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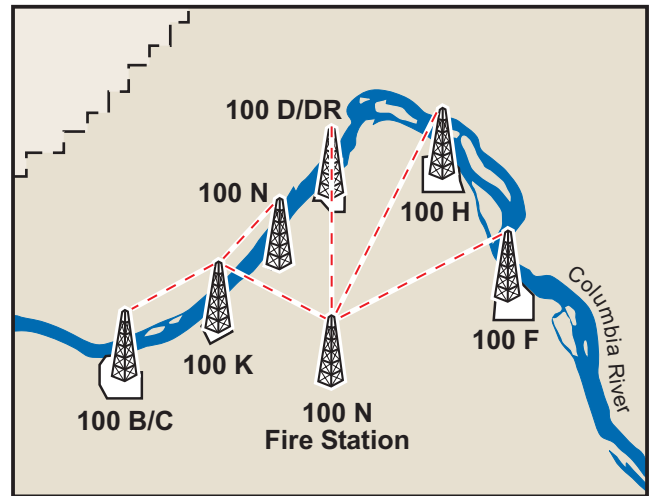
New staff

Environmental tips

Site communication goes wireless

The Washington Closure Hanford Information Technology team, with assistance from Facility Services and Lockheed Martin Information Services, has successfully installed six wireless towers to provide wireless network services to remote sites throughout the River Corridor.

“The wireless configuration will provide service to isolated areas without any underground cable installation. When the project is finished, rather than dig up all the cable, we just relocate the tower,” said Tim Kummer, technical lead. “This system is a great step



With the help of Lockheed Martin Information Services, Washington Closure Hanford Information Technology and Facility Services teams have installed six wireless towers throughout the river corridor.



Wireless tower in place at the 100 N Area. The towers provide network services to remote sites.

forward in assisting remediation and demolition.”

The wireless infrastructure is replacing the existing fiber optic cable system that was frequently interrupted by site cleanup activities. The wireless system will provide access to all of the traditional network services including e-mail, Washington Closure intranet and file sharing.

According to Tim, the system will also provide reductions in cost and installation time. When the towers can be installed at a site, installation costs about \$5,000 less than a fiber cable installation and service from the towers can be established quickly and provided continuously, reducing the time required to setup new trailers, Tim said.

Planning of the project began last May. Subcontractor Lockheed Martin was assigned responsibilities for the design and installation of the 40-foot towers, which are currently stationed at the 100 DR, K, H, N, and B/C sites. The towers were procured and installed in August,

Fermi Health Fair gives healthy rewards

After braving cholesterol, body fat and blood pressure testing at the Fermi Health Fair Feb. 14, one participant from each quadrant was randomly selected to receive a wellness bag containing a blood pressure monitor, weekly pill organizer, exercise band, water bottle and a book of heart healthy recipes. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Mark Zieske 1A
Maria Yancy 1B
Faith Powers 1C
Karen Peavey 1D
Barry Vedder 2A
Larry Hulstrom 2B
Matt Perrott 2C
Tim Quinn 2D

March Madness

Don't forget to mark your calendars with all of March's exciting events!

- *Go green* – St. Patrick's Day is Mar. 17.
- *Give a little* - March is American Red Cross Month to raise awareness about the value of donating blood, money and volunteer support to the American Red Cross.
- *Happy holidays* – March has also been listed as Peanut, Poetry and even Frozen Food month, and Mar. 14 (3-14) is National Pi day!

Walk with a reason

Lace up your tennis shoes and join the MS Lifelines Walk April 14 at the Columbia Park Trail in Kennewick. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 9:30 a.m.

The event will raise donations and awareness to fight multiple sclerosis (MS), a chronic disease of the central nervous system affecting the brain and spinal cord. One new case of multiple

tested in December and activated in January. Now the team is working at project sites to extend service and to further replace existing in-ground systems.

Donation supports outdoor adventure club

Washington Closure Hanford donated \$500 to the Venture Crew 190 to support its fund raising event Jan. 27 that helped the outdoor youth team raise over \$5,000 and featured world renowned mountaineer Ang Dorjee Sherpa.

"The Crew is grateful for Washington Closure's generosity. It went a long way in helping us meet our fundraising goal for the event," said Stuart Thornton, Crew member and Project Engineering manager.

Stuart said the funds will help the Crew purchase new equipment including whitewater canoes and materials to construct a storage building to house the Crew's gear.

Over 500 people attended the event, titled "Conquering the Mountain – A Cultural Perspective." The event showcased the outdoor youth program and featured a rappel activity, Crew demonstrations and a presentation by Ang Dorjee, now inducted as a lifetime Crew member who has successfully climbed to the summit of Mount Everest 11 times.

Venture Crew 190 was chartered by the Boy Scouts of America in 1990 and offers opportunities for young adults age 14-20 to develop environmental awareness, leadership skills, self reliance and physical fitness through "high adventure" activities such as winter backcountry camping and glacier mountaineering.

"It's great to see these kids become energetic, fit young adults with strong leadership and management skills. Their confidence levels soar after spending days and nights in the wilderness at sub-zero (F) temperatures learning essential survival skills," Stuart said.

Stuart joined the Crew in September 2006 to join his son Matt, who has been a member since the Thorntons arrived in the Tri-Cities from the UK in 2005.

