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## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



For many of us, the start of a new year signals an opportunity to bring new focus to our goals – both personal and professional. Whether or not you're the type to make full-blown resolutions, there's something about the turning of that calendar page that feels like a chance to start fresh.

As we close out the first month of 2024, HMIS also has areas where we can refresh – such as our commitment to the Hanford

cleanup mission, our SIMPLE values and each other.

As the Site integrator, the pending launch of the 24/7 mission operations strategy won't be possible without our efforts. DOE and our One Hanford contractor partners depend on us to provide the hundreds of services and support activities that allow the cleanup mission to advance. You each play an important role in that success.

Our values of safety, inclusion, motivation, passion, learning and ethics create the framework by which we can all perform. This time of year, the emphasis frequently falls on the safety component, and that remains a top priority – but as you go about your day-to-day work, I encourage you to think about which of the other values you can apply in new or more focused ways.

Whatever your goals may be, I thank you for everything you do and hope you will focus on keeping yourself refreshed in mind, body and spirit... not just this month, but throughout the year.

## 5 MINUTES WITH CHRIS BURKE

Chris is the vice president of Business & Prime Contract Administration. In our interview, we learned he is a Pittsburgh Steelers fan, tends to be a "bit of an introvert," and that his leadership abilities have grown by applying what he has learned from his interactions and observations from those he's worked with. Here are a few more things Chris shared with us:

# 1. Who is a mentor that has made an impact on you?

I've learned something from most every person I have worked for and with. A few important mentors who come to mind include Scott Sax, Rob Gregory, Mike Ostrom and Eric LaRock. Each had influence and guidance in different ways and on different topics.

# 2. What does "refresh," this month's newsletter theme, mean to you?

It means several things to me. I think staying refreshed is important and comes in many forms, including eliminating stress, leaving work at work, learning and relearning, and continuous improvement. My stress is mostly self-imposed, so to remove stress and feel refreshed, it is finishing whatever is causing the stress. It means putting forth best efforts at work and once I've left for the day to not do or think about it until the next workday. It also means doing things I want to do with my free time.

#### 3. What do you do in your free time?

Golf, music, reading, going to sporting events and concerts with my son, hiking with my daughter, and hanging out with my family.

# 4. When you're having a tough day, what do you do to turn things around?

Remain focused on the task(s) at hand and drive them to completion. Then once at home, forget about work.

# 5. What's something people would be surprised to know about you?

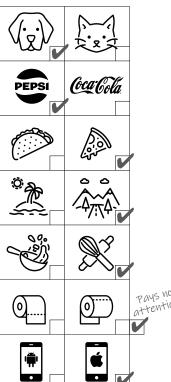
My favorite bands are The Beatles, Tool, Metallica and Joe Bonamassa. I like to bake. I can't stand milk chocolate, black licorice or candy corn. I have played golf with individuals who have played in The Masters, U.S. Open and the PGA Championship.

#### 6. What's your bucket list travel location?

Switzerland because I love the mountains and Scotland because it is the home of golf.



#### RAPID FIRE







Progress continues on the new 1.5-million-gallon water tank under construction in 200 West. The new tank (shown in front) will replace the 1.1-million-gallon tank located right next to it, which was built in the 1990s.

## MISSION: REFRESH

#### **Progress Continues on New 200W Water Tank**

Contributor: Shane Edinger

From the outside, the new 1.5-million-gallon water tank under construction in the 200 West Area looks like it's almost finished, and for the most part, that's true. "We're in the construction acceptance testing phase for the tank itself," shared Mark Berkenbile, HMIS' manager of Construction Management. "So, we're close to 90-95% complete with the tank, but we've still got a lot of work to do inside the pump house."

The work inside is progressing well and includes completing the installation of all interior piping, Variable Frequency Drive upgrades, the Chlorine Analyzer System and various system instrumentation. Crews also need to complete some underground piping and valve work south of the 282WC building.

The new tank's pump and controls will be connected to the Hanford Water Local Area Network, which will ultimately tie all the Site's water systems together in one network-controlled system. But that automation comes with cybersecurity requirements.

"We've had to make some adjustments because some equipment that was purchased early in the project now needs to be updated or upgraded to meet current cybersecurity requirements," Berkenbile added. "The Information Management Services team has done a great job making sure our systems are state of the art."

