



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

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SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

HANFORD MISSION  
**HMiS**  
INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS



# MISSION: EXCELLENCE

Setting new benchmarks for ourselves and our industry.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Hyperlinks to stories

Guest Message	2
Jon Toon Receives President's Lifesaving Award	3
Volunteer Spotlight	4
Mission Accomplished	5
New Officers Graduate from Hanford Patrol Academy	6
HMIS at WM2024	7
Prescribed Burns Used to Manage Tumbleweed Accumulation	9
Team Focus: Interface Management	11
HAMMER Staffers Attend Veterans in Energy Conference	12
IMS Upgrades Fortify Backbone of HLAN Network	13
ACT Heart for the Arts	15
Students Get "Amped Up" for High Voltage Electrical Line Safety	16
Hanford Engineers Week Encourages Pursuit of STEM Careers	17
Mid-Columbia Regional Science & Engineering Fair	18

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



This month, we're zeroing in on a principle that's core to everything we do – excellence. It's not just a benchmark but the way we operate. Our mission, complex as it is, demands nothing less. Excellence is what we strive for in every project, every challenge and in our daily work. It's about doing our best, being proud and then finding ways to do even better.

Our track record speaks to our commitment to excellence. It's evident in our solutions, our teamwork and the respect we earn in our field. But excellence isn't just about maintaining our standards; it's about exceeding them. It's about continuous improvement, pushing boundaries and setting new benchmarks for ourselves and our industry. Excellence is about remaining proud, but never satisfied.

I want to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work. It's your effort that drives our success. As we move forward, let's keep challenging ourselves, staying focused on our goals and upholding our commitment to excellence.

Thank you for your commitment to safety and the mission.

Bob

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## 5 MINUTES WITH JODIE MOXLEY



We recently connected with HMIS Ethics Officer Jodie Moxley. While we couldn't get her to pin down the one song she *has* to sing along with when she hears it, because "there are so many," she quickly answered, "the Mariners" and "the Cougs" (alumni) when asked which teams she roots for. We also found that she wants to help people feel empowered to reach their goals and become successful in areas they want to serve. Here are a few more things Jodie shared:

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

I had a phenomenal leader at a previous job. She led as a coach and a mentor, which I try to emulate. I will also say my dad. He served in the Air Force in Vietnam, and I admire his ability to lead and endure. He was born in 1941 and I think of how he endured through generational transitions for more than 80 years.

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

It's something to strive to achieve, but it's never attainable. It's an ongoing process where you always work to improve and move the needle in the right direction to learn, excel and achieve. To always be in pursuit of excellence.

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

Travel the northwest with my family, camping and spending time outdoors. My son plays baseball, so we spend time traveling for that. I live with boys, so I get to do things like fishing in my free time. I also travel to Boise to visit my daughter.















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

I like collaborating with people. I will switch tasks or take time to connect with others to regroup and refocus. I also like to get outside for a walk to clear my mind. Or I fall to my comedic side.

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

I grew up with horses and used to barrel race. I've been to three NASCAR races, including one on my honeymoon, and I've met angler Bill Dance.

## RAPID FIRE

	
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### Jon Toon Receives President's Lifesaving Award

Jon Toon was awarded the President's Lifesaving Award at the March PZAC meeting in recognition of his above and beyond response during a medical emergency. Jon responded quickly when a peer needed urgent medical assistance – assessing vitals and placing the individual in a safe position. We commend Jon for his ability to multitask and maintain composure during the event. Thank you for exemplifying our safety-conscious culture, which contributed to saving a life!



