



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

MISSION

INTEGRATION

SOLUTIONS


NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

HANFORD MISSION

HMIS

INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS



MISSION: SYNERGY

Working together is at the heart of everything we do.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



As we continue support of the Hanford mission, I am excited to reflect on the remarkable synergy that defines our work and helps us achieve our goals. Our collective efforts, driven by collaboration and innovation, are at the heart of everything we do.

The power of synergy is evident in the projects and initiatives we undertake. By working closely with DOE, our One Hanford partners and across HMIS, we show that working together is greater than what we could achieve by working alone.

Many of our recent achievements showcase the strength of this collaborative spirit. Whether its implementing a new prop at HAMMER, performing a tabletop exercise in collaboration with PNNL, supporting local non-profits or bringing innovative ideas to fruition, it's clear that we couldn't do it without the help and support of those who collaborate with us.

As we look to the months ahead and approach a new fiscal year (crazy, I know!), our focus remains on building strong partnerships and leveraging the collective expertise of our peers. Thank you for your commitment to the mission – I am grateful for the dedication and passion you bring to work each day.

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5 MINUTES WITH TOM FLETCHER



Say hello to our chief operations officer, Tom Fletcher! Following his time with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla, Tom came to Hanford thanks to his wife's family ties to the Tri-Cities. Though rooted here, Tom spends a lot of time exploring the outdoors and traveling. One place still on the bucket list – The Greek Isles.

1. What made you want to be a leader?

The ability to drive change. Collaboration and problem solving are key aspects of what drove me to leadership. I've always been someone who sets goals to see how far I can go with them, and I want to inspire others to set their goals and achieve them.

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

There's been a number who have made an impact. Stacy Charboneau was an early mentor who set the standard for leading by example. There was an expectation to know what you're talking about at all levels, not just the top. When you get asked hard questions, you can either answer or at least point to who can answer. I was also shown how to effectively stand in a position by yourself and be comfortable in your own skin, making decisions as a leader and for holding people accountable.

3. What does "synergy" mean to you?

Synergy is the ability to collaborate and communicate a common vision, solve

problems in achieving that vision and deliver results. It's everyone pulling on the same rope, in the same direction, at the same time.

4. What do you do in your free time?

I'm an outdoorsman and big-time family man. My whole family spends time outdoors. We are avid backpackers and campers. When we're not doing that, we are on our boat on the river.

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

Laugh. In these jobs, every day we have a choice to cry or laugh, and I always choose to laugh. I know that tomorrow will be better and nothing happened today that can't be overcome tomorrow. I think you have to do what you know is right and push forward.

6. What's something about you that people would be surprised to know?

I grew up as a laborer in the construction industry. I started at the bottom, picking up nails at the job site when I was four years old. My dad would take me to the job and I would earn a penny per nail.

RAPID FIRE

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RECOGNITION



Goal Setting Leads to Marathon Triumph

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

What does it take to run a marathon? Get started. Jeff McMurrich, program manager for Continuous Improvement, was inspired to compete in his first marathon in 2020, after his son ran one the year prior. "I didn't really like running, but I wanted to challenge myself in a way I had never done before," shared Jeff. So, the training began and he put his first marathon under his belt.

Fast-forward to 2025, having missed a marathon two years ago due to an ankle injury, Jeff was ready to run again. The hard work and determination paid off when he crossed the finish line in third place in his age division. He accomplished three of his four goals for this run: beating his previous time (by nearly 20 minutes), finishing in the top five of his age division and finishing in the top half of the overall racers (an estimated 300). While he didn't meet his goal of finishing in under four hours (final time: 4 hours 22 minutes), he was "pretty stoked" with his overall performance.

! To submit an item for our Mission: Accomplished section, please email hmiscomm@rl.gov



Jeff McMurrich, Continuous Improvement program manager, crosses the Windermere Marathon finish line.

To prepare for a marathon, Jeff starts a 16-week training build, with the first four weeks getting back into putting in the miles. At 12 weeks pre-marathon, the solid training blocks begin and mileage increases to upwards of 40 miles a week! Though he stays active in the offseason, it still requires a gradual training approach to safely be ready for a marathon.

