



# Newsline...

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Jan. 14, 2008

## News You Can Use

### **George Whitener: deputy power superintendent**

The process of preparing financial forecasts and models, and developing retail rate recommendations is becoming increasingly critical for Tacoma Power. In response, Superintendent Gary Armfield created a new position, deputy power superintendent, and named George Whitener to the post. George will focus on financial modeling, funding strategies, retail rate design, business case analysis, analysis of industry trends and issues, and helping develop a wholesale power risk management program, as well as other programs. George starts his new position on Jan. 14.

### **Ted Coates is the new power manager**

With George Whitener moving on to the deputy power superintendent role, Ted Coates was promoted to power manager. With 32 years of experience in the electric utility industry, Ted has served as the assistant power manager since 2000.

### **Feb. 1 is the deadline to cash out PTO**

Employees who are enrolled in personal time off (PTO) leave can cash out up to 80 hours of PTO if they meet eligibility requirements:

#### ***Up to 40 hours paid out***

- You were enrolled in PTO for all of 2007;
- You used no more than two work days of unplanned personal time off (PTU) in 2007;
- IRS rules require that a cash pay-out like this be made at 90 percent of your regular pay rate.

#### ***Up to 80 hours paid out***

- All requirements for the 40-hour pay-out above;
- PLUS, you must have used at least 80 hours of planned PTO in 2007.

Your timekeeper has a list of eligible employees. To receive the pay-out, get a form from (*continued*)

## What's Cookin' the Week of Jan. 14

- Cup of Soup & Sandwich — \$2.63
- Cup of Chili or Chowder & Sandwich — \$2.81
- Salad — \$2.76
- Hot Special — \$3.03

### Monday

- Cream of Jalapeño Soup, BBQ Rib Sandwich
- Four Cheese Salad
- Turkey Basil & Sun-Dried Tomato Panini, Coleslaw

### Tuesday

- Split Pea Soup, Ham & Swiss Sandwich
- Chef Salad
- Spaghetti & Meatballs, Grilled Cheese Bread, Salad

### Wednesday

- Pork Verde Soup, Crispy Buffalo Chicken & Ranch Wrap
- Salmon & Cheddar Salad
- Turkey in Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll, Cookie, Orange Wedge

### Thursday

- Italian Meatball Soup, Turkey & Avocado on a Kaiser
- Cashew Chicken Salad
- Picnic Lunch: Cheeseburger or Hot Dog, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cake

### Friday

- Clam Chowder, Taco Burger
- Tuna & Cheddar Salad
- Teriyaki Chicken, Fried Rice, Salad, Roll

If you have questions or to place an order, call the Cafeteria at 502-8179.

## Share the news

The deadline to submit items for *Newsline* is 10 a.m. Fridays. Send an e-mail to [newsline@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:newsline@cityoftacoma.org), or call editor Laurel Willoughby, 502-8754, if you don't have e-mail access.

*(continued)* your timekeeper, complete the form and return it to your timekeeper no later than Friday, Feb. 1. Late submissions will not be accepted. Pay-outs will be processed for the pay periods ending Jan. 20 and Feb. 3 only.

### **Public Utility Board results for Jan. 9**

All items passed during the Public Utility Board meeting on Jan. 9.

### **We appreciate your copier patience**

Thanks to all of you who have patiently gone through the copier installation process at TPU. As you've probably noticed, many of the old copiers are still around, waiting for pickup. Community & Media Services has requested removal of the old copiers, but we are at the mercy of our previous provider. We are working on getting them jettisoned as soon as possible.

### **Service Awards Recognition Dinner is this Thursday**

Dress up if you like, or dress down, whatever makes you comfortable. The invitation-only event is this Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Tacoma Convention Center. It starts at 5:30 p.m. with a no-host social hour and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. More information, including a list of those invited to and honored at the dinner, is available on CityWeb. Parking passes will be distributed at the dinner to use as you leave the parking lot.

### **TPU Toastmasters celebrates 25th anniversary with Jan. 17 open house**

Join the best speakers in the house on Thursday, Jan. 17, at 12:05 p.m. in the Ground Floor Conference Room. There, you can learn how being involved with Toastmasters can improve your speaking skills and confidence. Enjoy free cake and coffee, see what a Toastmasters meeting is like at TPU and take advantage of a special joining rate. Toastmasters provides a constructive and supportive environment that helps participants not only improve their public speaking skills but also build poise and confidence. Toastmasters is training! TPU pays for each employee's membership to Toastmasters International, so all a member has to pay is \$8 per year to belong to the club, and a one-time \$20 fee for materials when they first join. If you join before the end of the day on Friday, Jan. 18, 2008, TPU Toastmasters will pay the \$20 fee for you! Contact Tom Arter, 502-8509, for more information.

### **It's 90 birthday candles for former hydro plant supervisor at Nisqually River Project**

Neal Purdy retired in February 1981 after 23 years with Tacoma Power, and on Sunday, Jan. 27, he'll celebrate his 90th birthday. Employees are invited to share the afternoon and memories with Neal from 1 to 3 p.m. at his home in Graham. No gifts please, just good times! For information and directions, contact his daughter Diane, 360-879-5327.

