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# Reaching out

A PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR ALL HANFORD SITE EMPLOYEES

## Thirteen years of the *Reach* will end with this issue

Hanford was a very different place when the first issue of the *Hanford Reach* was distributed by Westinghouse Hanford Company on Nov. 5, 1990. The site was beginning to come to grips with its environmental cleanup mission, as outlined in the Tri-Party Agreement signed the year before. Oversight groups swept through the site week after week, each leaving its own "laundry list" of problems that needed to be corrected.

Much of the cleanup work was only on paper. There was growing public impatience with processes that seemed painfully slow, and with the lack of actual, visible, progress. Bad press about Hanford was a way of life, and employees grew tired of the external media reporting that nothing was getting done at Hanford.



The *Reach* began reporting on the behind-the-scenes progress that gradually led to real and visible cleanup. There was plenty of work getting done, and the Hanford workforce was committed to doing the job right in spite of almost-daily criticism by watchdog groups and the media. In the past 13 years, new technologies have been developed, regulatory issues have been dealt with to allow work to go forward, and workers have overcome many obstacles — finding innovative ways of doing things that had never been done before.

Today, there's no question about our progress in cleaning up the site. It's visible everywhere on site, every day. Perhaps the *Hanford Reach* has contributed in some small way by keeping employees informed and lending some perspective to this important and difficult work. The environmental cleanup is important to our region and the entire nation, and many of the most difficult years of this vital mission have been documented in the *Reach*.

On the next few pages of this, the last issue, is a recap of those years — a tribute to Hanford workers and what they've accomplished since that first issue of the *Hanford Reach* was published. ■

## 'Reaching' back:

# The stories we reported on

**1990** It was near the end of the year that the *Hanford Reach* began publication.

The big news that year was the presence of the Department of Energy "Tiger Teams" on site, evaluating Hanford operations from top to bottom. Waste Tank SY-101 was also newsworthy for its habit of "burping" flammable gases.

The year also saw the beginning of an office-space "crunch" that continued for the next several years.

**1991** John Wagoner replaced Mike Lawrence as DOE's Hanford manager, a position he would hold for most of the decade. Prime Hanford contractor Westinghouse Hanford established the popular 8-9s work schedule north of the Wye Barricade.

It was also the year Westinghouse determined the cause of SY-101's "burping" behavior. And, prompted by alarm-tampering incidents, Hanford workers participated in restructuring the Job Control System. Lock-and-tag incidents also made news that year, and the Employee Concerns program was strengthened with renewed emphasis and a provision for third-party review.

**1992** Security was relaxed in 1992, and the number of security clearances was greatly reduced. The Westinghouse Hanford contract was extended, and cost savings became a top priority. Expedited Response Actions were initiated to speed the cleanup in some contaminated areas of the site.

Progress in understanding the chemistry of Tank SY-101 moved the site closer to solving this major safety concern. And the Fast Flux Test Facility, which had been setting performance records for years, was operated for the last time.

**1993** There was a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Hanford Site in 1993. A mixer pump was installed in SY-101 to prevent the periodic venting of gases.

Worker safety became the number-one priority after a fatal accident in a valve pit. In another incident, dubbed the rock-on-a rope caper, workers were contaminated by using a crude method of measuring the waste level in an underground tank. That year, safety became a condition of employment for Hanford workers.



**PUTTING THE LAST ISSUE TO BED:** The staff of the *Hanford Reach* — from left, associate editor Cornelia Brim, editor Dennis Cresswell and designer Sally Green — plan the finishing touches for the final issue of the *Reach*. The staff put their combined total of 23 years of *Hanford Reach* experience to work each week to compile, edit, write and design the paper. "We could not have produced the *Reach* without the weekly efforts of communications specialists, photographers, printers and the mail service," Cresswell said. See "Behind-the-scenes specialists helped put out the *Reach*" beginning on page 8 of this issue to learn about the *Reach*'s supporting cast.

**1994** This was the year of the turnaround in Hanford's safety culture, resulting in a major improvement in injury statistics.

Ground was broken twice on the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory after the first location that was chosen turned out to be a major Native American cultural site. Spent fuel in the K Basins near the Columbia River became a high-priority concern.

The *Hanford Reach*, which had been directed to employees of Westinghouse Hanford and its subcontractors up until 1994, became a site-wide publication for all Hanford workers. There were fewer of us, however, as budget cuts and reductions of force began.

*Continued on page 3.*

## The stories we reported on, cont.

**1995** Budgetary and staff reductions continued in 1995. There was now an overabundance of office space, which had been in short supply while Hanford employment was growing. “Contract reform” and “privatization” were terms that appeared in print frequently, as well as “reinventing government,” an Al Gore initiative, and “reengineering,” a concept that Westinghouse employed to reduce costs.

Progress was made in preparing for moving spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins.

**1996** The largest-ever headline in the *Reach* proclaimed “It’s FLUOR,” announcing the award of the prime cleanup contract to Fluor Daniel Hanford (now Fluor Hanford). Bechtel was awarded the Environmental Restoration Contract. And a “privatized” contract for design and construction of a tank-waste vitrification facility was awarded to BNFL Inc.

The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility opened for business, and the cleanup became more visible as tons of contaminated soil and other materials were placed in the ERDF.

The Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory opened on the campus of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

**1997** Deactivating the Plutonium-Uranium Extraction (PUREX) facility was a major cleanup milestone in 1997. B Plant, the next major facility in line, moved closer to deactivation.

A 1997 chemical explosion at the Plutonium Reclamation Facility focused attention on strengthening emergency procedures. Responsibility for the 300 Area was transferred to Bechtel Hanford to begin decontamination and decommissioning activities. And the Department of Energy officially placed FFTF in standby status for a possible restart.

The EMSL received its first supercomputer that year. And the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center opened its doors.

**1998** Bechtel finished “cocooning” C Reactor in 1998, and B Plant was deactivated by Fluor Hanford. DOE-RL Manager John Wagoner bid farewell to the site, to be replaced by Keith Klein.

Groundwater contamination was given a higher priority than ever before. In the safety arena, the Voluntary Protection Program and the Integrated Safety Management System emphasized increased employee involvement in creating safer workplaces.

Congress created the Office of River Protection to safeguard the Columbia, and BNFL Inc. signed a privatized contract to build the Waste Treatment Plant for glassifying Hanford’s tank wastes.

**1999** Beginning in 1999, new Hanford Manager Keith Klein’s initiative, “The River, the Plateau, the Future,” summarized DOE’s cleanup strategy for the site. The first spent nuclear fuel was moved from the K Basins to safe storage away from the river. Full-scale stabilization of plutonium began at the Plutonium Finishing Plant.

Dick French was named to head the Office of River Protection, and CH2M HILL Hanford Group completed the tank-farm upgrades needed to accelerate the removal of waste from older single-shell tanks to newer, safer, double-shell tanks.

**2000** What did *not* happen in 2000, thanks to careful planning by Lockheed Martin Information Technology and all site organizations, was anything negative related to the millennium bug, or “Y2K.”

The first waste to leave Hanford was shipped that year to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. Three major stabilization processes began at PFP. Tank SY-101 was declared safe and taken off a congressional “watch list.” And DOE ordered the shutdown of FFTF.

That summer, a major Hanford fire damaged the ecosystem of the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve.

ORP terminated its relationship with BNFL Inc., and a more conventional government contract was awarded to a consortium of Bechtel National and Washington Group for design and construction of the vitrification plant. Harry Boston moved from DOE-RL to replace Dick French as ORP manager.

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## The stories we reported on, cont. 2

**2001** Tank SY-101 was returned to service in 2001. The congressional watch list of problem tanks was closed — a sign that tremendous progress had been made in eliminating the risks. The Spent Nuclear Fuel Project reached a milestone by moving its 40th Multi-Canister Overpack by the end of the year.

The events of Sept. 11 changed the security posture of the site and prompted efforts by employees to help those directly affected by the tragedy. Employees participated in a community-wide drive, borrowing the World War II “Day’s Pay” theme, to purchase a new ladder truck for the New York Fire Department.

**2002** Last year, construction began on the multi-billion-dollar Waste Treatment Plant, and construction was completed on a much smaller project, the Cold Test Facility for the training of tank-farm workers.

DOE transferred FFTF from its Office of Nuclear Energy to Environmental Management, confirming its intent to proceed with deactivation of the reactor. Progress at PFP included completion of stabilizing activities on three major types of materials. The Environmental Restoration Contractor team finished cocooning DR Reactor.

**2003** This has been a year of cleanup milestones. The Environmental Restoration Contractor team, led by Bechtel Hanford, delivered its 4-millionth ton of contaminated material to ERDF. Fluor Hanford surpassed 1,252 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel removed from the K Basins. PFP completed packaging all plutonium-bearing residues. And CH2M HILL Hanford Group removed 98 percent of the pumpable liquid wastes from 29 single-shell tanks.