For someone interested in running a marathon, but doesn't think they can, Jeff says, "Neither did I. Start small. Do a local 5K or a run/walk and ease into it. Start slow and be smart. Everyone is capable." What's next for Jeff? A half marathon in September. From there, only time will tell, but an ultramarathon is on the list!

RECOGNITION

Leadership Tri-Cities Class XXVIII

Contributor: Jill Harvill

HMIS is the proud sponsor of the final Leadership Tri-Cities program session, Leadership Forward. Chief Operations Officer Tom Fletcher had the honor of addressing Class 28 with motivating words as they completed the program. "Your career destination may be your north star, but how you get there will likely be unexpected," said Fletcher. "Say yes to opportunities, especially if they push you out of your comfort zone."

Leadership Tri-Cities is an 11-month development program that provides unparalleled and immersive learning experiences, developing knowledgeable leaders to serve our community and become catalysts for positive change.

Hong "Chen" Chen, HMIS Legal Counsel, was a graduate of this year's class. "I thought the Leadership Tri-Cities program might give me tips and answers about how to be a better leader. But what it gave me was even better - exposure to issues and leaders in our community and how to get involved and find my own answers."

Chen gained tremendous benefit from the local and state government session when she met former State Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven Gonzalez. "Justice Gonzalez candidly shared his challenging leadership journey, which resonated with me as a lawyer," said Chen. "Even at the pinnacle of his career, he stressed that everyone has self-doubt at times, but to trust your



Hong "Chen" Chen poses with her program achievement awards.

strengths, surround yourself with supportive people and you can accomplish anything."

Chen is already using her new community insight and connections. She was recently appointed to the Tri-Cities Community Health Board of Directors. We congratulate Chen on her successful completion of the program!



Chen's HMIS coworkers gathered to celebrate her accomplishment.

RECOGNITION

HMIS Tops Junior Achievement Fundraising

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

When it comes to giving back to our community, the HMIS team knows how to get it done. We might be a tad bit competitive, too. This year's Junior Achievement Bowling Classic was no exception.

After narrowly missing the "Top Fundraising Company" title last year and having to hand over the traveling trophy, our team set their sights on doing everything possible to support Junior Achievement this year, and yes, to bring that trophy back home!

But for us, it's never just about the trophy. It's about the impact. Junior Achievement plays an important role in preparing local students with real-world skills, financial literacy and career readiness. Every dollar raised goes directly toward helping them build a brighter future.

This year, thanks to the amazing generosity of our HMIS employees, we didn't just win back the trophy, we crushed our previous fundraising level by \$5,000! The funds raised will help even more students participate in valuable JA programs that empower them to succeed.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed, volunteered and participated. You made this possible. Your commitment to our community continues to inspire and make HMIS a truly special place to work.



JA Board members representing H2C and HMIS coming to terms with the results. From left: Nathan Morgan and Maryjo Boyus with H2C and Amy Gadd with HMIS.



H2C and HMIS representatives celebrating another successful fundraising event for Junior Achievement of Washington, Southeastern Region. Left to right: Pat Mastaler, Nathan Morgan, Maryjo Boyus, Amy Gadd, Amy Basche, Tom Fletcher and Dustin Arbogast.

MISSION: SYNERGY



TEAM FOCUS: Innovation and Transformation Committee: Big Ideas Wanted!

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

There's a lot of buzz about innovation lately; but what does that mean for HMIS? Enter the Innovation and Transformation Committee (ITC), a new team of tech-minded leaders ready to explore, test and deliver cutting-edge solutions that help modernize operations across the Hanford Site. The committee brings together a diverse cross-section of experts from IT, engineering, finance, drones, safeguards, security and beyond.

"Our goal is to help lead the development and deployment of transformative technology across the Site; from AI-driven solutions to robotics, automation and data optimization," explained Mike Winkel, deputy vice president of Information Management Services. "We're not just looking for cool gadgets, we're identifying real-world applications that make our operations safer, more secure and more efficient."