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Brenda Kenton SENIOR SAFETY SPECIALIST

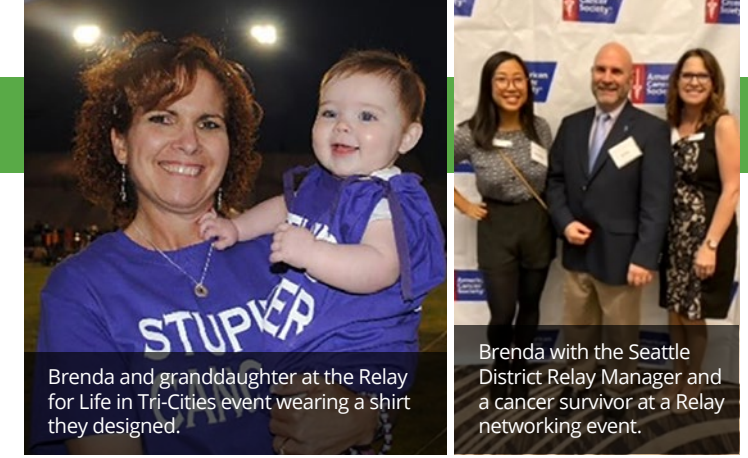
Meet Brenda Kenton, a senior safety specialist for HMIS. Brenda has been volunteering for over two decades, most notably with the American Cancer Society, Salvation Army and Make-A-Wish.

Brenda began her volunteering in the early 2000's for the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life, after her late husband was diagnosed with cancer. Brenda started volunteering as a participant and fundraiser, then as a member of the event planning committee both in the Tri-Cities and Seattle areas.

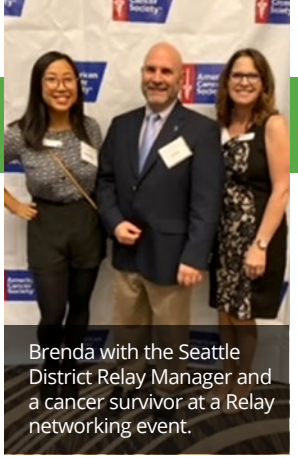
The annual event is a 10-month planning and execution process, starting in September and concluding with the event in June.

Through the years, Brenda's connections with the cause continued to grow, as she later overcame her own battle with cancer.

COVID made the event a bit more complicated, with restrictions on large gatherings and events, but they were able to pivot and still raise money and support the cause. A virtual relay was held, with more focus on fundraising, but that still allowed participants to log their activity to show support of goals.



Brenda and granddaughter at the Relay for Life in Tri-Cities event wearing a shirt they designed.



Brenda with the Seattle District Relay Manager and a cancer survivor at a Relay networking event.



Brenda and niece, Lexi, at the Relay for Life in Tri-Cities.

In addition to her dedication to Relay for Life, Brenda has volunteered throughout the holidays ringing bells for the Salvation Army. And last year was the first time she volunteered with the McCurley Dealership's annual Wheels Make-A-Wish event, along with her friend Michelle, which supports Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington to help grant the wishes of local children with critical illnesses.

"I do it because I believe in the cause that I'm supporting, and I think it makes a difference," Brenda said.

# MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED

## Dedication Beyond Duty – Chief Thomas

*Contributor: Cerise Peck*

Interim Fire Chief Nick Thomas is not just a leader in the department but also a guiding force in our community. With 35 years in fire service, and decades of coaching, his story is one of passion and dedication.

His most recent coaching accomplishment was taking the Kamiakin High School girls basketball team to the state tournament - but Thomas is no rookie to the coaching gig. Transitioning from athlete to coach in his twenties, he began his career coaching peewee football in Florida while stationed in the Air Force.

Carrying his passion for sports and leadership through life and career transitions, Thomas found himself coaching football and basketball wherever he landed – except on deployment as he said he was “busy with other duties.”



Thomas and four Kamiakin Braves football players celebrating a state win in 2016.



All smiles for the Kamiakin Lady Braves' basketball team's win at the 2024 Mid-Columbia Conference championship.

His philosophy? Empathy, trust and organization - qualities that make him respected both in the department and on the field. "When your workforce trusts and believes in you...they will bend over backwards to make sure the department is successful. It's the same with coaching," said Thomas.

This belief has driven teams under his guidance to great heights, overcoming challenges and celebrating achievements at Kamiakin, like the milestone of two basketball players reaching the 1,000-point mark and a state football title.