### **We've got crab legs . . . and dancing on Feb. 9**

Mark your calendars now for the annual Utilities People Crab Feed and Dance on Saturday, Feb. 9, at the VFW Wild West Post 91, 2000 S. Union Avenue. Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. and dancing from 8 p.m. to midnight. The dinner menu includes Dungeness crab, salad, crab, rolls, crab, beer, crab, wine, crab and pop. The music menu includes hits from the '50s and '60s provided by the Rockodiles, featuring Mark Harkness, Management Services. The evening food and entertainment cost is \$35 for Utilities People members and \$40 for non-members. Tickets go on sale soon.

### **Want to pay less for cell phone use? Check government rates**

Many cell phone companies offer reduced government employee rates to their customers. TPU employees who'd like to pay less for cell service or broadband access should check with their current service provider, or be sure to ask about it if you're shopping around for a new provider.

### **Cafeteria football contest playoff round has begun**

Did you enjoy the weekend of playoff games? Check the Cafeteria on Monday to see how many weekly winners were dropped from competition in the Cafeteria football contest. The person who stands alone at Super Bowl time will receive a \$50 gift card to the Outback Steakhouse.

## Green Scene

### **“Vanish” — it’s the new “get there”**

Employees vanish! One moment a TPU employee is driving to work alone in a car and then POOF, they “vanish!” Not into thin air . . . but, rather, into a vanpool. “Vanish” is the new vanpool promotional campaign, and it stands for “**V**anpool **I**ncentives for **S**ustainable **H**abits.” So far, nine employees have “vanished,” and if they ride in their vanpool at least two times a week for two consecutive months, they will receive a \$50 Fred Meyer gift card. Not only that, they will be saving money on gas they would usually purchase for their work commute. Plus, the City subsidizes vanpool fares up to \$115 per month, so in many cases vanpoolers at TPU ride for free. Why not see if you can “vanish” and make your commute problems disappear? For more information about vanpooling and all commuting options at TPU, contact Randy Stearnes, employee transportation coordinator, 502-8224.

## Giving Back

### **Ye olde Christmas cards are good for something!**

If that pile of Christmas cards is gathering dust, consider sending them to Barb Werelius, Management Services. She collects used Christmas and other greeting cards for a charity project in a Seattle nursing home. Contact Barb, 502-8764, with any questions.

### **Five eligible for donated PTO or sick leave**

Luke Spaulding, Tacoma Rail; Duane Harper, Water Distribution; Kevin Leib, Grounds Maintenance; Holly Mazurek, Customer Service; and Dennis Johnson, Building Maintenance, are eligible to receive donated PTO or sick leave. To donate, contact your timekeeper or Human Resources, 502-8158, for a leave sharing request form, or download a Word or PDF version of the form from CityWeb.

## For Your Benefit

### **Take the first month of the year to focus on long-term health goals: blood pressure**

Of the 2,218 City employees, retirees and family members who took the Mayo Clinic health risk assessment, 44 percent were identified as having a high blood pressure risk. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute notes that adopting healthy lifestyle habits is an effective first step in both preventing and controlling high blood pressure. These habits include following a healthy eating pattern, reducing sodium in your diet, maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active, limiting alcohol intake, quitting smoking and other factors. If lifestyle changes alone do not control your blood pressure, your doctor might need to prescribe one or more medications.

## What's Happening & When

- **Jan. 17:** “Replacement windows — more than cosmetics” Tacoma Power workshop. Find out which materials and technologies matter when selecting replacement windows. Thursday, 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. Registration is required; call 502-8377.
- **Jan. 18:** Blood drive in the Auditorium Conference Room, 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Drink plenty of fluids, have a hearty breakfast and skip the caffeine. Walk-ins are welcome, or contact “Countess Vampira” Viv Leach, Finance, 591-5539, for an appointment.
- **Jan. 18:** Last day to donate to the HUGS — hats, underwear, gloves and socks — drive in the Cafeteria, Click! Southwest Annex, Water Distribution Building, South Service Center and at Tacoma Rail. Hats, gloves and socks should be new or gently used, clean and ready to wear. Underwear must be new in packages, sizes 3T to 6X. Contact Jan Pieper, 502-8452; or Lyn White, 502-8818, with questions.
- **Jan. 19:** “Keep warm no matter what your heat source” Tacoma Power workshop. Examines baseboard heaters, forced-air furnaces, fan-assisted wall heating. Saturday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Auditorium. Registration is required; call 502-8377.

## Bargain Shopping

### **Submit your ad to *Newsline***

Ads run in two issues of *Newsline*. The deadline to submit ads is 10 a.m. Fridays. Send an e-mail to [newsline@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:newsline@cityoftacoma.org), or call editor Laurel Willoughby, 502-8754, if you don't have e-mail access. Include at least your phone number or e-mail, and first name in your ad. Ads for business activities, online auction ads and calls for charity sponsorship are not allowed. Occasionally, ads will be borrowed from the Cafeteria bulletin board and included in *Newsline*.

- No ads this week — people must have burned out their shopping fuses in December!