



LETTERS

Employees are invited to write letters of general interest on work-related topics. Anonymous letters will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters or not to accept letters for publication. Send your letters to the *Reach*, B3-30, or to *Hanford Reach on e-mail. Letters are limited to 300 words, and must include your name, company, work group and location. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of DOE-RL, ORP or their contractors.

Healthcare in question under new insurance

I recently received the notice of the change in our health benefits administrators. The notice stated that benefits would not change, only the provider. Employees take note; *benefits do change*.

I just returned from a doctor's appointment at the Tri-cities Cancer Center in Kennewick. As of today (Dec. 26) United Healthcare has refused to negotiate with them for a contract. My understanding is that a contract was offered at a significantly lower rate than CIGNA offered and then, when asked, United Healthcare refused to negotiate.

The last time I checked, United Healthcare had one oncologist in this area, and I am not sure if he is board-certified. If all of us who face cancer in the next year have to see this one doctor, he will be a very busy man.

I would prefer to see the doctors at the Cancer Center. One wants the very best when fighting cancer, and I believe that the Cancer Center is the best we have in the Tri Cities with board-certified doctors and state-of-the-art equipment.

In the meantime, I think United Healthcare gets what it apparently wants — for the employees who pay into the plan to pay a significantly higher rate for care when they face a life-threatening and very expensive-to-treat disease.

I have always defended the company's health-care plan. We are very lucky and pay a significantly lower rate for insurance than most, even with the recent increase, yet we have very good benefits.

This past year, the huge doctor bills associated with my fight with cancer have been paid promptly for the most part. It has been a blessing to be able to concentrate on getting better. I voluntarily pay a higher price for the privilege of seeing the doctor of my choice and receiving the medication he thinks I should receive instead of the doctor and medicine dictated by a health mainte-

nance organization, but it looks like the higher price is not going to give me that privilege any longer. Is that maybe the agenda here, to force us all into one HMO?

Someone needs to come to our aid. Does Fluor really care about our health and safety as they so eloquently advise, or does money win out this time?

*Jinny Howser
Fluor Hanford*

Editors' note: Dom Sansotta, chairman of the Hanford Employee Welfare Trust, prepared the following response:

United Healthcare assumed administration of the preferred provider option, or PPO, medical plan from CIGNA Healthcare on Jan. 1. A General Delivery Message on Sept. 11, 2002, announced the upcoming changes, and indicated, "Provisions of the PPO plan will not change....for example, deductibles, out-of-pocket limits, and co-insurance levels will be the same as they are in calendar year 2002."

The PPO plan benefits have not been changed, but the provider networks are, and always have been, subject to change. Even if CIGNA had remained the PPO administrator, the PPO network would have changed over time as new providers join and current providers leave the network. United Healthcare offers a comprehensive network of providers nationwide that is comparable, but not identical, to CIGNA's.

Since it was awarded the contract to administer the PPO plan, United Healthcare has been working very hard to build a local network. They made special efforts to contract with those who provide services to our employees, retirees and dependents, offering contracts with reimbursement rates that are comparable to those already in place with thousands of providers elsewhere in the country, including Seattle, Spokane and Portland. With help and encouragement from many employees and retirees, many local providers have already joined, and many others are currently in process.

The Hanford Employee Welfare Trust is concerned about the well-being of our employees, retirees and dependents, and also about the high costs of medical care, which directly affect all of us through higher premiums and out-of-pocket expenses. The medical plan that is administered by United Healthcare is "self-insured." That is, the HEWT pays the total cost of claims plus an administrative fee to United Healthcare to pay the claims. As part of its responsibilities, United Healthcare's role is to act on behalf of the HEWT and employees to contract with qualified providers for reimbursements that are fair to provid-

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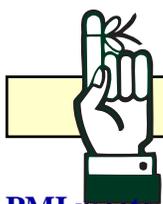
Regular Features



LETTERS cont.

ers, but at the same time are reasonable and competitive with those paid to other providers with similar specialties.

United Healthcare has made several contract offers to the Tri-Cities Cancer Center and associated oncologists that included reasonable and competitive reimbursement rates comparable to those already agreed to by more than 200 board-certified oncologists in Seattle, Portland and Spokane. However, the local providers have, so far, chosen not to participate in the network, and are asking for reimbursements that are significantly higher than their peers. We hope they will change their position. We have directed United Healthcare to continue its efforts to reach agreements that will be acceptable to all parties. ♦



CALENDAR

PMI meets Jan. 14

The Jan. 14 meeting of the Columbia River Basin Chapter of the Project Management Institute will feature an election of new officers for the board of directors and a vendors' forum. The meeting will be held at the Richland Shilo Inn and will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the opening of the hors d'oeuvres bar. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for guests. Make your reservation by close of business Jan. 13 by calling Cheryl Eiholzer at 372-6189 or by e-mail.