Chief Thomas embodies the spirit of service, showing us that the impact of true leadership knows no bounds. His story is not just about the successes achieved under his coaching, or his exemplary service in the fire department; it's a testament to the power of giving back to one's community and the lasting legacy of nurturing young talents. We are proud to have Thomas as part of our team and eager to see how his influence will shape future leaders.

**To submit an item for our Mission: Accomplished section, please email [hmiscomm@rl.gov](mailto:hmiscomm@rl.gov)**



Hanford Patrol welcomed 14 new officers following their completion of an 18-week training academy.



DOE Director of Security and Emergency Services Tim Haddick (far left) administers the oath of office to this year's new officers during their graduation ceremony.

## MISSION: EXCELLENCE

### New Officers Graduate from Hanford Patrol Academy

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

Fourteen outstanding officers were sworn in on March 14 to begin their careers with the Hanford Patrol. This year's graduates successfully completed a screening process that included several fitness tests, extensive pre-employment checks and interviews, and medical and psychological evaluations.

During the 18-week training program, these officers learned about the legal authorities associated with their Federal Commission and conducted extensive firearms, defensive tactics and special weapons training. They also earned certifications in emergency vehicle operations, first aid, CPR and RadWorker.

The academy features several weeks of training in hands-on, real-life scenarios. The candidates test their skills in several simulated

events, including active shooter situations and terrorist attacks. The mock scenarios provide the officers with valuable experience as they prepare to protect Hanford and its critical assets.

"You're here for a national security mission that includes protecting DOE assets and people, but you are armed, equipped and trained to protect special nuclear material from falling into the wrong hands," shared Tim Haddick, DOE's director of Security and Emergency Services, as he addressed the newest class of officers during their graduation ceremony. "So, when danger comes in the form of a violent adversary, or even a violent insider, I expect others to run and hide, but I'm asking you to run into the danger, to risk injury and even death to carry out that mission."

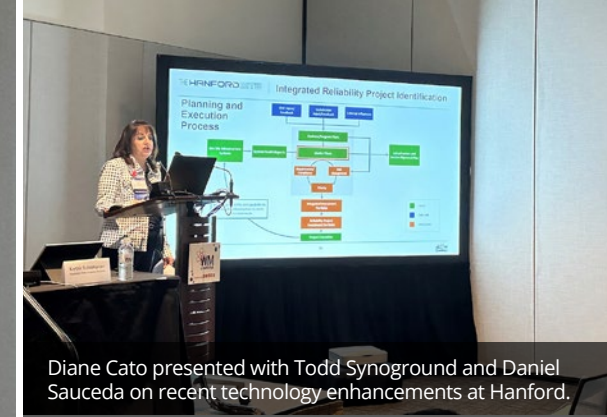
Congratulations to this incoming group of Hanford Patrol officers: Todd Allen, Izak Atwood, Nicole Brown, Jose Cervantes, Oscar Delamora, Oliver Hernandez, Eugenio Padilla, Bradley Patterson, Carlos Ramirez, Travis Roos, Aaron Sheppard, Jason Simpson and Michael Torrescano.



After a brief creative demonstration, Bob Wilkinson (right) discussed infrastructure during a Hanford-focused panel.



Todd Eckman explains the work to transition Bechtel's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant to the Hanford Local Area Network.



Diane Cato presented with Todd Synoground and Daniel Saucedo on recent technology enhancements at Hanford.



Alison Hull presented on modernizing the Hanford records program.

