

Basemat completed for Waste Treatment Plant Low-Activity Waste Vitrification facility

The team that is building the Waste Treatment Plant Project's Low-Activity Waste Vitrification facility placed the final three concrete basemats (similar to building foundations) last month. On Jan. 14, construction crews placed two basemats containing a total of 330 cubic yards of concrete, and the final 155-cubic-yard placement took place Jan. 16. In all, the crews have placed 8,330 cubic yards of concrete into the facility's foundation.

The work was originally planned as part of the first scheduled concrete basemat placement last July. But record summer temperatures, equipment problems and safety concerns led to suspension of work, leaving a section of the 5-foot-thick concrete basemat unfinished.



Crews complete the last placement of concrete for the Waste Treatment Plant Low-Activity Waste Vitrification facility basemat. A heated tent is used to enclose the placement area, keeping the temperature of the concrete at appropriate levels for curing.

"Even though we had plans to finish before the extreme heat, it became nearly 110 degrees outside," said Bill Clements, area project manager for the WTP Low-Activity Waste Vitrification facility. "We couldn't keep the concrete placement temperatures at the specified 70 degrees, and the Creter crane carrying the concrete from the trucks to the placement area broke down. But we did the right thing. We followed our procedures, halted the concrete placement, and kept the safety of our workers and quality the top priorities."

The basemat section where the concrete placement was stopped hardened to form a visible stair-step-like surface. The method used to repair and join the uneven concrete sections is known as a "cold-joint" pourback placement.

The construction team immediately initiated a root-cause analysis and has since implemented a lessons-learned corrective action plan to improve concrete-placement procedures. A detailed procedure was also developed, and cold-joint placements were completed to assure that the structural requirements were maintained. The procedure was reviewed and approved by the Department of Energy before the final placements were made.

"We were confident heading into the cold-joint placements," said WTP Project manager Jim Betts. "We identified the problem early, implemented a path to correct the quality issue and completed the placements to meet all nuclear, regulatory and project standards. It was a good measurement of engineering and construction teamwork and resolve to get the job done right."

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Basemat completed for Waste Treatment Plant Low-Activity Waste Vitrification facility, cont.

“To ensure a quality, seamless concrete placement, we drilled and grouted approximately 3,200 rebar dowels to prepare for the cold-joint placements,” Clements explained.

Construction of the Low-Activity Waste Vitrification facility now focuses on completing walls-to-grade work by installing reinforcing steel on the northern side of the building. So far, crews have placed more than 430 tons of reinforcing steel and more than 9,300 pounds of embeds into the facility’s walls. ■

K East Basin alert caused by false alarms

An emergency alert on the afternoon of Feb. 5 — declared in response to continuous-air-monitor alarms that sounded in the K East Basin — was lifted after it was confirmed that the alarms had given false indications of a radiological release. Employees in the 100K and 100N areas were required to “take cover” for a short time before it was determined by air sampling that there was no emergency.

The Hanford Emergency Operations Center was activated at 3:50 p.m. In accordance with standard emergency procedures, Benton County officials evacuated the Columbia River from the White Bluffs area to the Vernita Bridge as a precaution.

“Our workers are trained in emergency procedures and urged to be conservative in their judgment when public and worker safety is at stake,” said Keith Klein, manager of the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office. “In this case, false alarms led to a declaration of an alert emergency. When an alert emergency is declared, emergency procedures require evacuation along parts of the Columbia River. We apologize for any inconvenience this caused, but praise our workers for making safety their first priority.”

The emergency declaration and take-cover action were lifted at about 5 p.m., after both Hanford Site radiation-monitoring personnel and representatives of the Washington State Department of Health had taken samples and found no contamination or elevated levels of radioactivity.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Project personnel are investigating to determine why the continuous air monitors gave false indications. ■

Bechtel awards major subcontracts to local firms

Bechtel National has recently awarded two local businesses major subcontracts for work on the Waste Treatment Plant Project.

On Jan. 30, Federal Engineers and Constructors, Inc., a local small business in Richland, received a subcontract valued in excess of \$2 million to design and construct a simulator facility. The 16,000-square-foot building will house control-room simulators to be used in training operators for the Waste Treatment Plant now under construction.

The simulator facility will be located on the site of the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. Construction of the single-story building will begin immediately and is slated to be completed in March 2004.

Another local business, George A. Grant, Inc., is a subcontractor to Federal Engineers and Constructors.

A separate award was made Feb. 4 to Lampson International, LLC, in Kennewick. The contract, valued at more than \$8 million, is for transporting equipment that will be barged up the Columbia River for delivery to the WTP. Large, heavy equipment will off-loaded at the Port of Benton barge slip in north Richland, and Lampson will coordinate the off-loading and transportation to the WTP job site. Over the next two years, more than 40 shipments of large equipment are expected.

Lampson, a family-owned business employing 250 people, manufactures heavy lift cranes and performs lifting and hauling services. The company has named a number of local, small businesses as subcontractors for the work.

Since Bechtel National began the WTP Project about two years ago, 60 percent of the value of contracts awarded has been with small businesses. Tri-Cities-area businesses have been awarded more than \$105 million in contracts. ■

WTP employees donate supplies to local school

In January, employees of the Waste Treatment Plant project pulled together and made a large donation of school supplies for children in the Pasco School District.

This is the second donation made by the group this year. The first one was made just before school started in late August. The supplies included spiral notebooks, notebook paper, folders, pens, pencils, scissors, rulers, glue, markers and colored pencils.

“We used about 10 lists of required grade-school items to come up with what supplies were needed,” said Gerald Cook of WTP Project Procurement.

The supplies will be distributed to the Pasco public schools, night schools for children and adults, and home visitors.

The group responsible for the donation includes Terry Ferguson, Marie Klinger, Julie Dockendorff, Tom Van Den Beldt, Tim Dailey, Ted Boland, Jon Caton, Lisa Nelson, Dennis Cordrey, Ken Rowe, Dave Gournon, Janet Long, Jerry Cook, Kay Bates, Pastor Farinas, James Hart (deputy manager of Property and Procurement), and Bill Swygart of Traffic and Logistics.

