

# REACH



A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy for all Hanford Site employees



**HE'S COMING TO TOWN:** Three-year-old Taylor Ambrose, son of Bechtel Hanford's Janiece Ambrose, spent a little time with Santa Claus during the Environmental Restoration Contractor team children's holiday party at the Uptown Theater in Richland. Taylor was one of 300 children who attended the party. The ERC team combined the feature films "Harry Potter" and "Monsters Inc." with holiday spirit as children brought food donations for this year's winter food drive. The *Hanford Reach* staff wishes all Hanford employees and our other readers a happy holiday season. The next issue of the *Reach* will be distributed Dec. 31.

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

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

Among the talents needed to join the EOC team are the ability to focus during a crisis, work on multiple tasks, be flexible, be willing to help and — above all — be a team player.

The center has specific and urgent needs for computer operators, administrative personnel and people skilled in public communication. Serving as an EOC volunteer requires carrying a pager and the approval of your immediate manager.

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

		Distribution questions: call the Mailroom, 375-5170  See the <i>Hanford Reach</i> on the Web at: <a href="http://www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html">www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html</a>
<b>Keith Klein, Manager</b> DOE Richland Operations Office	<b>Harry Boston, Manager</b> DOE Office of River Protection	
<b>DOE Richland Operations Office</b> Guy Schein, A7-75, 376-0413, fax 376-1563		
<b>DOE Office of River Protection</b> Diane Stock, H6-60, 376-4751, fax 372-1215	<b>The <i>Hanford Reach</i> is published weekly for all employees of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site.</b>	
<b>Fluor Hanford</b> Editorial office: B3-30, 376-4639, fax 376-5704 Jerry Holloway, manager of Communications Dennis Cresswell, editor Cornelia Brim, associate editor Sally Green, designer	<b>Deadline is 10 a.m. Thursday, 10 days prior to Monday publication. All articles are subject to editing. Consult with the Reach staff before ordering photos. Contact the editors by phone, fax, site mail or e-mail.</b>	
<b>Bechtel Hanford, Inc.</b> Sue Kuntz, H0-09, 375-4673, fax 372-9115	 Printed on recycled and recyclable paper.	<b>Hanford Reach, B3-30 Fluor Hanford P.O. Box 1000, Richland, WA 99352 Fax: 376-5704 e-mail: Hanford_Reach@rl.gov Phone: (509) 376-4639</b>
<b>Bechtel National, Inc.</b> John Britton, 371-3677		
<b>CH2M HILL Hanford Group</b> Ace Etheridge, H7-04, 376-2710, fax 373-0944		
<b>Hanford Environmental Health Foundation</b> Jon Davidson, H1-52, 376-4414, fax 372-3139		
<b>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory</b> Katie Larson, K1-55, 375-3698, fax 375-2221		

# Industrial hygiene analytical program recognized

A Hanford organization is one of the first to successfully complete a newly revised reaccreditation process that aligns with International Standardization Organization quality requirements.

The Waste Sampling and Characterization Facility's Industrial Hygiene Analytical Program was up for reaccreditation with the American Industrial Hygiene Association in May, directly after AIHA changed its process to align with International Standardization Organization requirements. These are the quality standards that testing and calibration laboratories must meet to demonstrate technical competence and the ability to generate technically valid results.



**Industrial hygiene chemist Jim Lachut analyzes proficiency test samples for beryllium using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry.**

The AIHA reaccreditation changes included an increased emphasis on customer interactions, management involvement, analytical traceability and definition of analytical uncertainty. The process for the WSCF program included preparation of a detailed paper application, an on-site assessment by an AIHA quality expert and acceptable performance in the applicable proficiency programs.

## Excellent performance

At a time when many assessments yielded 20 to 30 deficiencies and numerous suggestions for improvements, WSCF's Industrial Hygiene Analytical Program was found to have only two deficiencies and received just three additional suggestions for improvement. All were immediately addressed by the lab.

WSCF IH undergoes reaccreditation every three years with AIHA, the primary United States certifying body for industrial hygiene analyses. Reaccreditation has been routine for the program that began in 1974 as the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation's Industrial Hygiene Laboratory. It is now located at WSCF and operated by Fluor Hanford for the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office. WSCF is a full-capability analytical laboratory and the core analytical laboratory for non-radioactive and low-level radioactive samples for the Hanford site.

Achieving the newly revised reaccreditation is one of several indicators of program success. Another is the WSCF IH proficiency program performance rating, which has been maintained at 98 percent over the past three years.

## A variety of samples

Bill Baird, the WSCF team lead in Inorganic Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene Chemistry, explained that the laboratory receives samples from AIHA every quarter. The samples contain unknown substances that must be detected through a variety of analyses. The resulting proficiency performance ratings are based on the quality of these analyses.

*Continued on page 4.*

## Industrial hygiene analytical program recognized, cont.

Samples may be in the form of an air filter with traces of metals, or a “wipe” — that is, a small cloth that’s been wiped over a surface for analysis to detect the presence of any number of possible metal contaminants like lead or beryllium. Samples also may be paint or soil for lead analysis, solvents on sorbent tubes or passive monitors, free silica on filters, fiber counts related to asbestos exposure and bulk asbestos samples.

WSCF uses a variety of techniques to determine which substances are present and the concentration of each.