## MISSION: EXCELLENCE

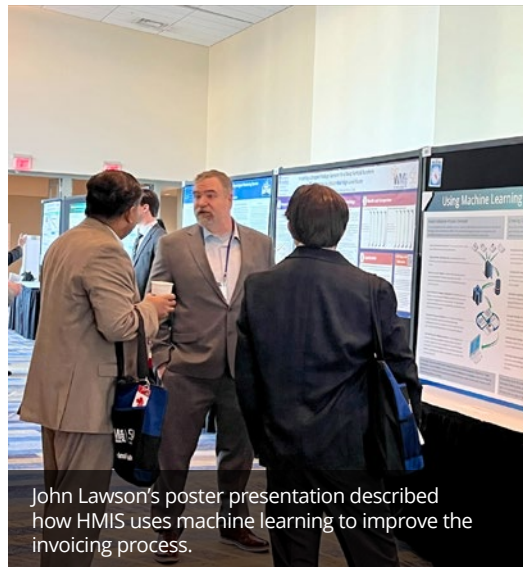
### HMIS at WM2024

Contributor: Jill Harvill

If there's one thing our team does well (and we all know there's way more than one), it's supporting each other and the progress of our work at Hanford. At the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Waste Management Symposia, HMIS presented on several topics to an audience of industry professionals.

In addition to these presentations and discussions, our team was able to network with other industry professionals, sharing best practices and innovative strategies to keep the mission moving forward.

The One Hanford exhibit was a beacon for all things Hanford. DOE and contractor staff congregated there to share progress of the cleanup mission with attendees. The Hanford Virtual Tour was used to help demonstrate how we are managing risk, developing infrastructure and treating tank waste at the Hanford Site.



John Lawson's poster presentation described how HMIS uses machine learning to improve the invoicing process.



HMIS staff at the One Hanford exhibit.



Hanford Fire Captain Dave Wheeler uses a drip torch to ignite the vegetation.

## MISSION: EXCELLENCE

### Prescribed Burns Used to Manage Tumbleweed Accumulation

*Contributor: Cerise Peck*

In a proactive approach to manage the accumulation of tumbleweeds on the Hanford Site, Hanford Fire Department crews have initiated a series of prescribed burns. These controlled fires, planned meticulously to ensure the safety of both personnel and the environment, occur annually between March and August.

The decision to utilize prescribed burns comes as a strategic measure to mitigate potential fire hazards and maintain operational safety across the Hanford Site. Tumbleweeds, known for their rapid growth and mobility, pose a fire risk, especially during the dry months. By removing this combustible material through controlled burns, HFD aims to prevent uncontrolled wildfires, ensuring the safety of our facilities and the continuity of our mission.

“Prescribed burns are a recognized and effective land management tool that helps in reducing fire hazards by eliminating excess vegetation,” said Interim Fire Chief Nick

Thomas. “This method not only aids in preventing the spread of wildfires, but also promotes the health of native plant species by removing the accumulated tumbleweeds.”

HFD is committed to maintaining the safety of the Site and ensuring the protection of our community and operations. Through careful planning and execution, prescribed burns are a critical part of their strategy to manage risks and uphold their commitment to safety at the Hanford Site.

## MISSION: EXCELLENCE



### TEAM FOCUS: Interface Management

Contributor: Jill Harvill

Facilitation. Coordination. Resolution. These three words describe Interface Management's mission to provide open interactions between HMIS and our One Hanford customers to ensure effective delivery of Hanford Site services.

The Interface Management team is led by Dan Sours, a 15-year Hanford employee. His team of five Interface Management Specialists provide timely, essential collaboration between HMIS and the other prime contractors. Maura Oldfield, Manny Chavallo, Susie Konen, Catherine Huard and Annika Reams build relationships with HMIS, DOE and other contractors to enable quick decision making to ensure customer needs are being met.

They all work together to maintain administrative configuration control of the Hanford Site Services and Interface Requirements Matrix (also known as the J-3 Table) and managing the Service Catalog for all Site customers. Additionally, they maintain the Interface Management Plan, the Inter-Contractor Work Order (ICWO) process and the Annual Forecast of Services. Dan's favorite part of their scope is the challenge!



From left, Interface Management team Dan Sours, Catherine Huard, Manny Chavallo, Susie Konen, Maura Oldfield and Annika Reams.

"No day is the same," he says. "To many, this Hanford ecosystem may seem like it doesn't change much, but below the surface it is changing all the time. Being part of the change is my favorite part – and doing it with professionals within HMIS and across all Site contractor leadership is what makes it fun."

