

Regular Features



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.

Thanks for your time

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone for your kind thoughts and generous donations of personal time bank hours so I could spend time helping my mother recuperate from her surgery this summer. My mother is doing very well and is healing slowly and steadily. I can't express enough how blessed I am to work in such a supportive community. Thank you so much.

Tina Murphy
Fluor Hanford

Fire season not over

This morning as I was coming to work to the 100N Area I was able to observe the person in front of me flick out two lit cigarettes onto the passing roadway. As the sparks hit the roadway and flew into many directions, I thought to myself: What a dope!

I know with the heat of summer almost behind us and cooler weather at night, some folks may be under the illusion that we are out of the fire danger season, but we are not! All it takes is one stray spark from a cigarette thrown carelessly out of a car window or tossed on the ground next to a building to jeopardize not only the land surrounding us, but also our ability to report to work (remember the big fire in 2000) and earn a livelihood.

Please use your head when discarding cigarettes. Use your car ashtray or the butt disposal cans outside your building. The fire you stop may be your own!

Debbie Hunt
Bechtel Hanford

Commuter makeup

I must admit we found last Wednesday morning's ride to work rather entertaining, and we still have to laugh about it today. We even brought it up at our staff meeting as a safety topic.

Seesawing up to the Wye Barricade is rather boring. I don't

mind. In fact I truly appreciate the extra security.

I keep myself busy looking for people I know in the cars around me. (By the way, I am not driving.)

There was a small white car to the right of us as we were inching our way up to the barricade. The woman driving had her visor down, and her visor's makeup mirror open, totally blocking her view of the road. Coming up to the barricade, we saw her apply eye pencil, mascara and other various forms of makeup as she was moving forward. She had to keep ducking down to see where she was going.

I also noticed that other drivers and passengers had noticed the makeup applier and were watching and pointing. So here we are bumper-to-bumper in stop-and-go traffic and everyone on the road is watching this woman apply her makeup.

Please ladies, get up a few minutes early to get ready for work. There is not enough makeup in the world to cover an eye poked out with an eye pencil or a mascara wand, or to cover the inner scars of knowing you caused an accident.

Suzi Carlson
Fluor Hanford

PTB hot issue

First and foremost, I would like to thank Cecilia O'Shaughnessy for her support (Letters, "Support volunteer firefighters," *Hanford Reach*, Sept. 24). I am a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician for one of our local cities.

When I joined the department I realized that there were going to be times when a fire call or a medical call would happen in the early hours of the morning and cause me to arrive late for work, or I would be called away to assist the paid firefighters on one or more of the huge natural cover fires that our area tends to have now and again. I have been open about this career choice with my managers and, luckily, I have had some understanding managers.

I do not mind using my personal time bank to help save someone's home or to help save someone's life, or the lives of their friends and family members. And, to be honest with you, in the year that I have been a volunteer, it has never bothered me that helping my community through fighting fires and saving lives was not supported by the company.

However, when I was chosen to be one of the eight firefighters from my district to go assist with the Leavenworth fire, I took three days of PTB. That kind of bothered me. I did it willingly, but I was surprised that in the case of such a big state fire, the company wouldn't offer support in some fashion.

Continued on page 18.

Regular Features

I see time and time again that people are doing things for the United Way or other events that are supported by Fluor Hanford without having to use their PTB. I do not understand how helping save someone's house, life or whatever wouldn't be deemed as community involvement. I know during the huge blood drive in response to the tragedy of Sept. 11, people who donated blood didn't have to take PTB for that time.

I will continue to take PTB when I have to, no matter whose house or life I am saving. But it is going to be a sad day when the call comes out and the volunteers don't have any vacation time left.

Vikki Ballew
Fluor Hanford

CALENDAR



HAB Committees meet this week

Hanford Advisory Board committees will meet this week. The public is invited to the following meetings:

- Oct. 9, 9 a.m. to noon, Budget and Contracts Committee, Federal Building room 142. Contact Chris Chamberlain at 943-5319 for information.
- Oct. 9, 1 to 4 p.m., Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Committee, Federal Building Room 142. Contact Barb Wise at 372-3269 for information.
- Oct. 10, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., River and Plateau Committee, Federal Building room 142. Contact Nancy Myers at 372-9059 for information.
- Oct. 11, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tank Waste Committee, 2440 Stevens Center, room 1600. Contact Barb Wise at 372-3269 for information.

