

### MCO welding begins at Spent Nuclear Fuel Project

Fluor Hanford's Spent Nuclear Fuel Project has begun welding permanent cover assemblies onto the large Multi-Canister Overpacks that hold dried spent nuclear fuel for long-term storage in the Canister Storage Building. Welding operations began on schedule Feb. 3, fulfilling an agreement between the Department of Energy and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The welding process enables the MCOs to withstand internal pressures up to 450 pounds per square inch, considerably higher than the 150-psi limit provided by traditional mechanical seals. SNF Project planners agreed during the developmental stages of the project that the additional safety margin offered by the welded assemblies was prudent and advisable, should pressure build up inside the MCOs during years of storage.

The canister cover assemblies are welded remotely from computerized consoles near the two weld pits in the south end of the CSB. Later, the access cover plates are welded on manually. Welding all 418 MCOs is expected to take more than two years to complete all 418 MCOs.

At the same time, the SNF Project continues to implement its plan to sample six representative MCOs several times before welding to check for the pressure and composition of internal gas. Thus far, all samples have shown gas constituents to be well within acceptable limits.

#### N-Stamp certification

The MCO cover assemblies, each weighing more than 500 pounds, are welded in up to six separate "passes" at the main seal to ensure a complete, reinforced bond. After a helium leak test is performed, a mechanical plug is inserted and a 4-inch-diameter steel cover plate is manually welded in place over an access port, all to meet strict "N-Stamp" quality specifications of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers code.

"Having the N Stamp applied to our final welded assembly, in addition to having the MCOs themselves manufactured to N-Stamp standards, gives us a high degree of assurance that these vessels can safely contain their spent-fuel loads as designed, for a very long storage period," said Norm Boyter, Fluor Hanford vice president for the SNF Project. "I'm extremely proud of the people who designed, built and are operating the MCO welding system."



In one of two weld pits in the Canister Storage Building, Fluor Hanford's Mark Flodin, a HAMTC welder, welds the 4-inch cover plate over the top of a canister cover assembly.

## MCO welding begins at Spent Nuclear Fuel Project, cont.

### Team effort

According to Ron Ruth, Fluor Hanford Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Assurance manager for the SNF Project, the timely startup of welding was “a real challenge, but an enjoyable one. We brought multiple groups together to meet testing objectives on an aggressive schedule to make the welding process a success.”

Fluor Hanford contracted with Amer Industrial Technologies, a Wilmington, Del., company with more than 25 years of experience serving the power, refinery and chemical industries throughout the world. AIT holds quality certifications in nuclear, pressure-vessel and boiler work.

In its home factory, AIT built a complete mock-up of the welding pit in the Canister Storage Building. It then modified previously fabricated weld hood assemblies and fabricated other equipment, working with Hanford Site personnel to test the equipment and lay out each step in the welding procedures.

Welders from the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council perform the actual welding, while four AIT staff members are assigned full-time to the CSB to provide oversight and perform weld tests and inspections. The MCO welding effort also received assistance from the Fluor Hanford Project Operations Center and Fluor Federal Services.

Welding design authority Doug Black said personnel from Engineering, Operations, Quality Assurance, Training and Procedures, Procurement, Maintenance and other organizations “juggled critical resources” to make the welding effort timely and successful. At the same time, the SNF Project was pushing hard to meet a Tri-Party Agreement milestone to remove 957 metric tons of spent fuel from the K West Basin. “Welding the MCOs could not have been accomplished on time without immense teamwork,” Black said.

### Other project achievements

After a scheduled maintenance outage in January, the SNF Project resumed fuel movement out of the K West Basin and fuel transfers from the K East Basin to the K West Basin. Thus far, more than 1,000 metric tons of fuel have been removed from the K West Basin, dried and placed into safe storage in steel tubes below ground level in the CSB. Approximately 550 old fuel canisters have been transferred from the K East Basin to the K West Basin — about 100 ahead of schedule. ■



**An N-Stamp, the highest nuclear quality-assurance certification of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, is displayed on an MCO cover assembly.**



**This canister cover assembly has been welded to a Mutli-Canister Overpack, or MCO. The leak-test ring is installed in preparation for a test of the main weld. A test plate is installed over the cover test plug to remove the argon gas that was used during welding.**

# Science Magazine reports on WSU-PNNL research

## Gold, in extremely small amounts, takes on new properties

A team of experimental and theoretical researchers at Washington State University and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have observed that gold displays unexpected properties when it exists in extremely small particles. The current issue of *Science* magazine carries an article describing their research.

