



Spent Nuclear Fuel Project employees gather at the west door of K West Basin to celebrate the removal of Multi-Canister Overpack No. 185. They're all part of the team that met a significant Tri-Party Agreement milestone by removing 957 metric tons of fuel.

## Spent Nuclear Fuel Project reaches major milestone

Michele Gerber, *Fluor Hanford*

The Fluor Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project passed a critical juncture on Jan. 7 when it finished removing more than 957 metric tons of heavy metal (irradiated uranium) from the K West Basin. In achieving this milestone, the project has removed about 25 million curies of radioactivity from the Columbia River shoreline, accomplishing more risk reduction than has ever been achieved by any cleanup project in Hanford's history.

The irradiated fuel, which was packed in 185 Multi-Canister Overpacks, or MCOs, brings the project nearly halfway to the goal of removing all spent fuel from both K Basins. Removing 957 tons met a Tri-Party Agreement milestone one week late, but was hailed by all concerned as a huge achievement because of its massive risk-reduction and safety implications.

"The safe achievement of this milestone is the result of super-human efforts by hundreds of workers," said Larry Gadbois, manager of the Spent Fuel Project for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Removal of

*Continued on page 2.*

## Spent Nuclear Fuel Project reaches major milestone, cont.

spent nuclear fuel had a very slow start. During the first 18 months, 67 containers of fuel were moved. In the last seven months or so, that number jumped to 118 containers moved. So removing the first third of the K West Basin fuel used three-quarters of the schedule. Kudos to so many people who sacrificed so much of their personal time in the long push to come from behind and complete this phase of the project.”

“Our critics said we’d be months or even years behind schedule, but we knew we had to stay the course and let our performance prove them wrong,” said Keith Klein, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office. “Getting to this point has taken the dedication and innovation of a whole lot of people to overcome all that could go wrong and did go wrong.”

“Removing 957 tons is an extraordinary achievement, and I congratulate each project worker on the fine job in support of cleanup, the environment and the Hanford Site,” said Keith Thomson, president and chief executive officer of prime contractor Fluor Hanford. “Fluor Hanford is extremely proud of the effort and ingenuity that the project displayed to get as close to the milestone date as it did.”

Thomson said it was a remarkable accomplishment considering “the major setbacks the project encountered early on.” He said it was the personal sacrifices by SNF Project personnel that enabled the project to come as close as it did to meeting its deadline.

The 957-ton figure is significant because it corresponds to the amount of irradiated uranium that was in the K West Basin when the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project began removing fuel. However, the K West Basin is not empty, because fuel from the K East Basin continues to be transferred in for processing with the K West equipment.

### Setting records

Since fuel removal began just two years and one month ago, the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project has removed an average of more than one metric ton of heavy metal per day, and more than two per day for the past five months. During the recent push to reach the 957-metric-ton benchmark, Fluor Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project workers removed 25 MCOs in December, a month that included holiday shutdown time. During one week in December, project personnel moved seven MCOs, an all-time weekly record.

Since fuel movement began in December 2000, project workers have decreased the cycle time to fill, seal, remove, dry, transport and store an MCO by 60 percent — from more than 200 hours per MCO to just over 80 hours per MCO. Fluor Hanford’s implementation of solid recovery plans allowed the project to make significant enhancements to production efficiency, utilizing innovative approaches to production and streamlining redundant or low-value processes. To step up the processes involved in retrieving, drying and storing spent nuclear fuel, the project added a Production Control organization and adopted a commercial production management approach. Additionally, project operators gained familiarity and experience using the unique equipment and became extremely proficient in anticipating and fixing malfunctions.