One thing you might be surprised to learn about Interface Management is that they are very competitive. Intense discussions occur every year on how to win best costume at JA Bowling. Dan says they have won three times. Can't wait to see what they come up with this year!



The Interface Management team in their winning JA Bowling costumes in 2020.

## ONE HANFORD

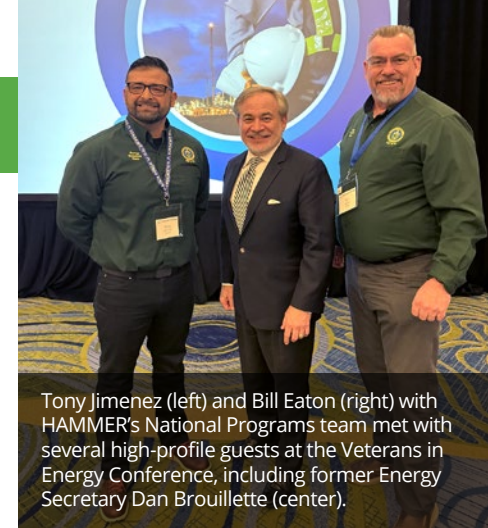
### HAMMER Staffers Attend Veterans in Energy Conference

Contributor: Shane Edinger

HMIS is proud to be a veteran-friendly employer, and we recognize the attributes and skillsets veterans acquire during their military service are valuable assets that can significantly benefit the Hanford Site workforce. That's a big reason why Bill Eaton and Tony Jimenez, with HAMMER's National Programs team, attended this year's Veterans in Energy Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C.

The three-day event gave Eaton and Jimenez, who both served in the U.S. Air Force, a chance to connect with hundreds of veterans who are currently working, or are looking for work, in the energy sector and share the Hanford mission with them.

"It was a great opportunity for us to explain what the Hanford mission is all about and talk with them about HMIS' role in that mission," shared Jimenez, who



Tony Jimenez (left) and Bill Eaton (right) with HAMMER's National Programs team met with several high-profile guests at the Veterans in Energy Conference, including former Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette (center).



Jimenez and Eaton also met with Kurt Aikman (right), a senior advisor with MISO Energy.

serves as the energy emergency response lead and deployment coordinator for Emergency Support Function #12. "It gave us a chance to educate folks on what we do for the Department of Energy and the role HAMMER plays across the DOE complex."

Veterans in Energy was founded by military veterans working in the energy industry with the goal of providing ongoing professional support for members employed across a wide spectrum of positions within the energy sector. The organization has developed a vast library of resources that companies can use to help recruit, hire and retain veterans in their workforce.

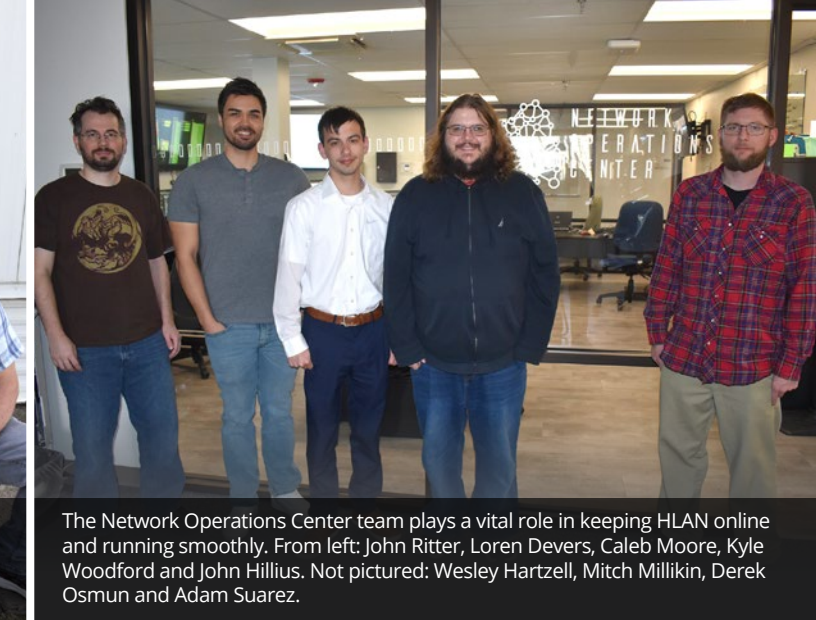
"Transitioning from the military to the civilian world can be tough for veterans," said Eaton, HAMMER's Energy Response Program manager. "The goal of every veterans service organization should be to help veterans 'reset' their perspective so they can better function in a non-military environment, because that's the world we all live in. Veterans in Energy does a great job in helping to make that happen."