“As we divide and subdivide a piece of metal, its properties do not change dramatically until we reach the nanometer scale [1 billionth of a meter],” said team leader Lai-Sheng Wang, physics professor at WSU Tri-Cities and affiliate senior chief scientist at PNNL in Richland.

“As a metal particle’s size approaches the nanometer dimension, all of its properties change,” Wang explained. “The properties not only differ from those of the bulk material, but also show strong dependence on the particle’s size and shape. For example, a 60-atom carbon cluster, the famous buckyball, has the shape of a soccer ball with properties very different from either graphite or diamond, the other known forms of pure carbon.”

For their studies on gold, the team created pyramid-shaped 20-atom gold clusters by focusing an intense laser beam onto a gold target to generate small amounts of gold vapor. The gold vapor was then condensed into a soup of clusters of various sizes in a high-pressure helium gas chamber. Negatively charged clusters were then selected using a mass spectrometer.

“We observed experimentally that the 20-atom gold clusters exhibit large energy gaps,” said Wang. “This means that a large amount of energy is required to involve their electrons in chemical reactions. This large energy gap has two implications. First, the 20-atom gold clusters would be very inert chemically. Second, materials made of the little gold pyramids would be an insulator or a semiconductor, even though bulk gold is known to be the best electrical conductor. Such a material also would not be gold-colored. In addition, the chemical inertness of the 20-atom gold clusters suggests that they also may be a good catalyst if dispersed on a surface. We hope that the chemical inertness of the gold pyramids will allow chemists to use them as potential building blocks to assemble new materials.”

The pyramidal structure was deduced by comparing the measured photoelectron spectrum with theoretical calculations carried out by PNNL scientist Jun Li. WSU graduate student Xi Li and postdoctoral fellow Hua-Jin Zhai did the research at the Department of Energy’s William R. Wiley Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory, a user facility located at PNNL. Supercomputers in the Molecular Science Computing Facility at the EMSL did the calculations.

Wang receives funding for his work from the National Science Foundation. His recent work on atomic clusters has led to the discovery of the first penta-atomic planar carbon molecules. Educated in the Peoples Republic of China and at the University of California, Berkeley, Wang joined the physics faculty at WSU in 1993 and holds a joint position between WSU and PNNL, where he is associated with the Chemical Structure and Dynamics Department of the Chemical Sciences Division. ■



WSU and PNNL researcher Lai-Sheng Wang stands next to the apparatus used to generate small amounts of gold vapor by focusing a laser beam on a gold target. Generating the gold vapor is part of the process used to create 20-atom gold clusters that could possibly be used in assembling new materials.

# Battelle appoints Peters as new director for PNNL



**Peters**

Leonard Peters has been appointed director of the Battelle-operated Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, according to an announcement Feb. 13 by Battelle President and Chief Executive Office Carl Kohrt.

“Dr. Peters, who will begin his duties on April 1, joins Pacific Northwest National Laboratory after a diverse and distinguished career in research, most recently serving as vice provost for research at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,” said Kohrt. “We believe that Dr. Peters’ science and technology credentials, experience in leading diverse research programs and community-service record are a great match for the laboratory and its future direction.”

Peters has managed Virginia Tech’s diverse \$230 million research program since 1993, overseeing work in biotechnology, materials, transportation and information technology. As the senior leader responsible for university research, he initiated a unique program to stimulate and nurture interdisciplinary research, including the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, a multi-million-dollar Department of Transportation research center working on “intelligent” highway systems.

In addition to his accomplishments as a research manager, Peters has had an outstanding career as a researcher in atmospheric chemistry through Alcoa Research Laboratories and PNNL.

“His commitment to community service also is noteworthy,” Kohrt said. “He has developed numerous public-private partnerships and received a 1990 National Science Foundation Award for contributions to science and technology.”

Peters earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

“We are very excited that Dr. Peters will be joining Pacific Northwest National Laboratory,” said Raymond Orbach, director of the Department of Energy Office of Science. “He has a strong track record in science and technology and is a proven innovator in research and public-private partnerships. Just as important, he has been nationally recognized for his science and community-service innovations at the state and local levels.”

Peters will be at the PNNL Richland campus periodically between now and April 1 to acquaint himself with the laboratory staff and facilities. ■

# PNNL creates Homeland Security Program Office

Staci Maloof, *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*

To align more closely with the newly formed Department of Homeland Security and those government agencies responsible for homeland-security efforts, the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory has established the Homeland Security Program Office.

The office centralizes PNNL's homeland-security portfolio, which totals approximately \$70 million, and provides a single point of contact for clients. PNNL currently supports programs funded by the U. S. Departments of State, Energy and Defense; the U.S. Customs Service; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Internal Revenue Service and other government agencies and private companies.