Norm Boyter, Fluor Hanford vice president for the SNF Project, recalled the hectic year just past. “The efforts of everyone across the SNF Project to start up the new fuel transfer system in parallel with increased

*Continued on page 3.*

## Spent Nuclear Fuel Project reaches major milestone, cont. 2

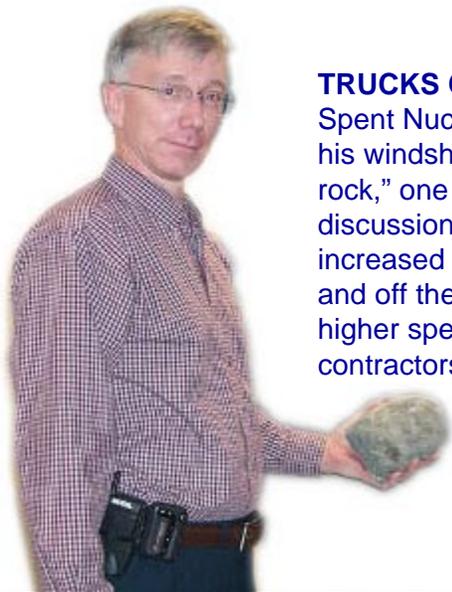
production of MCOs is nothing short of remarkable,” Boyter said. “Although we were about one week late in achieving our ‘957’ milestone, we have done a superb job and I am proud of our entire team.”

Following the achievement, the SNF Project entered its normal quarterly maintenance outage. During this outage, the project will make significant repairs on equipment and install new scrap-processing tables in the K West Basin.

All future SNF Project work will focus on supporting the new DOE performance goals and incentives for the project that were recently agreed to by DOE and Fluor Hanford. Those goals include cleaning the K East Basin by June 30, 2005, cleaning the K West Basin by Sept. 30, 2005, welding all MCOs at the Canister Storage Building by Sept. 30, 2005, and completing deactivation and transition to Hanford's River Corridor Project in October 2005.

The project's next significant “deliverables” include starting up welding operations at the Canister Storage Building next month, starting up the sludge/water system and beginning scrap processing this coming spring, and formulating a “breakthrough” plan by June for deactivating the facilities. ■

## Picture Pages



**TRUCKS CAN ROCK YOUR WORLD:** Rick Zimmerman, safety team lead for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project, holds a rock the size of one that nearly came through his windshield one morning. Even if you drive one of those pickups that's "like a rock," one of these on a Hanford roadway can be dangerous. That was a topic of discussion at a recent meeting of the Presidents's Zero Accident Council. With increased construction in the 200 Area, many dual-wheeled trucks travel both on and off the roads, and rocks lodged between the tires are often thrown off at higher speeds. Although truck drivers are responsible for inspecting their rigs and contractors sweep the roadways, Hanford commuters need to be especially cautious when traveling behind trucks. Any unsafe road conditions should be reported to Rusty Knight at 376-6654.

**NEW PNNL EQUIPMENT:** Greg Speer of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory demonstrates the capabilities of a new PNNL laboratory to interested visitors at an open-house event Dec. 6. The new lab houses equipment purchased with revenue generated from the commercialization of technologies developed at PNNL. It increases PNNL's ability to build circuit boards that are used in sensors, instruments and measurement systems. In the past, this process was either done manually, making one board at a time, or by an outside vendor. Now, PNNL staff members can make a circuit board in minutes rather than days, and the computerized equipment can save patterns so duplicate boards can be built quickly and easily. This new capability will help PNNL quickly move from the "science" stage of research to production of prototypes.



## Picture Pages

**UNDER WRAPS:** Dena Bultena, Zero Accident Council chair and health physics technician for the Plutonium Finishing Plant, unwraps the Voluntary Protection Program “merit status” flag presented to the Fluor Hanford Nuclear Material Stabilization Project team by Shirley Olinger (right) of the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office at the Dec. 19 Presidents’ Zero Accident Council meeting. George Jackson, vice president for NMSP, holds the plaque. Looking on are (from left)



Lenny Perkins, technical support manager; Scott Sax, NMSP Plant Operations director; and Rich Layman, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council safety rep.

Representatives of Fluor Hanford and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory VPP star-status sites, as well as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration, the state of Oregon, DOE and HAMTC developed a course to introduce participants to VPP. “VPP 101” was offered last fall at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center.