The group is collecting money to purchase backpack “seconds” from Jan Sport. They also found that the Pasco schools are in need of coats for preschool children. A coat donation is scheduled for mid-February.

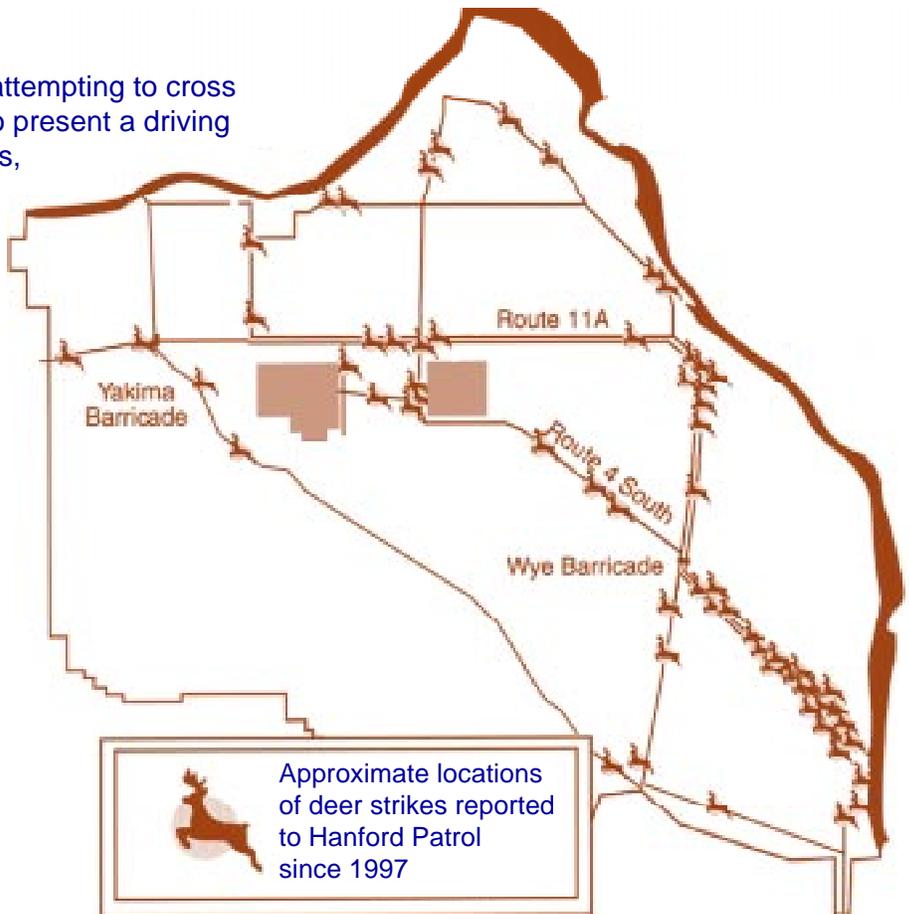
Anyone interested in helping in the coat donation or the next school-supply drive (set for July or August), should call Jerry Cook at 371-4559. ■



Employees of the Waste Treatment Plant Project pulled together and helped supply children in the Pasco School District with needed supplies, including paper, pencils, rulers and glue. From left are Bill Swygert, Ted Boland, Tom Van Den Beldt, Tim Dailey, Katy Bates and Dennis Cordrey, who spent their day off delivering the supplies to the schools.

Picture Pages

WATCH FOR BAMBI: Deer attempting to cross Hanford roadways continue to present a driving hazard for Hanford commuters, especially during the early-morning hours. This map, showing all the deer strikes as reported to Hanford Patrol between October 1997 and December 2002, shows that they happen mostly on a section of Highway 4S between the 300 and 400 Areas. When driving on site, please be alert for deer that may be crossing the road in front of you. For more information, see the Web site <http://apweb02.rl.gov/rapidweb/phmc/sas/index.cfm?PageNum=84>.



WILL BOWL FOR KIDS: Heidi Rybarczyk-Gomez of Fluor Hanford holds her home-made sign with a plea, "Please help! Will bowl for children." Rybarczyk-Gomez and other Hanford contractor employees are collecting pledges for the Junior Achievement fundraising bowling classic, which takes place Feb. 27 and 28 and March 1 at Fiesta Bowl in Richland. Funds raised from the event support Junior Achievement in its efforts to educate and inspire young people to value the free enterprise system, and to teach them more about the world of work.



PNNL earns three Excellence in Technology Awards

The Federal Laboratory Consortium recently announced that it is honoring Pacific Northwest National Laboratory with three 2003 Excellence in Technology Transfer Awards for the laboratory's Acoustic Inspection Device, an engine exhaust aftertreatment system and the EMAdvantage emergency management software.

The FLC annually recognizes federal laboratories and their employees who have made significant contributions in transferring important federally funded technology into the private sector. The FLC comprises more than 700 federal laboratories and centers nationwide. A formal ceremony honoring the winning entries will be held May 8 at the FLC's 2003 national meeting in Tucson, Ariz.

Acoustic inspections

On a typical day, the U.S. Customs Service examines 1.3 million passengers and more than 400,000 vehicles, aircraft and ships as it patrols the borders of the United States. To help with this daunting task, the Customs Service now has access to the Acoustic Inspection Device, originally developed by PNNL for inspection of chemical weapon stockpiles in Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War, and for U.S. and Russian chemical weapons bilateral treaty verification.

Acoustic inspection is a non-invasive approach that allows rapid and reliable assessment of the contents of sealed, liquid-filled containers. AID can determine the characteristics of the liquid as well as detect foreign objects, contraband or explosives hidden inside the containers.