PNNL's homeland-security programs include training international and U.S. border officials to intervene in potential smuggling of weapons of mass destruction; protecting, assessing and monitoring the nation's critical infrastructure; and developing chemical and biological sensors. The lab's technology-development efforts focus on information analysis, cyber security, and electronic sensors for a broad range of detection and measurement applications.

Establishing the new office enhances PNNL's ability to pool capabilities from across the laboratory, bringing together multidisciplinary teams best suited to address the new federal department's critical science and technology needs.

Ned Wogman, who will serve as the office's director, comes to the position with more than 37 years of experience in the national-security arena. Wogman is recognized internationally for his expertise in the development and use of radionuclide sensors for detecting nuclear proliferation. In addition to having served on the International Atomic Energy Agency's Iraq Action Team from 1998 to 2000 to support its Wide Area Environmental Monitoring effort, Wogman chairs an environmental-monitoring evaluation group for the IAEA.

Wogman has served as a science advisor to various DOE and Department of Defense organizations and has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers. He holds a doctorate in physical chemistry from Purdue University.

"The off-the-shelf technologies used today have to be replaced by new science and technology solutions that will provide much more comprehensive and effective protection of our country and its resources," Wogman said.

More information on PNNL's national security program can be found at <http://www.pnl.gov/main/sectors/national.html>. ■



**Wogman**

# Hanford Patrol conducts random special searches on site



One method used by the Hanford Patrol to safeguard property, facilities and personnel is “special search” teams — groups of trained security police officers who set up random badge and vehicle checkpoints around the Hanford Site. The purpose is to ensure that individuals are properly badged, have appropriate identification and are not transporting any illegal or prohibited articles. All site employees, visitors and vendors are subject to “special searches.”

If you come upon an area where a special search is being conducted and you are chosen, there are actions you must take. Hanford Patrol will ask for your badge. If the badge is in a plastic holder, you must take it out of the holder and hand it to the security police officer for inspection. If the badge is not in a plastic holder, detach the security badge from the necklace or article of clothing and hand it to the officer for inspection. Hanford Patrol may also ask for a second form of identification to ensure the badge matches the owner.

If you are driving a vehicle, Hanford Patrol will ask you to pull your vehicle into a specially marked area (usually marked by orange traffic cones). At this point, Hanford Patrol will conduct a thorough search of your vehicle. Items they typically look for include alcohol, explosives, ammunition and weapons. Your responsibility during the search is to comply with the requests of Hanford Patrol members.

The members of the special search team are professional and will conduct their search so that you are inconvenienced as little as possible. If all goes well, the search will take less than 10 minutes and you will be on your way. If there are any problems encountered during a search, contact your management or security representative. ■

# DOE finds Hanford Price-Anderson program 'effective'

The DOE Office of Enforcement conducted a two-day review of the Fluor Hanford Price-Anderson Amendments Act program and concluded that it was effective overall. The Office of Enforcement has reviewed similar programs across the nation, and the Hanford assessment was one of the most recent.

The review included an evaluation of site processes to screen for noncompliances under Price-Anderson, plus the reporting and tracking in the DOE Noncompliance Tracking System and local internal tracking systems, and timely correction of deficiencies.

Program strengths and weaknesses were identified in a Jan. 14 letter to Fluor Hanford from Stephen Sohinki, director of the DOE Office of Price-Anderson Enforcement.

"It is the mission of the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Compliance organization to provide overall direction and leadership to the Project Hanford Management Contract with respect to the PAAA, and to assure compliance with 10 CFR 820, Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities, and associated nuclear safety regulations," said Donna Busche, Fluor Hanford vice president of Safety and Mission Assurance.

The nuclear safety regulatory compliance officers reporting to Busche assist the various project-management teams in identifying and reporting potential Price-Anderson noncompliances and ensuring that they're evaluated and corrected in a timely manner.

Strengths identified in the review included strong senior management program ownership and involvement; formal procedures that adequately address all Price-Anderson program areas; sufficient staffing by personnel who are knowledgeable and well-qualified; extensive screening by compliance officers for potential Price-Anderson noncompliances; effective tracking and closure of noncompliances through integration with the site-wide Corrective Action Management process; and independent verification closure package reviews by the compliance officers.

"The ability to demonstrate to the regulators our firm commitment to identifying, correcting and preventing future potential nuclear and radiological safety noncompliances results in a higher degree of confidence in our programs," Busche said. "Voluntarily reporting, evaluating and correcting our deficiencies in a timely manner can substantially reduce potential fines and penalties. The review identified the continuing commitment of management to ensure that appropriate processes are in place to address the continued safety of the Hanford workforce."

