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HANFORD JOINS COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATING ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

October is Archaeology Month in the State of Washington, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its Hanford contractors are joining several community groups to celebrate and host a series of events for the public.

This year's Archaeology Month consists of more than 75 statewide events held in local communities throughout Washington to enhance public awareness about the importance of protecting the state's archaeology resources. Visit the State of Washington's web site at www.ocd.wa.gov/info/lgd/oahp for additional information and schedules for the events.

Locally, three events are planned for Archaeology Month:

- Saturday, October 14, is Judge Wiehl Day. Judge Wiehl, who recently celebrated his 91st birthday, grew up on the Wiehl Ranch located at East White Bluffs, near where the East White Bluffs Public Boat launch is located. DOE and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are sponsoring a gathering at the site of the old ranch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to come and talk to one of the oldest living members of the pre-Hanford farming community and learn what life was like in the Pasco basin before Hanford. Bring the family, your lunch, and a chair. To get to the East White Bluffs Public Boat Launch, take Highway 24 West from Othello. Drive to mile marker 63 and turn west. Turn left at the public fishing sign, then go 4 miles to the "Y." Stay to the right. Drive another 1.8 miles to the parking area. For more information, call Ellen Prendergast (509/376-4626).
- Saturday, October 21, former and current members of the Mid-Columbia Archaeological Society (MCAS) will gather for a reunion picnic in Richland (place to be determined). The MCAS was an important force for archaeology during the 1960s and 1970s. Featured will be Dr. David Rice, a well-known archaeologist from the Pacific Northwest who helped form the MCAS. Dr. Rice will be talking about the accomplishments of the MCAS and his vision for public participation in archaeology in the future. If you have an interest in

archaeology or questions about an artifact you found, this is an event you will want to attend. A barbecue lunch will be available for \$6 - \$8 (reservations required). For more information, call Laurie Hale (509/376-6098).

- October 28, a trip to the old town sites of Hanford and White Bluffs is planned. At 11:00 a.m., participants will gather at the Columbia River Exhibition for History, Science, and Technology Museum (95 Lee Blvd., Richland) to view historic pictures and other memorabilia from the towns and farms that once thrived on the Columbia River before the government condemned the land for the war effort. Participants will then board a bus and travel to the old town sites for a walking tour with local historians and archaeologists. There is a \$2 charge for this event. Space is limited, so call Darby Stapp on 509/373-2894 to reserve your spot.

This year's archaeology month poster is entitled "World Class Archaeology in our Backyard." Featured is a beautiful picture of the Hanford Reach, taken just downstream from the Vernita Bridge. Look for it at local libraries and historical societies.

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Historical Note: The U.S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office manages the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State. Hanford was established during World War II as part of the top secret Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Weapons material production was halted in the late 1980s. The Hanford Site is now engaged in the world's largest cleanup effort to deal with the legacy of radioactive and hazardous wastes that resulted from the plutonium production era. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology regulate Hanford's cleanup program under a long-term compliance contract called the Tri-Party Agreement. This agreement sets the framework and timelines on the cleanup work so that Hanford meets environmental standards. Hanford cleanup is focused on three outcomes: restoring the Columbia River Corridor for other uses, transitioning the Central Plateau to long term waste treatment and storage, and preparing for the future.

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