Learn how to find information on the Internet

The Hanford Technical Library will hold a demonstration on how to find information on the Internet on Thursday, Jan. 16, noon to 1 p.m. in Room 101R of the Consolidated Information Center Building in the WSU Tri-Cities campus. Learn how to tunnel through the mountains of information and discover Internet sites that are useful for your day-to-day work. Contact: Karen Buxton, 372-7451, or karen.buxton@pnl.gov.

CBC ceremony will honor Martin Luther King

Fluor Hanford General Counsel Jennifer Curtis

will be the keynote speaker for the twelfth annual "bell-ringing ceremony" in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at noon on Monday, Jan. 20, at Columbia Basin College in Pasco. The event will begin with a "peace march" sponsored by RYSC-AmeriCorps starting at 10:45 a.m. at Robert Frost Elementary School and proceeding up 20th Ave. to the CBC campus. The bell-ringing ceremony will include presentation of the Martin Luther King Spirit Award to Dallas and Lozie Barnes. A reception will follow in the Hawk Union Building.

HEHF offers smoking cessation classes

The Hanford Environmental Health Foundation is sponsoring the free, four-class smoking cessation program to be held Jan. 20, 23, 27 and 30 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Federal Building in Richland for Hanford Site employees with Department of Energy security badges. John Evans of the American Cancer Society will conduct the series. Interested site employees need to obtain permission from their managers to attend the classes during working hours. To register, call HEHF Health Education Services at 373-3729 or send an e-mail message to *HEHF Health Education Services. For more information about the classes, contact Carol Powe of Fluor Hanford at 376-8886 or Judi Staley of HEHF at 372-0097.

Donate blood in January

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Jan. 28 at the Lockheed Martin Information Technology office at 2261 Stevens Dr. The Bloodmobile will be parked outside the building. To schedule an appointment, contact Kelly Layfield at 376-6785.

'State of Hanford' public meeting Jan. 29

A public meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 29 at the Benton PUD auditorium in Kennewick will feature Washington State Department of Ecology director Tom Fitzsimmons, U.S. Environmental

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CALENDAR continued

Protection Agency Region 10 administrator Mike Gearheard, Department of Energy Richland Operations manager Keith Klein, and DOE Office of River Protection manager Roy Schepens to discuss the state of the Hanford Site. Agency officials, public interest groups, Hanford Advisory Board representatives and the public will discuss cleanup goals and challenges for the upcoming year. For more information and the dates for other regional meetings, call the toll-free Hanford Hotline at (800) 321-2008 or visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/SOSpg.htm>.

Project of the Year entries due Feb. 1

The Columbia River Basin Chapter of the Project Management Institute invites regional organizations to prepare and submit nomination proposals for candidate projects to enter into the 2003 Project of the Year Award competition. Projects of any size, industry type and location are encouraged and eligible to participate. PMI affiliation is not necessary. The project must be essentially complete at the time of nomination and accepted as complete by the owner or client before the award is given. There can be no restrictions on the use of the submitted information after the final date of submission. The winner of the Columbia River Basin regional competition will advance to the semi-final competition from which three candidates will compete for the Project Management Institute's Project of the Year Award. Entries are due Feb. 1. Specific criteria and general guidelines for the Project of the Year competition can be found at <http://www.crb-pmi.org>.

Valentine's event benefits AAAS

The third Annual Valentine Sweetheart Dinner and Dance will be held Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Afro-Americans for an Academic Society, an advocate for children's academic

achievement since 1976. The event will raise funds for special projects, student activities and scholarships. The social time begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7. Da Blues Funk Party band will provide entertainment. The event also features romantic gifts, door prizes and dancing until midnight. Tickets are \$45 per person and may be purchased at the Bon Marché gift-wrapping department or at Fantastic Sam's. For more information, call Vanessa Moore at 376-8141, or Debra Wright at 373-7004. ♦

NEWSBRIEFS



NMA sponsors public-speaking workshop for high school students

Speechcraft, a free public-speaking workshop for local high school students, will be held on Thursdays from Jan. 16 to Feb. 27, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Richland Public Library. The Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association sponsors this workshop, which is conducted by Toastmasters Edward and Jeanie Schwier. The course will focus on various aspects of public speaking: beginning and organizing your speech, working with words, being convincing and earnest, varying your voice and using effective gestures.