DOE approved plans for the Waste Treatment Plant and gave the go-ahead for full-scale construction. The project is progressing on pace.

T Plant, the only former Hanford processing facility that still has an important mission, celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. And, finally, PNNL’s EMSL facility received a new supercomputer to replace the one installed in 1996.

This year isn’t over yet, however, and we regret that the *Reach* won’t be reporting on the many stories to come. ■

### SANDY SAGE: Back in the Bottle



**A MUCH EARLIER FAREWELL:** Our thanks to Don Sorenson of the Plutonium Finishing Plant for providing this “Sandy Sage” cartoon from the final issue of Hanford’s wartime site-wide publication, *The Sage Sentinel*. It was published on Feb. 14, 1945. Except for the misspelling of buses and the reference to barracks and mess halls, it expresses the sentiments of the *Reach* staff — “We’ve had a lot of fun and met a bunch of swell people.”



## Letters

Employee letters of general interest on work-related topics may have been edited for publication. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of DOE-RL, ORP or their contractors.

### Too late to reconsider?

As many have stated, the *Reach* is the best form of communication for all of the contractors on site. Is it too late to reconsider?

I cannot believe we are allowing this paper to go.

**Michele Sauer**

*Lockheed Martin Information Technology*

### Losing the voice of the site

We want to thank you at the *Hanford Reach* for communicating what is happening around the site. We all know changes are coming, but it does not make it any better to lose the voice of the site. We now have to figure out how to get ahold of that information on our own.

As a Hanford employee for 26 years and a *Reach* reader for nearly 13 years, I appreciate your efforts in trying to keep us all informed. I will be saving the last paper, as I know you will make it an outstanding paper as you always have in the past.

**Curt Hedger**

*Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford*

### Site-wide communication difficult

As one of the original contributing writers/editors who birthed the *Hanford Reach* employee newspaper, I am very sad to see it retire.

Thirteen years ago every contractor (there were quite a few of them) and some individual work groups had their own employee newsletters. While it was great to be able to share more personalized information with employees, it was nearly impossible for one set of employees to know what was going on in the other employee groups. In those days the "fiefdoms" were strong and information was controlled. It very much appears that "what is old is new again" and I'm not sure it's for the better.

As a site-wide service group, we in the Hanford Fire Department will now have to figure out how and whom to contact in order to share information with all site employees without overloading the general-delivery e-mail system. This will mean more work for those of us who need to communicate on a large scale about safety or security issues.

It's unfortunate that the only site-wide communication vehicle will be sidelined in favor of more individual (and

sometimes duplicative) efforts. There is much that all of us need to know in order to perform our tasks in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. The loss of a centralized communications source seems to be counterproductive.

Best wishes to the *Hanford Reach* staff as they move on to other opportunities. It has been my pleasure to be able to work with such high-quality professionals.

**Martha Rice**

*Fluor Hanford*

### A forum to express concerns

I am saddened to learn that you will cease publication. The *Hanford Reach* has been a way to voice concerns about topics which the "powers that be" do not always wish to hear.

Not all such letters were responded to, but they were published for the benefit of others. I doubt that a collection of individual company publications will be able to take the place of the *Reach*.

And I hope that the archives of past issues of the *Reach* will remain for some time.

**Rick Daughety**

*Fluor Hanford*

### Kudos to the Reach

For over 50 years, the Hanford Site has had a newspaper. Its original intent was to serve the employees who worked here. The *Hanford Reach* has done more than serve Hanford's workers — it gave the public at large information about the cleanup effort and reported the difficulty in accomplishing that goal.

To end a successful communications outlet is really inconceivable. Someone needs to make the decision to reverse this course of action. Anyone here with some kind of authority?

Many kudos to the *Reach* for an excellent product that we have treasured in the past and we will all miss.

**Don L. Sorenson**

*Fluor Hanford*

### Brought site workers together

I have enjoyed the *Hanford Reach* for all of the years of its publication as a way to bring Hanford workers together during difficult as well as good times.

The articles brought knowledge and perspective to my work of providing services to Hanford workers and their families. The newspaper was frequently an enjoyable vehicle for my efforts to share knowledge and perspective.

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## Letters, cont.

I wish to thank the Department of Energy and the contractors for providing the funds and expertise to keep the *Reach* viable and useful these many years.

**Dan Lowe**

*Hanford Environmental Health Foundation*

## No single source for site-wide news

During the past 13 years, the *Reach* has reported 10 national first-place awards for the Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association, the highest number for any chapter in the nation. I was president of the Hanford Chapter in 2002 when we led the entire nation overall as the highest-scoring chapter. The *Reach* has reported dozens of NMA community service stories and professional development opportunities.

Through NMA, I was able to bring Junior Achievement to the Tri-Cities, and look at what the community has done for it now.

As president of the Eastern Washington Chapter of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers this year, I also thank the *Reach* for the many articles about our activities that have been reported through the years.

I am sad that so many site-wide efforts can no longer be shared in one news source, for this site is truly united in many efforts. May we remain united for the benefit of our communities as well as for Hanford.

**Terry Winward**

*Fluor Hanford*

## A fond farewell to the *Reach* staff

It is with great sadness that I wish you all a fond farewell. I am deeply grateful for all the first-class reporting that was done over the years and the key information that you brought to all Hanford employees regarding our many successes as we pioneer the environmental cleanup effort at Hanford.

Thank you for your dedication to your readers. You provided us with every kind of information that we needed and we have come to depend on you. Starting next week you will be missed. Best wishes to you all in your future endeavors.

**Guy Schein**

*Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office*

## Bummer!

Having been associated with the 100K Area of the Hanford Site for nearly a decade, it's a real bummer to see

the *Hanford Reach* go. The *Reach* has had its finger on the pulse of the site and kept the employees up to date on the different activities going on at Hanford.

I always enjoyed reading the letters from people sounding off — even had a couple of mine published, too.

This is too much like saying goodbye for the last time to a near and dear friend. Thanks for the memories.

**Bill Monroe**

*Framatome-ANP*

## Thanks for the memories, information

Ah, technology! Electronic communications is a great thing — but picking up your copy of the *Reach* from your mail slot every Monday has become a Hanford tradition!

I have a lot of fond memories associated with the *Hanford Reach* — seeing my first issue as a new employee at the Fast Flux Test Facility many years ago (remember how different it used to look?); seeing, for the first time, one of my own articles published in the *Reach*; reconnecting with former colleagues I'd worked with in the 400 Area or the Basalt Waste Isolation Project after seeing their pictures or reading they received awards; and of course, just keeping up with "what's happening" across the site.

But my fondest memories related to the *Reach* are of the many talented folks who worked on the paper over the years. They say some things never change — and it does seem like Dennis Cresswell has been there for a long time! Some of the others from the past, I have to apologize because I can't remember all their names now (could it be that I've been around a long time, too?) — Carmen Stafford, Tracy Cozzens, Connie Eckard — and the many great photographers, including Jim Reed, Scotty Getchell and so many others.

I hope the Hanford contractor companies will rise to the challenge and ensure the things we have been able to access through the *Reach* will continue to be covered through some easy-to-access method of communication — not just news about key projects and milestones achieved across the site but also information about upcoming classes, professional society meetings, vanpools and HERO offerings.

Thanks for a lot of good information and many great memories!

**Jo Haberstock**

*Fluor Hanford*

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## Letters, cont. 2

### Will miss the *Reach*

I want to thank the staff of the *Hanford Reach* for their many years of devotion to a wonderful newsletter. When its publication ends Sept. 29, I (and I think I speak for many) will surely miss this newsletter.

As a long-time Hanford employee, I watched the newsletter grow into what it is today. I can remember when the newsletter used to be called *The Communicator*, and over the many years I've read with interest almost every article printed. I've read with interest the successes and failures of many projects, and the rise and fall of many facilities and companies on the Hanford Site.

Each publication always provided something for everyone including letters to the editor, safety information, employee activities and project milestones. The information in the *Hanford Reach* was so well diversified, crossed many company boundaries, and it was this type of information that really made it the *Hanford Reach*.

I would like to think that a contractor-specific newsletter would cover other contractors' milestones and successes; however, being realistic I don't see that happening. Maybe I'll be wrong.

Thanks again, *Hanford Reach* staff, for your talents and time with this publication.

**George Valdez**  
*Fluor Hanford*

### Imitated, but never duplicated

I have looked forward to reading the *Hanford Reach* each week starting back about the same time as I started work at Hanford. The *Reach* articles have been like a

"home town" newspaper with sincerity and objectivity. Other publications will follow, but the *Reach* will never be copied.

As they say, thanks for the memories.