Give blood Oct. 10

An American Red Cross blood drawing will be held from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 10, in the Federal Building. Check in at the Federal Building lobby, and the bloodmobile will be parked in the parking lot north of the building. Walk-ins are welcome, but you can ensure an appointment by calling (800) 787-9691.

NMA meets Oct. 10

The Oct. 10 dinner meeting of the Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association will feature Bill Hillar, president of NMA's Tri-Cities Area Public Employees Chapter, speaking about transformable leaders. The meeting will be held at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland. The social hour begins at 5 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 5:45. There is no charge for chapter members. The price for guests is \$20 each. Call Lisa Hart at 376-3484 to make a reservation.

Learn about wine at NAPM meeting on Oct. 11

The Oct. 11 meeting of the National Association of Purchasing Management at the West Coast Hotel in Kennewick will feature Dr. Larry James, dean of the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus, who will be giving a presentation on the new bachelor of science degree in viticulture and enology being offered at WSU Tri-Cities. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 and the program at 7. Make your reservations by contacting Bill Smith at 371-4719 or at wrsmith1@bechtel.com by Oct. 9.

Washington professional engineers meet Oct. 17

The Washington Society of Professional Engineers will meet Oct. 17 at the West Coast Hotel in Kennewick. George Twiss, executive director of the Washington Department of Licensing, will give a presentation on the new Business and Professions Disciplinary Act as well as pending legislative matters affecting professional engineers. The social hour begins at 6 p.m., dinner is at 7 and the program begins at 8. The price is \$20 for dinner, to be ordered from a limited menu. Make your reservation by calling Eric Nelson at 373-2692 or Don Kurkjian at 371-3535.

Society of Women Engineers meets Oct. 19

Members of the Spokane section of the Society of Women Engineers will join members of the Eastern Washington section of the SWE for their dinner meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 at the Emerald of Siam restaurant in the Richland Uptown Shopping Center. Members of the Spokane section will speak about their careers, lives, paths and choices, and then join in a panel discussion on work, family and world issues with members of the Eastern Washington section. The price is \$9.95 plus tax for the buffet dinner. Please RSVP to Teresa Torres at 372-2173. ♦

Regular Features

CLASSES



Learn about trends on Oct. 25

The October session of the Hanford Performance Indicator Forum will be offered at two times on Oct. 25. You can attend the session “What is a trend?” from 7 to 9 a.m. or from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in room 5 of the Training Support Building at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. The discussion will include how to establish the initial baseline of a set of “noisy” data, and what to do when a trend is discovered on an existing chart. Contact Steve Prevette at 373-9371.

DOE-RL sponsors training on USQs

The Department of Energy Richland Operations Office will sponsor the Epsilon Unreviewed Safety Questions class on Nov. 13-15 at the Consolidated Information Center at Washington State University Tri-Cities. This course is intended for DOE and DOE contractor personnel who are involved with the preparation, review and approval processes for Unreviewed Safety Questions. The course presents the purpose and terminology specific to the USQ process and the key aspects of the USQ process — specifically the inputs, key steps and outputs. It incorporates the most recent application and implementation interpretations for this process from DOE Headquarters. The cost of the course is \$843 per person. To register, go to the Parallax Web Page at <http://www.parallax-engr.com> and then to Parallax, Inc. Training Center (DOE Training Administration Office). For more information, call Marcy George at 376-8284. ♦

NEWS BRIEFS



PTB transfer approved for Bultena

Shari Bultena, supervisor of Property and Inventory Management at Fluor Hanford, has been approved to receive personal time bank transferred hours. Bultena's husband, Jerry Penny, a Fluor Hanford employee in Quality Assurance, was recently diagnosed with cancer and will require assistance over the next several months of

treatments. Any Fluor Project Hanford team employee who would like to transfer some PTB time to Bultena can do so by completing a PTB/Vacation Transfer Request form (Site Form A-6002-807) and sending it to Cherie Smith at H8-69. Time must be transferred in one-hour increments.