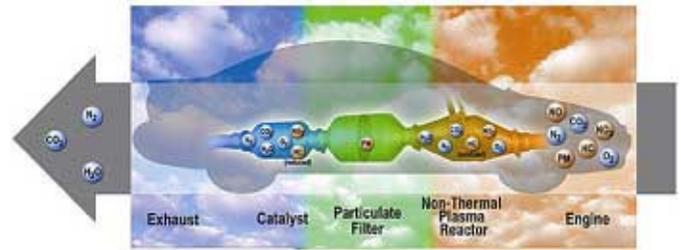
AID is a handheld device roughly the size and shape of a large cordless drill. It contains a sensor head, is tethered to a personal digital assistant and is linked to a data library. AID works by transmitting ultrasonic pulses and detecting return echoes to identify the characteristics of container contents.

Emissions reduced

By combining an electrically charged gas with a specialized catalyst, PNNL researchers and industry partners have developed a system that substantially reduces harmful vehicle exhaust emissions from diesel and gasoline engines. These reductions are critical to meeting government-mandated vehicle-emissions and fuel-economy requirements that will take effect toward the end of the decade.

The novel approach converts harmful oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter from vehicle engines into components of clean air. Oxides of nitrogen react with water vapor in the atmosphere to form acid rain and are a precursor to ozone, a major component of smog. Particulate-matter emissions are a source of respiratory irritation and potentially contribute to chronic health effects.

The need for a technology to reduce the toxicity of vehicle emissions is so great the lab successfully transferred the exhaust aftertreatment technology to three organizations — Delphi Corp., Caterpillar, Inc. and the



One of the three Excellence in Technology Awards that PNNL earned went to an engine exhaust aftertreatment system that substantially reduces harmful vehicle exhaust emissions from diesel and gasoline engines.

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PNNL earns three Excellence in Technology Awards, cont.

Low Emissions Partnership of USCAR, a government-industry program that involves Ford Motor Co., DaimlerChrysler and General Motors Corp.

EMAdvantage™

In an emergency, getting accurate information to decision-makers in time to make good decisions can save lives and property. This is true for natural disasters as well as industrial accidents that involve toxic, explosive or other hazardous materials.

EMAdvantage enables decision-makers in an emergency operations center to make informed decisions and share information in real time with the larger emergency-management community, including incident command centers, shelters, schools, hospitals, joint information centers and others involved in emergency planning and response activities.

The system combines modeling, visualization and communications capabilities that enable emergency managers to identify hazards, perform threat and risk analysis, declare emergencies, execute and track responses, register and re-unify evacuees, and make and implement informed protective-action decisions. The software system is based on a PNNL-developed package that was created to safeguard communities near the nation's chemical weapons depots.

For more information on the FLC award-winning technologies, visit <http://www.pnl.gov/news/2003/03-02.htm>. ■

Beware of get-rich-quick schemes on your e-mail

Hanford employees have again reported receiving unsolicited requests via e-mail, letter and facsimile from individuals claiming to be official representatives of various overseas government offices. The requests typically ask for support in moving large sums of money out of the country, and offer the victim a substantial reward for assisting in the transfer of funds.

The U.S. Secret Service currently refers to these as “4-1-9” or “Advance Fee Fraud” schemes. The term “419” refers to the Nigerian criminal statute for fraud where many of these e-mails originate.

Beware; these requests for funds are part of a long-standing scam that has the following characteristics:

- The financial solicitation letters have largely originated from the country of Nigeria, but a growing number are originating elsewhere.
- Although the letters have been written in various contexts and have originated from varying individuals with official-sounding titles, the messages are all essentially the same. The authors are attempting to obtain American bank accounts for depositing large funds as part of closing a business transaction.
- The letters claim that if you wish to participate in the business dealings and provide your bank-account information, you will receive a hefty percentage of the millions of dollars to be gained simply because of your assistance.
- In some cases, the letters will attempt to get you to travel to Nigeria or another third-world country, where you can be blackmailed or additional funds extorted from you. There have been several reported cases of violence against victims, including murder.
- In some cases, the scenario appears to be totally risk-free at first, implying that no money needs to be fronted by the intended victim at all. The con artists only want to initiate contact so they can draw the unsuspecting victims further into the scam before ultimately swindling them out of money.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation advises that there are known con artists operating out of Nigeria who are attempting to drain the financial assets of anyone willing to cooperate.

If you receive one of these letters, either via e-mail or through regular mail or fax, *Do not* attempt to contact these individuals. Because of the large number of mass mailings, Security is no longer asking that these messages be forwarded to them. Simply delete the message and remind yourself that if the message seems too good to be true, it probably is. ■

Practicing Operations Security, or OPSEC, at home can help minimize vulnerabilities to your personal information. For example: never divulge your bank-account numbers, credit-card accounts, or other sensitive information to people unknown to you. Con artists from the United States like to use the telephone, but their use of e-mail is growing. You can prevent your trash from becoming someone's treasure by shredding personal information, such as pre-approved credit cards, credit-card receipts, pay-check stubs, items bearing Social Security numbers, banking information, medical records and investment data. ■



Bechtel agreement helping build local business

Bechtel National and Timberline Process & Controls, Inc. have entered into a mentor-protégé agreement, supported by the Department of Energy.

Through this agreement, Bechtel has agreed to support Timberline in increasing its technical and business capabilities, building industrial competitiveness and expanding its client base. As part of the agreement, Bechtel is supporting development of Timberline's Nuclear Quality Assurance program and helping develop the company for other DOE and federal agencies and commercial markets.