With strong leadership support, the ITC is acting as a kind of in-house research and development shop, evaluating new technologies, prioritizing projects and working to secure limited funding to test pilot concepts before scaling them up site-wide. The committee has already been evaluating opportunities in AI-powered data processing, drone-based inspections, robotics



(Left to right) Top Row: Amy Gadd, Randall Lee, Steven Stallings and Alyssa Reil. Middle Row: John-Paul LeCompte, Dan Gregory, Mike Winkel and Jason Walli. Bottom Row: Jeff Flora, Pierce Jones, Elizabeth Allard and Richard Waggoner. Not pictured: Eric Hokanson.

for high-risk environments and advanced geospatial systems, but that's just the beginning.

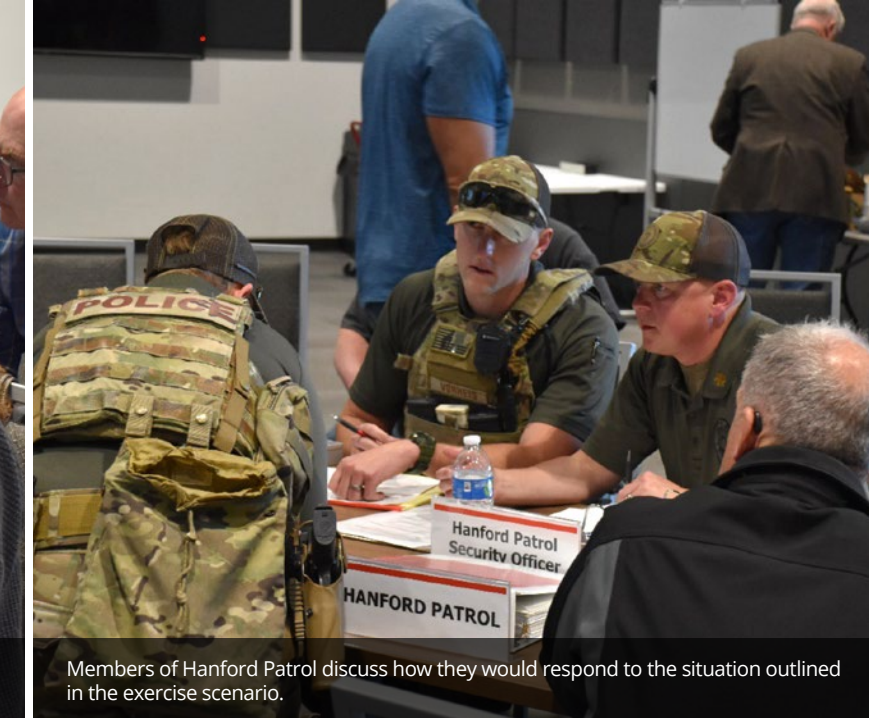
The ITC isn't working in a vacuum; they're actively looking for big (and small!) ideas from across HMIS. "Some of our best ideas have come from folks who saw a problem in their daily work and thought, 'There has to be a better way,'" Winkel said. "We want every employee to know: if you have a creative idea that could benefit your area, or the Site as a whole, reach out and share it."



Representatives from CPCCo provided background on the facility being used as the simulated location for the exercise.



Dulcie Allen and Gina Miller from HMIS served as EOC operations managers for the exercise.



Members of Hanford Patrol discuss how they would respond to the situation outlined in the exercise scenario.

MISSION: SYNERGY

This is a Drill: Teaming Up to Take Down Terrorists

Contributor: MaryAnne Wuennecke

In May, multiple organizations came together for a new kind of tabletop exercise, designed to evaluate the effectiveness of interagency collaboration during a simulated terrorist attack involving the release of radioactive materials on the Hanford Site.

The exercise included participation from several organizations including the Benton County Coroner and Sheriff's Offices, CPCCo's Facility Emergency Response organization, Central Waste Complex, HMIS Radiological Controls, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hanford Emergency Operations Center, Hanford Field Office Security and Emergency Services, Hanford Fire Department, Hanford Patrol and the Pacific Northwest Field Office Counterintelligence Program.

