system in support of Watco’s terminal and ports’ Customers, and protecting the industry against damaging policies, such as efforts to increase truck size and weight limits.

“T really love our industry and I feel very fortunate to be at Watco,” said Laura. “Being a railroader is different, not everyone can say, ‘Let’s go for a train ride!’ I get to give folks a brand new experience while educating them about our industry at the same time.”

As far as the terminal and port divisions, she is learning more about what they do each day and is already working on some funding projects for different terminals.

Laura enjoys sharing her world with those new to what goes in the world of politics and more importantly, teaching them how it affects them on a daily basis. “I like bringing someone to DC who’s never been there and taking them through the halls of Congress, showing them the Capitol Rotunda, and introducing them to how Washington, DC works,” said Laura. “We are one of the most regulated industries in the country both economically and on the safety side. Polices made in DC have tremendous impacts our business and it’s important for everyone to know how that works.”

When she isn’t walking through the marble halls of the Capitol, her surroundings are much different. Laura’s perfect day is spent on her kayak floating the Shenandoah River catching sunfish and smallmouth bass, or hiking through the woods and wildlife watching.
Congratulations to the following Team Members celebrating anniversaries this month.

1 Year: Mario Almazan, Christopher Arjune, Evan Baker, Jesse Barber, Shane Bauer, Justin Bland, Quintin Bluenel, Alexander Blum, Kadin Brannin, Joshua Briseno, Clarence Brown, Shirley חייד, Jerald Clark, Zachary Clifton, Isaac Coomnes, Keith Cornett, Alejandro Cruz, Zaqary Duran, Chase Fassett, Greg Galindo, Veronica Garcia, Michael Givens, Joshua Greer, Noah Hanson, Daren Jolla, Cole Kershner, Garrett Lauth, Rojelio Lopez, William Martin, Christopher McGee, William McKin- non, Johnathan Miller, Phillip Moorlag, Kenneth Morgan, Aaron Morris, James Ortiz, Andrew Otting, Jennifer Otto, Luis Oyervides, Gino Palazzi, Alexander Pappas, Derek Peek, Derrick Perezchica, Ray Price, Logan Reed, Kyle Robinson, John Salazar, Nora Salazar, Tyler Smith, Jonathon Tangle- man, Victorio Tudon, Alí Valdez, Teodoro Vidales, Nicko Viges, Erick Waggoner, Amanda Warren, Bryan Williams, Brandon Willis, Chad Zentz

2 Years: Jorge Castaneda, Roy Cooper, Christian Daniels, James Fossett, Dallas Frantzen, Blake Gadbury, Aaron Garcia, Jeremy Gibson, Santonio Goin, Joshua Golightly, Tori Herman, Michael Hoops, Matthew Magee, Chris Martin, Diego Muñiz, Thomas Power, James Ramsay, Tyler Sessions, Amanda Thomas, Dougollan Morrow, Scott Young

3 Years: Jason Abbott, Cameron Allen, Ansil Antoine, Joshuah Armel, Lucas Bellamy, John Bickle, Miguel Cantu Jr, Miguel Cantu Sr, Gardner Cole, Shanna Damesworth, Zachary Hilton, Garrett Hoover, Melissa Hurt, Adam Johnson, Andrew Johnson, Johnni Lawrence, Pedro Luna, Paul Martin, Omar Reyes, Corey Rittenhouse, Michael Robert, Keily Schumann, Jennifer Simpson, Matthew Sprayberry, Hunter West

4 Years: Ryan Albracht, David Alvarado, Marques Anderson, Robert Blevins, Pamela Cannon, Travis Chamberlin, Lloyd Christen, Marcus Connelly, Aaron Davis, Derrick Davis, Caleb Delasega, Gabriel Gonzales, Sharon Hansen, Michael Holland, Christopher Klemm, Scott Korth, Dave Kunes, Robert Leeper, Brandon Lockley, Matthew Lumm, Christopher Maxwell, John Mcrae, Marcos Nunez, Christopher Nunnelley, Adam Oveson, Jerry Quintana, John Ray, Joseph Ryder, Ryan Shockley, Jacob Short, Dwayne Smith, TraQuiesha Swan, Karrie Torina, Jerry Waun, Jason Wehr

5 Years: Jay Anderson, Jordan Brown, Teresa Coleman, Shawn Delaney, Gary Doxtar. Thomas Fabis, Melissa Gardner, Tabitha Hansen, Kris Henby, Jeff Huser, Willis Jones, Roy Lanthorn, Mal Moland, Floyd Russell, Henry Sanchez, Cole Schulz, Lawrence Shinav, Michael Smith, Jessica Swafford, Zachary Woolridge

