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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.*

## Employees join the March that makes a difference

Several Washington Closure Hanford employees and their family members participated in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2007 along Columbia Park's riverside trail in Kennewick on April 28. Employees raised over \$3,500 for the March of Dimes through sales of baked goods, sausages and candy.

The 6.5-mile walk helps raise awareness about premature birth and birth defects. Washington Closure employees spotted on the walk include Diana DeJong, Mary Porter, Cynthia Milton, Bill Wahler, Mark Allen, Marsha Fish, Judi Hames and Robert Brounstein.

This year's fund-raisers helped March of Dimes continue in its mission to supply mothers, families and children with support. Nancy Brower raised \$1,000 for the March of Dimes this year. Because of her efforts, a one-year supply of prenatal vitamins will be donated to five local women in need. Annette Howell, Heather Murchison and Judi Hames all raised over \$500, which will purchase three months worth of diapers that will be donated to local families in need. Other major WalkAmerica 2007 fund-raisers on the Washington Closure team included Linda Avalos, Mary Brown, Debbie Poteet, Betty Andresen, Cynthia Milton, Brittani Fish (daughter of Marsha Fish), and Angie Moore.



*From left, Brianna Devoir and mother Diana DeJong, Robert Brounstein, Marsha Fish, and Mary Porter prepare for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2007 marathon April 28. Employees raised over \$3,000 to support the event in its mission to prevent premature birth.*

## Will a cardboard boat sink or float?

Sink or win, the second annual Tri-Cities Crime Stoppers Cardboard Boat Race will be fun for all. The event is part of the July 4<sup>th</sup> Windermere River of Fire Festival at Columbia Park sponsored by Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"The Crime Stoppers Cardboard Boat Race is designed to be a family friendly event, and while there are numerous awards for competing, it's about having a good time in building and racing your boat," said Mike Blatman, Tri-Cities Crime Stoppers coordinator. Mike added that more than 200 people attended last year's event.

The basic rules are simple: You build the boat and race it in one of five classifications. All boats must be built entirely out of corrugated cardboard, which can be as thick as builders want. Cardboard carpet tubes may be used, but pre-treated or wax coated cardboard may not be used.

Awards will be presented in several categories, such as "best decorated boat," "most whimsical," and "Titanic," which recognizes the best sinking.

"We have all the information you need to take part in this event, including registration, construction and team rules and waivers online at [www.tricityscimestoppers.org](http://www.tricityscimestoppers.org)," Mike said. Boat sponsors also are being accepted to help youth and school groups participate in the event.

Since its inception in 1985, Tri-Cities Crime Stoppers, which is funded wholly by donation, has helped law enforcement arrest more than 1,400 fugitives, cleared nearly 4,500 crimes, recovered more than \$1 million in narcotics and stolen property and paid more than \$52,000 in rewards.

# Essential ergonomics in the workplace

If the long winter left you with a few extra aches and pains, it might not be just the weather – it might also be your office. An ergonomic evaluation can help you find out how your office setup could be leading to unnecessary strain.

Industrial Hygienist Ilene Strong performs ergonomic evaluations on RCC Project employees to assess how posture and workplace arrangements might be leading to certain aches, pains or strains. "I look at each situation from all aspects -- its physiology, kinesiology, biology and even psychology," Ilene said. "If something a person does seems difficult to do or doesn't appear to be a natural movement, I suggest a way to change it that might be easier."

Ilene has helped a number of RCC Project employees with a variety of ergonomic problems. Mary Brown, administrative assistant with the D4 Project in the 100 Area, is one of them.

At five feet, one inch, Mary was overwhelmed by her office furniture. Her desk was too high, her chair was too big and long hours in the office were sending her to the chiropractor twice a week.

Ilene assessed Mary's oversized surroundings and helped her find a desk and chair that fit her height and reach. Now, rather than straining to look up at the monitor, Mary looks comfortably forward to afternoons working in her yard instead of visiting her chiropractor. "Thanks to Ilene's help, I only go to the chiropractor every few months," Mary said.

Ilene also helped Steve Huddleston, a radiation control technician training lead with Eberline Services Hanford. After breaking 6-8 bones in his right hand twice, Steve suffered constant wrist strain. Ilene suggested Steve change his computer mouse to one with buttons that stand upright on the desk instead of flat. "It's like reaching out for a handshake. It keeps your hand position neutral," Steve said. Steve added that he was impressed with Ilene's quick diagnosis and the drastic difference her suggested changes made.

Steve Guzek is another RCC Project team member Ilene has helped. Steve, a safety representative on the D4 Project in the 100 Area, suffered eye strain during work. However, his eyes weren't the problem; it was the hours he spent peering at the computer monitor each day. Ilene assessed Steve's discomfort and recommended a larger computer monitor and office postures. "Now my eyes aren't as fatigued and I have not had a headache after long periods of computer work," Steve said.

Employees that would like to schedule an evaluation with Ilene should contact their supervisor.