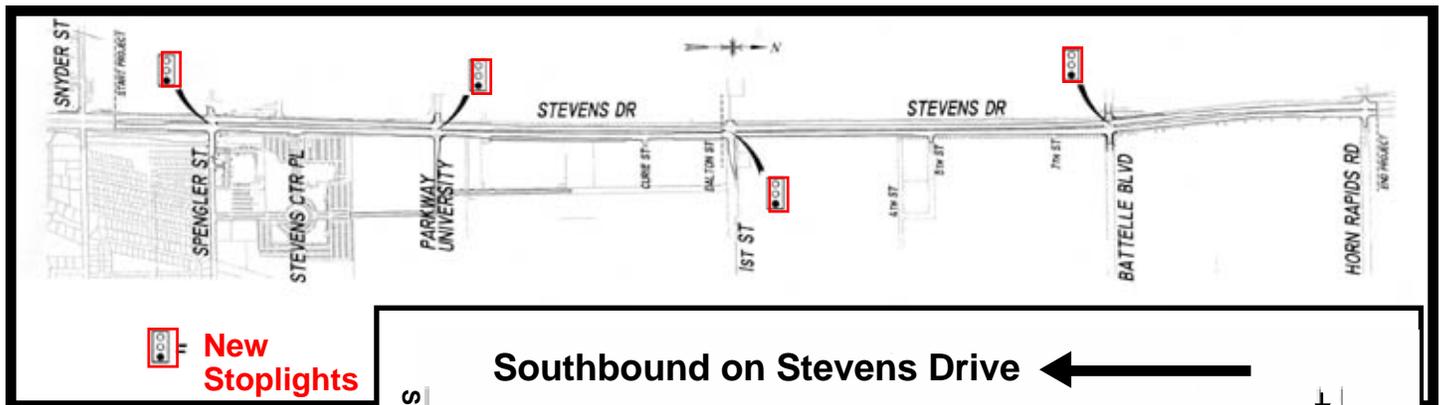
Timberline is a certified small, small-disadvantaged, 8(a), HUBZone, service-disabled-veteran-owned business that provides piping supplies and services.

The company has provided materials for the Hanford Site for 15 years, while diligently working to expand into fabrication. Owner Randy Tweten has aggressively pursued opportunities to build the company and make it more than just a supplier.

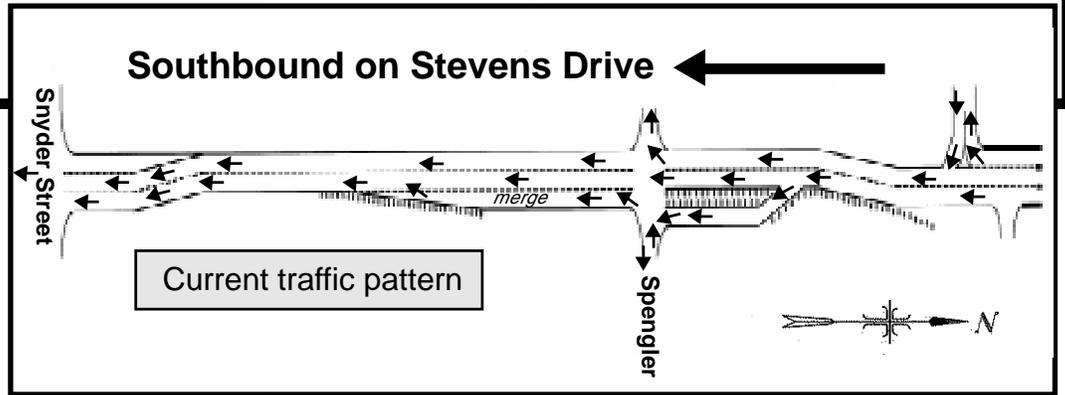
Bechtel currently purchases materials from Timberline for the Waste Treatment Plant, although these procurements are relatively small. "This provides an incredible opportunity to expand in not only the Tri-Cities, but into being a supplier to other government and commercial opportunities," said Tweten.

Timberline purchased land in the Horn Rapids development in Richland to build a 15,000- to 20,000-square-foot fabrication shop. The shop will employ 65 to 75 local workers in crafts, quality assurance, administration and material control. Groundbreaking is expected later this year.

Timberline is also teaming with other small businesses. Diamond B Constructors in Bellingham and Puget Sound Pipe in Kent are working with Timberline to help provide the materials needed. ■



City of Richland outlines Stevens Drive changes



The Stevens Drive project came to a halt during the winter months. When completed (top), there will be four new traffic signals and more left-turn lanes. In the meantime, use caution and be aware of the markings and orange barrels in the vicinity of the Stevens Center Complex (inset). The City of Richland is hoping to resume construction this month, weather permitting.

Karen Welsh, Fluor Hanford

The hazards of traveling on the southbound lanes of Stevens Drive near the vicinity of the Stevens Center and Battelle complexes were a key topic at the January meeting of the Presidents' Zero Accident Council. Hanford commuters who drive that roadway have found that the City of Richland has made many roadway construction changes, with some posing potentially hazardous driving conditions.

At the PZAC meeting, Steve Stairs, a transportation engineer with the City of Richland, said the Stevens Drive project is complicated and comprises two stages. The first is what you see under way today between Snyder St. and Horn Rapids Road. The second phase will involve the reconstruction of the SR-240/Stevens intersection and repaving the portion of the roadway up to Snyder Street.

What's happening now?

The City of Richland began construction last fall on phase one of the Stevens Drive project. Winter conditions, however, caused the project to be shut down until spring. Since that time, the traffic controls on Stevens Drive have caused some confusion. According to Stairs, "Before the project shut down for the winter, the traffic pattern on Stevens Drive was revised to provide an acceleration lane for vehicles entering Stevens Drive from Spengler Street. Unfortunately, this change required a large number of southbound drivers to merge into a heavily used adjacent lane. Even though the signage and striping met the minimum standards, the traffic pattern was confusing for drivers, which led to a disregard of traffic controls."

To help alleviate some of the confusion, the city changed the flow of traffic in the middle of January. The traffic entering Stevens Drive from Spengler Street now merges into the southbound lanes and then shifts to the

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City of Richland outlines Stevens Drive changes, cont.

west, (rather than from the outside lanes on Stevens Drive). Once that traffic merges onto Stevens Drive with the other southbound traffic, both of the previously shifted lanes are shifted back to the east just before Snyder Street. The City of Richland stresses that this revision is temporary, and that traffic will flow straight once the first phase of the project is complete, which is targeted for the end of June.