Kendal Barrow, EOC team lead, said integrating safeguards and security response and hazardous material emergency preparedness was a new approach. "We combined the two elements to demonstrate it for DOE. We knew going in that we would have to crawl before we could run."

Key lessons learned included the need for procedural adjustments, particularly in responding to active assailant incidents; a better understanding of each agencies' response

capabilities; and the importance of defining roles and responsibilities among all involved parties.

"We received some valuable insights that we can use in future exercises to make them more realistic and more effective," said Barrow. The exercise also reinforced the importance of teamwork in managing complex emergency scenarios. "We couldn't do this by ourselves. It took so many different people working together. It was very much a collaborative effort!"



The new Electrical Safety Training prop includes a 1/60th scale building and power lines, along with a scale-sized crane, aerial lift and semi-truck and trailer.



Instructor Melissa Herron (right) demonstrates to students how the new training prop can be used to illustrate safe jobsite setups for crews working around overhead power lines.

ONE HANFORD

New Prop Enhances HAMMER'S Electrical Safety Training

Contributor: Shane Edinger

An innovative tabletop prop, designed to demonstrate safe equipment usage near power lines, promises to enhance HAMMER'S Electrical Safety Training program.

A recent rewrite of DOE's Hanford Site requirements for working around overhead power lines sparked the idea for the new prop,

which was constructed with craft support from HMIS Maintenance Services. It features a 1/60th scale building, roadway and parking lot situated close to power lines, along with a scale-sized model crane, semi-truck and trailer, aerial lift and orange cones. Instructors can use the prop and models to illustrate key elements of their presentation on safe jobsite setups.

"So now we can take that crane and put it next to the power lines, and then take the cones and set up the work zone," shared David Dey with HAMMER'S Electrical Safety Training program. "We can demonstrate where the crane needs to be, where the cones need to be set up and students can see what it would look like in the real world."

The prop will be used in HAMMER'S Equipment Operation Near Power Lines class, which is offered 2-3 times a month and includes a retraining requirement every three years.

"It's a training for anybody who might be working around power lines, whether that's teamsters, laborers, electricians or pipefitters," Dey added. "Just about all the crafts go through the training, along with field work supervisors, some managers and safety personnel."

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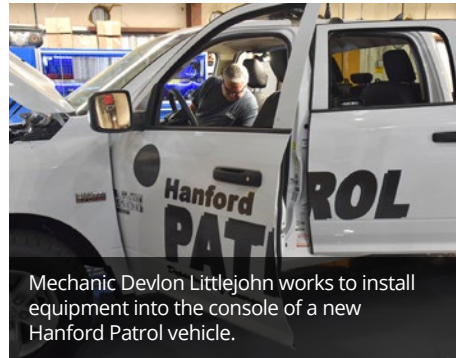
ONE HANFORD

Renovations Complete at 4722C

Contributor: Shane Edinger

The mechanics who make sure all new Hanford Patrol and Hanford Fire Department vehicles are ready for service have a new home! After several months of renovations and upgrades, the 4722C building now serves as the central location for upfitting Hanford Fire and Patrol vehicles with all the equipment they need to protect the Hanford Site and its employees.

Plans to transform the former auto body shop started about two years ago when Fleet Services realized the need for auto body repairs had declined on Site, while the backlog of engine repair and other maintenance requests continued to grow. Over the last few months, crews have removed the paint booth and refinished the building's floor, while adding an upgraded HVAC system and LED lighting.



Mechanic Devlon Littlejohn works to install equipment into the console of a new Hanford Patrol vehicle.

"Moving the upfitting work over to 4722C will help to streamline that process and get those vehicles in service even faster," shared George Worby, Light Vehicle Maintenance manager. "It will also



The renovations at 4722C included an upgraded HVAC system, as well as new LED lighting and a refurbished floor.

free up space at our other shops so mechanics there can focus on repairs and maintenance work for other Hanford Site vehicles."

Work on Hanford Fire and Patrol vehicles is a priority and it typically takes between one to three weeks to upfit a Fire or Patrol vehicle with all the lights, consoles, communications systems and other equipment they need. With that work now happening at a dedicated location, the team is confident they'll be able to reduce the backlog of other vehicle maintenance and repair requests.