Berkenbile also praised the coordination between HMIS Construction, Water Utilities and the One Hanford contractors operating T-plant and the Solid Waste Operations Complex, among others, who've been impacted by the water system outages required during construction. "We really appreciate their willingness to work with us and adjust their schedules to minimize the impact to their operations as we make these infrastructure upgrades to support the objectives of the Hanford cleanup mission for the next 50 years."



MISSION: REFRESH

#### MISSION: **REFRESH**

#### **Driver Awareness Course: Skids Towards Safer Driving**

Contributor: Cerise Peck

Do you hit the brake or gas when you slide on ice? What are you supposed to do with your hands? Hanford Patrol offers a Driver Awareness Course for answers to these questions and many more. Hosted at the Hanford Site Emergency Vehicles Operations Course (EVOC), this comprehensive training program aims to enhance traffic safety for Hanford drivers. Open to all Site contractors, the training focuses on reducing accidents and ensuring a safer work environment.

Hanford Patrol Officer and EVOC Training Coordinator Mick Thompson leads the course while receiving contracted help from seasoned instructors in our local law enforcement community. The course encapsulates a blend of classroom learning and practical driving experience.

"Covering your eyes and letting lesus take the wheel is not recommended during a



skid," said Thompson. "Getting into the skid car and learning what it feels like and how to react will give students confidence should they find themselves in the real deal."

The curriculum, designed by expert EVOC instructors certified by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the Criminal Justice Training Commission, covers essential aspects of driving awareness and collision avoidance techniques. The class takes about four hours to complete.





explains the "contact patch" to a recent class. The amount of tire touching the road surface is the same size as the palm of your hand.

A distinctive feature of this course is its 3:1 student-to-instructor ratio, allowing for personalized guidance. Class participants learn the Five Pillars of Driver Awareness: Knowledge, Alertness, Foresight, Judgment and Skill. They also gain practical driving experience in skid avoidance training, decision-making skills, and vehicle reference point backing. These exercises are crucial in teaching drivers how to handle challenging situations effectively.

The Driver Awareness Course is not just a training program; it's a commitment to the safety of every individual at the Hanford Site. By equipping employees with the right skills and knowledge, HMIS is fostering a culture of responsible and safe driving.

#### MISSION: **REFRESH**









Contributor: Jill Harvill

Did you know our Information Management Services organization has a dedicated team of customer liaisons? This integral team is managed by Debbie Strankman and they are often the single point of contact between IT and functional teams.

Four customer liaisons support DOE and Hanford prime contractors. Liaisons assist with IT services and support, including software implementation, IT projects and processes that support business functions.

They also represent our HLAN end-user perspective on behalf of the HMIS chief information officer (CIO) by attending several meetings to ensure communications, support and customer service are the best possible. The liaisons also communicate with executive management on IT system updates or other routine activities that may impact IT services.

Part of their role includes working with IT subject matter experts, project managers and upper management to coordinate business implementations and make sure they go smoothly. Liaisons are often co-located with their customers to provide ongoing project support in a timely and informed manner. They can guickly assess customer needs and issues and facilitate getting the customer or issue to the right support organization, such as a service ticket or a call to the Mission Service Desk.

Cynthia Esparza and Adeline Erwin work with DOE IT staff to ensure their projects are efficiently implemented. They are currently assisting RL and ORP with computer inventory and major system updates. You'll see



**NOT PICTURED:** Adeline Erwin, who supports customers at DOE-ORP

Chuck Bollinger all over the Site. His recent support includes the coordination of desktop updates for the new occupational medical services contractor. Scott Kuhle supports the Hanford Fire Department where he is assisting with their communication system modernization projects.

The Customer Liaison Services team can be called on to help ensure IT aspects of projects and events are coordinated, communicated and executed with superior customer service

at the forefront.





### ONE **HANFORD**

#### **Hanford Site Hosts 'Hanford Dialogue' Discussion with Agency Partners**

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Our External Affairs team helped put together the recent Hanford Dialogue, which brought the public, media and Hanford Advisory Board members together to listen to and discuss updates on key cleanup projects. This was the first Hanford Dialogue held since 2019 and had a great response – with more than 50 attendees taking part in both a large discussion and breakout sessions.

Tri-Party Agreement agency leadership and representatives also attended, along with local DOE leadership, "These conversations share perspectives that are important for us to hear," said Brian Vance, manager of the DOE Office of River Protection and Richland Operations Office. "We have a team of dedicated professionals doing their very best within our framework to progress a mission of national prominence. We're doing things today at Hanford that five or six years ago no one thought would be possible."