Baird credited Maureen Hamilton with much of the success of the WSCF Industrial Hygiene Analytical Program. He said she was a pioneer for industrial hygiene chemistry at Hanford and continues to serve the program today as a private contractor.

WSCF’s industrial hygiene analytical staff is currently involved on several worker health fronts at Hanford. These include analysis of blowing dust, beryllium assessments, respirable silica analysis and ongoing support of asbestos-related projects and tank-farm activities.

Since the wildfire of June 2000, blowing dust and interest in its possible health impacts have increased. Numerous samples have been taken by the WSCF industrial hygienists and analyzed by the WSCF laboratory for total, respirable and inhalable particulate levels and for the presence of metals and free silica. Hanford industrial hygienists are assessing the results of these analyses.

### Beryllium concerns

WSCF personnel are providing analytical support for beryllium assessments occurring site-wide. Beryllium, a metal with many industrial applications, was used at Hanford from about 1960 to 1986. It has since been determined that beryllium dust, fumes and soluble salts are factors in chronic beryllium disease.

Since the summer of 1999, when the lab analyzed more than 1,500 wipe and air samples to characterize 25 facilities, beryllium has become the metal analysis most frequently requested. To improve the analysis, the lab recently validated a new wiping material that will allow for faster analysis and an ability to detect contaminants in smaller amounts.

WSCF IH also is supporting requests for respirable silica analysis. Silica is very common and typically harmless in nature. But, in the form of a dust that is consistently breathed, silica can contribute to the lung disease silicosis. Industrial hygienists take the samples to detect silica in this form, and the WSCF laboratory conducts the analysis. ♦

# More About Beryllium

The industrial hygiene beryllium assessments represent one of several ways Hanford is addressing health concerns about this metal. A Web site includes information on the Hanford Beryllium Awareness Group, discusses where beryllium was used and stored at Hanford, and provides points of contact for medical testing. The site can be found at <http://www.hanford.gov/safety/beryllium.index.htm>. Among frequently asked questions are:

## **Q: What is beryllium?**

**A:** Beryllium is a silver-gray metallic element used as pure metal, in beryllium-copper and other alloys, and as beryllium oxide. In nature, beryllium can be found in compounds in mineral rocks, coal, soil and volcanic dust. It is processed in soluble and insoluble forms. Beryllium has many applications due to its strength, light weight, relatively high melting point, corrosion resistance, good neutron moderation, thermal conductivity and machinability. Beryllium is purified for use in electrical parts, machine parts, ceramics, aircraft parts, nuclear weapons and mirrors. With its advantages come several serious disadvantages; the most significant of these is the toxicity of beryllium dust, fumes and soluble salts.

## **Q: Are we still using beryllium at Hanford?**

**A:** No, there are no active beryllium operations at Hanford. Beryllium was used at Hanford from about 1960 until 1986. However, it is still possible that some beryllium may be present in some facilities from past usage. This could include fume hoods, exhaust ducts, etc.

## **Q: Do most people who work with beryllium end up with the disease?**

**A:** No, most people who work with beryllium do not end up with beryllium disease. Even with routine high-level exposure to airborne beryllium, only about 2 percent of the people who work around beryllium will ever develop beryllium disease. A higher percentage of people who worked around beryllium will develop beryllium sensitivity — an allergic reaction to beryllium exposure.

## **Q: What about non-sparking tools? I've heard they contain beryllium. Do they present the same hazard?**

**A:** Non-sparking tools may contain up to about 2 percent beryllium. This small amount is not likely to be released, *unless* the tools are welded, cut, ground or treated in any manner that could release beryllium fumes or dust. Normal use of a non-sparking tool should not create a hazard. ♦

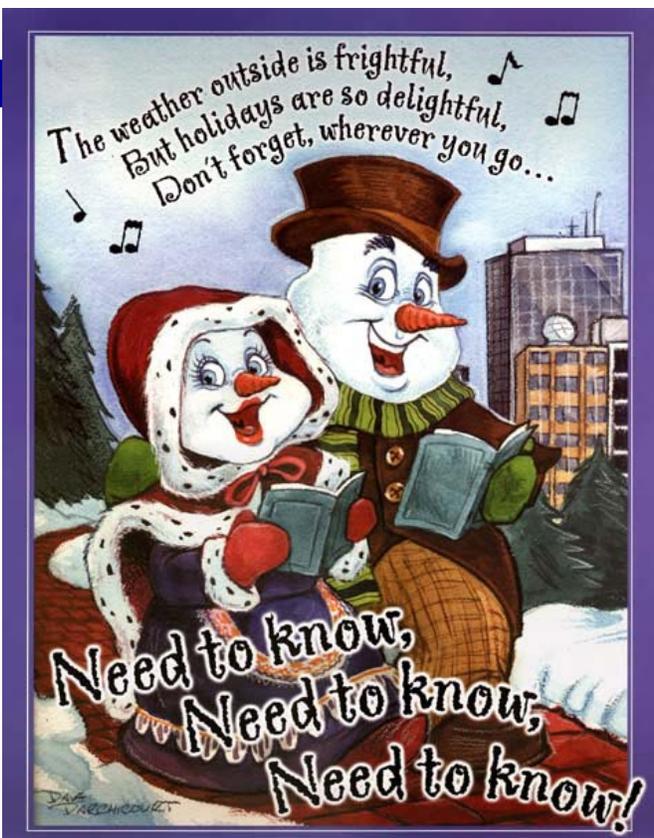
## Picture Pages



**HARVESTING BOOKS:** Vicki VanBee, left principal of Chief Joseph Middle School in Richland, and Erin Tomlinson of the Reading Foundation, kick off the fourth annual Thanks-4-Giving Book Harvest in October.