# Fluor reduces Hanford workforce by 260 employees

Voluntary and involuntary layoffs of Fluor Hanford workers have resulted in a workforce reduction of 260, according to Dave Van Leuven, executive vice president and chief operating officer. Employees were notified last Monday that their positions were being eliminated as part of the reduction of force announced Nov. 14. Employees who applied for one of two self-select options that were offered have been told whether their applications were accepted.

Fluor Hanford Human Resources opened a Career Resource Center for all affected employees at the Hanford Training Center, 1810-1812 Terminal Drive in Richland. Manchester, Inc. a human resources consulting company, will manage the center under contract to the Department of Energy. Affected employees can use the center for getting information on jobs, educational opportunities, starting a business or retiring, according to Van Leuven.

Beginning this week, the Career Resource Center will conduct career-transition workshops to help laid-off employees assess their skills, learn how to communicate and “network,” search for a job and build a résumé. Confidential one-on-one career coaching will be available from experienced counselors, and job-seekers will have access to the Manchester Career Portal, a comprehensive collection of job-search Web sites. The center also has office and communications equipment for use in conducting job searches. The CRC will remain open through February.

Employees can also use the resources of WorkSource Columbia Basin, a state-run provider of employment services to all Washington residents. The WorkSource facility is at 815 N. Kellogg in Kennewick.

Acknowledging that reductions are not pleasant, Van Leuven said they are necessary. “We must have a right-sized, properly skilled workforce to focus on work that accelerates cleaning up the site, and reduce or eliminate activities and services that do not directly contribute to cleanup. We will continue, therefore, to seek opportunities that streamline our operations and apply our resources accordingly.” ■

# A father's explanation clarifies risk in the workplace

I was born and raised on the north coast of California in a logging community. My family has been logging redwood trees in that area for four generations. My grandfather was killed in a logging accident in 1952.

During my youth, I attended a number of funerals for neighbors and fathers of schoolmates. These deaths were the result of logging accidents.

Being young and not understanding, I asked my father, who spent nearly all of his adult life felling redwood trees, why so many people were killed each year. It has been more than 40 years since I asked that question. My father's response has echoed in my memory ever since. His explanation is as applicable today as it was that day so many years ago:

"Well son," he said while scratching his chin, "when you first start working in the woods, you learn how to do things safely. Then the day comes when you find yourself in a pickle and you have to take a shortcut.

"You know full well that what you're doing is risky so you make sure you do it real careful. Everything goes well and you get away with it."

At this point, I remember he paused, looked at the ground and kicked the soft dirt gently with the toe of his work boot. Then, after a long, thoughtful moment, he continued, "The problem is that the need to take the shortcut will come up again and again. Each time, you accept the risk a little quicker and soon forget that you are both taking a shortcut and accepting the risk that goes with it."



That one explanation, coupled with attending all those funerals, accomplished more for developing my understanding of risk in the workplace than all of the safety slogans and safety placards I have been subjected to in 38 years of experience in heavy industry.

I hope this little recount of a brief moment in my childhood does the same for you. ■

Wallace's grandfather, left, and father in 1949.

<p><b>Commentary</b> by <b>Jerry L. Wallace</b> Waste Treatment Plant Project Bechtel National, Inc.</p>	
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# DOE safety summit examines best practices

Last month's DOE Headquarters-sponsored 2002 Executive Safety Summit, "Safety is Good Business," drew participation from throughout the DOE complex, including Hanford. The summit was designed to define a path forward for implementing safety-management initiatives and applying an integrated management approach to DOE missions and activities.

The event was kicked off with a reception and poster session, followed by a senior-management overview and discussion. Out of approximately 50 posters displayed, four represented Hanford. One highlighted best practices resulting in accelerated cleanup by Fluor Hanford and Bechtel Hanford for the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office. Another featured the work of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for DOE-RL, and the third and fourth represented the Office of River Protection, the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant Project and accelerated tank cleanup.

