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New staff

Environmental tips

Interns invade River Corridor Closure Project

Washington Closure Hanford recently opened its doors to 10 Columbia Industries (CI) interns. Forget just having fun in the sun this summer -- these university students swapped full-time college workloads for full-time career experience.



This summer's interns and mentors in the front row, left to right, are Briana Robinson, mentor Scott Caldwell, Matt James, Jeff Medford, Marcos Vargas, Travis Killen, Matt Shoaf and Maren Disney, and in the back row, left to right, are mentor Steven Payzant, Joe Staeheli, mentor Rob Vore and John Darby. Brian Seely is not pictured.

This is the first time Washington Closure recruited interns through the CI. "The CI program provides a wider group of eligible students than other sources used in the past, such as temp agencies," said Carrie Locke, Human Resources.

The interns applied online from universities throughout Washington and even as far away as Pennsylvania and Utah. Once accepted, they were assigned mentors to guide them in hands-on experience related to their academic and career interests, including mechanical and civil engineering, management information systems, finance, business and English. On the job, interns combine classroom objectives with real-life business experience.

Picnic just days away

A reminder that the River Corridor Employees' Association First Annual River Corridor Closure (RCC) Employee Picnic is this weekend.

You and your immediate family can enjoy great food and safe summer fun August 5 from 11-2:30 p.m. at Howard Amon Park by the Fingernail.

Employees at the picnic will be eligible to win one of several door prizes, including gift cards, local excursion packages and a travel package for two.

Celebrate summer at the picnic.

Ideas that work

Editor's note: This feature will appear periodically to provide information to help improve your communication with others.

How to deal with conflict

To handle conflict among your team members:

- Ask those who disagree to paraphrase one another's comments. This may help them learn if they really understand each other.
- Work out a compromise. Agree on the underlying source of conflict, then engage in give-and-take and, finally, agree on a solution.
- Ask each member to list what the other side should do. Exchange lists, select a compromise all are willing to accept and test the compromise to see if it meshes with team goals.
- Have each side write 10 questions for their opponents. This will allow them to signal their major concerns about the other side's position. And the answers may lead to a compromise.

"The variety of work I have done here has given me a broad view of the business world and what I might want to do later in life," said **Travis Killen**, senior finance major at Washington State University (WSU). "I'm building a work ethic along with a resume to go with it." Travis is interning as a subcontracts specialist in Procurement.

"I've learned to use programs I'd never heard of before like Dreamweaver and have expanded my knowledge on programs I've only used for school," said **Briana Robinson**, sophomore management information systems major at WSU. Briana serves as a web support specialist and hopes to find similar work around Portland or Seattle after graduation.

For WSU senior computer science major **Jeff Medford**, interning provides "experience with applications of computer science in a workplace environment." This year, Jeff is working with Information Technology (IT) and Application Support and hopes to become a software engineer.

John Darby, senior information systems and technology major at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, also is supporting IT functions. "I support the help desk. I run errands and handle calls for IT support," John said. "I'm gaining good experience and learning a lot."

Internships last 10-16 weeks and are not limited to science or technology.

"As an English major, I expected to spend my summer behind a copy desk. Instead, I'm writing and editing for a variety of media," said **Maren Disney**, senior English writing major at Central Washington University. Maren is supporting Communications to gain exposure to business media.

Intern **Marcos Vargas**, a Columbia Basin College sophomore in hospitality business management, is gaining experience by assisting both Human Resources and Regulatory Integration. "I'm already working with contracts and policies for new projects," he said. "This is a good opportunity because I get to know what it's like working out in the area, and I'm becoming familiar with the business world."

Political science major **Matt Shoaf**, WSU senior, is supporting ERDF operations. "Right now I'm working on a safety packet on haul trucks," Matt said. "I'm learning to fix errors by identifying their root causes."

Many of the interns call the Tri-Cities and the Hanford area "home," but this is their first time working on-site.

"I've grown up here and never actually got a chance to experience what my dad always told me about," said **Matt James**, a sophomore WSU mechanical engineering major interning with Project Controls.

Brian Seely, a junior engineer and design major at Eastern Washington University, said he recognizes the area as an old stomping ground -- literally. "I ran cross country for four years and track for two years at Hanford High School," he said. Seely and his teammates ran until site warning signs said they had gone far enough. Today, Brian is working with Project Controls and hopes to find out more about the Hanford industry.