Linda DeGraw, (second from left) new executive director of the Reading Foundation, along with Tomlinson (center) and Jan Dudley of HAPO, talk with a news reporter about the success of the book drive. Hanford employees donated more than 4,500 of the 14,300 books collected in the community-wide drive.



**HOLIDAY SPIRIT:** Working with the Salvation Army, Office of River Protection employees held a toy and warm clothing drive for needy children in our area. Lending a hand are ORP elves (from left) Erik Olds, Jackie Hanson, Ruthann Townsend, Kevin Kautzky and Lisa Copeland.

# Adopt-a-family programs alive and well at Hanford

Even though Hanford no longer has a coordinated site-wide adopt-a-family program, individual organizations within the Department of Energy and all the Hanford contractors have kept the spirit of giving alive by seeking out and “adopting” needy families for the holidays.

For example, Fluor Hanford’s Hanford Site Operations team is hoping to make Christmas a lot more memorable for some area families who may be having trouble making ends meet. They’ll benefit from the voluntary efforts of HSO’s 10 functional groups that have adopted 12 families and the Fluor Community Involvement team, which has adopted 74 local children.

The families were suggested to HSO for adoption by local charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul. Others were found simply through personal contacts by HSO employees or their families. The majority of those assisted have been through recent, sudden losses of a parent, have a family member with a life-threatening illness, or simply are having trouble making ends meet. Consequently, they lack basic necessities like warm clothing or cookware, so the gift requests aren’t at all lavish. “We’re buying a lot of coats, gloves, sheets and dishes,” said Michelle Turner of HSO’s Strategic Planning and Reporting organization.

Last Friday, the Site Fabrication Services organization also provided Christmas to Adult Day Services in Kennewick for the fourth year in a row. The fab shop employees and other HSO team volunteers prepared a luncheon and presents to Adult Day Services clients, who are always thankful for the special attention. “Sometimes the elderly are forgotten during the holidays and we are just happy to provide them with a party all their own,” said Mike Butterworth, Site Fabrication Services manager.

Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford, also a part of HSO, went one step further.

In addition to the adopt-a-family effort, PTH employees also provided food for the needy and contributed items to the local Salvation Army youth center. The delivery of the adopt-a-family gifts will be done by HSO employees today and tomorrow.

At CH2M HILL Hanford Group, the Tank Farms Construction Projects organization is just one of many CHG groups adopting families for holiday sharing. Clothing, toys, food, soap, toothpaste and much more have been either donated or purchased through fund-raising event held throughout the year. Families have been referred to CHG by the Women’s Resource Center at Columbia Basin College and by organizers of the Benton City Sharing Tree. ♦

# Donated food from site employees stays in the area

The Hanford Community Food Drive, in its 16th year, takes the non-perishable food that site employees donate to area food banks where they live.

In 2000, contractor personnel and members of the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council provided collected food to 20 food banks from Burbank to Yakima. The food that was donated on site was supplemented with a donation of 350 turkeys from Fluor Hanford. The food was then delivered with support from the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team, the Hanford Patrol and Mabton Explorer Posts.

“This year, we again plan to give your donations of money and turkeys to the food banks for those in need,” said food drive coordinator Calvin Dudney. “Please look for drop boxes in your lunchroom or reception area.”

Food also can be taken to collection points at 2420 Stevens Center, the Hanford Patrol Training Academy and the HAMTC Union Hall at 1305 Knight in Richland.

This year’s drive runs until Dec. 19, when the food will be delivered throughout the area. For more information, contact Dudney at 373-6267, Cindy Hernandez at 376-7031 or Butch Parker at 376-9417. ♦

# Cheers! Some suggestions for surviving the holidays

Deb Severin, FH

The happiness and hopefulness surrounding the winter holidays offer natural opportunities to celebrate. Alcohol is often a part of the celebration, and even those individuals who don't normally drink alcohol will consume some alcoholic beverages. If you don't buy alcoholic beverages yourself, they will probably be offered to you frequently during these holiday gatherings.

Whether you are a guest at a party or the host of a holiday celebration, everyone wants a safe drive home. Follow the suggestions below to help assure you and your guests will have fun and live to remember it.

## If you are the host:

- Don't make drinking the main focus of your party.
- Before the party begins, designate someone to help you keep things under control.
- Provide plenty of attractive non-alcoholic drinks and nutritious foods. Serve foods rich in protein and carbohydrates, like cheeses and meats, pizza and stuffed potatoes. Serve drinks such as juice, soda, coffee and non-alcoholic punch.
- If you serve an alcoholic punch, use a non-carbonated base such as fruit juice. The body absorbs alcohol faster when it is mixed with carbonated liquids.
- Try not to serve salty foods that make your guests thirsty.
- Know everyone's age. Never serve alcohol to minors and never ask children to serve drinks.
- Never force drinks on a guest.
- Mix and serve drinks yourself, or designate someone and avoid serving doubles; do not have an "open bar."
- Have a "car keys check-in" and take your guests' keys.
- Have some resources to call upon when a guest should not be driving home (a family member, a neighbor or police). Two local taxi companies are Tri-City Deluxe Cab Service at 783-1234 and LaidLaw Transit Services at 586-0212.
- Know who is driving. Identify designated drivers as they arrive. Make up some ""Designated Driver" or "No thanks, I'm driving" labels to wear during the party.
- Provide alternative activities such as dancing and board or card games, so guests are not solely focused on drinking.
- Close the bar at least an hour before the end of the party.

