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River Corridor Closure Project Vision

Environmental risks are removed and the River Corridor is restored to enable beneficial use.

River Corridor Closure Project Mission

Complete the safe, compliant and efficient cleanup of the River Corridor.

New nests installed near ERDF

Ten burrowing owl nest boxes were installed in a 62-acre area along the Army Loop Road south of ERDF. Natural Resource Specialists Ken Gano and April Johnson designed the nests as part of a mitigation action plan to compensate for native plants and habitat that were disturbed by the expansion of ERDF to construct cells 5 and 6.

"These nests were an easy way to help out the owl community while we tried to rebuild their habitat," Ken said.

The subcontractor planted sagebrush and installed the owl nests in an area equal in size to the piece of land impacted by ERDF overburden. April said they hope the nests will help sustain the vulnerable burrowing owl population,



This is one of ten burrowing owl nest boxes recently installed near ERDF to support the local burrowing owl population. The nest is built from a buried tub and pipe tunnel to simulate a badger den, the chosen home of the burrowing owl.



Owls perched at an existing site near Hammer .

which has been in statewide decline and listed as a species of concern by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The nest boxes were constructed by burying a 15-gallon tub turned upside down and connecting a length of flexible 4-inch pipe that acts as the tunnel to the surface. The nests simulate a badger den, which is the usual home chosen by burrowing owls. The nests, which took roughly a day and a half to install, are similar to nests that have been highly successful at other sites, Ken said.

The team found active nest sites in the surrounding area, meaning the nests have been built in the owl's natural territory. Ken said the team will monitor the site through the spring and summer to see if the owls and their offspring use the new nests.

Check your schedule

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Every step you take will count during the MS Lifelines Walk April 14 and the WalkAmerica marathon on April 28.
- Celebrate the ground beneath your feet on Earth Day, April 22. Visit <http://www.earthdaymc.org> to find out about local environment-friendly community events.
- Welcome the sunny spring skies at the Kite Festival at Leslie Groves Park on April 22, hosted by the Ben Franklin Kite Society and Richland Parks and Recreation.
- Join the cycling excitement on April 28 at the Family Adventure Bike Race by signing up at the Richland Community Center by April 25.
- Support a tree near you on Arbor Day, April 27. Visit <http://www.arborday.org> to find out more about the holiday and how you can help.

Red Cross recognizes real heroes

Randy Havenor, Emergency Management administrator, was recognized at the 5th Annual Real Heroes Breakfast Mar. 1, for his acts of kindness in supporting a Tri-Cities family. Randy, a volunteer Emergency Services chaplain, comforted the Beaver family after they lost their 5-year-old son Joey in a house fire February 2006. Randy was nominated by Joey's grandmother Carol Boe for the Benton-Franklin American Red Cross Real Heroes program that recognizes community members who have demonstrated extraordinary service in helping others.

Make Earth Day every day

Environmental safety is an ongoing concern at the River Corridor Closure (RCC) Project and you can help the project

RCC team has fund-raising fun

This March, River Corridor Closure (RCC) Project employees had a blast while benefiting local organizations.

RCC Project team members enjoyed springtime festivities at the annual Spring Fling Mar. 8 while raising \$466 in donations for the Union Gospel Mission in Pasco. The event was free, but team members could purchase \$1 tickets to enter a drawing for an iPod, which was awarded to Charles Page at the end of the night. All proceeds, as well as new and gently used clothing and appliances, were donated to the mission.

Team members also helped Junior Achievement raise more than \$4,200 at the All-Star Bowl 2007, toward the goal of \$200,000. Washington Closure Hanford had four teams participate. Cynthia Milton's and Yvette Johnson's team was voted best dressed for their bowling shift and they were runners-up for best costume for the entire event. Bowling on teams were Michael Inglima, Faith Powers, Don Powers, Carrie Locke, Kathy Beecher, Cynthia Milton, Yvette Johnson, Lynn Goulet, Connie McCallum, Sharon Baasch, Karen Peavey, Tracy Heidelberg, Traci Pomrankey, Joan Kessner, Jeanette Duncan, Kathy Wendt, Josie Meireis, Donna Yasek, Sheri Harshberger and Amoret Bunn. Event volunteers included Joan Kessner, Rich Weiss and Cynthia Milton.