Civil engineering junior **Joseph Staeheli** came home all the way from Villanova University near Philadelphia to intern with the D4 Project. "I'm gaining good experience working with people and engineering projects," Joseph said.

- Convince team members they sometimes may have to admit they're wrong. Help them save face by convincing them that changing a position shows strength.
- Respect the experts on the team. Give their opinions more weight when the conflict involves their expertise, but don't rule out conflicting opinions.

Source: Communication Briefings, Vol. XXII, Number 1; Making Teams Succeed at Work, Alexander Hamilton Institute, 70 Hilltop Road, Ramsey, NJ 07446.

10 ways to prevent identity theft

Identity theft continues as a growing problem in the United States. These suggestions are provided by the Kennewick Police Department's Crime Prevention Program.

1. Burn or shred, with a cross shredder, any mail or financial papers with your personal information on them. Never recycle them.
2. Call 1-888-5OPTOUT and ask to stop credit card companies from mailing pre-approved credit card applications to your home. You can choose between stopping them for two years or permanently.
3. Ask your credit card to stop mailing you convenience checks. They are ticking identity theft time bombs.
4. Get your credit report. You are entitled to one free credit report each year. Get it soon and review it carefully.
5. Order a credit report a month or more before you make a big purchase or apply for credit to be sure

The interns will be recognized at a reception August 7 hosted by Project Manager Pat Pettiette.

Introducing the interns

Meet Washington Closure Hanford's summer interns, their fields, majors, universities and mentors:

John Darby – *Information Technology*, Information Systems and Technology, Weber State, Charles Page*

Maren Disney – *Communications*, English, Central Washington University, Lynette Bennett*

Matt James – *Project Controls*, Mechanical (Aerospace) Engineering, Washington State University, Jeb Blackburn*

Travis Killen – *Procurement*, Finance, Washington State University, Dennis Houston*

Jeffrey Medford – *Information Technology*, Computer Science, Washington State University, Charles Page*

Briana Robinson – *Web Support*, Management Information Systems, Washington State University, Charles Page*

Brian Seely – *Project Controls*, Engineer and Design, Eastern Washington University, Jeff Armatrout*

Matt Shoaf – *Waste Operations*, Political Science, Washington State University, Jeff James*

Joseph Staeheli – *D4 Project*, Civil Engineering, Villanova University, Scott Parnell*

Marcos Vargas – *Human Resources and Regulatory Integration & Outreach*, Hospitality Business Management, Columbia Basin College, Dru Butler*

*Mentors

New building shaping up



The new Washington Closure Hanford building is really taking shape. In July, the plumbing, fire protection and roof were completed, and, in August, the lighting, interior walls and flooring will be installed and the interior painting will be completed. "In the meantime, the Project Services team is busy finalizing floor plans," said Dan Plung, Infrastructure and Information Services manager.

there are no surprises in your history.

6. Question companies that ask for personal information, such as your phone number at a checkout line. Don't provide any personal information.
7. It's impossible to tell what's real and what's fake online. Just delete any e-mail that asks for personal information.
8. Hang up on telemarketers, particularly ones who seem to be fishing for personal information, such as your birthday.
9. Limit the number of credit cards you have and closely inspect your statements each month. Consumer rights quickly fade over time, so the sooner you discover an identity theft incident, the better.
10. Many times you can't prevent identity theft from occurring. Two-thirds of the time identity theft is caused by a company leaking data. However, you can be prepared and organized – save paper bank records for at least a year since you will need to prove your account balance in the event of an identity theft incident.



Comments or questions?
Please call Edye Jenkins at 372-9176
Or you may Email:
wchnews@wch-rcc.com