## If you are the guest:

- Eat something before you drink, and always sip your drink slowly.
- Concentrate on consuming the goodies rather than alcohol.
- Set a limit on how much you will drink and stick to it.
- Don't drink punch or eggnog without asking first if it is spiked with liquor. Alternate your alcoholic drinks with other beverages such as water or juice.
- Don't feel you have to drink alcohol to "get in the mood."
- If someone asks you if you want a drink, and you do not drink alcohol at all, say, "What a good idea. I would love a drink. Do you have soda water with lemon or a soft drink?"
- Watch out for those Christmas cake rum balls!

*Continued on page 10.*

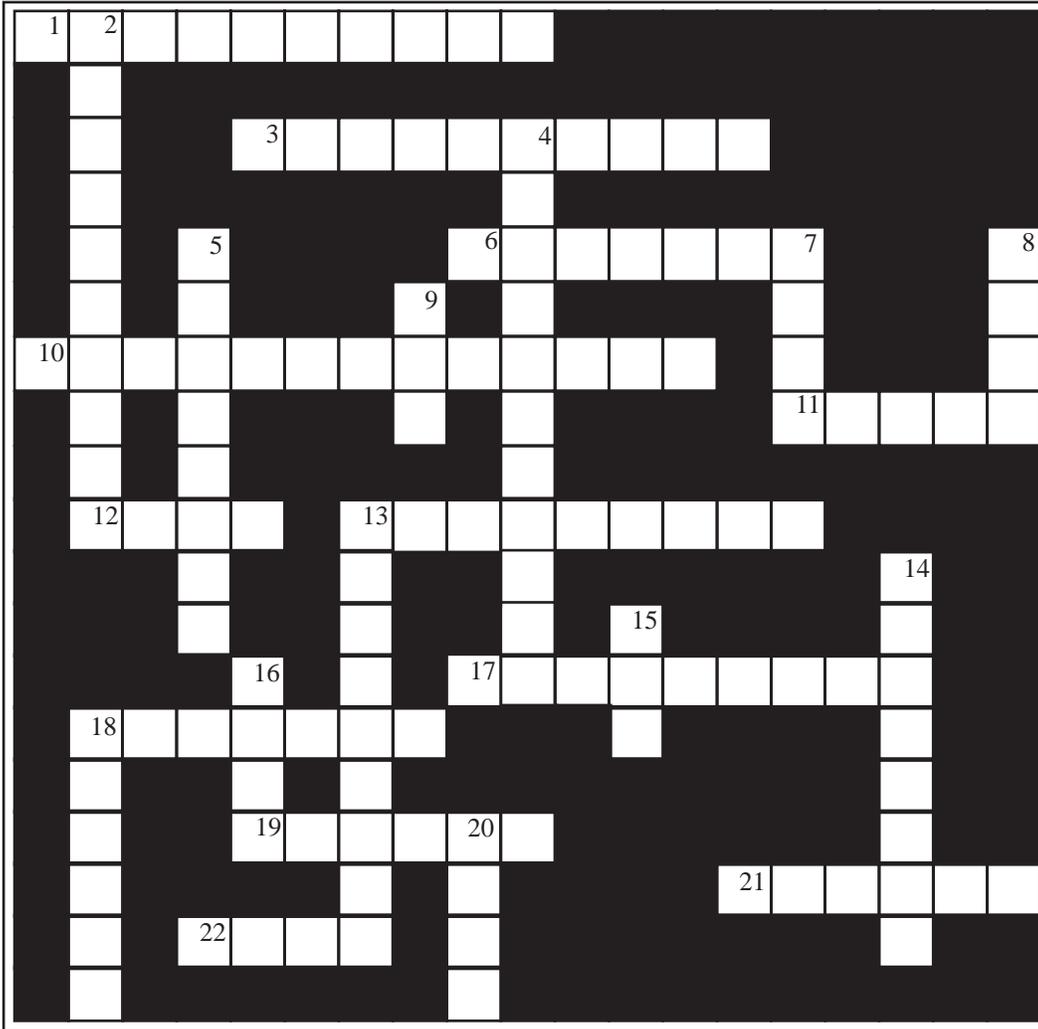
## Cheers! Some suggestions for surviving the holidays, cont.

- Remember, if you want to keep seeing your children smile, don't drink and drive – *not for even a mile!*

Even if you leave a party sober, as you drive home you have to be extremely cautious to watch out for other drivers who may have been drinking. Some clues to help you identify drunk drivers include: weaving or swerving, very slow speed, inconsistent signals, braking erratically, stopping without apparent cause, accelerating or slowing rapidly, driving with headlights off at night, wide turns and speeding. Report a suspected drunk driver immediately to law enforcement.. ♦



Solve the crossword puzzle to remind yourself to drive safely this holiday season. Submit your completed crossword puzzle to **Deb Severin, Fluor Hanford Safety Awareness, at A0-23**. The first 75 correct responses will receive a prize.