"It's taken some time to get everything lined up and get all the renovations done," Worby added. "But now we've got the mechanics moved in and working on those Fire and Patrol vehicles in a dedicated space, and it's really rewarding to see everything working just like we planned it."

ONE HANFORD



VPPPA Region X Safety Symposium participants and presenters. Back row (from left): Alec Brockman, Ralph Reagan, Billy Brown, Kevin Schoonover, Matt Goble, Dustan Hemperly, Fo Fung Chen Pen and Garrison LaMarche. Front row: Grace Gibbons, Katreina Carpenter, Jessie Dahl, Gabby Green, Lisa Guerrero and Tina Collins. Not Pictured: Kelly Poynor.

Empowering a Safer Workplace

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

Safety involvement isn't just for safety professionals. Everyone benefits from a robust safety culture, and our employees are sharing their knowledge and increasing employee engagement through VPPPA (Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association).

During a virtual VPPPA Labor Summit for Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington), Safety Representative Matt Goble shared how HMIS is increasing employee engagement. He highlighted EZAC and PZAC, safety logbooks and work planning using the Integrated Safety Management System. He also emphasized the worker trainer program and what a unique tool it is to bring

workers from the field, with real-world experience, into classrooms as trained instructors. "This program is a true testament to employee involvement," shared Matt.

A group of employees also participated in the VPPPA Region X Safety Symposium, attending and even leading breakout sessions and workshops on safety-related topics. Training Specialists Grace Gibbons and Ralph Reagan shared how HAMMER leverages data to identify key areas for improvement, allowing data-driven decision making to help promote a safer, more-aware workplace. Ralph also joined electrician Tina Collins and project controls specialist Lisa Guerrero to demonstrate how presentations created by employee-led safety councils can teach the tenets of VPP to the workforce.

"It is always rewarding to hear our employees share their safety knowledge with others," said Technical Advisor Kevin Schoonover. "Having been part of the safety team for more than 15 years, I continue to see growth in the collaboration and teamwork of management, safety professionals, bargaining unit safety representatives and our workforce."



Safety Representative Matt Goble presenting about employee involvement during a virtual VPPPA Region X Monthly Labor Summit.



The Hanford Fire Department Fuels Group successfully completed a 33-mile fire break disc line to minimize wildland fire risk to the Hanford Site.



Heavy equipment operators clear accumulated tumbleweeds from the fire break line to make way for discing.

Fuels Group Achieves 33-Mile Fire Break Success

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

In a remarkable display of teamwork and dedication to safety, the Hanford Fire Department Fuels Group, in collaboration with Heavy Equipment Operators and Road crews, completed a significant project on SR240 and SR24 in preparation for wildland fire season. The teams constructed a double-wide disc line spanning an impressive 33 miles, designed to act as a fire break, to help prevent or slow down potential fires along these critical roadways.

In some areas, large amounts of tumbleweeds had collected on the disc line, which required a dozer to clear them. Discing was completed and the Ecology team will be consulted to create a plan to burn the accumulated tumbleweeds near the disc line. HFD conducts prescribed burns of tumbleweeds throughout the year to reduce the impact of this invasive species on the Hanford Site, and it's important to ensure there is no environmental concerns at the burn location.

HFD Fuels Management Captain David Wheeler acknowledged the team's efforts with the project, stating, "This achievement is a testament to the hard work and coordination among all teams involved."



Mitch Davis with Organizational Development (back center) and Reneé Brooks with Communications (far right) proudly served as judges for the Junior Youth of the Year program alongside other community members.

HMIS Boosts B&G Club Events

HMIS continues to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin counties in many ways. We hosted a table at their annual fundraising breakfast, which raised more than \$80,000 to support local youth. And as the sponsor of the Youth of the Year program we also got to be involved in their Junior Youth of the Year contest for middle school students.

Congratulations to Avalee from the Kennewick Clubhouse who was named the 2025 Junior Youth of the Year for the organization!