What's the next step?

The City of Richland is hoping for construction to resume on Stevens Drive sometime this month. Once construction recommences, plans are that the completed Stevens Drive will be similar to changes made on the Bypass Highway by the Washington State Department of Transportation. The proposal includes installing traffic signals at the intersections of Spengler Street, University Parkway, First Street and Battelle Boulevard. Horn Rapids Road will remain a stop-sign-controlled intersection.

“The project, once complete, will provide three lanes in each direction, with a combination of shoulders and bike lanes on each side,” Stairs explained. “Four intersections will have traffic signals and be coordinated with the same time-based programming as on the Bypass Highway.”

All traffic-signal intersections will have protected left-turn phases, crosswalks, pedestrian push buttons and emergency-vehicle preemption, giving emergency vehicles priority through the intersections. The Hanford Fire Department is working with the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office and the city regarding the installation of this equipment on government emergency vehicles.

What can I do now?

During this time, drivers traveling on Stevens Drive near Stevens Center must be especially mindful of the traffic revisions and courteous to other drivers, particularly those who are merging into the heavy Hanford traffic at the end of the workday. This is *not* a time to be talking on a cell phone! Drivers need to be attentive not only to those immediately around them, but to the vehicles in all of the lanes, as some of the new traffic revisions may still cause some confusion.

Once construction resumes, drivers should continue to be attentive to possible traffic revisions even on a day-to-day basis. Also, please be alert and courteous to personnel who will be working on the roads. Remember, safety is everyone's business — not just in the workplace, but at home and on the road as well. ■

Computer Protection Program says beware of SPAM

The volume of SPAM, the electronic equivalent of the junk mail you get through the U.S. Postal Service, is increasing on the Hanford Site.

While much of the SPAM sent to the Hanford Site is being blocked, some is still getting through. Over the past six months, Fluor Hanford's Information Resource Management has seen a 45-percent increase in the volume of SPAM being blocked from entering the site's e-mail system. In December, messages that originated from approximately 26,000 different sender addresses were blocked.

Each e-mail message coming to the site is scanned to determine whether or not it comes from a known SPAM address. Messages are also scanned for suspect attachments or content. Any suspect message is quarantined and then reviewed to ensure that legitimate traffic isn't being stopped.

Despite the successes, some messages are still getting through. **Should you receive any SPAM, here are some simple steps you should take:**

- Do not respond to the message or forward it to someone else.
- If the message appears to originate from a foreign national, inform the Counterintelligence Office before taking any other action.
- If the Counterintelligence Office does not need to be involved, simply delete the message.

You can do several things to limit the amount of SPAM you get:

- Do not reply to the link provided at the bottom of the message to "opt out" or "unsubscribe." Consider the source of the e-mail or solicitation. "Spammers" are looking for valid addresses and may sell your address to another address-list dealer.
- Be careful to whom you provide your e-mail address. Responding to pop-up surveys; joining a mailing list for technical journals, stock quotes or other news updates; creating a member profile on a Web site; ordering merchandise on-line; replying to or forwarding an e-mail off-site; and even putting your business card in a bowl to win something are examples of ways your e-mail address may end up on a SPAM list.
- When you send an e-mail message to a large number of individuals, use the BCC (blind carbon copy) address block instead of the TO address block. Individuals named in the BCC list cannot see the other names in the BCC address list.

If you have any questions about SPAM, contact your company's Computer Protection Program manager, listed below, for more information.

Computer Protection Program manager contacts:

- Department of Energy Richland Operations Office and the Office of River Protection
Nancy Schreckhise . . . 376-8966
- Fluor Project Hanford team and CH2M HILL Hanford Group
Christie Thompson . . . 376-0237
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
J.D. Fluckiger. 375-2286
- Hanford Environmental Health Foundation
Jan Spencer. 376-7830
- Bechtel Hanford
Tom Walters 372-9136

Counterintelligence contacts:

- PNNL & Fluor (including subcontractors),
Greg Chartrand. 372-6868
- All others
Mark Hanneman. 373-1865

Cyber methods used for low-tech crime

A British trade association, the Corporate IT Forum, has warned that thieves can use “out of office” auto-replies to target those who are on vacation and burglarize their homes.

In a meeting of the association it was revealed that criminals are buying SPAM e-mail address lists and sending mass e-mail messages with the intention of receiving “out of office” auto-replies containing details of the recipients’ vacation absences. By cross-referencing those names with publicly available personal information, they are able to target empty homes.

“You wouldn’t go on holiday with a note pinned to your door saying who you were, how long you were away for and when you were coming back, so why would you put this in an e-mail?” asked David Roberts, chief executive of the Corporate IT Forum. The Justice Department and the FBI recently stated they had no current investigations of such crimes under way, but were watching for this activity.

To avoid falling victim to this SPAM scam:

What to do...

- Keep messages as bland as possible.
- Redirect inquiries to a colleague’s business phone number so someone can assess the inquiry.
- If you have an important-sounding job title, think carefully about whether you want to reveal it to a wide audience.
- Be careful about giving away alternative contact details; only include them if the person concerned has agreed.
- Always prepare for your absence and warn key contacts personally of your absence.

What *not* to do...

- Never say you are away on vacation, out of town or away from the office between certain dates.
- Never put alternative personal contact details on an “away from office” message.
- Never put your home address, home phone number or personal cell-phone number on the message.
- Never put a colleague’s personal contact details in a message.
- Never use an “away” auto-reply message on your home or personal e-mail. ■

New resources added to the Learning Resource Center

The following new resources are organized by topic and are available for check-out at the Learning Resource Center at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center:

- **Career/Personal Development Videos** – “Assertive Communication Skills,” “How to Make Presentations with Confidence and Power,” and “We’ve Got to Start Meeting Like This.”
- **Computer Resources** — Office XP, Windows XP and Palm Pilot books.
- **Safety Videos** – “Danger Zone — Lockout Tragedy”; “I Chose to Look the Other Way”; “Disposal Respirators”; “Housekeeping: It Ain’t Like the Movies”; “Lessons from Ground Zero — Emergency Action Plan and Evacuation”; “Office Ergonomics — It’s Your Move, Trainer’s Toolkit”; “Public Building Safety — It’s Everyone’s Concern”; “Rudy — Safety Takes Courage”; and “Tacoma Narrows Bridge Collapse (silent film).”