**Herb Johnson**  
*Fluor Hanford*

**Editors' note:** And finally. . . thanks to Mr. Muehleisen for submitting the final letter in a very long series of letters about our most popular and long-running topic — Hanford traffic!

### Life is too short to drive like that

To the young lady who got mad and honked (repeatedly) at me on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the Wye Barricade, I would like to point out a few things:

- You made an illegal lane change without signaling.
- You were traveling at a speed considerably higher than the posted 25 miles per hour.
- The last time I checked, the car in front has the right of way.
- You tailgated me all the way to the guard shack.
- After the guard shack, you tailgated me again. The posted speed limit after the guard shack is 25 mph until the 35 mph sign.
- You passed me in a no-passing area and you were again traveling at a high rate of speed.

I just don't get it. Why do you drive this way going to work? I just hope you learn sometime soon that life is too precious and short to drive this way.

And by the way, it is common courtesy to turn your headlights off going through the Wye Barricade.

**Daniel Muehleisen**  
*Fluor Federal Services* ■

# Behind-the-scenes specialists helped put out the *Reach*

The small editorial staff of the *Hanford Reach* could not possibly have delivered timely Hanford news to your workplace each week without the help of many other people in numerous organizations.

First, we had a stable of regular writers who contributed to the *Reach* and helped plan the content of each issue in our weekly editorial meetings. Most are professional communicators who work in the communications departments of the Department of Energy offices and the various Hanford contractors. Disseminating information about Hanford is part of their jobs, but we appreciate the fact that the employee audience was often considered their most important audience. And they appreciated the fact that the *Reach* reported the facts without sensationalizing them, as some other media were prone to do.

In addition, there were all the Hanford employees who don't write for a living but contributed information about computer software, human-resources issues, benefits, procurement, training, health, safety and a host of other subjects to keep you informed. We were glad to be able to publicize various events, charity drives, happenings in professional societies, the vanpool openings and recreational activities. We thank all those contributors for their efforts.

To illustrate our stories, the Photography group at Lockheed Martin Information Technology has taken thousands of photos for the *Reach*. In recent years — as the world of photography was going digital — our photo budget virtually disappeared and we depended on what we received from project offices and amateur photojournalists. But, considering the entire body of work over 13 years, by far the most and the best pictures on our pages have been taken by LMIT Photography specifically for the *Reach*.



Zack Carter, Dan Ostergaard and Bonnie Compau of LMIT Photography



From left, Clay Hendon, Wally Thaanum, Shawn Lafferty, Kim Robuck and Ricardo Aquino of Triad Web Press

Then there was the job of printing some 12,000 copies of the *Reach*, week in and week out, and delivering them to Hanford's Central Mail. Except for a short period in the early 1990s, Triad Web Press, a subsidiary of the Tri-City Herald, has printed the *Reach* for its entire 13-year run, and has never missed a deadline. In fact, even when last-minute editorial delays have played havoc with Triad's printing schedule, the press crew has gone out of its way to meet our delivery deadlines. Because of the efficiency of printing the paper on a giant web press, on newsprint, it has cost just pennies per copy.

After it was printed, someone had to make sure the

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## Behind-the-scenes specialists helped put out the *Reach*, cont.

paper was distributed to all Hanford employees, spread out over hundreds of square miles, on the same day each week. Every Friday, the team at the Jantec Central Mail facility received the *Reach* in about 240 bundles to be broken down and sorted by mailstop. It was because of Jantec employees' efforts that you could always count on receiving the paper at your workplace on Monday.

Linda Perkins of Fluor Hanford Technical Support has managed the contracts for printing and distributing the *Reach*. In fact, she was involved from the very beginning of the publication in 1990, working with the editors to write a printing contract that would accommodate a tight weekly schedule within the rules of the Government Printing Office. In later years, she was instrumental in getting authorization for the use of color in progress reports and other special issues of the *Reach*, including this one.

And you, the readers, contributed to our knowledge of Hanford by writing letters and commentaries on various issues. Your letters were directly responsible for changing Hanford's gender-specific job titles and other sexist terminology; improving job controls; focusing attention on traffic safety; prompting debate on benefits issues; and giving deserved credit to outstanding fellow employees.



John Sheets (foreground), Joyce McDonald and John Epps of Jantec



Linda Perkins  
of Fluor Hanford Technical Support

In its early years, the openness of the opinion page was one reason Ragan Communications of Chicago included the *Hanford Reach* in its book, *Sixty Outstanding Employee Publications*. Author Hugh Iglarsh commented on the former secrecy at Hanford and the radical change of the site's mission to environmental cleanup. "With the new mission came the need for a new communications vehicle," Iglarsh wrote. "A spirited letters column...opens up once-clogged channels, and allows stressed-out employees to vent their emotions. Yes, there's lots of sniping and griping — but it's healthier than resentful silence."

To all our former staff members, contributors and vendors, thanks for doing what you have done so well. ■

# Contact information provided for contractor and project newsletters

Finding our about items that might be of interest to employees across the Hanford Site, such as professional society meeting announcements and vanpool vacancies, might prove to be a bit more challenging in the near future. Here is a list of project and contractor newsletters and the points of contact that might help in your search.

## **Fluor Hanford**

- New weekly publication, Karin Nickola, 376-0900
- Plutonium Finishing Plant, *Z-News*, Ken Hubbell, 373-3276
- Spent Nuclear Fuel, *Fuel for Thought*, Carol Clark, 373-9183

**Environmental Restoration Contractor**, *ERC Team Newsletter*, Todd Nelson, 372-9097

**CH2M HILL Hanford Group**, *Winds of Change*, Bryan Kidder, 372-0803

**Battelle**, *Inside PNNL*, Helen LaDouceur, 375-2229; Susan Praino, 375-4390

**Hanford Environmental Health Foundation**, *The Scoop*, Jan McKee, 372-2086

## **Department of Energy**

- Office of River Protection, *ORP News*, Erik Olds, 372-8656
- Richland Operations Office, *Friday Facts for Feds*, Andrea Powell, 376-0626
- Richland Operations Office, new publication, Communications Office, 376-7501

# Lewis and Clark Heritage Day commemorates 1805 encampment near modern-day Pasco

Ever wonder what Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark experienced when they camped at the confluence of the Columbia and Snake Rivers near Pasco 198 years ago? Bring your imagination and curiosity and participate in the Lewis and Clark Heritage Day, “Down the Great Columbia,” on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Sacajawea State Park in Pasco. This event commemorates the Corps of Discovery’s encampment from Oct. 16 through 18, 1805, at the confluence of the two rivers.



The Lewis and Clark Heritage Day is free and open to the public. Battelle is a corporate sponsor of the event.

Lewis and Clark Heritage Day will feature living history presentations, first-person interpretations, entertainment, music, a hands-on kids’ camp, American Indian cultural dance, guest speakers, mountain-man and tribal-skills demonstrations, nature walks and food vendors. Opening ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. and will be highlighted by a living history presentation, featuring the arrival of the Corps of Discovery at the confluence at 10:45 a.m. The living history presentation will include first-person re-enactors portraying Captain Meriwether Lewis, George Drouillard, Patrick Gass, Joseph Whitehouse and John Shields — all members of the Corps of Discovery.

In October 1805, an estimated 200 Native Americans greeted the Corps of Discovery at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers in October 1805. While in the midst of these Sahaptian-speaking peoples, the explorers traded goods, purchased food, cataloged the local dialects, repaired their equipment and explored the Columbia River to the mouth of the Tapteal (known today as the Yakima River). It was also at this site that the expedition members knew for the first time since entering uncharted territory exactly where they were — they had found the object of their journey, the great Columbia River.

Lewis and Clark Heritage Day is a project of the Tri-Cities Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council, a program of the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau. For more information, visit [www.downthegreatcolumbia.com](http://www.downthegreatcolumbia.com). For information on other Lewis and Clark-related events, visit [www.VisitTri-Cities.com](http://www.VisitTri-Cities.com). ■

# LMIT's Armijo is CBC 2003 outstanding alumnus

Frank Armijo, director of the Hanford Program and West Coast Hub for Lockheed Martin Information Technology, was recently honored during a Columbia Basin College staff fall welcome event with the 2003-2004 CBC Outstanding Alumni Award.

The accolade was awarded to Armijo because of his professional and personal accomplishments and his perseverance as the only son of migrant farm workers who became the first in his family to receive a college degree.

A life-long resident of Pasco, Armijo enrolled at CBC in fall 1981 and won a scholarship. He graduated with degrees in computer science and business. With financial aid, work-study, grants and a job, Armijo attended Eastern Washington University and earned a bachelor's degree in management information systems.