Speechcraft is designed to support NMA's upcoming American Enterprise Speech Contest, to be held in March. All high school students are welcome to attend even if they aren't sure they want to compete. Winners at the chapter level move on to the council level of competition and winners at the council level move on to the regional level. Regional winners compete on the national level. Prizes range from at least \$300 for winners at the chapter level to a \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond to the winner of the national competition. Three local NMA chapters are sponsoring students from all local high schools as well as home-schooled students. Past participants in Speechcraft have been very successful in the speech contest. For more information on Speechcraft and the NMA American Enterprise Speech Contest, contact Edward Schwier at 372-0176 (work) or 627-7288 (home) or Terry Winward at 376-5223. ♦

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Regular Features

CLASSES



PROTRAIN offers the following software classes:

- **Network Security Administration** — Jan. 13-17
 - **Network Defense and Countermeasures** — March 17-21
 - **Primavera Project Planning**
 - P-3 601 — Jan. 20-22
 - P-3 602 — Jan. 23
 - P-3 603 — Jan. 24
 - P-3 604 — March 19
 - **Microsoft Project 2000** (Only \$199 per day)
 - Level 1 — Jan. 27
 - Level 2 — Jan. 28
 - **Crystal Reports 8**
 - Introduction — Feb. 5; March 10
 - Advanced — Feb. 6; March 11
 - **Microsoft Access 2000**
 - Level 1 — Jan. 13
 - Level 2 — Jan. 14
 - Level 3 — Jan. 24
- Office XP classes are now available. For more information or to register, call 375-0414.

Speech and presentation class offered Jan. 28-29

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will offer the two-day class “Say what? How to Deliver Effective Speeches and Presentations,” presented by Pam Novak, Cheryl Spears, Mary Frances Lembo and Michaela Mann on Jan. 28-29 at the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory Auditorium. The class will show you how to equip yourself with the skills to simultaneously be in command of yourself, in touch with your audience, on top of your material and in sync with your visual and verbal aids. Register early, the class size is limited to 20 participants. The cost is \$425. For more information and future course dates, visit <http://workshops.pnl.gov/> or contact Mary Wagner at 372-4259 or at mary.wagner@pnl.gov. To register, contact Cory Rhoads at 376-7157 or at cory.rhoads@pnl.gov.

Counterintelligence seminars offered by PNNL

On January 28 and 29, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Office of Counterintelligence will present mini-seminars sponsored by the Department of Energy Headquarters Office of Counterintelligence. These counterintelligence seminars are available to all employees. Space is limited and will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Security clearances are not required for these seminars. All of the following classes will be held in Room 1077 of the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory:

- **Counterintelligence for Managers (CNA110)** — Tuesday, Jan. 28, 9-11 a.m. The audience for this seminar includes managers and supervisors.
- **The Foreign Intelligence Threat (CNA150)** — Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1-5 p.m. The audience for this seminar includes scientists and engineers traveling to sensitive countries or hosting foreign visitors, and counterintelligence and security professionals.
- **Espionage Recruitment and Human Vulnerabilities (CNA153)** — Wednesday, Jan. 29, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. The audience for this seminar includes all cleared and uncleared DOE employees and contractors for whom counterintelligence awareness is a requirement.
- **The Technical Collection Threat to Travelers (CNA154)** — Wednesday, Jan. 29, 1-5 p.m. The audience for this seminar includes DOE personnel who have ongoing or frequent contact with foreign nationals, particularly those from sensitive countries. For more information, contact Jack Slicks, senior counterintelligence officer in the PNNL Office of Counterintelligence, at 372-6822, or Cheryl Barthuly, counterintelligence administrator, at 372-6014. Make your reservation by calling Cheryl Barthuly or sending an e-mail message to Cheryl.Barthuly@pnl.gov no later than Jan. 23.

OSHA Recordkeeping course scheduled Feb. 3

On Feb. 3, the OSHA Training Institute, Region 10, will conduct two sessions of a four-hour course on OSHA

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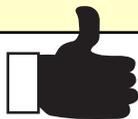
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CLASSES continued

Recordkeeping. Students who complete this course will be able to identify the OSHA requirements for recordkeeping, posting and reporting and to complete the new OSHA forms 300, 300A and 301. The course will be held at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. The cost is \$75 and students earn 0.4 continuing education units under professional development. To register, contact the University of Washington, OSHA Region 10 Training at: <http://depts.washington.edu/ehce/>. Click on the OSHA Region 10 Training Registration button and enter OSHA Recordkeeping Rule (Course No. 845). ♦

B R A V O



LMIT video productions earn Communicator Awards

Lockheed Martin Information Technology received international recognition in the 2002 Communicator Awards for two of the company's 2002 video productions: "Destination: Innovation" and a biography of Tri-Cities community leader Sam Volpentest.