The North Wind Network Engineering team provides critical support to HLAN. From left: Ramon Madrid, Gavin Creach, Mike Yale and Matt Johnson. Not pictured: Chris Hodge, Micah Stewart and Derek Trebes.



The IM Field Support Services team played a key role in the replacement of network backbone and distribution switches over the Presidents Day weekend. Front row (from left): Bryan Hurt, Mathew Lighthall, Quinn Bragg and Jason Hammack. Back row (from left): Cathy Slape, Jeff Schatz, Zackery Larson and Mark Compau.



The Network Operations Center team plays a vital role in keeping HLAN online and running smoothly. From left: John Ritter, Loren Devers, Caleb Moore, Kyle Woodford and John Hillius. Not pictured: Wesley Hartzell, Mitch Millikin, Derek Osmun and Adam Suarez.

## ONE HANFORD

### IMS Upgrades Fortify Backbone of HLAN Network

Contributor: Shane Edinger

A multi-month project for the Information Management Services team promises to strengthen and upgrade the framework of the Hanford Local Area Network. Phase one of the project involved upgrading 15 pairs of backbone and distribution switches serving the Richland, 300 and 700 Areas, as well as the HAMMER Federal Training Center. These switches facilitate data transfers between users, data centers and mission essential facilities, ultimately allowing users to reach critical apps and services.

The work was completed over the Presidents Day holiday weekend and involved the North Wind Network Engineering team, North Wind Project Management, the Network Operations Center, HMIS Engineering and HMIS field technicians.

“We needed to make these upgrades because the old backbone and distribution switches were ten years old and had reached their end-of-life,” shared Gavin Creach, a senior network engineer with North Wind Solutions. “It was important to get them upgraded to the latest secure firmware, so they’re compliant with modern cybersecurity requirements. Plus, upgrading the hardware will provide opportunities for enhancements and advanced capabilities in the future.”

One of those enhancements centers around Media Access Control Security, or MACsec, which will help the Hanford Site meet the requirements laid out in Executive Order 14028, which essentially says all data on HLAN needs to be encrypted, both at rest and in transit.

“We’ve already encrypted all our data at rest on HLAN,” said Jim Smith, HMIS’ director of IT Infrastructure and Operations. “Now, the next step is taking those encryption requirements further to help us encrypt data traffic in transit. This project makes our switches capable of doing that.”

Phase one of the project upgraded about half of the backbone and distribution switches on HLAN. Phases two and three will upgrade the rest of the switches, first in 200 East and then in 200 West. They expect to have all the upgrades complete before the end of the fiscal year.

“These upgrades will also give us the capability to increase our bandwidth in the future,” Smith added. “That will become increasingly important as more and more industrial control systems come online with the shift to 24/7 operations.”

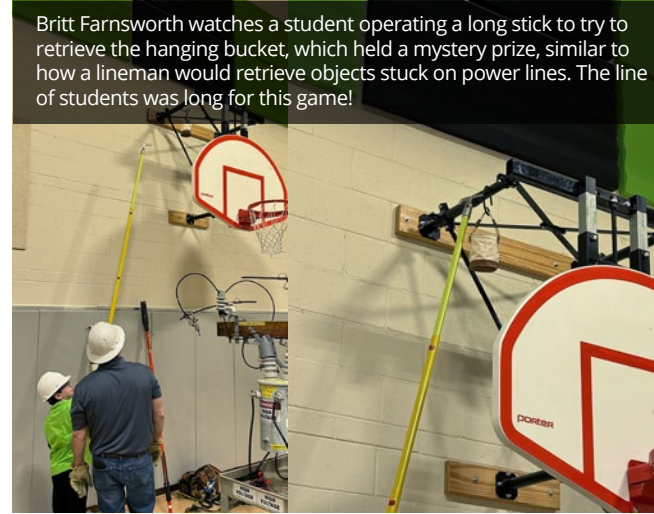
## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