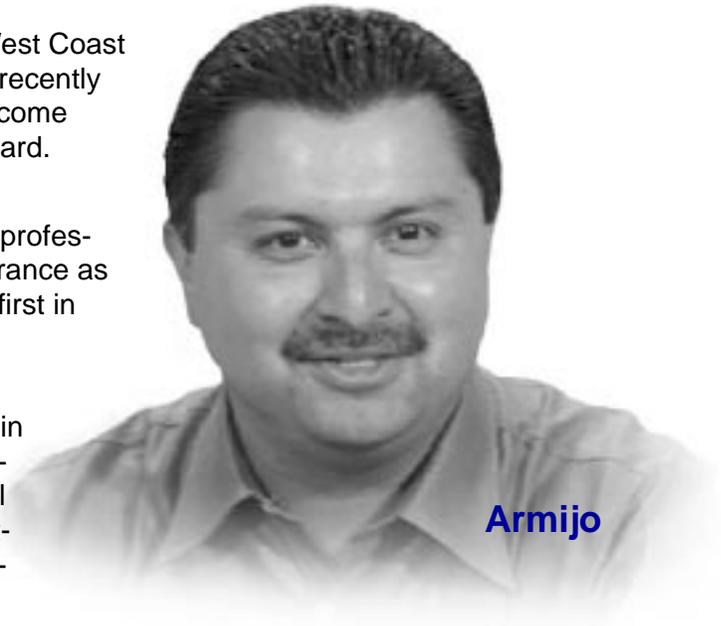
At LMIT, Armijo is responsible for performance and management of 700 employees and \$85 million in annual revenue for several Department of Energy programs.

In addition to his professional success, Armijo has also made significant contributions in the civic and volunteer arenas. At age 27, he was the youngest college trustee ever appointed by a governor of the state of Washington. He served on the CBC board of trustees for 10 years, including several years as chairman.

Armijo is a founding member of the Hispanic Academic Achievers Program and is its primary sponsor and scholarship recruiter. He has served as chairman of the board of the Tri-City Industrial Development Council and was a founding member of both Leadership Tri-Cities and the Reading Foundation.

Governor Gary Locke appointed Armijo to the Washington State Economic Development Commission.

Armijo has also helped organize the founding of the Southeastern Washington Chapter of the Washington Software Alliance. The alliance's mission is to help technology companies succeed in order to make the state a center of excellence in the digital economy. ■



# Skills Lab offers sessions in punctuation, grammar, spelling, writing

Seats are filling quickly in the Skills Enhancement Lab's fall cycle of half-day seminars. All of the presentations described below will be held from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m in room 31 of the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center Administration Building on Horn Rapids Road. There is no charge for any of these popular sessions, but reserve a seat now by calling Kathy Dechter at the Skills Lab at 376-3250.

- **Painless Punctuation** — Thursday, Oct. 30. Participants will learn to cure comma-itis; use colons and semi-colons properly; handle exhausted apostrophes; tackle the lowly hyphen; review fragments, comma splices, and run-ons; and review must-know key rules.
- **Goof-Proofing your Grammar** — Thursday, Nov. 6. Participants will learn to recognize and deal with the most frequent grammatical goofs: pronoun problems; mangled modifiers; easily confused, misused, and abused words; proper use of who/whom, lie/lay, bring/take, who/which/that; pronoun-antecedent agreement; subject-verb agreement; parallel phrasing; and must-know key rules.
- **Successful Spelling** — Thursday, Nov. 20. If you sometimes have trouble deciding how to spell a word, even with a spell-checker, this practical session is for you. The workshop will review common spelling demons and help you learn to spell them correctly. You'll master the Terrible Ten — the 10 most often misspelled words — as well as clarify commonly confused words. You'll also learn crucial key rules for spelling over 4,000 words correctly. Best of all, you'll get memory tricks to help you remember what you learn.
- **Successful Business and Tech Writing** — Thursday, Dec. 4. This light-hearted workshop teaches the essentials of successful business and technical writing through relevant exercises. Learn effective ways to structure a document for impact, pinpoint audiences, identify purposes, organize information efficiently and clearly, eliminate gobbledygook, format documents for more impact and edit your own and others' work. In short, you'll learn to produce clear, readable documents that do the job right. Suggested prerequisites: Painless Punctuation and Goof-Proofing Your Grammar. ■

*Continued on page 14.*

## Skills Lab offers sessions in punctuation, grammar, spelling, writing, cont.

The Skills Enhancement Lab is a partnership of the Department of Energy, Columbia Basin College and the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center operated by Fluor Hanford. It helps workers improve their reading, writing, math and spelling skills. It is open from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

At the lab, experienced CBC faculty work privately with each student. They use workplace materials, texts, software programs, videotapes and audiotapes to enhance each person's learning style.

Tutoring is available in reading comprehension, speed-reading, spelling, vocabulary development, grammar, writing, communication, test-taking skills and math. No tuition is charged for the lab's services, which are entirely confidential and open to Hanford Site workers. Employees attend with their supervisor's permission and when their work schedule allows. Though hours are flexible, a minimum commitment of 1-2 hours per week is recommended.

In addition to classes, the Skills Lab also offers the free diagnostic evaluations listed below. All diagnostics last one to two hours and are offered by appointment only on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons at the Skills Lab, located in the Learning Resource Center, room 4, in the HAMMER Training Building. There is no charge or obligation, and all information remains confidential. To schedule an appointment for any service, call the lab at 376-3250.

- **Learning Styles — Left-Brain/Right Brain Inventory** — Do you struggle to retain and master new material on the job? Have you noticed that different people prefer different learning styles? Studies show that we learn and remember most efficiently when we take advantage of our preferred learning style. Often a few minor changes to our thinking, writing and studying processes can make a huge difference in how well we process and retain information. The Skills Lab offers a learning styles inventory to help you maximize your study potential. Afterwards, a CBC faculty member will discuss ways to apply the information to your work techniques.
- **Adult Basic Skills Diagnostic** — Are your basic math or verbal skills rusty? Does the boss complain that your written work could stand some improvement? To see how your basic skills measure up, the Skills Lab is offering a brief standardized survey of adult basic reading, writing, math and grammar skills. You can choose to take either or both math and verbal portions. After the assessment is scored, you can schedule a private conference with a CBC faculty member at the Skills Lab to discuss your results and learn simple ways to brush up your skills — either by using the Skills Enhancement Lab or on your own.
- **Gregg Reference Manual Diagnostic** — Those who want to master a more specialized area of punctuation, grammar or capitalization can arrange to take a diagnostic based on the *Gregg Reference Manual*, a well-respected handbook used on the Hanford Site as well as by major corporations across the United States. This is an excellent way to polish your skills with quotation marks, hyphens, semicolons and bullets.
- **Vocabulary Diagnostic** — There are more than 700,000 words in the English language, and no one ever knows them all. Beyond the 50,000 to 100,000 words needed for average adult communication, you can determine which words you need to actively use (or at least passively recognize) according to your own current interests and priorities. This brief assessment will help you to determine a course of action for steady vocabulary improvement. Further practice through programmed instruction can be arranged.
- **Spelling Diagnostic** — Assess your spelling skills on a quiz that diagnoses problems, and then points you to specific rules that apply. This assessment is based on *Better Spelling in 30 Minutes a Day* by Crosby and Emery. (Copies are available for students to borrow). Then confer privately with a CBC faculty member to learn how to boost your skills — either by using the Skills Lab or on your own. ■

# Warehouse Operations gears up for faster pace

Deborah Dunn, Fluor Hanford

*Cleanup, deactivation and decommissioning activities continue to accelerate as the Hanford Site gains on closure. The Warehouse Operations group is keeping pace by streamlining services to the entire site.*

## Essential service

Warehouse workers serve an important, often overlooked, role in assisting Hanford Site projects in achieving their missions. They are the first and last to interact with the world beyond Hanford. Warehouse staff members receive, inspect, track, store, deliver and maintain supplies, tools, spare parts and equipment arriving on site. Shipments leaving Hanford also pass through the warehouse for inspections and related activities.

Fluor Hanford's Business Systems organization formed Supply Chain Operations and Support last April, and it includes Warehouse Operations. "We provide cradle-to-grave support to the projects," said Rich Meyer, supply chain director. "The warehouse staff is essential. As cleanup accelerates and we perform more D&D work, the supply chain and the warehouse can be heavily affected, and it is critical to the success of our projects to include our organization in your planning process."

As an example, Meyer discussed shipments of transuranic waste going from Hanford to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. Some waste being shipped from Hanford to WIPP has to first be repackaged into new waste drums. Last year, shipments left about every other month and it was easy to keep enough new, empty drums on hand to meet demand. Now, the Waste Management Project is targeting eight shipments per month, and anticipating an even faster pace in the future.