### ACROSS

- \_\_\_\_\_, snow boots and kitty litter are just some of the items to carry in your car (two words).
- \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to poor driving decisions.
- Improper \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the common causes of head-on collisions.
- Don't use \_\_\_\_\_ or overdrive on icy roads.
- \_\_\_\_\_ to stay alive.
- In a \_\_\_\_\_, turn your wheels the way you want the vehicle to go.
- Wearing your seatbelt reduces the risk of death by \_\_\_\_\_ percent (two words).
- Safe driving requires \_\_\_\_\_ of what's going on around you at all times.
- The biggest danger to sledders is not on the hill but in the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Continued on page 11.*

## Cheers! Some suggestions for surviving the holidays, cont.

---

### ACROSS, cont.

---

19. Hydroplaning rarely occurs at speeds under \_\_\_\_\_ miles per hour.
21. Salt used to de-ice roads acts in \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.
22. Tires often need \_\_\_\_\_ air pressure during cold weather.



---

### DOWN

---

2. Most cases of \_\_\_\_\_ develop in air temperatures between 30 to 50 degrees (two words).
4. Driver \_\_\_\_\_ is the contributing factor in many crashes
5. After \_\_\_\_\_ any amount of alcohol your reaction time is slower.
7. Set a \_\_\_\_\_ driving example, even if others don't.
8. Safe driving requires a \_\_\_\_\_ attitude.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ can be as treacherous as rain or snow.
13. The most common hazard in the cold is \_\_\_\_\_.
14. It is safe to dream about driving, but dangerous to drive while \_\_\_\_\_.
15. It takes \_\_\_\_\_ seconds to fasten your seatbelts.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ belts save lives!
18. Hanford's number-one priority is \_\_\_\_\_ .
20. Only \_\_\_\_\_ will make you sober enough to drive.

# Day's Pay fund drive gets boost from Hanford employees



Hanford contractor employees have donated more than \$82,400 to the Day's Pay for the USA campaign. The effort is for the purchase of a new ladder truck for the New York City Fire Department and hazardous material response equipment for the regional Tri-Cities Fire Association.

"The response from the community has been overwhelming," said Richland resident Kelly Watson who, along with Margaret Hue of Kennewick, organized the Day's Pay effort. "This includes a large boost from employees at Hanford."

Battelle employees at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory raised a total of \$41,000 during a single day of fund-raising for Day's Pay.

Bechtel Hanford, Bechtel National, CH2M HILL Hanford and Eberline Services Hanford offered payroll deductions for employees wanting to contribute to the Day's Pay for the USA effort. Their employees contributed \$26,401.

Fluor Hanford's Day's Pay collection sites on Nov. 8 brought in \$15,000 toward the purchase of the fire truck. Fluor Hanford and CH2M HILL Hanford Group employees were allowed to cash in hours from their Personal Time Bank. The individual employee then had the option of how best to use the funds, including making donations to a Day's Pay. All payroll deductions from Fluor Hanford and CHG employees went to the American Red Cross.

Along with the payroll deductions and personal donations, additional funds came from the sale of Day's Pay T-shirts, polo shirts and ball caps sold at various Hanford locations.

"All donations will go toward the purchase of a truck and equipment," said Hue. "More than 90 percent will be given directly to the fire truck manufacturer, with the remainder staying for local emergency response equipment."

Day's Pay for USA T-shirts remain on sale at JC Penney, the Richland Chamber of Commerce, Richland Suzuki and Franklin County's District 3 Fire Department at 2108 Road 84 in Pasco. Banner Bank will accept donations until February.

"All in all, Hanford contractors and their employees really showed their compassion," said Watson. "I believe the strength of our community and our country lies in its citizens. That is certainly true in the Tri-Cities." ♦

# Volunteers help sagebrush get a new start on ALE

Bryan Kidder, FH

Facing strong winds and biting cold, volunteers from Duratek Federal Services and the Boy Scouts planted 5,000 sagebrush seedlings on a burned-over portion of the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. Better known as the ALE, this land suffered a devastating loss of sagebrush cover during the Hanford fire in the summer of 2000.

Thirty Scouts joined 20 employees of Duratek as they put shovel to earth and planted the seedlings on Saturday, Dec. 1. Personnel from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Energy were also volunteering their time.

Joel Eacker, president of Duratek Federal Services Northwest Operations, explained why his company wanted to be involved with the planting effort. "We saw this replanting as a way our employees could express their concern for our local environment beyond the critical work we do for our customers," Eacker said. "It was also good to demonstrate to the Scouts that we all have a responsibility to protect these important ecological areas."

In addition to coordinating the volunteer labor, Duratek also purchased the plants, which were grown from seed collected from the ALE. The seedlings germinated last April and were grown until the rootstock was about 6 to 8 inches long.

The sagebrush planting is part of an effort by the Fish and Wildlife Service to protect and restore the native habitats and biodiversity of the Columbia Basin shrub-steppe ecosystem. The federal agency manages the ALE under an agreement with the Department of Energy.