Cynthia Milton's and Yvette Johnson's team members didn't just bowl competitively; they also dressed competitively and were voted best dressed for their shift and runner-up for best costume of the Junior Achievement All-Star Bowl 2007

This month, team members are planning to step up against the likes of multiple sclerosis and premature birth by participating in fund-raising efforts for the MS Lifelines Walk April 14, and the March of Dimes WalkAmerica event April 28. To join the Lifelines walk, visit <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/WAS> or contact Lynette Bennett at 531-5974. To sign up for WalkAmerica or support Washington Closure March of Dimes fund-raising efforts, visit <http://www.walkamerica.com> or contact Judi Hames at 372-9234 for more information.

RCC Project safety aims for heroic heights

Despite a setback in January, River Corridor Closure (RCC) Project team members are still aiming for superstar status with the Superheroes of Safety campaign running through May 1.

celebrate Earth Day on April 22 by following some of these energy-saving, environment-friendly tips!

In your office

- Recycle – Most facilities include recycling bins for paper and aluminum cans.
- Carpool – It's a long drive to the site. Why do it alone?
- Use energy efficient office products. Visit <http://www.energystar.gov> for more information.

In your home

- Reduce consumption, reuse items and recycle products.
- Recycle your grass clippings, mulching and composting.
- Safely dispose of household wastes (cleaning supplies, batteries, paints, etc.).

In your community

- Walk when the weather and distance permit.
- Organize a gardening or tree planting project in your area.
- Visit the Benton County Waste Management website at <http://www.co.benton.wa.us/solidwaste/recycle> to find out about local waste management and recycling programs.

Visit the EPA Earth Day website at <http://www.epa.gov/earthday> for more information about environment protection and what you can do to help.

Washington Closure to participate in Hanford Safety Expo

Washington Closure Hanford will have a booth at the 13th Annual Hanford Site Health and Safety Exposition May 22-23 at the TRAC in Pasco. The event invites Hanford Site projects and the community to showcase their health and safety programs and promote safety for the workplace, home and community. Washington Closure plans to have a fun and informative booth that identifies the health and safety measures it takes while cleaning up the River Corridor.

RCC Project Super Safety Campaign

SuperHeroes of Safety

Who is your hero? Employees can view superhero profiles online at http://www.wch-rcc.com/sh/safety_campaign/SuperHero/SuperProfile_01.htm.

"The purpose of the campaign is to promote safety awareness in a fun and interesting way. People seem to have enjoyed watching their organization's superhero progress as our team safety progresses," said Judi Hames, ISMS/Lessons Learned coordinator. Superheroes are approved caricatures of project managers who are featured in weekly reports that showcase RCC Project safety achievements.

The RCC team closed out 2006 with no recordable injuries and over 2.4 million safe hours worked. The success continued into 2007 until an incident in January set the safe-hour clock back to zero and put one lost-time injury on record.

Ken Jenkins, Safety and Health manager, commented on the recent lost-time injury. "The recent incident was unfortunate, but it was also a reminder that we have to remain active about safety. Our goal is always for zero accidents and now we know how big of a difference just one accident can make," Ken said. "One accident in over 2.5 million hours is still a significant accomplishment and I'm hopeful we'll surpass that record."

All employees are invited to track RCC safety successes and find out about upcoming safety events by visiting the Safety & Health website at the WCH internal website http://wch.erc.rl.gov/sh/safety_info.htm.

The RCC team has had no recordable injuries since Jan. 23 and has worked about 300,000 hours since the last lost-time injury. Keep up the good work!



River Corridor Closure families and their children and grandchildren enjoy a visit from the Easter Bunny at the River Corridor Employees' Association Easter Egg Hunt March 31. The free event featured a photo session with the Easter Bunny, an egg hunt and fun age-appropriate prizes or candy in every egg.

More information about the event will be available soon.

RCEA elects new board members

The River Corridor Employees' Association (RCEA) has elected new officers to serve through Dec. 31:

- Todd Nelson**, president
- Tracy Heidelberg**, vice president of administration
- Lynette Bennett**, vice president of activities
- Lori Huntley**, treasurer

The directors are **Bill Gowey**, **Tommy Houck**, **Carrie Locke**, **Margo Qualheim**, **Tom Shoemaker** and **Marie Williams**.