The project requires more new, empty drums and warehouse storage space. Manufacturers often have one production run per month, so several semi-trucks full of drums could arrive at the warehouse at once. Warehouse Operations has to address questions such as: What can be done to ensure the project has the drums it needs, when needed, and avoid peaks of new drum arrivals?

To maintain solid project support, interactions with vendors are planned to discuss demands for various types of supplies and how to achieve steady delivery rates. In addition, inventories are being "right-sized."



**Warehouse Operations assists with logistics for pre-departure inspections of transuranic waste shipments leaving Hanford for permanent disposal at WIPP in New Mexico. Inspections are independently conducted by the Oregon Department of Transportation Motor Carrier Enforcement, Washington State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, and Washington State Department of Health Division of Radiological Protection.**

*Continued on page 16.*

## Warehouse Operations gears up for faster pace, cont.

### Right-sizing inventory

Right-sizing stock in inventory makes better use of warehouse space. Multitudes of tools, supplies, materials, spare parts and backup equipment have been purchased since the 1940s. Much of the inventory was for Hanford's former operations. Many of these operations have now ceased, so the back-up equipment and supplies are no longer required.

Supply Chain Operations and Support first searches inside Hanford to find new users for inventory. If there is no current site need, the items are made available to other Department of Energy sites. If there are no takers within DOE, the materials and supplies are contributed to local economic development through the Tri-Cities Asset Reinvestment Company. TARC was formed by the Tri-City Industrial Development Council in 1999 to work with DOE in transferring excess Hanford Site assets to the private sector, with the hope of creating jobs and generating revenue for local economic development.

### Storage

Items traditionally warehoused are being reviewed. The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, for instance, had accumulated drilling core samples since 1942, maintaining and monitoring them, as required. The samples — jars filled with soil — took up 6,000 square feet of warehouse space. Fluor Hanford worked with PNNL to find other storage, Warehouse Operations moved the samples, and the Fluor Hanford-operated warehouse is now being used for current activities.

### Lessons learned

Supply Chain Operations and Support is also incorporating lessons learned from other DOE sites into the business side of faster cleanup and D&D. Meyer said Rocky Flats reported unanticipated increases in the purchase of saw blades, jumpers, safety masks, shoes, glasses, and similar common industrial items. At Fernald, disposal of wooden pallets and tires was challenging because of modern disposal limitations. Another site took down its simple, non-contaminated warehouse early to practice D&D, forcing it to later rent warehouses. It advised other DOE sites to raze warehouses at the end of closure.

“We are attempting to plan ahead so we can be pro-active regarding the challenges of faster cleanup and D&D,” Meyer said. ■



### **GABLE MOUNTAIN**

**PERSPECTIVE:** Dick Wilde, Fluor Hanford director of the Waste Management Project (on the left) points out features of the Hanford Site to Hanford Advisory Board members during a Sept. 10 tour. During the tour, members of HAB's River and Plateau Committee made several stops on the Hanford Site, including Gable Mountain, to view cleanup progress.



# PFP exceeds expectations in fiscal year 2003

The Plutonium Finishing Plant Project, managed for the Department of Energy by Fluor Hanford, closes fiscal year 2003 with an unprecedented array of accomplishments, most notably the stabilizing and repackaging of nearly 85 percent of its 18 tons of plutonium-bearing materials.

“PFP is a great example of what DOE is striving for across the complex — risk reduction,” said Stacy Charboneau, director of the PFP Project for DOE’s Richland Operations Office. “We’re excited to continue the momentum and start moving the stabilized plutonium inventory off-site.”

The technically challenging stabilization and repackaging project began nearly four years ago. PFP is a complex of 61 facilities that produced more plutonium products from 1949 to 1989 than the Savannah River and Rocky Flats Sites combined. The 14-acre compound also held the leftovers of multiple nuclear experiments conducted at Hanford and from facilities throughout the nation.

When Fluor Hanford began the cleanup project, four new stabilization processes were quickly brought on line. Accelerating its stabilization activities in 2001, PFP became the first facility in the DOE complex to comply with strict new plutonium packaging requirements, called Standard 3013. The standard includes certifying that, for secure shipment and storage, materials are protected in triple-lined containers designed to hold plutonium safely for at least 50 years.

Additional achievements followed. PFP workers finished stabilizing all plutonium metals in September 2001, all plutonium-bearing solutions in July 2002, and all “polycubes” (plutonium oxide in a plastic matrix) in February 2003. This past summer, they repackaged all 7,000 pounds of plutonium-bearing residues covered under a regulatory milestone.

Personnel at the historic PFP complex now enter FY 2004 on track to finish the overall stabilization and packaging project this coming winter, ahead of all Tri-Party Agreement milestones. It’s also expected that the work will be finished ahead of deadlines set by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, a part of the federal government that oversees special nuclear materials.



**Plutonium Finishing Plant workers replace heavy arm-length gloves on equipment in the 232-Z Incinerator Building to improve the safety of working conditions.**



**A stabilization process is under way in a PFP muffle furnace.**

*Continued on page 19.*

## PFP exceeds expectations in fiscal year 2003, cont.

“The stabilization and repackaging work accomplished at PFP has played a huge role in furthering Hanford Site cleanup,” said Scott Sax, Fluor Hanford project director. “We are making the region safer and more secure.”

### Legacy work and D&D

Deactivating and decommissioning PFP moved forward with completion of detailed planning and six major regulatory documents, and workers began physically removing both chemical and radioactive materials. Cleaning out tanks of legacy hazardous chemicals and piping began in the main PFP building (234-5Z) and in the Plutonium Reclamation Facility, or PRF.

D&D teams also started cleaning out legacy plutonium held up in multiple PFP buildings. “Hold-up” plutonium is residual plutonium in equipment, including ductwork, filters, gloveboxes and other facility structures. Project employees first cleaned out a major glovebox in the main processing line of the 234-5Z Building. After incorporating some important lessons learned, they tackled a larger glovebox burdened with more hold-up material, and began cleaning out the “miscellaneous treatment” area of the PRF.



**PFP workers seal out contaminated waste from a glovebox in the Plutonium Reclamation Facility.**

The plan calls for cleaning out two highly contaminated structures, beginning in October — the 232-Z Incinerator Building and the 241-Z Liquid Waste Treatment Facility. The 232-Z facility still contains large gloveboxes and various support equipment. Fluor Hanford held a technology workshop in June to evaluate decontamination options for five large tanks in 241-Z.

Bob Heineman, a 30-year Hanford veteran, directs PFP’s D&D effort. “Cleanout and D&D of the PFP complex involve some of the most complicated work in the DOE system,” Heineman said. “PFP facilities are old, highly contaminated, and full of unexpected challenges when we start the dismantling work. It’s a tribute to the PFP workers that we’re proceeding safely and efficiently.”

### Safety also shines

Sax is proudest of the fact that the work has been accomplished with an outstanding employee health and safety record. Despite working in old facilities with hazardous materials during the four-year stabilization and repackaging period, PFP employees achieved a milestone of 2 million safe hours worked, and facility employees recently achieved a million-hour safety milestone for the third time.

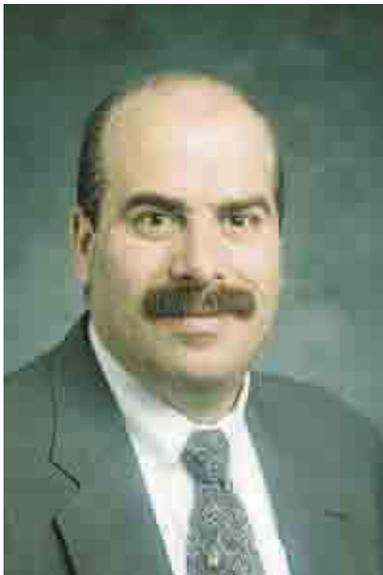
*Continued on page 20.*

## **PFP exceeds expectations in fiscal year 2003, cont. 2**

PFP personnel also reduced the average radiation exposure to its workers, while its plutonium stabilization throughput quadrupled twice between 2000 and 2002. The PFP complex had only one injury that resulted in a lost workday during the four years of the stabilization effort. And, two months ago, PFP became the first “high-hazard nuclear facility” in the nation to be awarded Star status in the DOE’s Voluntary Protection Program .

“These achievements are due to the ingenuity, innovation and teamwork of the nearly 600 employees of the PFP complex,” said Sax. “It’s hard to overstate their accomplishments, especially considering the very hazardous work they do at PFP.” ■

# Seminar Series features hydrogen fuel presentation



**Khaleel**

The Community Science and Technology Seminar Series event, “Hydrogen: The Fuel of the Future. Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?” is scheduled at 7 p.m. on Oct. 15 at the Columbia Basin College Theatre.