A study of the burned portions of the ALE found that more than 75 percent of the sagebrush vegetation was lost during the fire. Repeated large fires since 1978 have eliminated nearly the entire shrub component of the ecosystem of the reserve. Unlike rabbit-brush, sagebrush usually does not re-sprout following a fire, so active restoration through seeding or planting is required to reestablish it.

Sagebrush is either a food source or provides cover for nesting, resting, warmth or escape for a wide variety of species. Its thick canopy also protects under-story vegetation, a valuable food source for wildlife.

Wildlife biologist Heidi Brunkal of the Fish and Wildlife Service said several species depend on sagebrush for nutrition and cover. "Sagebrush provides from 95 to 100 percent of the winter diet for the greater sage grouse," she explained. "Our local elk herds rely on sagebrush for thermoregulation — lying in mature stands for shade or thermal cover and protection from wind."

Additional sagebrush plantings on the ALE are under way on a much larger scale. Another 165,000 seedlings are to be planted by the Fish and Wildlife Service during the next few weeks. ♦



Local Boy Scout leaders plant sagebrush seedlings on the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. Volunteers from Duratek Federal Services and other Hanford organizations joined the Scouts in the effort.

# HAMMER respiratory training program a success

Karin Nickola, FH

Imagine for a moment that you are breathing normally and have just exhaled. But when you attempt to inhale, there is no air. For very good reason, this startling condition is cause for alarm.

Atmospheric air contains 21 percent oxygen. People typically exhale air at about 17 to 18 percent oxygen. With no source of fresh breathing air, the oxygen content in the lungs drops quickly. Although everyone reacts slightly differently, a person's thought processes begin to blur at approximately 16 percent oxygen and are seriously impaired at roughly 12 percent oxygen. Death occurs at about 6 percent oxygen.



The new Al Alm Annex at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center is the respiratory training building.

For individuals performing work while wearing respiratory gear, the possibility of supplied air loss is a reality that must be addressed. Even though considerable effort is made to ensure equipment is up-to-date and in good working condition each time it is used, in the final analysis, the apparatus is man-made and can fail. The need for thorough respiratory training programs cannot be overstated.

At the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center, workers practice daily how to cope with situations like unexpected loss of supplied air. Just as first aid courses prepare each of us for unforeseen emergencies, HAMMER instructors teach workers to respond to unanticipated respiratory situations swiftly and confidently. Practicing hands-on techniques during training sessions means circumstances encountered in the field won't be first-time experiences.

## High-quality training

In the early days of HAMMER, respiratory training was offered through the hazardous waste curriculum. In March 1998, recognizing the need for a more intensive program specifically targeting respiratory safety, the training center began conducting "stand-alone" respiratory training courses. Since then, HAMMER has provided more than 10,928 student days of respiratory training (through October 2001). The facility has also staged several realistic hands-on respiratory mock-ups for Hanford Site workers, including two in fiscal year 2001.

HAMMER's respiratory "worker trainer" instructors number 41. Among them are competent lead instructors Randy Coleman, Ken Howard, Tom Peterson, Ed Carter, Ken Artz, Pat Goble, Jose Salazar and Mark Whitten. In addition to instructing respiratory courses sponsored by the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC), HAMMER worker trainers perform a wide variety of skilled craft work throughout the Hanford Site.

Hands-on performance-based training makes up the vast majority of the

Mask-fit technician Donna Gross of Coastal Safety and Health Services helps Hanford teamster Ken Artz get fitted for a protective mask.

*Continued on page 15.*

## **HAMMER respiratory training program a success, cont.**

respiratory training at HAMMER. Both initial and refresher courses in basic and advanced respiratory training are offered daily in Al Alm Annex classrooms 3 and 4, as well as at various props throughout the campus — including the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) building, six-story training tower, above-ground pipe-line prop and port of entry building.

Participants in supplied air-line training receive job tasks that must be completed while wearing supplied air-line systems. At some time during each person's exercise, primary air is cut off. Participants must respond to loss of air by turning on their back-up supplies.

### **Yearly focus**

Besides the basic hands-on respiratory curriculum (which includes inspections, donning, utilization and doffing of respiratory gear, and critical-step oral questioning), each year HAMMER instructors focus on new and different training issues. During 2001, instructors helped students discover "how much" air they had in their five-minute emergency air supply (SKA-PAK) bottles. Because every person uses air differently, the typical range is from 4 to 12 minutes; but the best way to know for sure is by experiencing it first-hand.

"Instructor-generated loss of supplied air forces students to activate the SKA-PAKs worn on their hips," said HAMMER staff member Bill Robinson. "To demonstrate the amount of air in the SKA-PAKs, students are often asked to walk with instructors to our six-story training tower more than 100 yards away. Invariably, the students believe they won't have enough air to make it to the tower, but they always do."

"As SKA-PAK air is used up, valuable lessons are learned," continued Robinson. "In particular, panic that can arise if supplied air lines fail and workers must depend on emergency air systems is eased. I believe this comfort level is imperative for men and women working under high-risk conditions. It enables them to make good safety and health decisions. On four occasions within the last few years, when workers in the field lost primary supplied air, they responded appropriately by turning on their emergency air supply, exiting their workplace environment calmly and safely, as practiced, without contamination or intake."