HMIS staff set up the One Hanford display for Hanford Dialogue attendees to learn more about the cleanup mission. External Affairs representatives also helped facilitate breakout sessions, which included topics on the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste program, other risk-reduction cleanup and the future of the Hanford cleanup mission.

Hanford Dialogue attendees were invited to submit feedback through a short survey which will help plan future events.

### ONE **HANFORD**

#### **External Affairs Supports Significant Growth in Tour Season**

Contributor: Coleen Drinkard

2023 turned out to be a banner year for Hanford's tour program as more than 750 people, including several high-level officials, visited the Site. From building agendas, coordinating with the other contractors and reserving transportation, to arranging for badging services, HMIS' External Affairs team manages important logistics for DOE's tour program.

"The HMIS tours office plays an integral part in highlighting the Hanford Site cleanup mission through approved in-person tours and the highly successful Hanford Site Virtual Tour," said Scott Stover, DOE's tour lead. "DOE officials, elected leaders, community leaders, stakeholders and the public are taking notice of the historic cleanup progress."

Last calendar year, Hanford hosted a wide range of participants, including state and federal elected officials, local community leaders and international guests from Japan. Visitors included Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk, elected leaders from Washington and Oregon, congressional staffers, and the National Governors Association Federal Facilities Task Force. Between DOE and our partner contractors, there were 92 documented in-person tours.



and Immobilization Plant in July 2023.



While tours of the Site are not open to the public, the Hanford virtual tour website continues to be a success. In 2023, there were 21,797 unique online visitors to the virtual tour website with 886,342 page views. Anyone can visit the virtual tour website at vtours.hanford.gov.

MISSION: RFFRFSH JANUARY 2024

#### ONE **HANFORD**

#### **Technical Services Tackles Several Projects in FY2023**

Contributor: Shane Edinger

There's no project too big or too small for the Technical Services team to handle. As part of the Engineering & Projects organization, they handle projects covering a wide range of functional service areas, from Water & Sewer Utilities to Information Management Services, and everywhere in between.

During FY2023, Technical Services managed a series of projects valued at approximately \$9.5 million. One of their biggest projects happened last summer when crews discovered that a large water line in the 200 West Area was leaking in several places. The piping also needed to be rerouted to move it away from existing sewer lines that posed potential radiation concerns.

"The project came to us in June, and then the pipe ruptured in July and that really kicked the process into high gear," shared Patrick O'Day, a project manager with the Technical Services team. "Once we got the subcontractors onsite, they were able to complete the repairs in a couple weeks."

Technical Services manages these projects through every phase of execution, from planning and design to procurement, and then

through construction and closeout. "Our Construction, Testing and Commissioning group plays a key role as well," added Mazin Kamil, Technical Services director. "They manage our subcontractors in the field to ensure quality standards are met and rigorous environmental controls and health and safety protocols are followed."



Crews addressed subsidence hazards at three Nike missile sites on the Hanford Reach National Monument. The concrete structures were demolished and the rubble was used to fill in the open cavities. A thick layer of soil was laid on top and compacted to minimize any future subsidence concerns. Another success story involved stabilization efforts to mitigate current and future cave-in hazards at three abandoned Nike missile sites on the Hanford Reach National Monument. The two-story concrete structures were buried underground and presented potential fall hazards for the general public accessing the area.

"We utilized excavators and concrete breakers to break down the concrete into rubble, and then we used the rubble to fill in the open areas," said Bassel Younes, project manager. "Then we covered it all with a thick layer of soil and compacted it down to minimize any future subsidence and reduce any potential fall hazards."

This project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, thanks to comprehensive planning from design to closeout.



MISSION: REFRESH Cont'd

#### ONE **HANFORD**

# "One Stop Shop" Dashboard Makes Subcontracting a Breeze

Contributor: Jill Harvill

Okay, okay. So maybe subcontracting will never be that easy, but a new data dashboard envisioned by HMIS Internal Audit Director Jillian Esparza aims to take some of the pain and duplications out of the process.

Subcontract awards include an audit of the subcontractor's accounting system to ensure they meet federal requirements and can support the type of contract being awarded, i.e., fixed price, labor



hours, time and materials, or cost reimbursement.