## Price-Anderson protects workers, the public

The purpose of the Price-Anderson Amendments Act is to promote and protect the health and safety of the public and workers by ensuring compliance with applicable nuclear safety requirements. It provides positive incentives for effective compliance-assurance programs and encourages continuous overall improvement of operations.

The original Price-Anderson Act was signed into law in 1957. It indemnifies DOE contractors that manage and conduct nuclear activities. Through this act, the government acts as "insurer" for contractors against any findings of liability arising from nuclear activities within the scope of the contract. The Amendment Act is used to police contractor programs.

All DOE contractors, subcontractors and suppliers conducting nuclear activities for DOE are required to maintain Price-Anderson programs. They are subject to civil and criminal penalties for violations of nuclear safety requirements.

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## DOE finds Hanford Price-Anderson program 'effective', cont.

Several areas were identified for improvement, including the need for a trending process to identify repetitive or programmatic Price-Anderson issues, and a need for consistency and timeliness across the projects in completing corrective actions.

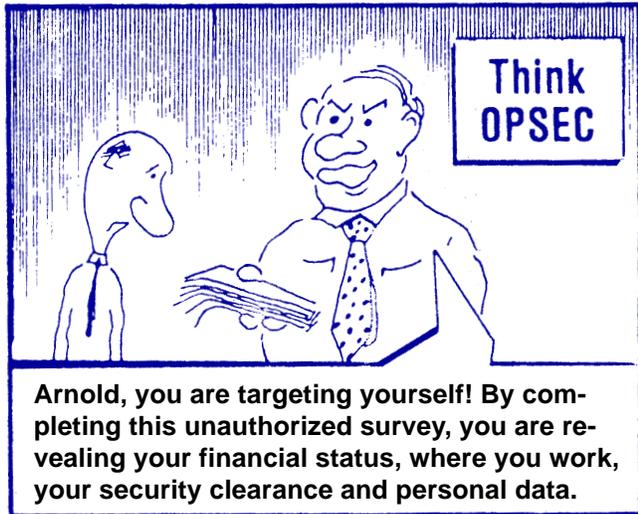
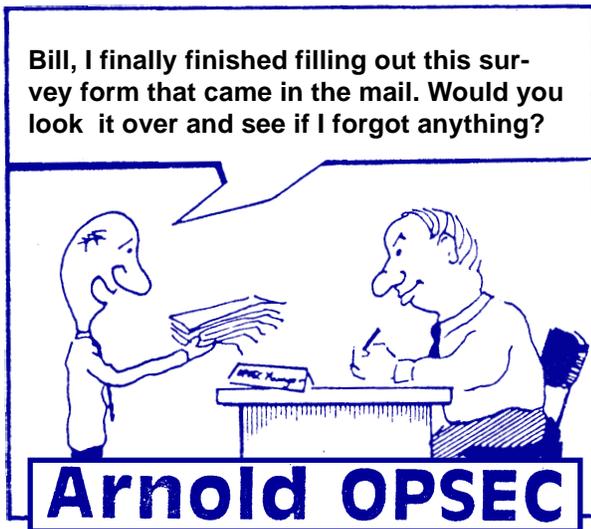
"We are working to improve the processes surrounding the areas identified for improvement," Busche said. "As part of our continuous-improvement process, this evaluation will be put through the Corrective Action Management program and improvement actions will be assigned."

For more information, see the DOE Price-Anderson Enforcement Program Web site at <http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/enforce/>. ■

# PNNL awards miscellaneous construction services contract to American Electric

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory recently awarded a contract worth an estimated \$7.5 million for miscellaneous construction services to American Electric, a locally owned business operating in the Tri-Cities area since 1994. The contract with American Electric has a three-year term.

American Electric is certified by the State of Washington as being a small, disadvantaged contractor with a proven performance history both on and off the Hanford Site. The contractor has shown itself to be competitive in the construction market and has demonstrated a commitment to the pursuit of excellence in safety and quality. This award, the first construction contract PNNL awarded, is considered an important factor in PNNL's continued success in providing "Best in Class" service to the Department of Energy and the public. For additional information, contact Kim Anderson at 376-5281 or at [Kim.Anderson@pnl.gov](mailto:Kim.Anderson@pnl.gov). ■



## Stop thief — that's MY identity you're using!

Byron Beck

Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford

*This is the first of a series of articles that cover identity theft. Look for the continuation of this article in upcoming issues of the Hanford Reach.*

In the course of a busy day, you may write a check at the grocery store, charge tickets to a ball game, rent a car, mail your tax return, call home on your cell phone, order new checks or apply for a credit card. Chances are you don't give these everyday transactions a second thought. But someone else may.