The poster on project progress and safety by Bechtel Hanford and Fluor Hanford was one of 15 that DOE Under Secretary Bob Card encouraged participants to scrutinize for best practices that could be applied at their sites for accelerated cleanup and getting work done safely. Safety-summit activities on the second day covered best practices and information-sharing sessions among field office managers, site contractor presidents and laboratory directors. During the morning plenary session, Congressman Doc Hastings of the Tri-Cities discussed the importance of safety at DOE sites. In the afternoon, four panels convened to review progress made in 2002.

One of the panels had six members, including Keith Klein, DOE-RL manager; Shirley Olinger, DOE-RL assistant manager for Safety and Engineering; and Paul Kruger, DOE-RL associate manager for Science and Technology. The panel's topic was "improving the contribution of contracts to the implementation of integrated management and barriers to implementation."

The third day was dedicated to charting a path forward to institutionalize safety strategies, initiatives and best practices and to identify barriers to implementation. The summit concluded with a panel of DOE chief operating officers to roll out 2003 integrated management action plans for each program office.

Summit participants from Hanford represented the DOE Office of River Protection and DOE Richland Operations Office, Bechtel Hanford, Bechtel National, CH2M Hill Hanford Group, Fluor Hanford, the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

The poster below is on display in the 2420 Stevens Center lobby and displays are planned for the lobbies of the Federal Building and 3350 George Washington Way. ■

U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office

Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS)

### Using Best Practices...

- Hanford Performance Management Plan  
Leading local strategic planning
- Contract Management  
Proven accountability, responsibility and cooperation
- Performance Incentives  
Rewarding OIA performance with bonus encouragement
- Voluntary Protection Program  
A proactive employer owned process to improve safety and health
- Worker Involvement  
An employee program to accomplish more work safely
- ALARA  
Leading the way for DOE with the ALARA Center and ALARA Working
- Automated Job Hazard Analysis  
Streamlining the process to ensure consistent quality and worker safety

**Results**

Improved Project Performance - and - Safety

Fluor Hanford Bechtel Hanford, Inc.

### Accelerating Cleanup...

#### Restore the River Corridor

- Retrieved 600 of 2100 tons of spent nuclear fuel
- Removed 16 million gallons from hot cells
- Cased 2 reactors; 3 near completion
- Removed 4 million tons of contaminated soil

#### Transition the Central Plateau

- 56 fold increase in nuclear material stabilization rate
- Removed 15 vessels and 1 mile of piping from Plutonium Concentration Facility
- Treated, stored and disposed of 19 million cubic feet of liquid and solid waste
- Treated 1.6 billion gallons of concentrated groundwater

Reducing Risks • Protecting the Worker, the Public, and the Environment

# Waste feed delivery project on track to save time, money

Building new systems and upgrading facilities to transfer tank waste to the Waste Treatment Plant is one of the key initiatives under accelerated tank cleanup. A project under the Department of Energy Office of River Protection and contractor CH2M HILL Hanford Group includes installing piping for waste transfers and making facility upgrades. The project is getting high marks for innovative project management.

A year ago, the project (known as W-314) was facing several challenges affecting the cost and schedule, including expanded workscope, higher-than-expected radiation levels and general efficiency. The Office of River Protection and CH2M HILL overcame many of those challenges by partnering on a recovery plan and changing the way construction and engineering support contracts are managed.

The contractor applied the DOE practice of moving toward performance-based incentive contracts to its subcontracts for construction and engineering work, according to Tom Hoertkorn, team leader for ORP's Tank Farm Project Management. "We worked with CH2M HILL to provide incentives to subcontractors to get work done on or ahead of schedule and within or below budgeted costs," Hoertkorn said.

Examples of efficiencies the team has achieved are sharing lessons learned in designs from past work, and competitive subcontracting of engineering services.

"By bidding out our engineering work, we were able to save approximately 60 percent of our budgeted cost on two significant designs," said Jeff Biagini, W-314 Project director for CH2M HILL Hanford Group. "The bottom line is that, by working smarter, we have been able to bring this project back on track to accomplish the accelerated tank cleanup mission."