HMIS performs robust subcontractor accounting system audits, which led Jillian to an idea. "Honestly, I thought it would be great to share the audit results with the Hanford Site prime contractors so we aren't being duplicative," Esparza said. Enter Marcus Brown and the SharePoint team. The dashboard was created and populated with the results of accounting system audits conducted by HMIS.



HMIS Internal Audit staff met with contractor audit directors and procurement staff to obtain feedback on the dashboard. Then Henry Barr, an HMIS technical advisor who oversees the pre-award audit program, provided training on how to use it. Any time a prime contractor is awarding a new subcontract, they can pull up the dashboard, review their audit results for applicability and determine what type of subcontract would be appropriate for the award.

The dashboard was launched last summer and as the prime contractors continue to complete accounting system audits, the dashboard will become more robust. Not only does the dashboard reduce duplicative work between the prime contractors, it also reduces the burden and impact to day-to-day business operations. "I saw an opportunity to lessen the burden on the prime contractors and the companies we do business with," said Esparza.

## RECOGNITION



# **Volunteer of the Quarter**

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

Our HMIS Family volunteers are truly the best! Throughout the year, dozens of employees donate their time at HMISorganized volunteer events, supporting local organizations like Second Harvest, Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels, Bikes for Tikes and several others.

This quarter, we want to recognize Doug Puzey, who works as an operations specialist for Hanford Fire Support Services. Doug is relatively new to Hanford, but during his one and a half years on Site Doug has been a frequent volunteer at events like Resolution Read and Second Harvest. Doug is often accompanied by his family, and they all work seamlessly as part of the HMIS Family.

When asked why he enjoys volunteering, Doug explained, "I was raised to always serve others and give back when you can.

This was something we practiced as a family and part of our faith. I try to mimic this in my life now with my own kids, and it's something we all really enjoy doing together."

Doug adds, "Volunteering to me can be as simple as helping a neighbor carry in the groceries, or it can be life changing like when we lived in the south and volunteered as part of hurricane relief. I've never had a bad experience volunteering and serving others."

To recognize our Volunteer of the Quarter, HMIS will make a \$250 donation to the non-profit 501(c)3 organization of their choice. For this quarter, Doug has asked that the contribution go to the Carson Scholars Fund.

In 2023, more than 320 HMIS employees and their loved ones donated almost 1.400 hours of time to help at 81 events in our





community. We are so proud of our HMIS Family and their commitment to serve others. Thank you!

MISSION: REFRESH





HMIS employees Jennifer Ollero (far left), Jim Whalley (back row center), Chris Cope (2nd from right) and Michael Winkel (far right) participated in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton & Franklin Counties Youth of the Year prep night.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

# **Employees Share Insights with Youth of the Year Candidates**

Contributor: Shane Edinger

HMIS is proud to once again sponsor the local Youth of the Year program for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton & Franklin Counties. The program recognizes outstanding teen members who demonstrate leadership, service and academic success, and this year several HMIS employees got a chance to work with the candidates as they prepare for their competition.

Chris Cope, Jennifer Ollero, Jim Whalley and Michael Winkel all participated in a prep night with the three finalists from the Pasco, Kennewick and Prosser clubhouses. The teens presented their speeches and essays to the group of HMIS and Boys & Girls Club employees in a casual format, and then the adults were able to provide them with immediate feedback. The group also split up into smaller groups to conduct mock interviews with each finalist.

"This was the first time we've done something like this and it went really well," shared Andrea Locati with the Boys & Girls Clubs. "It gave the teens a really good idea of what the judging will be like during the competition."

It was a special event for the HMIS employees, including Chris Cope, who often spent time playing sports at the Boys & Girls Clubs when he was growing up in California. "I was very impressed with how well they performed, especially considering their age," said Cope. "When I'm in interviews I typically get a little nervous, but they were just calm and cool and performed really well."

The Youth of the Year competition will culminate with the announcement of this year's winner at the Youth of the Year celebration on Feb. 1. "We are so grateful for HMIS' commitment to the Youth of the Year program," Locati added. "Your support empowers us to help local youth continue to do great things in our community."

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

#### **Resolution Read**

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

To start the new year off right, the HMIS Family of volunteers came together to support The Children's Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia's "Resolution Read" program!

With more than 40 volunteers, the HMIS Family made quick work labeling and bagging over 7,000 books! The books will be delivered to more than 600 local families.

Supporting a cause like "Resolution Read" helps us further the HMIS mission and gives the HMIS Family an opportunity to give back in a huge way.







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