Next year, HAMMER respiratory training will be focused on ensuring that respiratory equipment is kept in good working order. Training will stress the importance of preventive practices — conducting inspections to check equipment to ensure it is current and conducting self-inspections prior to equipment use, for example. Among other things, simple pre-use examinations can eliminate potential problems by detecting malfunctioning pressure gauges and alarms or revealing face pieces that don't quite seal properly. ♦



## 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.

### Great article

Thanks for Michele Gerber's great article in the Dec. 3 *Reach* ("December anniversaries commemorate key dates in Hanford's history"). Well done and well said.

*Andy Hesser*  
*Pacific Northwest*  
*National Laboratory*

### Gerber fan

Thank you for Michele Gerber's great article in the *Reach*. The comparisons between Dec. 6 and 7, 1941, and Sept. 10 and 11 of this year are thought-provoking.

Michele has missed her calling as a history teacher. She seems to be able to cover everything from the "big war" to spent nuclear fuel operations. I enjoy her work. Thank You!

*Bob Cummings*  
*Fluor Hanford*



## CALENDAR

### AQP meeting focuses on total quality management

The Jan. 8 meeting of the local chapter of the Association for Quality and Participation will feature David Lemak, associate professor of management at Washington State University Tri-Cities, on the subject of "Total Quality Management: Fads, Facts and Finances." Lemak has researched total quality management, organizational power, performance

measures in organizations and multinational corporate structures and strategies. He will share some of his insights on:

- The quality management movement in both practitioner and academic literature
- Why TQM means so many different things to so many different people
- Empirical evidence that suggests firms adopting TQM perform better financially than those that do not.

The meeting will be held at the Shilo Inn in Richland, with networking and social time starting at 5 p.m., buffet dinner at 6 and the presentation at 7. Cost is \$16 for AQP and American Society for Quality members, \$19 for non-members and \$5 for the presentation only. Reservations must be received by Jan. 3. Call 547-6548 or register through the chapter's Web site at <http://www.3-cities.com/~gates/AQPQuest.htm>

### HAMMER to hold blood drive Jan. 10

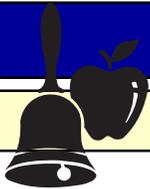
The Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, Jan. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at HAMMER's Al Alm Building (formerly the Training Support Building) vehicle bay. Walk-ins are welcome, but it's highly recommended that you make an appointment by calling Libby Sickler at 376-7117.

### LIGO tour set for Jan. 12

A group from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers will be touring the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) on Saturday, Jan. 12. The tour will begin at 1:30 p.m. and will last about two and a half hours. For more information contact Jeff Doeler at 373-6024 or at [Jeffery\\_N\\_Doeler@rl.gov](mailto:Jeffery_N_Doeler@rl.gov). ♦

*Features continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## CLASSES

### Computer Aided Drafting courses offered at CBC:

The following Computer Aided Drafting courses will be offered at Columbia Basin College beginning Jan. 2 and ending March 21:

- **AutoCAD I** – Tuesdays
- **AutoCAD I** – Fridays
- **AutoCAD II** – Thursdays
- **Advanced 3-D** – Mondays
- **Advanced CAD** – Wednesdays.

All courses meet one evening a week from 6 to 10 p.m., except for a second AutoCAD I course, which will be offered Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon. Tuition is approximately \$205 per three-credit course.

AutoCAD I and AutoCAD II are prerequisites for the other courses. It is possible to test out of AutoCAD I. A CAD Certificate is available for students fulfilling all course requirements. For more information or assistance in enrolling, contact Steve Jette at [sjette@cbc2.org](mailto:sjette@cbc2.org) or at 547-0511, ext. 2274.

### Electrical journeyman's course available

The "National Electrical Code Update for 2002" initial schedule dates are Jan. 21 and 25, Feb. 12 and 19, and March 14. This course is for electricians, electrical supervisors and others who maintain a Washington state electrical journeyman's license. The course content satisfies the statutory requirement for eight hours of continuing education. The class also supports individuals who need to keep current on requirements of the National Electrical Code. The course costs \$250 per student and will be held at the HAMMER training center. To register for any of these dates, contact Libby Sickler at 376-7117. ♦



## VANPOOLS

Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be resubmitted to run in subsequent issues of the *Hanford Reach*. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, 10 days prior to publication.

Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges. Vanpool and carpool drivers are responsible for ensuring riders are badged. If a passenger forgets his or her badge, Patrol must be informed at the barricades. For more

information, look on the Hanford Web in the Projects and Activities section, Safeguards and Security at <http://www.rl.gov:1050/sas/pg1v3htm>.