Help with medical expenses for former Hanford worker's family

Eleven-year-old Caitlin Ford, daughter and granddaughter of former Hanford workers, was recently diagnosed with leukemia, and an account is available at the Richland office of GESA Federal Credit Union for donations to help the family with medical expenses. Caitlin is the daughter of Tim and Cindy (Boyd) Ford. Cindy Ford, a former janitor at Hanford, suffers from diabetes and is on long-term disability. Caitlin's grandparents are Faye and Mary Boyd, both retired from 200 East Tank Farms. The GESA account number is 4633004, and is in the name of Tim and Cindy Ford. For more information, contact Ross Carrigan at 373-2992 or Amy Carrigan at 967-3890.

Emergency Operations Center is looking for a few 'cool heads'

Hanford's Emergency Operations Center, or EOC, is currently seeking volunteers to serve in various positions during activations of the center. The center is activated when a site emergency is declared or when one is threatening, and for drills and exercises throughout the year (*Hanford Reach*, Aug. 13, 2001).

The center has specific and urgent needs for computer operators, administrative personnel and people skilled in public communication. Serving as an EOC volunteer requires carrying a pager and the approval of your immediate manager. Among the talents needed to join the EOC team are the ability to focus during a crisis, work on multiple tasks, be flexible, be willing to help and — above all — be a team player.

To find out more or to volunteer, send an e-mail message to ^Hanford EOC, or call Shelia Woody at 376-2292 or Sandy Bauer at 376-0185. ♦

Features continued on next page

Regular Features



VANPOOLS

Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges. Vanpool and carpool drivers are responsible for ensuring riders are badged. If a passenger forgets his or her badge, Patrol must be informed at the barricades. For more information, look on the Hanford Web in the Projects and Activities section, Safeguards and Security at <http://www.rl.gov:1050/sas/pg1v3htm>.

KENNEWICK

Vanpool No.196 (formerly No. 72) has openings, 8x9 schedule. Picks up at homes or convenient stops on a route that does not affect current drive times from Kennewick. Streets on route now are in vicinity of Vancouver and 36th, 27th and Olympia, 19th and Olympia, 4th and Vancouver, Clearwater and Morain, West Hood, Edison and Canal, 2440 Stevens. Drops off in 200E at 2750, WESF and 2704-HV. Call **John** at 372-0223 or send an e-mail message to R J II (John) Townley. 10/1

Looking for 8x9 vanpool riders. Leaves Kennewick Albertson's on Edison and Clearwater with a pick-up at Columbia Racquet Club. Stops at PFP and West Tank farms. Call **Abe Garza** at 373-2898. 10/8

PASCO

Vanpool No. 213 has openings, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 8x9 shift. Starting point is Road 68 (by TRAC). Picks up at the Federal Building. Willing to pick up along George Washington Way north of Van Giesen St. Drops off at 2704-HV, B Plant and 2750-E, but willing to drop off anywhere along the route. Backup drivers are appreciated, but not necessary. Contact **Doug Bailey** at 373-2392 or **Dale Hicks** at 372-2403. 10/1

RICHLAND

Vanpool No. 117 has openings for 8x9 riders to 200W. Originates at Densow's Drugstore, Wright Avenue. 200W stops include 277-W, MO-412, MO-278, MO-279, MO-287, MO-556, and 272-WA, MO-281, MO-720. E-mail or contact **Gary Bush** at 372-253. 10/1

Vanpool No. 114 to 200W has openings for three riders. Vanpool originates in southwest Richland, with one stop at the Desert Fellowship Hall on Jadwin. Contact **John Faulkner** at 373-2286 or **Gary Anderson** at 373-1304. 10/8

8x9 vanpool, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. to 200E has an opening. Starts at the Federal Building, picks up along Jadwin and at Hanford bus lot. Stops at 274-AW, 2025-EA, 2750-E. Must be able to pass the Ben Franklin driver/coordinator requirements. Call **Kip** at 373-7399, **Dave** at 372-3304 or **Mandrake** at 372-0713. 10/8 ♦



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www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html

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