To check out these resources and other books, CDs, audiotapes and videos for personal use or to use during meetings, call Debbie Kane at 373-3443, send a request to ^HAMMER Learning Resource Ctr, or stop by the Learning Resource Center.

LRC hours are 7 a.m.-12 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays worked, and 7 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m.) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. ■

Security Ed Challenge

Have you checked that the door is locked?



With hundreds of facilities and thousands of employees on the Hanford Site, it is not hard to imagine that unsecured doors can be a serious problem. Only our constant vigilance can ensure our facilities and areas remain safe and secure. Each time we go through a locked door we should personally double-check that it secures correctly.

Take the Security Ed Challenge and circle all that apply:

Unsecured facilities:

- A. Can be a safety hazard
- B. Reduce Security's effectiveness
- C. Increase during times of complacency
- D. Cannot be prevented.

Do you know the answer(s)? Circle all that apply, and then clip this article, add your HID number, and send to Chet Braswell at L4- 09, or send him an e-mail message and in the subject line include "Ed's Securing Challenge" and your answer(s).

Prizes will be awarded to randomly drawn correct entries. The names of prizewinners and the correct answer will appear in a future *Hanford Reach* article.



Congratulations to Claude Landes of Eberline Services Hanford, the winner of the Feb. 3 Security Ed Challenge. Landes won a Mini MagLight for correctly answering that Safeguards and Security information that pertains to the Hanford Site has a high potential of being classified as National Security Information.

Security Ed would like to remind all personnel that they should be very careful about discussing or writing the details on Safeguards and Security information as it has the potential of being classified. When working with this topic you can obtain guidance from your classification officer.

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.

Grateful for support

My family and I would like to thank all of you who helped out after my recent surgery. I cannot express my gratitude for the calls, visits and generosity shown to us. It has been my pleasure to have worked with a lot of wonderful people over the years.

I am happy to report that, to date, all the subsequent tests have shown negative results for additional cancer and I have returned to work. Thank you again for your support and prayers.

Darrell LaMastus
Bechtel National

Hanford roads not public

This is a follow-up to my letter printed in the Feb. 10 issue of the *Hanford Reach* ("Photos taken without permission").

I know that a photo is worth a thousand words and that I was on a public highway. But the section of highway that I was on runs through government land and, in my opinion, is not so public when you need to have a security badge to get past the barricade.

Next time someone is taking photos of an accident that happens on a government facility, whether or not the road is public, they should consider the feelings of the people involved.

Rene Teague
Fluor Hanford

Resource center role clarified

I just pulled up the electronic version of the *Hanford Reach* to look for the article regarding our on-site office. The article, "Beryllium resource center coming to the site," appeared in the Jan. 20th issue.

I want to point out that our resource center assists more than beryllium claimants with claims. We provide assis-

tance to those who wish to file any claim under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act.

In addition to beryllium claims, the Department of Labor considers cancer claims. The Department of Energy Office of Worker Advocacy considers claims not only for beryllium and cancer but also for occupational diseases that may have been caused by toxic substances other than radiation and beryllium.

Eunice Godfrey
Kennewick (Hanford) Resource Center



CLASSES

Skills Lab offers punctuation and grammar brush-ups

If your writing suffers from chronic comma-itis, exhausted apostrophes, and a bad case of fused sentences, fear not! A few seats remain in the Painless Punctuation information session to be held Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:30-11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the Administration Building at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. You'll learn must-know punctuation rules to avoid common mistakes as well as tips for editing your and others' writing. Columbia Basin College faculty from the Skills Enhancement Lab will present the session.

Goof-Proofing Your Grammar, a companion presentation, will be presented on Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:30-11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the Administration Building at HAMMER. If you want to avoid making grammar and usage mistakes when you write and speak, this session is for you. You'll review crucial rules to prevent common grammatical goofs in pronoun and verb agreement, mangled modifiers, easily confused words, and more.

There is no charge for either of these sessions, but they are filling quickly, so reserve space immediately by calling Kathy Dechter at 376-3250. After each session, the staff will host an open house in the Skills Lab, located inside the Learning Resource Center, room 4. To sign up for either or both sessions, call Kathy Dechter at 376-3250.

Classes continued on next page.

Regular Features



CLASSES continued

Class on constructing the technical document offered

Constructing the Technical Document: Essential Strategies and Skills will be offered Feb. 26-27, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in the Snoqualmie Room of NSB on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campus. The class will show you how to achieve benefits associated with effectively sharing research or products and how to address and affect readers, advance careers and fine-tune technical writing skills. Register early; space is limited. Visit <http://workshops.pnl.gov> for more information or contact Mary Wagner at 372-4259 or at mary.wagner@pnl.gov. To register, contact Cory Rhoads at cory.rhoads@pnl.gov or at 376-7157.

PROTRAIN offers the following software classes:

- **Network Defense and Countermeasures** — March 17-21
 - **Primavera Project Planning**
P-3 604 — March 19
 - **Crystal Reports 8**
Introduction — March 10
Advanced — March 11
- Office XP classes are now available. For more information or to register, call 375-0414.