The Communicator Awards is an international awards program founded by communications professionals to recognize excellence in the communications field. The annual video, film and multi-media competitions were held in November. The Crystal Award of Excellence is given to those entries whose ability to communicate puts them among the best in the field. The Award of Distinction is presented for projects that exceed industry standards in quality and excellence.

The "Destination: Innovation" video received the Crystal Award of Excellence. LMIT's biographical video on Volpentest received the Award of Distinction. Both videos were produced by LMIT's Rochelle Olson, Dan Berg, Nick Murphy and Dana Jensen. ♦



Employee Activities

H.E.R.O.

GENERAL INFO & ACTIVITIES

MAIL YOUR TICKET REQUESTS TO THE APPROPRIATE LISTED TICKET SELLER — It saves the ticket sellers' time and your tickets will be sent to you the same day. Do not combine the charge for tickets to two different events on the same check. If you do, it will be returned.

HRA DISCOUNTS — We are in the process of renewing discounts from 2002 and adding new ones for 2003. Log on to <http://apweb02.rl.gov/hrd/> to find the new discount updates.

HERO POLICY FOR NSF CHECKS — Associated non-sufficient fund bank fees will be passed on to check issuers. HERO will not absorb the cost.

TRI-CITY AMERICANS HOCKEY TICKETS — \$10 for adults, \$7 for students with ASB cards, children ages 3 to 12 and adults 62 and over. Send checks made payable to HERO to Linda Meigs (H3-12) or Tricia Poland (T5-04).

DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS — Limit now 10 per purchase. Carmike tickets are \$5 each with restrictions applying only to Sony DDS movies. Regal tickets are \$5.50 each and applicable restrictions are identified in the *Tri-City Herald* with a star. Yakima Mercy tickets are \$5 each with no restrictions. Regal and Carmike tickets are valid in Seattle and Spokane as well as the Tri-Cities. For Regal or Carmike tickets, send checks (no cash) made payable to HERO to Linda Meigs (H3-12), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51), Ginny Wallace (S7-03) or Patti Boothe (T6-04). Sunnyside Movie Theater is now offering tickets for two admissions for one show, for \$9.50 with no show restrictions. These tickets are also good for Ellensburg and Walla Walla. For Yakima Mercy or Sunnyside tickets, send checks (no cash) to Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Jim Hopfinger (S7-39) or Tricia Poland (T5-04).

UPCOMING TRIPS

• **Washington, D.C.** — March 13-16. The cost is \$979 pp for twin, \$1,179 for single, \$929 pp for triple and \$739 pp for children. The cost includes round-trip air from Pasco or Yakima, five meals, hotel and transfers. Cancellation insurance is \$60 pp extra charge. A deposit of \$100 pp is due as soon as possible. Space is limited. E-mail Ginny Wallace for information.

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Regular Features



- **Spring Break Eastern Caribbean Cruise** — Hurry! Limited cabins are available. April 5-12. We sail on the Royal Caribbean ship Explorer of the Seas from Miami to Puerto Rico, St. Maarten, St. Thomas and the Bahamas. Prices range from \$790 to \$1,080 per person (based on double occupancy). Taxes, transfers and airfare are additional. E-mail Linda Meigs if you're interested.
- **Canadian Rockies Train Tour** — May 9-17. The price is \$2,199 pp including round-trip airfare from Pasco. Price includes 14 meals, tours, transfers and taxes. A \$100 deposit is due as soon as possible, with the balance due March 10. Fly to Vancouver, British Columbia, and explore the beautiful Canadian Rockies by train. Visit Kamloops, Jasper, Ice Fields Parkway, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. Visit <http://apweb02.rl.gov/hero/activities.cfm> for more information or contact Phyllis Roha at 376-6413 or by e-mail.
- **New Orleans Getaway** — May 19-23. \$1,099 ppdo includes airfare, lodging and six meals during this five-day getaway to the "Jazz Capital of the World." A deposit of \$160 per person will reserve your spot, with final payment due March 20. Contact Linda Meigs for details.
- **French Riviera** — Oct. 6-15. The price is \$2,284 pp for twin, \$2,254 pp for triple and \$2,584 for single. A deposit of \$430 is due March 21 to hold your space, and the balance is due July 23. Tour the French Riviera, Italian Riviera, Monaco, St. Tropez, Cannes, Grasse and Nice. We will fly round-trip from Pasco. We only have to unpack once as we will be staying in Nice and taking day trips to all the other exciting places. There will be free time also to do your own exploring. Included are seven breakfasts and five dinners. Start saving now for an exciting adventure. E-mail Nancie Simon or call 373-2587 for more information.
- **Disney World/Disney Cruise** — Oct. 19-26. The price ranges from \$1,302 to \$1,852 ppdo, depending on the type of room you want. The price includes round-trip airfare from Pasco, four days in Walt Disney World with entrance into all the parks, a three-day cruise to the Bahamas and Castaway Cay (Disney's private island), taxes and transfers. Don't wait to send in a \$250 per person deposit to hold your spot. Contact Sheila Kirk for more information.
- **Reflections of Italy** — Departure date is Nov. 3. \$2,782 ppdo includes airfare, lodging and 13 meals during this 10-day journey to Italy, beginning in Rome, "the Eternal City." A deposit of \$430 per person will reserve your spot, with final payment due Sept. 4. Contact Linda Meigs for details.
- **Switzerland** — Nov. 3-11. The price is \$1,879 pp including round-trip airfare from Pasco. Price includes 11 meals, tours, transfers and taxes. A \$250 deposit is due May 3 and the balance is due Sept. 4. The medieval city of Bern is our host city. Highlights of the tour include the Swiss Parliament, the famous Bear Pit, the Rose Gardens, Lake Geneva and the medieval Castle of Chillon. Enjoy breathtaking Alpine views with a ride on the Panoramic Express Train to Gstaad. Then on to Interlaken, Grindewald, Zurich, Burgdorf Castle, Lucerne and an optional tour to Germany and the mystical Black Forest. Visit <http://apweb02.rl.gov/hero/activities.cfm> or contact Phyllis Roha at 376-6413 or by e-mail for more information. ♦