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in America. Washington state ranked eighth in the nation in identity theft last year. Federal officials and consumer groups estimate there are between 500,000 and 700,000 cases of identity theft each year, costing victims over \$765 million annually. Last year, identity theft was the number-one consumer complaint to the Federal Trade Commission. Unfortunately, the electronic age has helped the identity thief immensely.

Hundreds or thousands of records or files are only a few keystrokes away. In addition, the sluggish economy might be driving more people to commit such theft, crime experts say.

Identity thieves' stock in trade is your everyday transactions. Many transactions require you to use personal information: your bank and credit-card account numbers; your Social Security number; or your name, address and phone numbers. An identity thief can co-opt pieces of your personal information and appropriate it without your knowledge to commit fraud or theft. An all-too-common example is an identity thief using your personal information to open a credit-card account in your name.

### Close to home

Can you completely prevent identity theft from occurring? Probably not, but you can minimize your risk by managing your personal information wisely and cautiously, and with heightened sensitivity.

We have all heard horror stories about identity theft. Unfortunately, two Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford employees have first-hand knowledge of this activity. Someone applied for, received and

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## Stop thief — that's MY identity you're using, cont.

used a credit card in each of their names. Both cards had the maximum amount allowed charged against them. Both employees received calls seven months after the incident. One employee was called to ascertain if an identity theft had occurred, and the other employee was called by an angry collection agency demanding payment on an overdue bill. As soon as the employees realized what had happened, they began the frustrating task of trying to clear their credit records and have the bad debts expunged.

### What they learned

Both employees learned a great deal about how to limit the damage an identity thief can create:

- You, the victim, are responsible for clearing up the mess. It can take months or years to resolve.
- Cancel your credit cards immediately. Keep the credit-card companies' toll-free numbers where you can find them easily.
- File a police report immediately with your local police and the police in the jurisdiction where the card was stolen and used. A police report can help prove to creditors that you were diligent and it is the first step toward an investigation (if there is one). Also, get a copy of the police report in case the bank, credit-card company or others need proof of the crime.
- Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately and place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number (and call the Social Security number fraud line). These organizations issue an alert that warns companies that your information was stolen and requires them to call you before authorizing new credit. The national credit reporting agencies and their numbers are: Equifax (800) 525-6285, Experian (formerly TRW) (888) 397-3742; and Trans Union (800) 680-7289.

The two PTH employees also suggest, that everyone check his or her credit standing at least yearly, because they found inconsistencies in all three credit reports. Since they took the actions listed above, no additional damage has been done. It seems to have stopped further fraudulent activity.

## How ID crime occurs

Despite your best efforts to manage who has access to your personal information, skilled identity thieves use a variety of methods, both low-tech and high-tech, to gain access. The following scenarios demonstrate how imposters can gather information and take over your identity.

### Scenario 1: Dumpster diving

During the early-morning hours, there is no activity, except for a van driving slowly along the trash-can-lined street. The van stops, the passenger jumps out, grabs trash bags and tosses them into the van. Back at their "safe house," they dump the trash on the floor and begin sorting through their treasures. They might find the following:

- **Credit-card receipts** showing the card number, expiration date and signature. Even if the card has expired, they can simply add two years to the date when making telephone transactions.
- **Earning statements** with your work location, Social Security number, date of birth and earnings.
- **Receipts** showing where you eat, shop, go for entertainment or travel.
- **Bank statements** including the account number and ATM activity.
- **Empty packet of checks** that still has deposit slips. Thieves can change the address and send it to the

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## Stop thief — that's MY identity you're using, cont. 2

bank requesting more checks.

- **Car service receipts** that show the make, model and identification number. With that information, someone can request a replacement for a "lost" title.
- **Everything about you**, which can be gathered over a long period of time.

Recycle bins may also provide information. Not all documents are reviewed before they're discarded, and sometimes they include information that is thought to be out of date or poor copies of sensitive documents. Always be sure that documents placed in recycle bins do not contain sensitive information.

### Scenario 2: It's almost tax time

Some taxpayers have received e-mail from a non-IRS source indicating that the taxpayer is under audit and needs to complete a questionnaire within 48 hours to avoid the assessment of penalties and interest. The e-mail refers to an "e-audit" and references IRS form 1040. The taxpayer is asked for his or her Social Security number, bank-account numbers and other confidential information.