The results have been significant. A projected \$15.8 million cost overrun and a five-month schedule delay were both reversed. The field milestones for fiscal year 2002 were completed on schedule, and the cost was within \$2 million of the baseline for the project. ORP and CH2M HILL expect continued performance at these levels in FY 2003, and that will allow them to complete the project several months early and more than \$20 million below the budgeted amount. ■



Tom Hoertkorn (left) and Bobby Williams of the Office of River Protection and Ken Jordan of CH2M HILL Hanford Group have been involved in partnering and innovative project management to put Project W-314 on track to finish ahead of schedule and under budget. The project is upgrading tank facilities to feed tank waste to the Waste Treatment Plant. The light-colored structure in the background at AZ Tank Farm is a valve pit built last year as part of the effort.

# Tank AP-101 being prepped for first waste transfer to WTP

Geoff Tyree, CH2M HILL

With the replacement of a giant pump in a million-gallon Hanford tank, the Office of River Protection and CH2M HILL are a step closer to being ready for sending tank waste to the Waste Treatment Plant now under construction.

Tank AP-101 is one of 10 double-shell Hanford tanks near the Waste Treatment Plant site that are being readied to serve as staging tanks. As waste is retrieved from aging single-shell tanks across Hanford's central plateau, it will be sent to these tanks until the waste can be treated.

Tank AP-101 has been identified as the feed tank for the first transfer of low-activity waste to the Waste Treatment Plant for processing. The tank's existing 30-horsepower "flex and float" transfer pump was removed because it was undersized and not equipped to transfer all the waste out of the tank. The old pump was removed nearly 200 days ahead of schedule to prevent schedule conflicts with emerging mission-acceleration work planned for later this year.

The pump was cut into four pieces and placed in a stainless steel burial box. During the final stages of the preparation for pulling the pump, the operations field crew recommended placing a thermocouple removed from single-shell Tank C-106 into the same burial box rather than using a separate box for the thermocouple. The idea will save an estimated \$100,000 that can be directed to other mission-acceleration work.

A 60-horsepower variable-frequency-drive pump will be installed in the tank to provide increased pumping capacity and the ability to dilute the waste as it's being transferred to the WTP.

To ensure that safety and efficiency were integrated into the pump-removal effort, the work crew used a mock-up to prepare for the job before performing the actual work. Lessons learned from the mock-up were recorded and integrated into the final work plans.

A major highlight of the mock-up included integration of a glove bag and pump-cutting tool system, which resulted in the waste-disposal process being completed in half the time required for similar work previously performed in the tank farms. The lessons learned have also been shared with CH2M HILL crews performing similar tasks on other waste-retrieval projects in single-shell tank farms.■



**Crews pulled a large transfer pump from double-shell Tank AP-101 earlier this month to make room for a larger pump. It will handle the job of feeding the first low-activity waste to the Waste Treatment Plant.**

# Peers name Massie ALARA Employee of the Year

Analytical Services has selected Valerie Massie, a chemical technician with Fluor Hanford, as its “ALARA Employee of the Year.”

At Analytical Services, the ALARA (as-low-as-reasonably -achievable) Program is employee-driven and focuses on reducing exposure to radiation to the lowest practical level.

Massie spearheaded improvements in sample carriers used in the 222-S Analytical Laboratory — a complex process that has taken about three years. She received three separate nominations by her peers for her “willingness to assist others and dedication to improving processes,” said Analytical Services ALARA chairman Owen Berglund. “She has proven to be an instrumental part of maintaining the ALARA Program at the 222-S Laboratory.”

Massie led a task team with a mission of solving ergonomic issues created by the shielded sample carriers used in the 222-S Laboratory. The carriers hold radiological samples to be analyzed by the laboratory staff. Massie’s team has explored many options for improving the carriers to make them more efficient and easier to use, and to minimize repetitive motions in handling them. Samples of the improved carriers will be tested this month and the results evaluated.