The speaker is Moe A. Khaleel, a Laboratory Fellow at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, who will address the relationship between increased global energy needs and opportunities to harness renewable resources. Khaleel also will talk about PNNL’s role in helping to develop a new energy system and a hydrogen-fueled economy; a path to a sustainable future that may demand the integration of fossil and non-fossil sources; and the President’s Hydrogen Fuel Initiative and FreedomCAR, a program that places emphasis on the transportation sector to develop efficient and cost-effective vehicles. The presentation is free and open to the public.

The 21st century will see a dramatic increase in global energy consumption, driven by rising standards of living and a growing world population. This increase will demand innovative scientific solutions, part of which is a hydrogen-fueled economy. Hydrogen, one of the most common substances on Earth, is clear, clean and powerful. It is an attractive alternative to hydrocarbon fuels, such as gasoline. Many technologies that can use hydrogen to power cars, trucks, electrical plants and buildings exist today.

Khaleel earned his degree in engineering from the University of Jordan, and his doctorate from Washington State University. Khaleel joined the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in 1993 and became a Laboratory Fellow in 2001. He conducted research on advanced materials for transportation application, and has since turned his attention to world energy systems and the future role for hydrogen systems. Khaleel has published more than 100 technical articles and received the Federal Laboratory Consortium Award for Superplastic Forming in 2000 and the Robert J. McGrattan Literature Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1999.

For more information about the Seminar Series and to view a schedule of upcoming speakers, contact PNNL at 375-2599 or visit <http://www.pnl.gov/speak/seminar/sem-index.html>.

The Seminar Series is sponsored by PNNL and Columbia Basin College, with the support of the Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology and by the local chapter of Sigma Xi, the international honor society of scientific and engineering research. ■

Help keep your family safe

## Check for fire hazards at home

In this age of heightened security awareness, we've become more aware than ever of the importance of feeling safe and secure. But the same homes that offer us a sense of security are not free from fire risk. Thousands of people die in home fires every year, and billions of dollars in property is lost.

It doesn't have to be that way. The National Fire Protection Association reminds us that by teaming up for fire safety, we can educate each other and our children about how to prevent and respond in the event of a home fire.

Every fire safety team starts with firefighters — but they can't do it alone. The NFPA urges us to adopt this simple idea: team up with the people with whom you live, work, play and worship so that all of you will be better prepared to prevent and, if necessary, survive a home fire.

The theme for this year's fire prevention program is "Get Out! Stay Out!" Develop a fire escape plan for your home and practice it at least twice a year. Identify a meeting place outside where everyone can gather once you've escaped.

Throughout October, Hanford Fire Department firefighters are available to share fire safety information with Hanford employees. Work groups looking for safety meeting topics in October may contact Martha Rice at 373-3955 to schedule presentations on fire safety or arrange to pick up fire safety materials.

When you take time to do a fire safety inspection, you'll reduce your family's risk of being harmed in a home fire. Here are a few tips to help you create a fire-safe home:

- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Create a "kid-free zone" around the stove, keeping children and pets at least 3 feet away from the cooking area.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of materials that could catch fire, such as pot-holders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging.



*Continued on page 23.*

## Check for fire hazards at home, cont.

- Give space heaters plenty of space. Space heaters should be at least 3 feet away from anything that could burn. Always make sure to turn heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Have solid-fueled heating equipment, including chimneys, chimney connectors, fireplaces and wood or coal stoves inspected by a professional every year and cleaned as often as necessary. This also applies to all other types of fueled heating equipment, including central furnaces and space heaters.
- Lit candles should be monitored constantly by an adult and extinguished when adults leave the room or go to sleep.
- Use candleholders that won't tip over easily, are made of non-combustible materials, and are big enough to catch dripping wax safely.
- Never leave children alone with burning candles. NFPA recommends against allowing children to have candles in their bedrooms.
- If there are smokers in your home, make sure ashtrays are large and deep and won't tip over. Douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before discarding them.
- Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach— preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Replace or repair any electrical device with a loose, frayed or broken cord.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for plugging an appliance into a receptacle outlet (most receptacle outlets contain two receptacles). As an added precaution, avoid plugging more than one high-wattage appliance into a single receptacle.
- Put plastic safety covers on receptacle outlets in homes with small children
- Install ground-fault circuit-interrupters to reduce the risk of electrical shock. GFCIs shut off faulty electrical circuits and equipment more quickly than conventional fuses or circuit breakers. The devices are inexpensive and can be hard-wired into your home's electrical system by a professional electrician.
- Install arc-fault circuit-interrupters to protect against unwanted electrical arcing, which often occurs in damaged wires or cords and can generate high temperatures and cause a fire. AFCIs protect against fire by continuously monitoring the electrical current in a circuit and will shut off a circuit when an unwanted arcing fault is detected. (The National Electrical Code® requires AFCIs in bedrooms of new residential construction.) The devices can be installed in your home's electrical system by a professional electrician.

*Continued on page 24.*

## Check for fire hazards at home, cont. 2

- Store highly flammable liquids like gasoline, kerosene and propane outside the home in a properly ventilated shed or garage. Store them only in small quantities and in their original containers or in safety containers. Never bring even a small amount of gasoline indoors. The vapors are highly flammable and can be ignited by a tiny spark.
- Every home should have smoke detectors installed on every floor and outside every sleeping area (inside as well if you sleep with the doors closed). Be sure to test your detectors frequently. In a dark or smoke-filled room, the sound of a smoke alarm can be disorienting. Make sure your family recognizes the sound of your smoke detector alarms.

If a fire should start in or around your home, an appropriate portable fire extinguisher in the hands of a well-trained adult, can save lives and minimize property damage by putting out a small fire. But never forget that fire spreads rapidly. Your first priority should always be to get your family out of the house, make sure they're safe and call 911 immediately. ■

# Approved nasal flu vaccine provides alternative

Hanford Environmental Health  
Foundation, Health Education Services

For those of you who are “needle shy” and still wish to be vaccinated against influenza, here is some good news: the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved an influenza vaccine that can be delivered as a nasal mist.

The vaccine, called “FluMist,” contains attenuated, or weakened, live influenza virus. It is administered by a health-care provider much in the same manner as any nasal spray solution. The vaccine, proven to be safe and effective for healthy children and adults, is available in the Tri-Cities.

The eligibility criteria are a little more rigid than the vaccine delivered in a flu shot. For example, the recipient should be between 5 and 49 years of age; should not have long-term health problems such as heart or lung disease; have a weakened immune system; or be undergoing cancer, steroidal or long-term aspirin therapy. FluMist is also not recommended for anyone (family members, physicians or nurses) who may come in close contact with anyone with a weakened immune system. The cost of the nasal vaccine ranges from \$50 to \$75.

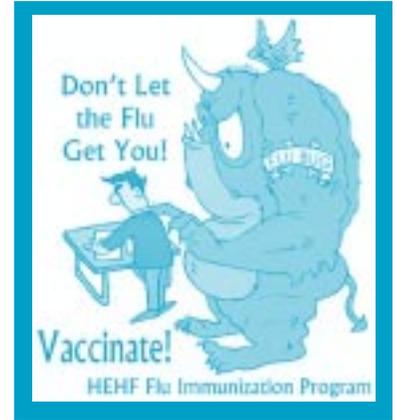
It is important that you protect yourself against influenza, a serious illness that can cause fatal complications. Each year the flu vaccine has protected millions of people from the miseries of the flu. In the past, the only route was an injection through a very small needle into the deltoid muscle of the upper arm. The vaccine works systemically to stimulate the immune system to build antibodies to combat the three major flu viruses identified for that particular flu season. This takes about two weeks. The most common side effect is a slightly sore arm for a day or two. Occasionally, minor symptoms such as a sore throat or muscle aches may occur.

In spite of the effectiveness of the flu vaccine, some people claim they don't need to get a flu shot because they are seldom sick. What they don't realize is that even a mild case of the flu can be very serious, even deadly, if passed on to a family member or co-worker who may have other health concerns. Other people may choose not to be vaccinated because they are “needle shy,” — even the thought of getting a shot can cause some to become light-headed. Children frequently associate a trip to the doctor's office with the unpleasant experience of getting a “shot.” A few people are not comfortable with receiving a systemic medication even though it is an inactivated (killed) vaccine and cannot cause the flu.

The Hanford Environmental Health Foundation will not be providing the intranasal vaccine this year because of the time it would take to establish eligibility for each individual who would request this type of vaccine. If you are interested in this alternative vaccine, you are encouraged to talk to your personal health-care provider. Even though the nasal vaccine is not recommended for everyone, it is certainly an effective and more comfortable alternative vaccination option for some people.