The IRS *does not* conduct e-audits, nor does it notify taxpayers of a pending audit via e-mail. Such a message is *not* from the IRS and you should not provide the requested information. It could be an attempt at identity theft.

### Scenario 3: Job hunting

It was just the job lead Jim needed — a marketing-manager position with a leading international insurance broker. And only days after Jim responded to the job-posting on Monster.com, a human resources director sent along a promising e-mail. "We're interested in you," the note said. "The salary is negotiable, the clients big. In fact, the clients are so valuable and sensitive that you'll have to submit to a background check as part of the interview process."

Eager for work, Jim complied and sent just about every key to his digital identity including his age, height, weight, Social Security and bank-account numbers — even his mother's maiden name.

It was an elaborate identity-theft scam designed to prey on some of the most vulnerable potential victims, the unemployed. Job seekers don't have much leverage when they are asked to jump through hoops by a prospective employer.

In many online scams, bad spelling, grammatical errors and awkward sentence structure are often tips that something is amiss. A red flag might be that the area code and address where the information is to be sent differs from what's on the letterhead or the Web site. ■

# Kids compete in MATHCOUNTS

As part of the Tri-Cities Engineers Week activities, the 20th annual MATHCOUNTS local competition was held at McLoughlin Middle School in Pasco on Feb. 8. Volunteers from Fluor, CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Bechtel National, SAIC, COGEMA Engineering and Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group planned and conducted the competition, which included setting up, proctoring, scoring and presenting awards as well as providing lunch for the participants and cleaning up.

MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide coaching program and series of competitions for middle school students. It is designed to stimulate interest and achievement in mathematics. The format is hosted by the Washington Society of Professional Engineers and is a mixture of timed aptitude exams, spelling-bee-like competitions and math jeopardy.

This year, 77 competitors from 10 Tri-City, Walla Walla and greater Columbia Basin middle schools participated. The winning schools were: first place, Garrison Middle School, Walla Walla; second place, Christ the King, Richland; and third place, Hanford Middle School, Richland. Individual winners were: first place, Akwasi Abrefah of Christ the King; second place, Rui Wang of Hanford Middle School; third place, Jeff Ladderud of Garrison Middle School; and fourth place, Kaori Graybeal of Garrison Middle School. Individual winners are sponsored for the state competition, which will take place in Seattle in March. ■



**Bechtel National employees Gilbert Chan (standing, left) and Ted Anderson (center) proctor competition during the MATHCOUNTS competition on Feb. 8 at McLoughlin Middle School in Pasco.**

# Waste Management scores a bullseye for VPP

Fluor Hanford's Waste Management Project recently held a dart-throwing contest to help emphasize the principles involved with the Voluntary Protection Program. The Waste Management Project VPP steering committee hosted the contest in which, mindful of the safety theme, only plastic-tipped darts were used to minimize the hazard of any errant throws.

First, the Waste Management Project facilities held separate competitions. Then the winning teams from each facility came together to hold a "final dart throw-off."

The four-member teams were each given one free dart. To earn additional darts, the teams had to correctly answer questions related to VPP and the Integrated Safety Management System. After all darts had been thrown, the final score was tallied to determine the winning team.

Prizes were awarded to the first-, second- and third-place teams, with an honorable mention for each of the other participating teams. First place went to the "A Team" — Brian Biddle, Joe Hansen, Mary Ann Garner and Tim Paulsen — from Liquid Waste Processing. The "T Plant Bobbleheads" — Bob Wilkinson, Jim Geary, Wayne Moore and Bill Ayers — were the second-place winners. Third place went to the "WESF Wolves" — Steve Stark, Paul Saueressig, Matt Young and Chuck Clemmons — from the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility. To protect the participants from any embarrassment, the final scores were not published.



**The A Team from Liquid Waste Processing took first place in the dart-throwing competition. From the left are Joe Hansen, Brian Biddle, Tim Paulsell and Mary Ann Garner.**

Congratulations to all of the winners, and a special thanks to all of those who worked to make the event such a success! ■



Instructor Diane Rasmussen works with two students at the Skills Lab.

## Skills Lab offers Goof-Proofing Your Grammar

A few seats remain in the Goof-Proofing Your Grammar session to be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the Administration Building at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. 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 errors, and you'll learn tips for editing your own and others' writing. There is no charge, but the session is filling quickly, so reserve space immediately by calling Kathy Dechter at 376-3250. After the session, the staff will host an open house in the Skills Lab, located inside the Learning Resource Center, room 4.