To find out more about the Venture Crew 190, visit the team's website at www.geocities.com/venturecrew190 or contact Stuart at 375-9440 or the Crew Advisor Doug Gross at 948-1512.



Engineering Manager Stuart Thornton, left, has his picture taken with mountaineer Anj Dorjee Sherpa and son Matt Thornton during the Venture Crew 190 fund raising event Jan. 27.

sclerosis is diagnosed every hour. MS usually strikes adults in the prime of life – between the ages of 20 and 50.



Volunteers, walkers, teams and captains can sign up online by visiting the MS Lifelines website, http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=1330&pg=entry. For more information, contact Lynette Bennett at 531-5974.

Can't make the MS walk or are you just looking for more toe-tapping, life-saving fun? Join the March of Dimes WalkAmerica six-mile challenge April 28 to raise donations and support to help prevent premature birth and other threats to babies' health. The walk starts at 9 a.m. near the Lampson Pits in Pasco.

According to the March of Dimes, premature birth is the number one cause of newborn deaths. Money raised through WalkAmerica supports the research and prevention of premature birth and provides support for affected families.

Employees are invited to join the Washington Closure Hanford team by visiting <http://www.walkamerica.org> or contacting Judi Hames at 372-9234 for more information.

The hunt is on

All River Corridor Closure Project employees and their children or grandchildren ages 2-7 are invited to the River Corridor Employees' Association Easter Egg Hunt Mar. 31 on the Fermi Building lawn at 10:30 a.m. Come and enjoy an egg hunt, great prizes and even a surprise visit from the Bunny itself! Participants are encouraged to bring deep, egg-hunt efficient baskets as well as cameras for photos with the Bunny starting at 10 a.m. To register, call 372-9841 no later than Mar. 26. For more information, contact Faith Powers at 375-4671.

Waste Operations awards design subcontract

The Waste Operations Project awarded a Technical Services Subcontract Jan. 9 to Weaver Boos Consultants to design cells 7-10 of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF).

Weaver Boos is a small business based in Chicago that provides environmental management services. The subcontractor has already held a kick-off meeting with the Waste Operations team, led by Jeff James, and they are now holding weekly status meetings. The design phase is scheduled to be finished by the end of April, and Weaver Boos will remain on board with the project until construction of the cells is complete.

The subcontractor is responsible for designing cells to expand ERDF, an engineered landfill built to receive and isolate low-level radioactive, hazardous and mixed waste. ERDF comprises six cells and was designed to be expanded as needed. Each cell is 70 feet deep, 500 feet long and 500 feet wide. Each pair of cells has a disposal capacity of about 2.8 million tons. The existing cells were constructed prior to the River Corridor Closure contract. Weaver Boos' design plans will be based on previous cells' design, with the addition of a few revisions.

According to Subcontract Technical Representative Bill Borlaug, the new cells will combine the traditional 2-sump leachate system into a single system and the cells will have the option to use geosynthetic materials for secondary leak detection as opposed to the existing cells' gravel layer. The changes will help simplify construction, Bill said.

The Waste Operations team plans to issue a request for proposals for cell construction and construction quality assurance this spring.

Safety team completes PEARLS campaign

The Washington Closure Hanford Safety team finished the last stint of the Integrated Environment, Safety and Health Management System (ISMS) PEARLS of Knowledge Awareness Campaign to prepare the River Corridor Closure workforce for Phase 2 of the integrated safety management plan scheduled to occur around June.

PEARLS stands for the essential components of the ISMS program: People, Environment, Awareness, Responsibility, Leadership and Safety. The most recent and last phase, S, featured safety pearls of knowledge to remember on and off the job.

ISMS coordinator Judi Hames said the team will have a mega puzzle due in May that ties all six ISMS campaigns together. Personnel who participate in all six campaigns and the mega puzzle will receive a special prize.

Employees can find out more about the ISMS campaign online at the WCH internal website http://www.wch-rcc.com/isms/isms_pearls.htm



Dizzying daffodil sales

River Corridor Closure team members raised over \$2,000 by purchasing daffodil bouquets and BOYDS bears as part of the recent American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days fundraiser. The team also donated 15 "Bears of Hope" and 23 "Gifts of Hope" bouquets to local area cancer patients. Fresh-cut bouquets and bears were delivered March 13.

Donate your DVDs

The Columbia River Young Marines (www.crym.org) is collecting DVDs and portable players for distribution to troops in the Persian Gulf areas. The effort is part of Operation DVD (www.operationdvd.us), an AmVets-sponsored (<http://www.amvets.org>) initiative. Because of hazards such as snipers, mines, bombs and other terrorist activities, soldiers in these areas can't go outside for recreation. The DVDs and players collected will be used to establish DVD libraries that soldiers can check out and watch during their downtime. If you would like to donate a DVD or portable player, or if you would like a collection box for your work area, contact Jim Blunt at 375-9422.

Did you know?

You can access the RCC Project News from the Washington Closure Hanford external website at <http://www.washingtonclosure.com>



Comments or questions?

Please call Maren Disney at 539-4079

Or you may Email:

mvd Disney@wch-rcc.com

A glimpse at cleanup results

The River Corridor Closure Project is making a difference at Hanford.

Facilities Demolished



75 facilities demolished
(68 actual loadout)

42 more than planned

Waste Sites Cleaned Up



55 waste sites cleaned up

18 more than planned

Tons of Waste Disposed



746,000 tons disposed

123,000 more than planned

As of February 2007