“As the task-team lead, she was the driving force in designing, testing and implementing a new sample carrier,” Berglund said. “This lengthy project could not have been accomplished without her great energy and dedication. Valerie has worked very diligently to provide this laboratory with a safer way of doing business — one that will reduce personnel exposure for our workers for years to come.”

“She recently presented a paper on the new carrier at the ALARA Workshop,” Berglund added, “as an example of the Integrated Safety Management System and its worker-involvement component in action. She has accomplished all this while still carrying on her normal duties as a chem tech, which she does very well.”

“I was surprised,” Massie said after the award presentation Dec. 31. “I couldn’t have done it without everyone’s help. It’s been quite a journey.”

Don Hart, manager of Analytical Services Project Support, presented the award plaque during a morning staff meeting. He said the effort to improve the sample carriers has been a major Integrated Safety Management System initiative for the Analytical Services organization.

“Valerie’s team has been diligent,” Hart said. “Improving the sample carriers involved complexities of industrial safety, radiological control and productivity. Addressing all of these aspects has involved every part of our workforce, including the workers, engineers and radiological control.”

Heather Anastos, manager of 222-S Analytical Chemistry, told Massie, “I thank you for your stick-to-itiveness. You were the catalyst that pulled this team together, and teamwork is what has made it successful.” ■



**Valerie Massie, a chemical technician at the 222-S Analytical Laboratory, has been named the Analytical Services ALARA Person of the year.**

# Nominations sought for Fluor Environmental Stewardship Award

Fluor Hanford projects and facilities are invited to submit nominations for the Fluor Hanford Environmental Stewardship Award.

The award shines the spotlight on the environmental aspects of Environment, Safety and Health and has been founded upon the guiding principles of the company's Integrated Environment, Safety and Health Management System. Initiated last year, this special award is the first of its kind within the DOE Complex.

"We are looking forward to the second year for presenting this award," said Richard Gurske, director, Fluor Hanford Environment and Regulation. "A great effort was made last year by five Fluor Hanford projects with excellent environmental management practices. We hope several more projects will consider applying for the award this year to receive the recognition they deserve."

The award was established to promote the following results within Fluor Hanford project and facility operations:

- Improved worker environmental awareness and, therefore, the potential to minimize negative impacts of operational activities to human health and the environment
- Improved environmental compliance performance and avoidance of legal fines and penalties through worker involvement
- Identification of resource and cost savings through worker innovation in environmental programs or projects that would benefit the cleanup mission at the Hanford Site
- Improved project and facility efforts in waste minimization, spills and release prevention, and pollution prevention
- Improved community and government relations by recognizing Fluor Hanford's efforts to improve environmental performance.

Nomination forms are available on the Fluor Hanford Environment and Regulation Web page at [http://www.rl.gov/esh/hanford/e\\_award.html](http://www.rl.gov/esh/hanford/e_award.html). Completed forms are due by close of business March 31. A review committee will conduct the award evaluation. The winner will be announced at the annual Hanford Health and Safety Exposition in May. ■



The River Corridor Project won last year's Stewardship Award, and merit awards like this one given to the 222-S Laboratory were also presented.

# Three lifesavers honored at December PZAC meeting

At the Dec. 19 Presidents' Zero Accident Council meeting, three employees were honored for their quick actions to save the lives of fellow Hanford workers and drivers. They received the Lifesaving Award that honors employees for selfless acts of courage on and off the job. The award winners demonstrate the true spirit of safety and concern for others by going beyond their normal job duties to help those in medical distress.

Doug Bruinekool of Fluor Hanford performed the Heimlich maneuver on a fellow employee who was choking. Bruinekool's quick action minimized the physiological damage and saved the individual's life.

Victor Cruz, also of Fluor Hanford, administered immediate first aid to an injured truck driver at the scene of an accident. Cruz also assisted in controlling the area of the accident, because there was a potential for radiological contamination from the truck's contents.