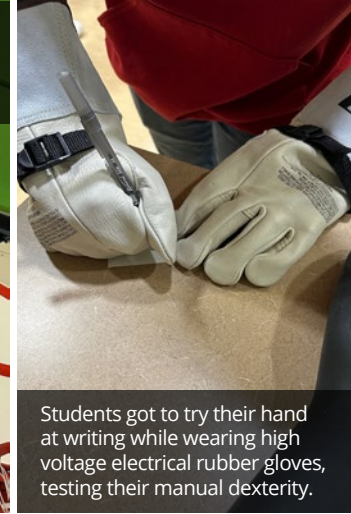
### ACT Heart for the Arts

“High Tea – High Fashion” was the theme at the 2024 Heart for the Arts Gala, benefiting the Academy of Children’s Theatre. HMIS is proud to be a sponsor of this event. In attendance on behalf of HMIS were (from left to right) Reneé Brooks, MaryAnne Wuennecke, Daryl Witherspoon, Deidra Witherspoon, Jill Harvill, Steve Harvill, Diane Cato, Bryan McGlothlin, Carly McFadden, Sean McFadden, Drew Thomas and Jennifer Thomas. Over \$100,000 was raised to support educational opportunities in the theatre arts for young people of all abilities.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Britt Farnsworth watches a student operating a long stick to try to retrieve the hanging bucket, which held a mystery prize, similar to how a lineman would retrieve objects stuck on power lines. The line of students was long for this game!



Students got to try their hand at writing while wearing high voltage electrical rubber gloves, testing their manual dexterity.



Britt Farnsworth poses with one of two students who won a bonus prize (a fishing pole)!



Terry Dunn discussing high voltage electrical downed power line safety with a student.



Electrical Utilities display set up and high voltage safety training cart.

### Students Get “Amped Up” for High Voltage Electrical Line Safety

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

On Feb. 29, members of the Electrical Utilities team presented to over 200 students and their families at Marie Curie STEM Elementary School’s STEM Night in Pasco.

Terry Dunn (Lineman FWS), Britt Farnsworth (EU Lineman) and Rob Johnson (EU Operations Manager) taught students about high voltage electrical line safety and how to stay safe around downed power lines. Students had the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities and scenarios, while also watching a video about energized high voltage helicopter line work.

Thank you to Terry, Britt and Rob for attending and getting students “amped up” for high voltage electrical line safety! Great work!

## HMIS FAMILY

### Hanford Engineers Week Encourages Pursuit of STEM Careers

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

Thank you to our engineers and other staff who volunteered during Hanford Engineers Week! From standing on cups to building towers, volunteers visited elementary schools around the community to help kids understand the fun side of engineering. Our volunteers also helped with the High School Friendly competition, where 15 local high schools came together to compete in a friendly build-off. The annual Hanford Engineers Week includes a range of events to encourage local students to pursue careers in STEM fields.



## HMIS FAMILY

### Mid-Columbia Regional Science & Engineering Fair

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

More than 160 students from 14 counties in the region participated in the 69th Annual Mid-Columbia Regional Science & Engineering Fair. This event brings together the most outstanding projects which have been selected from nearby school fairs and sponsored by companies like HMIS.

Students brought their projects to the Columbia Center Mall and explained their experiments and projects to local spectators as well as several volunteer judges, including our own Matt Parkhill with Electrical Utilities and Matt Perrott with Environmental.



Students competed by grade level amongst their peers for various awards. The top students will continue onto the International Science and Engineering Fair, the culminating event each year for over 1,700 finalists selected from affiliated regional fairs.