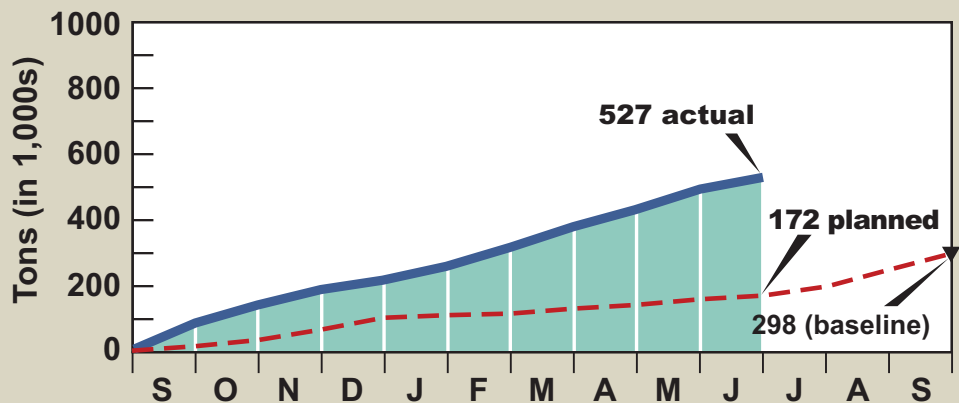
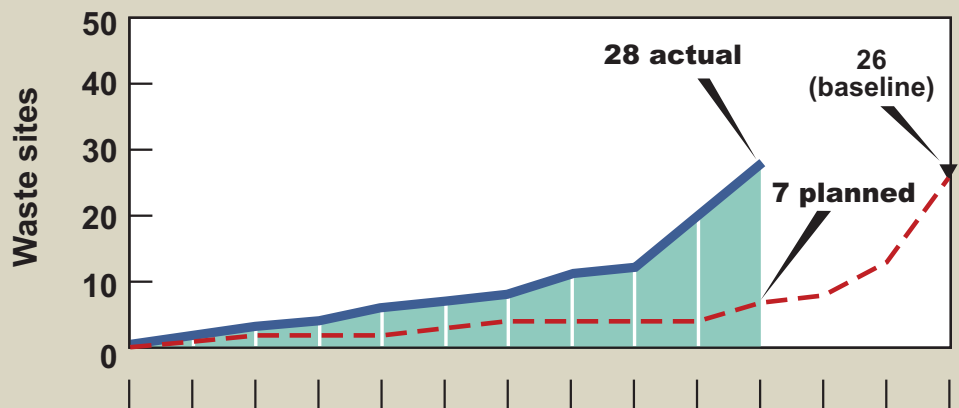
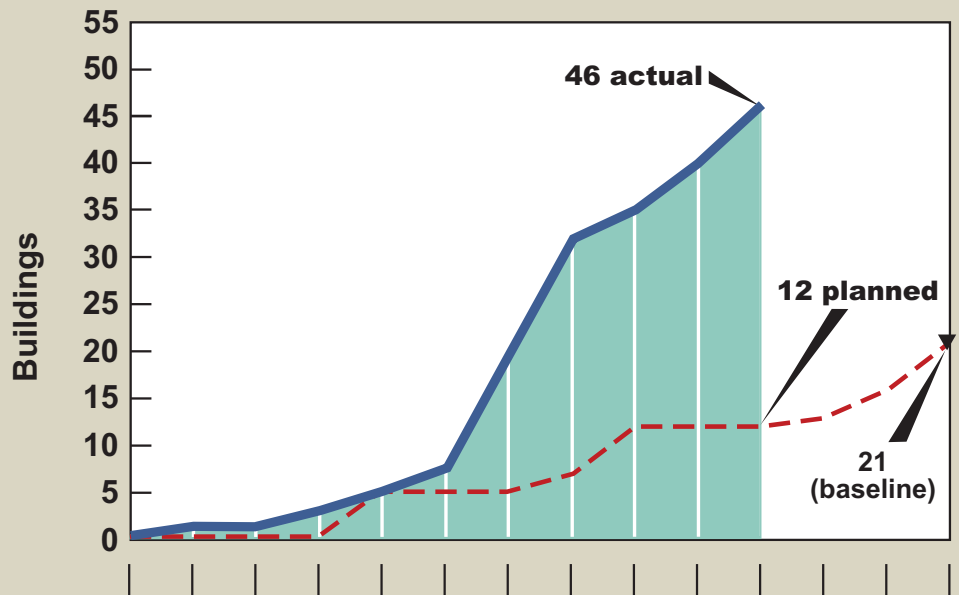
A glimpse at cleanup results

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

The tables below depict the planned and actual accomplishments for the current fiscal year.

Note: Current "baseline" chart numbers are from the DOE-approved Integrated Baseline Plan and represent planned work.

Cleanup results



As of June 2006