Training for administrative professionals scheduled

The Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center will host two training classes conducted by the American Management Association for administrative professionals in March. The training is targeted to enhance and support skill sets required by administrative professionals. Class size is limited to 25. The following classes will be conducted at HAMMER:

- **Management Skills for Administrative Professionals, Course No. 2294** — March 17, 18 and 19. The cost is \$645 and students earn 1.8 continuing education units.
- **Managing Chaos: Dynamic Time Management, Recall, Reading & Stress Management for Administrative Professionals, Course No. 002194** — March 20 and 21. The cost is \$510 and students earn 1.2 continuing education units.

Students may register by sending an e-mail message to Libby Sickler.

HAMMER sponsors RCRA seminar

Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center will sponsor a three-day Resource Conservation and Recovery Act seminar from McCoy and Associates on March 18, 19 and 20 at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland. Attendees will receive McCoy's *RCRA Reference*, 2003 edition, McCoy's *RCRA Unraveled*, 2003 edition, a three-ring course-notes binder, and RCRA remediation options and case studies. Registration will be limited to the first 200 participants. Site personnel may register for the seminar with their training schedulers or through PeopleSoft. The cost is \$550. Course agenda or additional information may be obtained by contacting your training scheduler or Don Brock via e-mail.

Course on ASME B31.3 Process Piping presented

The Columbia Basin Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will present the professional development course, ASME B31.3 Process Piping, March 24-27 at Washington State University Tri-Cities. The instructor is Glynn Woods, and the cost is \$1,195 (\$1,395 after Feb. 3) for ASME members and \$1,345 (\$1,545 after Feb. 3) for nonmembers. This course demonstrates how the B31.3 Code has been correctly and incorrectly applied through examples shown by the instructor. To register, contact Matt Robinson at 371-5858 or at matt@asme.org. For more information, visit http://www.asme.org/sections/cb/B31_3course.html. ♦

Fluor Hanford offers travel training

If you travel on business for Fluor Hanford or make arrangements for business travelers, you can attend a one-hour hands-on training session on Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the Fluor Hanford Finance computer lab at 2430 Stevens Center, Room 121. You will learn how to book your flights online through Carlson Wagonlit Travel, how to keep up with travel-industry changes, how to exchange airline tickets and much more.

To attend, please make your reservation via e-mail to Linda Meigs of Fluor Hanford Travel and select one of the following one-hour sessions on Feb. 26: 9 to 10 a.m.; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; 1 to 2 p.m.; or 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Seating is limited to 12 persons per session, so please make your reservation early. Additional sessions may be scheduled. ■

Features continued on next page.

Regular Features

NEWS BRIEFS



PTB transfer approved for Howard

Vic Howard, a Fluor Hanford nuclear chemical operator assigned to the Nuclear Material Stabilization Project, has been approved to receive personal-time-bank-transferred hours. Howard's wife is terminally ill and requires 24-hour care. Fluor Project Hanford team employees who wish to transfer PTB hours to Howard can do so by completing a PTB/Vacation Transfer Request form (Site Form A-6002-807) and sending it to Don Buechler at S2-43. Time must be transferred in one-hour increments. ♦



CALENDAR

Purchase Engineers' Week banquet tickets today

The Mid-Columbia Chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, along with many of the local area technical societies, are sponsoring this year's National Engineers' Week Banquet on Friday, Feb. 21, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Shilo Inn in Richland. Retired U.S. Army Special Forces Colonel Bill Hillar will be the guest speaker. His presentation is "Homeland Security: Fact and Fiction." A highlight of the evening will be the selection of the Engineer of the Year. The ticket-sale deadline is 5 p.m. Feb. 18. Tickets are \$25 per person, and \$20 per person for students and retirees). To purchase tickets or sponsor a table that seats 10, contact: Suresh Grover at 371-8253, 308-3354 or at sdgrover@bechtel.com; Jeff McCullough at 375-6317 or at jeff.mccullough@pnl.gov; or Carl Brenneise at (509) 527-7540 or Carl.B.Brenneise@usace.army.mil.

Society of Human Resource Management meets

The Society of Human Resource Management's Feb. 20 meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Richland Shilo Inn will feature motivational speaker Edgar Hargrow. The topic is "Don't make me beg to buy — How we treat our employees when they come to work for us." The cost is \$11.50 per person. Make your reservation by sending an e-mail message to tracie_lorenzen@rl.gov.

AQP/ASQ scholarship applications available

Applications for the local chapters of the Association for Quality and Participation (AQP) and American Society for Quality (ASQ) \$1,000 scholarship are being accepted now through April 15. The scholarship will be awarded to a college-bound high school senior pursuing a career in a field related to quality and participation. Applicants must be seniors, graduating from high school in Benton or Franklin County, with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher and a combined SAT score greater than 1,000. The application process includes a written essay as well as submittal of two letters of recommendation. For more information, check the AQP Web site at http://www.3-cities.com/~gates/AQP_ASQscholarship.html.

Donate blood Feb. 18

The American Red Cross will be conducting a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the 300 Area. The bloodmobile will be on the east side of the 3763 Building. An appointment is not required, but it is recommended. To schedule a time, please call Diane Coleman at 376-9170.

National Engineers Week Friendly Competition

To commemorate National Engineers Week, Feb. 16-22, the Hanford Site will hold its "Friendly Competition" on Feb. 19 at 1200 Jadwin in Richland. Start forming your team of two-to-four people for the competition, which will be Junkyard Wars-style with the theme "Hold Your Water." Rules and supplies will be handed out at the start of the competition. Teams will build a small device out of office supplies. Scoring is based on cost, schedule, safety and function. The competition is open to all Hanford Site personnel. For more information, contact Lori Weidner at 376-4585.

Hanford Technical Library offers demonstration

"Keeping Current" is a demonstration that will be offered on Feb. 20, 12-1 p.m. in room 101R of the Consolidated Information Center on the Washington State University campus in Richland. Find out about the resources and services the Hanford Technical Library offers and those available on the Web to assist you in keeping up-to-date in your field. Contact Karen Buxton at 372-7451 or at karen.buxton@pnl.gov for more information.

Calendar continued on next page.