Ray Curry of Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford rendered first aid at the scene of a one-car rollover accident. After observing the accident, Curry stopped to verify that local emergency services had been notified and provided first aid to the accident victims until the emergency medical technicians arrived.■



**Bruinekool**



**Cruz**



**Curry**

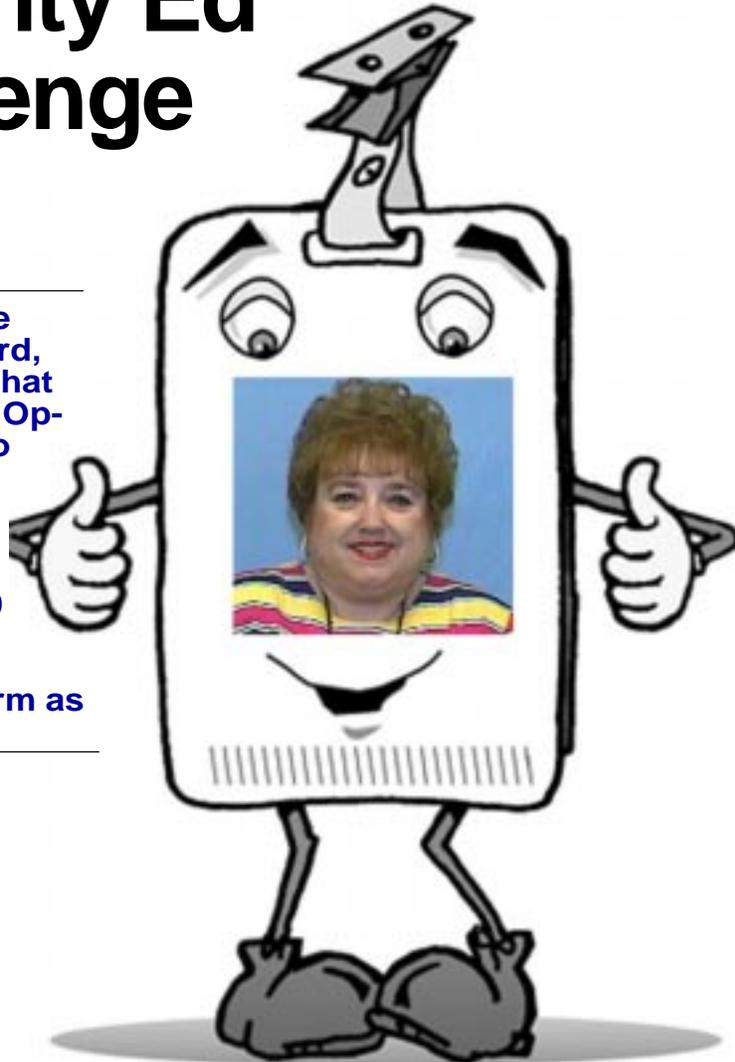
# Dickinson wins Security Ed Challenge



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Congratulations to Janice Dickinson of Fluor Hanford, who correctly answered that 373-3800 (Hanford Patrol Operations) is the number to call in an emergency on the Hanford Site. That question appeared in the Security Ed Challenge in the December 30 issue of the *Hanford Reach*. Dickinson will receive a wireless door alarm as a prize.

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## 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 maintenance

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-*

*Letters continued on next page.*

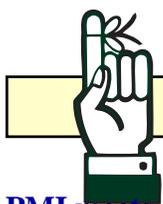
# Regular Features



## 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

*Calendar continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## 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. ♦

*Features continued on next page.*

# 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](mailto:mary.wagner@pnl.gov). To register, contact Cory Rhoads at 376-7157 or at [cory.rhoads@pnl.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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

*Classes continued on next page.*

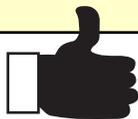
# Regular Features



## 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.

*H.E.R.O. continued on next page.*

# 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. ♦

*Features continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



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>.

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## 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

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## 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](mailto:douglas_m_bailey@rl.gov). 1/13

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## 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

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## 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 ♦