



MONDAY MORNING NEWS

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**GOOD MORNING
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**



"Say what you want, that's good drama."

MEETINGS

- 2/9/21 – JATC Meeting
- 2/11/21 – NECA Board Meeting
- 2/29/21 – HR Learning Session
- 3/16/21 – 3/25/21 – Microsoft Project Training

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AWAITS BIDEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

While emergency COVID-19 relief is hung up in Congress, the Biden administration is expected to unveil details of a longer-term economic recovery plan this month, focused on infrastructure. The plan would invest some \$2 trillion over four years to build and repair roads, bridges, and ports, create affordable housing and improve broadband networks.

A long-awaited influx of infrastructure spending would be welcome news to the construction industry. The latest numbers from the Census Bureau on Monday show construction spending, overall, was up almost 6% last month compared to December 2019. But take out residential construction — all that [homebuilding](#) and [remodeling](#) we've been talking about — and it's a different story. In industries that are hurting in the pandemic, like hotels, office and retail space, and transportation, construction is down.

"On the private, nonresidential side, every category was down, many of them very sharply from a year ago," said Ken Simonson, chief economist with the Associated General Contractors of America. "I think the outlook for nonresidential spending is pretty grim for the next few months." For all of 2020, [private, nonresidential construction](#) spending totaled \$471.7 billion, down 3% from 2019.

A massive infrastructure spending bill would help, Simonson said, but he is not celebrating yet. Former President Donald Trump also promised a big infrastructure package, which never materialized. "Frankly, like Charlie Brown going after that football, we saw Lucy pull it away all through the last 4½ years," Simonson said. The need has only grown since then, said Kevin DeGood, director of infrastructure policy with the Center for American Progress.

“The money coming from Washington really has to do two things,” he said. “It has to backfill what’s been lost and what would otherwise have been spent under normal economic conditions by state and local governments, as well as provide a boost on top of that.” Then there is the question of who is going to do all the building, paving, and wiring. The industry is facing a long-term shortage of skilled workers that dates to the last recession.

Any infrastructure plan will have to come with more recruiting and training, said Grant Shmelzer, executive director of Independent Electrical Contractors Chesapeake, who has mixed feelings about a sudden surge in demand. “Definitely excitement, definitely hesitation in the same breath, due to labor shortages,” he said. “If the bill actually goes through Congress, the next hurdle is going to be how do we do all the work that the bill would bring to fruition?”

NECA NATIONAL 2020 RECOGNITION OF SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM – NOW OPEN!!

NECA’s Recognition of Achievement in Safety Excellence and Recognition of Zero-Injury Achievement are elite safety recognition programs focused on the electrical construction industry. These awards recognize companies that excel in multiple areas of their safety and health programs. The Safety Excellence Award is our association’s premier recognition program and acknowledges member contractors’ safety performance. The Zero-Injury Award recognizes those member companies that have worked a full calendar year without a recordable incident. Registration is now open until March 1, 2021. Do not miss this opportunity to demonstrate your organization’s commitment to safety! Click [here](#) to get started.

MICROSOFT PROJECT TRAINING – FUNDAMENTALS FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Only 10 spots left!! MS Project is the leader in Construction Productivity Software. The Puget Sound Chapter, NECA, in collaboration with the University of Washington, is delighted to offer our members this MS Project Training Workshop. This in-person instructor led course will be a hands-on, interactive, step-by-step training for everyone from front-line foremen to project executives. Space is limited to 20 seats and will accommodate proper social distancing procedures. Computers with software will be provided for the duration of the course.

This **12-hour** course (hands-on computer training) will be held on March 16, 18, 23, & 25, 2021, from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. The training will be held at the U of W **Center for Education & Research in Construction (CERC)** (Sandpoint/Magnusson Park Location). Some of the topics that will be covered are:

- Creating projects, WBS, adding activities, relationships, activity codes, grouping, sorting, filtering, and creating views/layouts. Creating and planning deliverables.
- Defining resources and costs, adding resources and costs to activities, resource profiles and spreadsheets, cost, and cash flow tables/spreadsheet/profiles. Creating resource and cost deliverables.

Please complete the attached form and send to Jameson to RSVP at jameson@necaseattle.org. Feel free to call the Chapter Office with additional questions at (206) 284-2150.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY – 1986 – SPUD WEBB WINS DUNK CONTEST

On February 8, 1986, Spud Webb, who at 5'7" was one of the shortest players in the history of professional basketball, wins the NBA slam dunk contest, beating his Atlanta Hawks teammate and 1985 dunk champ, the 6'8" Dominique Wilkins.

Anthony Jerome "Spud" Webb was born July 13, 1963, in Dallas, [Texas](#). Throughout his life, Webb had to prove himself as a basketball player due to his relatively small stature. As a high school player, he averaged 26 points per game and was one of 10 students out of 5,000 selected to the All-State team. His size prevented him from being recruited for Division 1-A colleges. Instead, he attended Midland Junior College in Texas, where he led his team to victory in the 1982 junior college championship. He then caught the attention of the coaches at [North Carolina](#) State University, where he went on to play for two years.

Despite a strong college career, his size initially kept him from making the NBA and after graduation he played in the U.S. Basketball League. In 1985, he had a successful tryout with the Atlanta Hawks and joined the team. Webb played six seasons with the Hawks, followed by stints with the Sacramento Kings, the [Minnesota](#) Timberwolves and the Orlando Magic.

One of the most memorable events of Webb's career was his dunk contest win, which took place on February 8, 1986, at the NBA All-Star Game Weekend in Dallas. Webb, the shortest player to ever participate in the competition to that time, went up against men who were, in some cases, a foot taller. In the end, size did not matter. Webb dazzled the crowd with his soaring dunks and bested teammate Dominique Wilkins, who had won the 1985 contest by beating Michael Jordan. (The NBA's first slam dunk competition was held in 1984.)

Webb retired from basketball in 1998, after 12 seasons in the NBA. He was said to have paved the way for other height-challenged NBA players, including 5'5" Earl Boykins and 5'3" Muggsy Bogues.

"Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake."

Napoleon Bonaparte

As of Friday, February 5th, there are 388 JW on Book 1 and 196 JW on Book 2. There are currently 57 Commercial Apprentices, 9 S&C Apprentices, and 0 Residential Apprentices available for dispatch. There are 9 First Period Commercial Bootcamp graduates available for dispatch. There will be 19 First Period Commercial Bootcamp graduates available for dispatch on February 16th.