Regular Features



CALENDAR continued

Health fair for in-town Fluor Hanford employees set

Fluor Hanford Safety and Hanford Environmental Health Foundation added another date to the schedule of health fairs for Fluor Hanford employees. This new health-fair session will be Feb. 20 from 10 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12 noon at 2420 Stevens Center, Room 153. The health fairs will offer information on preventing heart disease and include a presentation titled "Heart Smart: Risk Factors for Heart Disease" as well as blood-pressure checks and body-fat testing.

You can meet the requirement for attending a monthly safety meeting by attending one of the 15-minute "Heart Smart" presentations at the health fair. In addition to the Feb. 20 session, the health-fair sessions are from 10 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12 noon at the following locations: Wednesday, Feb. 19, 100K, MO-293; Tuesday, Feb. 25, 400, 4706; and Wednesday, Feb. 26, 200E, 2751-E. Contact Carol Powe of Fluor Hanford Safety at 376-8886 or Judi Staley of HEHF at 372-0097 for further information.

Fund-raiser for Catholic Family and Child Services

Catholic Family and Child Services, a local United Way agency, will host the 16th Annual Gala Dinner and Auction, "Families: Bridges to our Future," on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. at Tri-Cities Prep, 9612 St. Thomas Dr. in Pasco. Proceeds from this event will support all ongoing programs. Call Catholic Family and Child Services at 946-4645 to make your dinner reservation or donate an auction item. Tickets are \$50 each.

Sample 'A Taste of Soul' on Feb. 24

To commemorate Black History Month, "A Taste of Soul," a free food-tasting event, will be held Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in conference rooms 1075 and 1077 of the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campus. For more information, contact Latrisha Gouthia at 373-0711 or Pamela Kinsey at 376-8621.

Luncheon for cancer survivors held May 17

The Tri-Cities Cancer Center and the American Cancer Society, in conjunction with the Relay For Life of Benton-Franklin Counties, are seeking cancer survivors to invite to the Survivor Luncheon that will be held 12:30-1:30 p.m. on May 17 at this year's Relay for Life

in Southridge High School Stadium in Kennewick. May 17 is Survivor Day at the Relay for Life, which continues through May 18. Survivors will participate in the inaugural lap around the field and then have lunch. Each invited survivor may bring along one other person — both are the luncheon guests of the event organizers. Lunches are available for additional family members or caregivers at \$3 for children and \$5 for adults. Cancer survivors have special needs and interests. The luncheon will introduce them to other survivors and opportunities to inspire and reflect. To sign up, call Kathy Kilgore at 737-3411. ♦



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.

POSITIONS ON THE HERO BOARD — The following positions on the HERO Board are vacant: 100 Area representative, 200E Area representative, Richland area representative, discount coordinator and publicity chairman. If you would like to apply and have your manager's consent, please send an e-mail message to Phyllis Roha.

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).

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

Regular Features



SKI BLUEWOOD — Lift ticket vouchers are now on sale! The prices are \$27 for adults, \$23 for students (with valid ASB card), \$20 for children (in first through eighth grade) and seniors (65 years and older). These prices reflect a \$3 discount. Send your check payable HERO to 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).

HERO'S FIRST ANNUAL TRAVEL NIGHT — If you are interested in any of the trips HERO is hosting this year, please come to the Richland Library after work on March 21. We'll be there from 4 to 6 p.m. with refreshments, door prizes and a short presentation on some of the trips. Trip hosts will be available to answer questions and distribute brochures. We need a headcount for this activity. If you plan to attend, send an e-mail message to Phyllis Roha and let her know what trips are of interest to you.

UPCOMING TRIPS

• **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. Credit cards are accepted. 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.

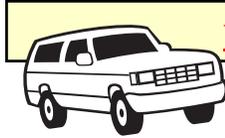
• **Disney World/Disney Cruise** — Oct. 19-26. The price ranges from \$1,302 to \$1,852 ppdo, depending on the type of room you want. The price includes round-trip airfare from Pasco, four days in Walt Disney World with entrance into all the parks, a three-day cruise to the Bahamas and Castaway Cay (Disney's private island), taxes and transfers. Don't wait to send in a \$250 per person deposit to hold your spot. Contact Jim Hopfinger 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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Regular Features



VANPOOLS

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

Vanpool No. 196 has openings for one or two riders from Kennewick to 200E. Pick-ups are along the route beginning in South Kennewick at 36th and S. Vancouver, Olympia, Kennewick Avenue, Clearwater, W. Hood, Canal and Edison. Stops at various 200E buildings including 2750, 225-B, and 2704-HV. Call **John Townley** at 372-0223 or 735-2727. 2/18

Riders needed for Van No. 112 with direct service from Kennewick Albertson's store on Clearwater to the 200E. 8x9 schedule. Current stops in 200E include 2750, Teamster Area/Carpenter Shop, Waste Encapsulation, LEF and the HELO pad area. Good Rates. Contact **Scott Davis** at 372-0473 or **Max Towne** at 373-9161. 2/10

RICHLAND

Van No. 216 to 200E needs two 8x9 riders. This is a door-to-door vanpool that starts in south Richland on Jadwin, travels to Williams, then to Stevens, to Howell, back to Jadwin, and out to the 2750-E and 2101-M neighborhood. If you are near these streets and interested in a vanpool, call **Michelle Calvert** at 376-5400. 2/10

Van No. 116 to 200E has two openings, 8x9. Picks up at Joe's Chevron on Jadwin and McMurray. Drops off at 2750, MO-286, 2701-HV and 2704-HV. Call **Nester Wise** at 373-9599 or **Colleen Federico** at 376-3623. 2/10

WEST RICHLAND

Are you looking for comfort to and from work? Join our vanpool to 200E. 8x9 schedule, looking for two riders. Leaves Flat Top Park at 6:10 a.m. and drops off at 2750, WESF and 2727-E. Contact **Glenn Garman** at 372-0054 or **Curt Hedger** at 373-7935. 2/10 ♦