From left: Melissa Torres, Diane Cato, Marnelle Sheriff, Marisol Castillo, Macie Firkins and Jodie Moxley had a great time at the fundraising breakfast where the youth "took over" the program.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

School-Based Internship Pilot Program Sparks Interest in STEM

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

What started as a vision for connecting students to careers in STEM has resulted in the launch of a school-based internship program.

Earlier this year, The STEM Foundation approached our chief engineer, Drew Thomas, with an idea to bring internship experiences to high school students in a non-traditional format. The school-based internship program centers on having STEM professionals from local employers volunteer their time to mentor students in the classroom.

Volunteers from HMIS Engineering (Drew Thomas), Water & Sewer Utilities (Jon Kon) and Health & Safety (Eric Hokanson, Thomas



Drew Thomas, Chief Engineer (far left), shows students snap circuits, which provide a small-scale picture of how electricity is conducted.

Lindholm, Chris Nielsen and Jeff Simundson) met with students at Kiona-Benton City High School to explore challenges specific to their field of expertise.

Students worked in groups to research and design a solution to their assigned challenge, followed by a final presentation with their findings.

1. Engineering – Research arc flash, how to mitigate its associated risks and ensure worker safety.
2. Water & Sewer Utilities – Design functioning water filters using simple, readily available materials.
3. Health & Safety – Research how hearing damage occurs, strategies to prevent it and record the decibel level (dB) of common environments.

“The STEM In-School Internship helps bridge the gap between education and industry,” Thomas shared. “This program not only empowers students with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate their future careers in STEM fields, but also fosters connections between local businesses and the future workforce.”



The Health & Safety team showed students how to prevent hearing loss and types of hearing protection used in the field.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HMIS Supports Local Non Profits in Fundraising Efforts



(From left): Daryl Witherspoon, Annette Fox, Bryan McGlothlin, Ryan Ollero, Jennifer Ollero, Reneé Brooks, Diane Cato and Deidra Witherspoon.

Columbia Ability Alliance

HMIS proudly partners with Columbia Ability Alliance (formerly Columbia Industries) to help empower individuals with unique abilities and barriers to achieve personal success. This year's CAA fundraising gala raised \$174,000!



Reneé Brooks and Jill Harvill pose with the founding donor board.

Mid-Columbia Children's Museum

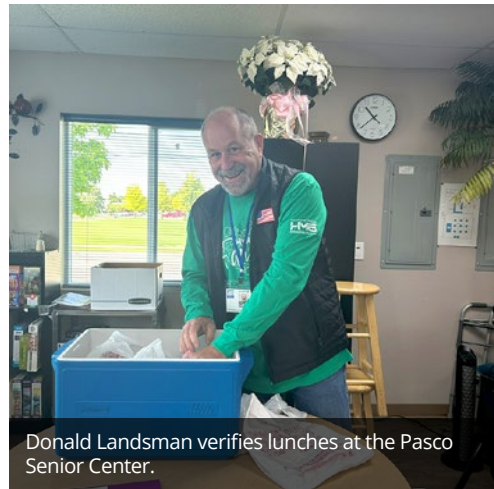
We've got plans! The Mid-Columbia Children's Museum celebrated their founding donors for their mission to provide an inclusive, fun and immersive space for children and families to freely explore, discover and learn, while fostering accessibility and community collaboration. HMIS is proud to make this investment to help cultivate a generation of engaged and curious critical thinkers who are empowered to create a better future for themselves and their communities.

HMIS Adopts Routes for Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels

Contributor: Jill Harvill

What has 16 hearts and a penchant for community service? Our HMIS Family Meals on Wheels delivery team! We recently adopted four Friday routes after 16 employees completed volunteer orientation and began delivering meals to local seniors.

The Adopt-a-Route program welcomes groups to commit to a regular delivery route. Did you know that Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels delivers over 3,500 nutritionally balanced meals every week? This is accomplished by over 250 essential volunteer drivers like our HMIS Family! Our routes require a minimum of four volunteers a week. If you'd like to join our volunteer team, email Jill Harvill at jill_d_harvill@ri.gov.



Donald Landsman verifies lunches at the Pasco Senior Center.



Renee Brooks is ready for her first delivery!



Riley Stam gets his deliveries ready to go.