*Upright sitting posture. The user's torso and neck are approximately vertical and in-line, the thighs are approximately horizontal, and the lower legs are vertical.*

## It's tee time with the RCEA

The River Corridor Employees' Association Spring Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 2 at the Canyon Lakes Golf Course in Kennewick. The team signup lists are full, but employees are welcome to signup on the waitlist in case current players cannot make the game. The registration fee is \$65 per person and includes green fees, golf cart, range balls, steak dinner and prizes. Sign up by today by contacting Tommy Houck at 375-4672 or visiting [www.wch-rcc.com/empassoc/special.htm](http://www.wch-rcc.com/empassoc/special.htm) where you'll find more information about the event.

## Mark these days in May

The month of May is a month packed with fun in the Tri-Cities. Here are a few upcoming events:

- May 28 – Memorial Day honors men and women who have died in military service.
- May 17-June 21 – Don't dine in when you can go out and enjoy the Live at 5 concerts at the John Dam Plaza every Thursday night from 5-9 p.m. Shows include live music, food vendors and a beer and wine garden.
- May 30-June 9<sup>th</sup> – Witness what a 'can do' attitude can accomplish by touring the CANstruction Tri-cities display at the Columbia Center Mall in Kennewick. Displays are created out of canned goods that will later be donated to the Second Harvest food bank.

## New design for visitor badges

Beginning May 1, visitor, temporary and building specific visitor badges issued at Hanford will be changed to improve the Site's safety and security.

The paper visitor and temporary badges will be slightly larger than before to accommodate bolder print and a color photograph of the visitor. For the Fermi Building, the reusable plastic building specific visitor badges will be changed to a paper badge issued to a specific person for a specific place and time. (This badge will NOT carry a photograph). The reusable plastic, Fermi Building specific permanent badges are still actively in use and will not change.

Web-cameras and printers have been installed at the Fermi front lobby where badges are issued. For certain situations such as public tours or large groups of visitors under controlled escort, Hanford Site security procedures will allow visitor badges without photos.

Please remember that security is everyone's responsibility. If you see someone without a badge or with an invalid badge, contact Hanford Patrol or Washington Closure Hanford Security.

If you have questions about the badges, contact Washington Closure Security at 372-9439 or the front desk lobby at 375-4640.

## Red Cross offers CPR/first aid training

Emergencies can happen anywhere at any time, so Washington Closure Hanford invited the Benton Franklin American Red Cross to hold a CPR and first aid training session May 4 for Washington Closure employees and their families. The session also included presentations on how to use the automatic external defibrillators, which are located at many public facilities as well as throughout the Hanford site.

The 3-hour training session was held at the Benton Franklin American Red Cross in Kennewick, where team members were trained in basic emergency response skills and received certificates on completion of the course. They also participated in fun safety activities for prizes and enjoyed a morning of coffee, juice and Spudnuts. The event was not free, but proceeds from the training are returned to the community through Red Cross services.



## Correction

There was an inaccuracy in the "RCC Project safety aims for heroic heights" story featured in the April 11 issue. The River Corridor Closure Project team worked over 400,000 hours from Jan. 23-April 11 without a lost-time injury but the team also endured several recordable injuries this year. All of the RCC project injuries are listed online at: [http://wch.erc.rl.gov/sh/Injuries/FY06\\_Injuries.htm](http://wch.erc.rl.gov/sh/Injuries/FY06_Injuries.htm). Injury information is posted online as soon as possible. OSHA recordable injuries are highlighted with a yellow background.



## 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](mailto:mvd Disney@wch-rcc.com)

# Washington Closure seeks Earned Value Management System validation

The new Earned Value Management System (EVMS) Gold Card reference guide is one of several ways Project Integration is preparing the project team for the upcoming DOE validation review of Washington Closure Hanford EVMS cost and schedule control processes planned for later this summer.

The River Corridor Closure Contract (RCCC) requires that Washington Closure implement a graded approach to the implementation of EVMS, the industry recognized standard for gauging a project's progress against cost, schedule and technical baselines. Building from previous experience, Project Integration has put in place a project management system based on earned value principles and techniques. These systems will help the project optimize the performance and completion of the RCCC portfolio of work, which will be the focus of the EVMS validation review.

The validation review entails not only the DOE's assessment of how the cost and schedule reporting systems meet the industry guidelines, but also interviews of cost account managers and others who are using the system data to control project execution. The Gold Card and other training efforts by the Project Integration team were designed to prepare the team for the interview process. In March, team members participated in mock interviews with a team of 10 EVMS-experienced individuals from Washington Closure parent companies. The results, coupled with upcoming assist visits from the government, will help the team prepare for the final validation review.

## Team members receive Osprey award

Another series of River Corridor Closure Project team members were announced as Osprey award winners for their individual or team efforts that positively impacted project schedule, cost, processes and overall effectiveness. The following is a list of recent winners and their achievements:



**Ron Morris, Jason Pearson, Chad Wilcox** initiated partnering of subject matter experts and workers during the planning process to develop a more technically correct work package which resulted in less rework and greater production.

**Rick Hughes** developed a DOE Contractor PAAA Program peer review process/transition of EFCOG to an "INPO like organization".

**LeeAnn Kasperek** provided exceptional teamwork and professional commitment affecting multiple organizations across the company.

**Rick Melbiness** created an Industrial Hygiene Database to serve as a permanent record to support Industrial Hygiene evaluations of workplace health hazards.