### PASCO

New vanpool forming, 8x9, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., picks up in Pasco and Richland, drops off in 100K. Will start in mid-December. Contact **Ben Franklin Transit Vanpool** or **Bob** at 547-6034. 12/10

### RICHLAND

Riders and backup drivers needed for 8x9s shift, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Seek comfort with a maximum of nine to 10 riders and a driver. Van starts at Park 'n Ride on Van Giesen. Stops at 222-S, WSCF and 2704-HV and others along the way. Contact **Patti Boothe** at 373-5637 or **Steve Boothe** at 376-6812. 12/17

Vanpool No. 115, 8x9, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., has an opening for one rider. Picks up north of Van Giesen and at 2440 Stevens. Drops off at 2750-E and 2704-HV and some points in between. Contact **Bruce Johns** at 373-3429. 12/17

Van No. 121 to 200E is seeking riders. We leave the Albertson's at Leslie and Gage at 6 a.m. We also pick up and depart from the bus lot at 6:15 a.m. The first stop in 200E is 2750-E. Contact **Mike** at 372-0150 for more information. 12/10

8x9 vanpool, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Richland proper to 200E, has openings. Contact **Kip** at 373-7399, **Dave** at 372-3304 or **Mandrake** at 372-0713. 12/10

### SUNNYSIDE

Vanpool driver wanted. Van begins in Sunnyside, stops at 275-W/Shop in 200W and at 2750-E in 200E. Contact **Lola Webb** at 373-1241. 12/3

### WEST RICHLAND

Vanpool forming with origin in West Richland and destination in K Area, 8x9s, 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Interested? Call **Larry Bast** at 373-5195 (work) or at 588-2911 (evenings). 12/17 ♦

*Features continued on next page.*

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR TICKET REQUESTS TO THE APPROPRIATE LISTED TICKET SELLER** — It saves the ticket sellers' time and your tickets will be sent to you the same day.

**HRA** — Questions about the Hanford Recreation Association should be directed to Denise Prior at 376-2258.

**HERO POLICY FOR NSF CHECKS** — Associated non-sufficient fund bank fees will be passed on to check issuers. HERO will not absorb the cost.

**YAKIMA AREA REPRESENTATIVE** — Area representative is needed for Yakima. If you are interested, if your company is part of the Fluor Project Hanford team and if you have your manager's approval, e-mail Phyllis Roha.

**DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS** — Make excellent stocking stuffers! Limit now 10 per purchase. Carmike tickets are \$4.50 each with restrictions applying only to Sony DDS movies. Regal tickets are \$5 each and applicable restrictions are identified in the *Tri-City Herald* with a star. Yakima Mercy tickets are \$5 each with no restrictions. For Regal or Carmike tickets, send checks made payable to "HERO" to Linda Meigs (H3-12), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51) or Patti Boothe (T6-04). For Yakima Mercy tickets, send checks to Flu Garza (T4-01) or Nancy Zeuge (X3-74).

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS** — Are now available for \$30. Great savings with up to 50 percent off and buy-one-get-one-free offers. These books are good for the Inland Northwest area, including Spokane, Coeur d' Alene, Sandpoint, Tri-Cities and Moscow-Pullman. Send your check payable to HERO to Marvene McChesney (T4-61). There is a limited supply of books and sales will end Dec. 31.

**TRI-CITY AMERICANS HOCKEY** — Tri-City Americans hockey vouchers are now available! This voucher is redeemable for tickets to any home game during the regulation season. Prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for youth (13 to 17 years), and \$6 for children (4 to 12 years). Children 3 and under are free. Vouchers are good through March 2002. Contact Linda Meigs (H3-12) for tickets and more information.

**SKI BLUEWOOD** — Save \$3 on lift tickets. Adult tickets are \$26, student tickets are \$22 (must present a valid A.S.B. card when exchanging the certificate for a lift ticket), child and senior tickets are \$19 (children are in

first through eighth grades and seniors are 65 years and older). Preschoolers receive free lift tickets at Bluewood. Lift certificates are to be redeemed at the information desk or ticket window on the mountain for a lift ticket on the day they are to be used. Certificates are not redeemable for currency and are non-refundable. These lift certificates are not valid for the end-of-season "bash." For more information, contact Tricia Poland (T5-04).

**PATRICK McMANUS COMEDY** — Jan. 24 and 25, 7:30 p.m., Chief Joseph Middle School, starring Tim Behrens. "Scrambled McManus" is a one-man stage show based on the characters and places that Patrick McManus created during his 30 years of writing humorous fiction. It's a bumper crop of tales harvested from the first three McManus Comedies: "A Fine and Pleasant Misery," "McManus in Love" and "Potts' Luck." Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$8 for children. Make checks payable to HERO and mail to Tricia Poland (T5-04). The ideal Christmas present.

**STARS ON ICE** — Featuring Kurt Browning, Katarina Witt, Tara Lipinski, Kristi Yamaguchi and Ilia Kulik. Come and join the stars on Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Tri-Cities Coliseum. Tickets are \$35 (save \$5) and can be purchased from Linda Meigs (H3-12). Tickets are limited, so buy yours today!

**VACATION CELEBRATION** — Tri-Cities Coliseum presents the first-ever Vacation Celebration. Come and join the fun on Friday, Dec. 28 and Saturday, Dec. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be inflatable games, storytelling, arts and crafts and more. Admission is \$3; children 2 and under are free. Send an e-mail message to Linda Meigs to receive a \$1-off admission coupon redeemable at the door. No limit on number of coupons.

**HERO SPONSORS FLUOR PROJECT HANFORD CHRISTMAS PARTY** — Dec. 22, at the Richland Tower Inn. Cost is \$20 pp. A buffet dinner, dancing and door prizes are featured. We are limited to 150 tickets, so buy early. Subcontractors are now invited to attend. Ticket sellers are Linda Meigs (2425), Emilia Salinas (2704-HV), Nancy Zeuge (100K), Sheila Kirk (MO-720-West) and Cheri McGee (400/600). Nancie Simon and Denise Prior are co-chairs.

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