Columbia Basin College faculty from the Skills Enhancement Lab will present the grammar session. The Skills Enhancement Lab is a product of a partnership of the Department of Energy, CBC and HAMMER Training. The Skills Lab helps Hanford workers improve their grammar, writing, reading, math and spelling skills. It is open for individual tutoring at no charge on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Another Skills Lab information session, Successful Spelling, will be held Thursday, March 20, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the HAMMER Administration Building. To inquire about this session or to sign up for Goof-Proofing Your Grammar, call Kathy Dechter at 376-3250. ■

# It's not too late to arrange for a booth or schedule a meeting during Health and Safety EXPO

It is not too late to register for the Hanford Health and Safety EXPO, to be held May 6-8 at the Trade, Recreation and Agricultural Center in Pasco. If you would like to register a booth for this year's event, contact Owen Berglund at 376-9035. Also contact Berglund if you have not received your confirmation for your booth registration.

This year's EXPO will include a bike rodeo sponsored by Richland Schwinn/Trek. During this event, Richland Schwinn staff members will be inspecting bikes, so bring in your bike for a check-up. Bike helmets are mandatory for those participating. Some helmets and children's bikes are available for participants who forget their own equipment. For more information on the bike rodeo, or if you would like to volunteer to help, contact Heidi Schell at pager number 85-7709. Organizers need a headcount of children and adult participants. So, if you are interested in participating, call Schell or Janette Pettey at 376-2884.

The Skid Monster is back by popular demand. Columbia Driving School will have the infamous car for test-drive demonstrations during EXPO. Call Roy Thompson at 373-1288 or Al Hill at 372-8963 for more information.

Managers who are interested in holding their monthly staff or safety meetings at EXPO should call Berglund at 376-9035 or Cliff Ledford at 373-5214. EXPO makes a great backdrop for new improvements in workplace safety. The conference room will hold 85 meeting attendees.

The second annual Hanford EXPO Golf Tournament will be held May 3 beginning at 1:30 p.m. at Columbia Point Golf Course in Richland. The cost is \$45 per person or \$180 per team. The cost includes a round of golf, cart, range balls, prizes and a meal following the tournament. Contact Thom Hogg at 376-9005 for more information. ■

# Test your security knowledge



Take Security Ed's Challenge by completing the following sentence:

Information concerning quantities of Special Nuclear Material at the Hanford Site has a high potential of being:

- A. Not classified
- B. Secret Restricted Data
- C. Confidential National Security Information
- D. Export Controlled Information

Do you know the answer? Circle the answer that will correctly complete the sentence above and then clip this article, add your name and HID number, and send it to Chet Braswell at L4-09, or send him an e-mail message and in the subject line include "Ed's SNM Challenge" and your answer. 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.

For additional information on security, please contact your security representative or visit the SAS Intranet links at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/phmcweb/index.cfm?PageNum=37> or view the SAS Classification Desk Top Reference at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/rapidweb/phmc/sas/index.cfm?PageNum=102>.

# 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.

### Insurance card doesn't protect identity

In a time when identity theft is a such an issue, why would the company choose to use our Social Security numbers on the front of the UnitedHealth-care identification card? I talked to UnitedHealthcare Feb. 17 and was told that Fluor Hanford had a choice — but why didn't they use our Hanford identification number?

I strongly object to carrying my Social Security number in my wallet and having to punch this into a phone or computer for any service I obtain from UnitedHealthcare. I'm assuming the same information is being punched in by the providers.

UnitedHealthcare said they could work with Fluor Hanford to address this security issue. What other options are available? I do a lot of business over the Internet and there is no other location that uses a Social Security number for an account number.

*Dick Whitehurst  
Fluor Hanford*

**Editors' note:** Harry Lacher of Fluor Hanford's Total Compensation and Benefits group said that, at the time cards were printed, UnitedHealthcare was not set up to handle any numbers other than Social Security numbers. He also noted that UnitedHealthcare is looking at other options.



## NEWSBRIEFS

### WSU joins Nike to collect shoes for recycling

Washington State University is joining Nike and the National Recycling Coalition as partners in the Reuse-a-Shoe Program. WSU's goal is to collect 5,500 pairs of athletic shoes for recycling at its drop-off locations on the WSU Tri-Cities campus student lounge in room 136 West and at the lobby area of the East Building. Nike recycles old athletic shoes of any brand and will use the material to create surfaces for basketball courts, tennis courts, weight-room flooring and playgrounds. ♦



## CALENDAR

### 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](http://www.3-cities.com/~gates/AQP_ASQscholarship.html).

### 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.

### Health fairs scheduled Feb. 25 and 26

The last two of the Fluor Hanford Safety and Hanford Environmental Health Foundation health fairs for Fluor Hanford employees will take place this week from 10 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon at the following locations: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 400 area, Building 4706; and Wednesday, Feb. 26, 200 East Area, Building 2751-E. 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. Contact Carol Powe of Fluor Hanford Safety at 376-8886 or Judi Staley of HEHF at 372-0097 for more information.