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Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be resubmitted to run in subsequent issues of the *Hanford Reach*. The deadline for submission is Thursday, 10 days prior to publication.

Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges. Vanpool and carpool drivers are responsible for ensuring their passengers are badged. If a passenger forgets his or her security badge, access is denied at the barricade. The individual is required to go to a badging station for a temporary badge or go home to retrieve the badge. For more information visit the Safeguards and Security Web page at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/sas>.

KENNEWICK

Two opening for riders are available on a vanpool that starts at the Kennewick Albertson's with a stop at Chief Joseph Middle School in Richland. Travels to 200W and stops at 222-S, PFP and the fab-shop area. Ridership maintained low for comfort. Contact **Leann Spurlock** at 376-8703 or via e-mail. 1/13

PASCO

Van No. 213 out of Pasco needs two backup drivers. Leaves Desert Ice, across from the Broadmoor Park Mall off Road 100, at 6:10 a.m. Drops off at 2750-E and ends at 2704-HV (or any place along the way). Fare reduction for days that you drive. Arrives back at Desert Ice at approximately 5:20 p.m. E-mail **Douglas Bailey** at douglas_m_bailey@rl.gov. 1/13

PROSSER

I would like to join a Vanpool from Prosser to 200E. Call **Harry Moomey** at 376-3266 (work) or (509) 786-4455 (home). 1/13

RICHLAND

Van No. 117 has openings for 8x9 riders to 200W. Departs 6 a. m. each working day morning from a location just north of Densow's Drugstore at 1019 Wright in Richland. Drops off riders at locations near 200W Powerhouse (MO-412, 277-W, MO-287, MO-278, MO-279, MO-556), T Plant and CH2M HILL Hanford Group and Fluor Hanford buildings, south of the Central Waste Complex and west of PFP (272-WA, 278-WA, MO-281, MO-720, MO-437, MO-438). We return riders to the location just north of Densow's about 5:10 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, and at 4:10 on Fridays. Contact **Gary Bush** at 372-2531 (MO-437) or via e-mail. 1/13

Vanpool No. 183 is seeking riders and backup drivers from Richland Wye to 100K, 8x9, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Leaves the Richland Wye Park 'n Ride and makes one stop at the West Richland Bypass Highway exit. Drops off at 100K central parking lot by MO-500. Contact **Amy Hay** 373-9962. 1/6

Seeking drivers and riders for a new vanpool to 2751-E area south parking lot, 8x9 shift. Starting point is Richland Wye Park 'n Ride across from Ben Franklin Transit. Leaves Richland Wye at 6:10 a.m. and arrives 2751-E area south parking lot at 6:55 a.m. Leaves 2751-E area south parking lot at 4:30 p.m. and arrives at Richland Wye at 5:20. Interested parties call **Debbie L. Thomas** at 376-1308. 1/6

Seeking rider for vanpool from Richland Wye to 200W. Low fare, comfortable ride, 8x9 shift. Start anytime. Call **Fred Sargent** at 373-2106. 1/13 ♦