The RCEA is a non-profit organization managed for the employees, by the employees of the River Corridor Closure (RCC) Project. The RCEA organizes recreational and social activities that are open to all employees on the RCC Project. The team most recently organized the Spring Fling and Easter Egg Hunt in March and last year's events included golf tournaments, picnics and a trip to the tree-lighting ceremony in Leavenworth. The RCEA also offers discounted tickets for local movie theaters and sports events. Employees interested in joining RCEA activities or organizing events can visit the RCEA website at <http://www.wch-rcc.com/empassoc> or contact Todd at 372-9097.

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

Library offers Hanford reference materials

The 2007 National Electrical Safety Code and The Authoritative Dictionary of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standards Terms, 7th ed., are now available online through IEEE Xplore on the Hanford Technical Library (HTL) website. The dictionary contains almost 35,000 terms and over 800 IEEE Standards abstracts. Other IEEE Xplore upgrades include the option to search standards by active, draft, and archived status, email alerts to keep you up-to-date on standards revisions, and more.

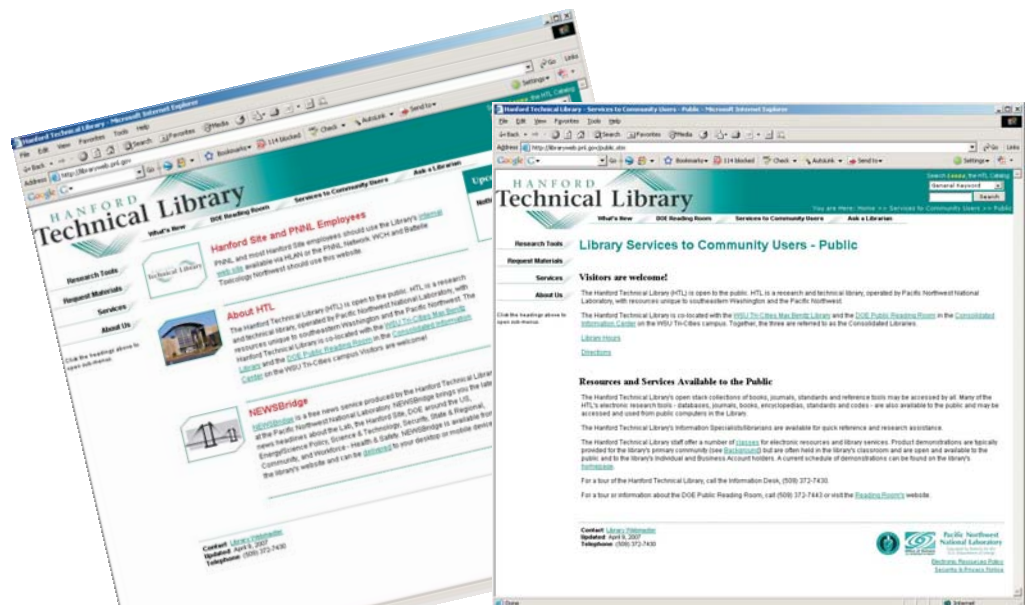
The HTL, located at <http://libraryweb.pnl.gov>, also has an extensive collection of reading on decontamination and decommissioning as well as chemistry, physics and engineering. The library has access to over 9,000 journals and magazines, including titles like *RadWaste Solutions* and *Waste Management* that focus specifically on topics relevant to Hanford clean-up. The library also has over 800,000 print and microfiche reports, primarily from DOE, its contractors and foreign nuclear agencies. Visitors can also find conference materials including the Tucson *Waste Management Symposium*, the Materials Research Society's *Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management* and the ASME *International Conference on Environmental Remediation & Radioactive Waste*.

The library also actively acquires books in the waste management field. Recently received titles include *Understanding & Managing Ageing of Material in Spent Fuel Storage Facilities*, *Going the Distance: The Safe Transport of Spent Nuclear Fuel & High-Level Radioactive Waste in the U.S.* and *Approaches to Risk Management in Remediation of Radioactively Contaminated Sites*.

HTL specialists are available to assist visitors and teach classes on a variety of topics such as Advanced Internet Searching, Technical Report Literature and Specs and Standards.

The library is located at the Consolidated Information Center on the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus. The library is open Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 9 p.m., Fridays until 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and HTL staff is available Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information, contact the Hanford Technical Library Information Desk at 372-7430, by email at pnl.techlib@pnl.gov, or visit the website at <http://libraryweb.pnl.gov>.



The Hanford Technical Library allows users online access to a great deal of useful information