HEHF is providing the flu shots at clinics listed in the schedule on this page. All Hanford employees over 18 having a Department of Energy security badge, except those who work for Bechtel National and Battelle Columbus, are eligible to receive the shots. Pregnant employees and employees having symptoms of the cold or flu are not eligible either. For questions about influenza or the HEHF flu shot clinics, call the HEHF Flu Hotline at 376-1000. ■

*Flu-shot schedule on page 26.*



# 2003 Flu Immunization Schedule

| Area                   | Clinic Date        | Time                     | Location  |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Battelle               | Monday, Oct. 13    | 9 a.m.-3 p.m.            | Battelle Auditorium   |
| Battelle               | Tuesday, Oct. 28   | 9 a.m.-noon              | Battelle Auditorium   |
| 200E Area              | Tuesday, Oct. 14   | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.            | 2101-M, Cosmos/Bijou Room   |
| 200E Area              | Thursday, Oct. 30  | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.           | 2101-M, Cosmos/Bijou Room   |
| Federal Building       | Wednesday, Oct. 15 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.            | 825 Jadwin, room 142  |
| Federal Building       | Wednesday, Oct. 29 | 9 -11 a.m.               | 825 Jadwin, room 142  |
| 100K Area              | Thursday, Oct. 16  | 6 a.m.-noon              | MO-500, Conference Room West  |
| 200 West Area          | Monday, Oct. 20    | 6:30 -9 a.m.             | MO-250  |
| 200 West Area          | Wednesday, Oct. 22 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.            | MO-287, Conference Room A111  |
| 200 West Area          | Wednesday, Oct. 29 | 1-5 p.m.                 | HEHF Health Care Center, 2719   |
| 300 Area               | Monday, Oct. 20    | 11 a.m.-3 p.m.           | 3763, Conference Room   |
| 100N                   | Tuesday, Oct. 21   | 6:30 -9 a.m.             | 1103N Conference Room A & B   |
| Bechtel                | Tuesday, Oct. 21   | 11:30 a.m.-<br>2:30 p.m. | 3350 George Washington Way,<br>Assembly Room  |
| 2440 Stevens<br>Center | Thursday, Oct. 23  | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.            | Conference Room 1200  |
| 400 Area               | Monday, Oct. 27    | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.           | 4710-A, conference room<br>(Only employees working in this<br>secured area may participate) |

## **Bank account set up to help the family of a child with cancer**



Hunter

A bank account has been established to receive donations to help Erinne and Dan Steinmetz of Selah, Wash. with medical expenses for Hunter Steinmetz, their two-year old son who is battling cancer. The Steinmetz family members are friends of Ben Tabayoyon of the Fire Protection Systems Maintenance group with Fluor Hanford. For those who wish to donate money, the account name is "Friends of Erinne and Dan," and the account number is 7328-1040 at the Bank of America, 220 S. Toppenish Ave., Toppenish, Wash.

# Regular Features



## Classes

### LMIT sponsors Quantitative Management course

Lockheed Martin Information Technology will host “Quantitative Management,” a course conducted by the Software Productivity Consortium, on Oct. 14-15 at the Consolidated Information Center at Washington State University Tri-Cities. The instructor is David Card, an SPC fellow. The course cost is \$150. For more information about the course, or to register, contact Kelly Layfield of LMIT at 376-6785.

### Registered Environmental Manager class offered

Dr. Valcar Bowman will teach the “Registered Environmental Manager (REM)” class on Oct. 20-21 at the Consolidated Information Center at Washington State University Tri-Cities. For those who have taken the class and are certified as registered environmental managers, the class may be taken as a recertification. For those who may be interested in taking the class for the first time, an application packet will be available at the class. The four-hour exam will be given Oct. 21 at the end of class. The REM is the highest professional level credential of the National Registry of Environmental Professionals, and no other workshop or study better prepares you for the REM or Certified Environmental Auditor examinations. Cost for the initial certification or the recertification is \$595. Certification fees are included in the cost of the course. Department of Energy personnel should register through the electronic registration system at <http://www.rl.gov/otr/othome.htm> and use course number MST310. Contractors should communicate directly with Dr. Bowman at (770) 355-3675 to register and arrange payment.

### Professional development classes offered in fall

The Tri-Cities Technical Council, an organization that represents local professional societies, will sponsor continuing education and professional development courses to be held 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Royal Hotel and Conference Center in Richland. The following courses are scheduled for fall:

- **Hazards and Operability (HAZOP) Studies** – Nov. 7-8. The cost is \$795 for American Institute of

Chemical Engineers members and \$955 for non-members.

- **Practical Project Evaluation: Cost Estimating** – Nov. 7-8. The cost is \$905 for AIChE members and \$1,055 for non-members.
- **Essentials of Chemical Engineering for non-Engineers** – Nov. 7-8. The cost is \$795 for AIChE members and \$955 for non-members.
- **Investigating Process Safety Incidents** – Nov. 7-8. The cost is \$795 for AIChE members and \$955 for non-members.
- **Shortcut Problem Solving** – Nov. 21-22. The cost is \$795 for AIChE members and \$955 for non-members.
- **Time Management** – Nov. 21-22. The cost is \$795 for AIChE members and \$955 for non-members.
- **Managing in a Technical Environment** – Nov. 21-22. The cost is \$795 for AIChE members and \$955 for non-members.

Registration is due four weeks ahead of the course date. Students will earn Continuing Education Units or Certification Maintenance points. To register for the AIChE courses, send checks to the Columbia Valley Section of AIChE, P.O. Box 305, Richland, WA 99352. For more information, contact Marve Hyman at 375-0222.

### Resource Training Institute, LLC, offers courses

The Resource Training Institute, LLC, will offer “Accelerated Cleanup Site Closure: Integrating Regulatory and Administrative Activities” on Dec. 2-3. The cost is \$490.

To register, contact the RTI registrar at (803) 652-8830 or at registrar @rtii.org. For the full course schedule, visit <http://www.rtii.org>. ♦

*Features continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## Vanpools

Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges while on site and be prepared to show them when passing through a barricade. Vehicle drivers are responsible for ensuring their passengers are badged prior to leaving their point of embarkation. A vehicle driver who transports an unbadged person through a barricade and the unbadged person will be issued Security Incident Notices and the unbadged person will be escorted off site. Re-entry is not allowed until a proper badge is obtained.

## KENNEWICK

Vanpool No. 97 is looking for riders, 8x9s. Rate as low as \$54.20 per month. Picks up at Shopko at 6 a.m., and at the Federal Building at 6:10 a.m. Drops off at 2750-E and 2740-HV. Contact **Mike Bryden** at 373-4624. 9/29

Express vanpool to 200E needs riders. Leaves from Albertson's on Clearwater and Edison and drops off in the vicinity of 2750, MO-384, WESF and LEF. Contact **Scott** at 372-0473 or **Max** at 373-9161. 9/22

One rider is looking for a vanpool to 222-S Laboratory (200W) with a pick-up from the Columbia Center Mall Area or near Costco/Gage Blvd. Please call **Rampur Viswanath** at 376-9223 if you have room in your vanpool. 9/29

## PASCO

Vanpool No. 213 from Pasco to 200E needs riders, 8x9 shift. Starts at Desert Ice facility at 6:05 a.m. Richland riders are welcome. Can also stop at Stevens Center to pick up riders. Drops off in 200E and ends at 2704-HV. Call **Steve Boothe** at 376-6812. 9/29

Vanpool to 200W, 8x9s, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Leaves Pasco Kmart at 5:45 a.m., picks up at Road 100 at 5:55 p.m. and at Hanford Training Center (by the Columbia Basin Racquet Club) at 6:05 a.m. Travels on Highway 240 to all stops in 200W. Call **Don** at 373-2933 or **John** at 373-2224. 9/29

## RICHLAND

Vanpool, 8x9s, (6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. shift) needs riders from Kennewick or Richland to 200E/200W. Picks up at Richland Wye Park'n Ride and at the Richland airport. Call or e-mail **Don E. Slater** at 373-4663 or **Vicki Weber** at 947-3435. 9/29

Vanpool Express (with new van) to 200E needs several riders, 8x9s. Monthly rate as low as \$35. Leaves former Hanford bus lot (across from 2440 Stevens) at 6:25 a.m. and drops off at 2750-E local area. Will also pick up and drop off along route to and from bus lot: from Albany Ct. north on Alder, east on Bismark, north on McMurray, and north on Stevens Drive. Contact **Dave Hedengren** at 373-5094. 9/22

## WEST RICHLAND

Van No. 212 needs two riders, 8x9, to 200E. Van stops at AW, 2750-E, 2719-EA and 2704-HV. Riders to 2704-HV need to be authorized Ben Franklin Transit drivers. Backup drivers would be appreciated. Leaves from Flat Top Park at 6:05 a.m. and picks up at the Pit Stop at 6:10 a.m. Contact **Duane Shults** at 539-3905. 9/29

Van No. 200 is looking for riders, 8x9, from West Richland to 200E. Let us drive you to and from work, and you can pocket the money you'll save on your gas bill. Contact **Darlene** at 373-5266 or **Curt** at 373-7935. 9/22 ♦



## Newsbriefs

### Direct legal library reference services requests to Hanford Technical Library

As of Sept. 29, all inquiries for legal library reference services should be directed to the Hanford Technical Library at 372-7430 or via e-mail at [pnl.techlib@pnl.gov](mailto:pnl.techlib@pnl.gov) or at \*Library-Hanford Technical. The staff and some of the collection currently housed in the Legal Library branch in the Federal Building will be moving to the Consolidated Information Center on the Washington State University campus in Richland. Access to legal materials that remain in the Federal Building will be provided by Hanford Technical Library staff.