*Calendar continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## CALENDAR continued

### **Girl Scout Cookies 'n Dreams set for March 4**

The Girl Scouts Cookies 'n Dreams Dessert Extravaganza will be held Tuesday, March 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the WestCoast (soon to be Red Lion) Hotel in Pasco. Tickets are \$25 each or \$40 for a pair. The event features a culinary competition of recipes and sampling of desserts made from Girl Scout cookies. The Girl Scouts Mid-Columbia Council is a United Way agency. Proceeds from this event benefit special projects and camp scholarship funds. For ticket information, call Melodie Witherspoon at 372-2472.

### **Symphony's American Rhapsody concert March 8**

Mid-Columbia Symphony presents its "American Rhapsody" concert on Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m. at the Art Fuller Auditorium at Kennewick High School. The program features "Rhapsody in Blue" with Tri-City piano virtuoso Bill McKay, Dvorak's "New World Symphony" and the Northwest premiere of "Overture of Diamonds" by Vermont composer Gwyneth Walker. Tickets are \$27, \$21 and \$12 with a \$4 discount for seniors. Ask about free student tickets. More than half the seating already has been sold. To purchase tickets, call the Mid-Columbia Symphony office at 943-6602, the WestCoast Hotel in Kennewick at 783-0611 or the Pasco Chamber of Commerce at 547-9755.

### **Project of the Year Award Banquet set for March 11**

The Columbia River Basin Chapter of the Project Management Institute will present the winner of the ninth annual Project of the Year Award competition at a banquet on Tuesday, March 11, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Richland Red Lion Hotel. Guest speaker Sandra Ardis, manager of Marketing at the Project Management Institute headquarters, will announce the winning project and team. The award is intended to recognize, honor and publicize project teams for superior performance and execution of exemplary project management for projects completed in 2002. Candidate projects are the Cold Test Facility Project submitted by CH2M HILL Hanford Group; the 324 Building Spent Nuclear Fuel Transfer Project submit-

ted by Fluor Hanford; the K Basins Fuel Transfer System Project submitted by Fluor Hanford; and the Dry Spent Fuel Storage Project submitted by Energy Northwest Columbia Generating Station. To make a reservation for the banquet, contact Terri Witherspoon at 376-4925. Contact Bill Jasen at 521-0803 to make corporate table reservations.

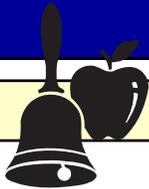
### **Luncheon for cancer survivors held May 17**

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 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 Kathye Kilgore at 737-3411. ♦



*Features continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## CLASSES

### **Class on constructing technical documents cancelled**

The class, Constructing the Technical Document: Essential Strategies and Skills, originally scheduled for Feb. 26 and 27, has been cancelled. The class has been rescheduled for April 29-30. Check future issues of the *Hanford Reach* or visit <http://workshops.pnl.gov> for more information.

### **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 \$1,395 for ASME members and \$1,545 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](mailto:matt@asme.org). For more information, visit [http://www.asme.org/sections/cb/B31\\_3course.html](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 a 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. Seat-ing 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



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

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

Vanpool No.154 has openings for two riders from southeast Kennewick to 200W. Picks up along the route beginning at 45th and Olympia, to Albertson's (Edison and Clearwater), to the 200W mobile offices MO-278, MO-279 and MO-287 and PFP. Call **Bill Leonard** at 373-1820. 2/24

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## 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. 2/24

8x9 vanpool to 200E needs a rider. Rate as low as \$33.50 per month. Leaves former Hanford bus lot (across from 2440 Stevens) at 6:25 a.m. and drops off at 2750-E and MO-276 (behind 2750-E). Arrives at bus lot at 5 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and at 4 p.m. on Fridays worked. Contact **Dave Hedengren** at 373-5094. 2/24

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## WEST RICHLAND

Are you looking for comfort to and from work? Vanpool to 200E, 8x9 schedule, is looking for riders. Leaves Flat Top Park at 6:10 a.m. with drops at 2750, WESF and 2727-E. Contact **Glenn Garman** at 372-0054 or **Curt Hedger** at 373-7935. 2/24 ♦