6 Years: Timothy Boyd, Trinity Campbell, John Davis, Daniel Farr, Denon Green, Robert Groth, Tashata Jackson, Jerome Lawseon, Raul Lazo, Jerry Lowe, Marcus McCalman, William patterson, Daniel Perez, Tyler Pruitt, Matthew Tarwater, Christopher Thomas, Christopher Thyer, Mem Webb


8 Years: Mario Bretado, Christopher Colley, Matthew Collins, Alejandro Fonseca, Adam Hall, Timothy Herbert, Joshua Holt, Gerald LaBrec, Derek Penner, Latonya Smith, Jerri Titus, Kyle Whitman

9 Years: Kevin Anselmi, John Matteucci

10 Years: Randalo Barrios, Thadius Hawkins, Nakia Jenkins, Melanie Miller

11 Years: John Banks, Michael Hubbs, Ricardo Leija, Kenneth McGarity, Danyale Norman, Jeffrey Raker, Matthew Smith, Chris Speer, George Yanas

12 Years: Jason Danz, Charles Davidson, Nancy Kirby, Matthew Koser, Hugh Peo, Dan Sanger, Keith Schlotsman, Nicholas Zerebny

13 Years: Aaron Coester, Steven Conrad, Douglas Corbin, John Gaither, Evan Groth, Timothy Groth, Kevin Leport, John McFadden, Jason Noll, Ron Willman

14 Years: Aaron Hawkins, Amy Parady, Melissa Ross, Bradley Walker, Lance Williams

15 Years: Matthew Fetzer

16 Years: Michael Greenwalt, John Johnson, James Lilly

17 Years: Enrique Castillo, Richard Kelly, Duane Spurrer, Neil Waguespack, Mark Williams

18 Years: Chuck Shaffer

19 Years: Robert Cronch, Terrance Reed, Casey Thrall

20 Years: Stanley Bryant, Thomas Lipp, Douglas Marshall, David Muth, Jay Parsons

21 Years: Irineo Basurto, Scott Davis, Douglas Falkner, Calvin Jyles, Sean Nally

22 Years: John Snow

23 Years: Barbara Cody, Cesar Gutierrez

26 Years: Birdie Thomas, Walter Tisler

28 Years: Terry Schiska

29 Years: Michael Brown, William Gray

30 Years: Randall McPherson, Todd Mulrooney

31 Years: Terry Market

32 Years: Mark McClellan, Jay Prawucki

33 Years: Daniel Barrington, Patrick Ray

39 Years: Michael Roberts, Donald Walton

40 Years: Jose Acosta, Frank Jones

43 Years: Billy Wiley

45 Years: Braden Seese

Weddings

Kristin and Zachary Reberg

Edward and Annetra Garcia would like to announce the marriage of their daughter, Kristin Garcia to Zachary Reberg.

The couple were married on April 14, 2018. Edward serves as an engineer/switch- man at PCA, Derid- der and Annetra is the office adminis- trator at PCA.

Births

Amara Rain Irvan

Casey and Heather Irvan are proud to announce the birth of a daughter Amara Rain.

Amara was born on March 17, 2018. She weighed 6 lbs., 4 oz., and was 18 inches long.

Amara was welcomed home by her big brother Valyn.

Casey started with the Watco Team at the Solvay switching location in Green River, Wyoming, and moved to Toledo, Oregon, in 2015 to serve as location manager.

Achievements

Harrigan receives PMP Certification

John Harrigan, information technology project manager, received his Project Manager Professional (PMP) certification on March 22, 2018.

To qualify for certification, PMP candidates must meet a number of prerequisites, which include a four-year degree, 4,500 hours leading and directing projects, 35 hours of project management education, and must achieve a passing score on the PMP examination.

The 200-question exam is based on the PMI Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK), a set of standard terminology and guidelines for project management, as well as financial forecasting, organizational behavior, management science, budgeting and other planning methods. The examination also contains questions related to a number of management processes, including time, scope, risk, quality, and cost management. The four-hour exam is closed book; no reference materials are allowed.

A candidate who passes the exam and meets the professional prerequisites is awarded the PMP certification. To stay certified, individuals who have earned this designation must participate in a minimum of 60 professional development and continuing education credits over a three year period.
Watco's 38th railroad is ready for business! The Geaux Geaux Railroad (GOGR) is located just north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and is the fourth Watco short line operating in the Pelican State.

The Geaux Geaux consists of 26 miles of track that currently serves Hood Container of Louisiana in St. Francisville. Amzak Capital Management, LLC, owns Geaux Geaux Railroad, LLC and Watco Companies operates the line.

The GOGR has access to the Canadian National Railway and there is plenty of track space with ample land to accommodate additional growth.

“We’re looking forward to providing service to Hood Container and we’re excited to see what new opportunities come our way,” said GOGR general manager Brit Sonnier.