*Features continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## Shoemobile

### 300 Area

*along fence east of Wisconsin Street*

|        |                |              |
|--------|----------------|--------------|
| Oct. 8 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Sound Safety |
| Nov. 3 | 2-5 p.m.       | BC Sales     |

### 100K Area

*parking lot south of MO-401*

|         |           |          |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| Nov. 4  | 7-10 a.m. | BC Sales |
| Oct. 21 | 7-10 a.m. | Red Wing |

### 200 East Area

*northeast gravel parking lot of 2101-M*

|         |                |              |
|---------|----------------|--------------|
| Oct. 9  | 7 a.m.-noon    | Sound Safety |
| Oct. 21 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | Red Wing     |
| Nov. 4  | 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | BC Sales     |

### 200 West Area

*parking lot east of MO-281*

|         |          |              |
|---------|----------|--------------|
| Oct. 9  | 1-4 p.m. | Sound Safety |
| Oct. 21 | 2-5 p.m. | Red Wing     |
| Nov. 4  | 2-5 p.m. | BC Sales     |



## Calendar

### Public star gaze slated for Oct. 3

The Tri-City Astronomy Club will sponsor a public star gaze from 7 to 10 p.m. on Oct. 3 at Lynwood Park in north Richland. To find the park, drive north on George Washington Way, turn left on Saint Avenue, go two blocks and turn right on Lynnwood Loop. Telescopes will be available to view Mars, the moon and other celestial objects. Families and children are welcome. If the skies are cloudy, the star gaze will be rescheduled for the next night, Oct. 4, at the same time and location. For more information, contact Roy Gephart at 376-1421 or at [roy.gephart@pnl.gov](mailto:roy.gephart@pnl.gov).

### Fall blood drives scheduled at Hanford

The American Red Cross will hold the following blood drives this fall:

- Oct. 2 at the Federal Building, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Registration will be in the lobby. The drawing is in the bloodmobile in the parking lot north of the building. Call the Red Cross at 800-787-9691 for an appointment.
- Oct. 21-22 at the Battelle Auditorium. Contact Ram Devanathan at 376-7107 or [ramaswami.devanathan@pnl.gov](mailto:ramaswami.devanathan@pnl.gov) to schedule an appointment.

*Calendar continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## Calendar, cont.

- Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lockheed Martin Information Technology. The bloodmobile will be parked at 2261 Stevens. Call Kelly Layfield at 376-6785 for an appointment.
- Nov. 4, 2-7 p.m. at Columbia Community Church, 150 Gage Blvd. Call 627-2055 for an appointment.

### Safety and Health Conference takes place Oct. 3

“Emerging Issues in Safety and Health” is the title of the third Safety and Health Conference Oct. 3, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. The Lower Columbia Basin Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers, the Tri-City Education Committee of the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and the Northwest Chapter of the System Safety Society are sponsoring the conference. The conference fee is \$125 (\$100 for speakers, \$45 for students). For more information, contact John Cavanaugh at 373-9625 or at [john\\_e\\_jr\\_cavanaugh@rl.gov](mailto:john_e_jr_cavanaugh@rl.gov), or John Hinckley at 371-4408 or at [jhinckle@bechtel.com](mailto:jhinckle@bechtel.com).

### LMIT golf tournament to raise United Way funds

Lockheed Martin Information Technology will hold a golf tournament on Oct. 11 at Columbia Point Golf Course to raise funds for United Way. The tournament begins at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start. The format is a four-man open scramble and the cost is \$40 per player. Lunch is available for \$7. Signup forms are available on-line at <http://www.lmsi-nw.com/lmitgolf/tourn/unitedway2003.cfm>. Contact Bill Jones at 376-4470 for more information.

### Heart Walk scheduled for Oct. 11

Mark your calendars for Oct. 11, the date of the Tri-Cities Heart Walk. Now in its 11th year, the Heart Walk is the core fund-raising event benefiting the American Heart Association. AHA's goal is to help reduce coronary heart disease, stroke and risk by

25 percent in Washington by the year 2010. The registration for the walk is at 9 a.m. and the walk will start at 10. Teams of walkers are forming; call your company representative to sign up: Calvin Dudney, Fluor Hanford, 373-6267; Bryan Kidder, CH2M HILL, 372-0803; Dale Denham, Bechtel Hanford, 372-9226; Sandra Linfoot, Battelle, 372-6736; and Ann Shattuck, Fluor Federal Services, 376-8456.

### Northwest Purchasing Conference Oct. 9-11

The National Association of Purchasing Management-Columbia Basin will host the Pacific Northwest Purchasing Conference Oct. 9-11 at the Kennewick Red Lion Hotel. The conference will feature speakers, workshops, programs and a trade show related to purchasing, materials management and supply-chain management. For more information, consult the conference program Web page at <http://www.napmcb.org/Conference/60thPurConf2003.htm>.

### PMI meeting Oct. 14 features convention center

The Columbia Basin Chapter of the Project Management Institute will feature Dean Strawn, president of the Kennewick Public Facilities District, and Kris Watkins, president and chief executive officer of the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau, speaking about the Tri-Cities Convention Center at a dinner meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Richland Shilo Inn. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is at 6:30 and the presentation is at 7. Contact Terri Witherspoon at 376-4925 or at [Terri\\_T-Witherspoon@rl.gov](mailto:Terri_T-Witherspoon@rl.gov) to make your reservation no later than 9 a.m. on Oct. 13.

### ASQ meets at Castle Air on Oct. 14

The Oct. 14 meeting of the local section of the American Society for Quality will be held at Castle Air, at 1846 Terminal Drive in Richland. Castle Air, a small business specializing in heating and air-conditioning sales, installation and repair, was recently honored by the four area Chambers of

*Calendar continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## Calendar, cont.

Commerce with the 2003 Mid-Columbia Small Business of the Year Award.

Check-in, networking and a light dinner will start at 6 p.m., with the presentation and tour following at 6:45. The cost is \$8 for ASQ members and \$10 for non-members. Reservations are required and must be received by Oct. 9. Call 372-1442, send an e-mail message to [lynn\\_l\\_gates@rl.gov](mailto:lynn_l_gates@rl.gov), or register via the local ASQ section Web site at <http://www.3-cities.com/~gates/ASQ614.html>. Click on "What's Next" for additional information about the company and the dinner menu.

### SHRM sponsors seminar Oct. 16

The Columbia Basin Chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management will sponsor a half-day seminar on Oct. 16 featuring the presentations "Managing Generational Issues in the Workplace" by Larry Hellie and "Motivating and Rewarding Employees During Difficult Times (layoffs, budget cutbacks, etc.)" by John Hankerson. The seminar will be held at the Richland Shilo Inn. The registration fee is \$45 and includes the presentations and lunch. Registration deadline is Oct. 6. Call Josie Villa at 372-4922 to make your reservation.

### Deadline for patriotic essay contests is Oct. 30

For a third year, the Department of Energy Veterans Advisory Committee and the Hanford Safeguards and Security organizations are teaming with the Hanford Community Diversity Council, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars posts and the VFW ladies auxiliaries to establish a Hanford category in the VFW's Voice of Democracy audio essay competition and Patriot's Pen essay contest. The two contests are for children in seventh through 12th grades who are related to Hanford employees. The entry forms and specific contest details are available on the VFW Web site at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) under "Community Support," or you can contact Jim Spracklen or Guy Schein. The Hanford contest

deadline for entries for both the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen is Oct. 30.

### NMA offers FaciliSkills workshops in November

The Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association will host FaciliSkills training on November 5, 12 and 19, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Washington State University Consolidated Information Center. The three-day training consists of the following four workshops: "Making the Smart Connection, focusing on relationships; "The Art and Science of Self-Mastery" discussing communication; "Transformational Leadership", teaching team-building; and "Logistics and Process Dynamics" covering problem-solving and decision-making skills. This course will be facilitated by Peak Performance, Inc. Larry Birckhead and Rick Martinez are the instructors. The cost is \$350. For more information and to register, call (866) 294-4587. The registration deadline is Oct. 20. The workshop is open to the public. ♦