



The **SKOOKUM** *Skoop*

October 2014

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Photo credit: Rob Potter

“Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.” — Oprah Winfrey

Grounds Maintenance Services, Fort Riley Kansas



Skookum welcomes our newest Project Manager, **Damon Darroch**, to lead Department 14, Grounds Maintenance Services, Fort Riley, Kansas. In September, the phase-in of the project commences with employee interviews, equipment and tool procurement, safety training, and orientation. Skookum's start date is the end of October.

Fort Riley, known as "Home of the Big Red One," is the Army's 1st Infantry Division and is located in the Central Flint Hills region of northeastern Kansas, one hour west of Topeka, the state capital.

Skookum's scope of work includes mowing lawns at the child care facilities, teen centers, dormitories, the air field, military marina, and the perimeter fence line.

Skookum is also tasked with pruning trees and shrubs, watering trees, fertilizer and pesticide application, leaf removal, sprinkler system management, and finally snow removal.

This new contract will be Skookum's second at Fort Riley, paired with our GSA contract.

Bob Cordell | General Manager | Bremerton Home Office

SAFETY ZONE:



Halloween is a time honored tradition for many, but the excitement of the night's activities can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real trick to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. The real hazards are not from witches or ghosts, but rather from falls or accidents involving pedestrians and vehicles. A few simple precautions can make this evening of make believe safer for both children and adults.

Safety Tips: Motorists

- Look for children at intersections, on medians, curbs, and before leaving a stop sign.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys very carefully.
- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Watch for children in dark clothing.
- Be especially alert between 5:30 - 9:30 PM, as these are popular trick-or-treating hours.

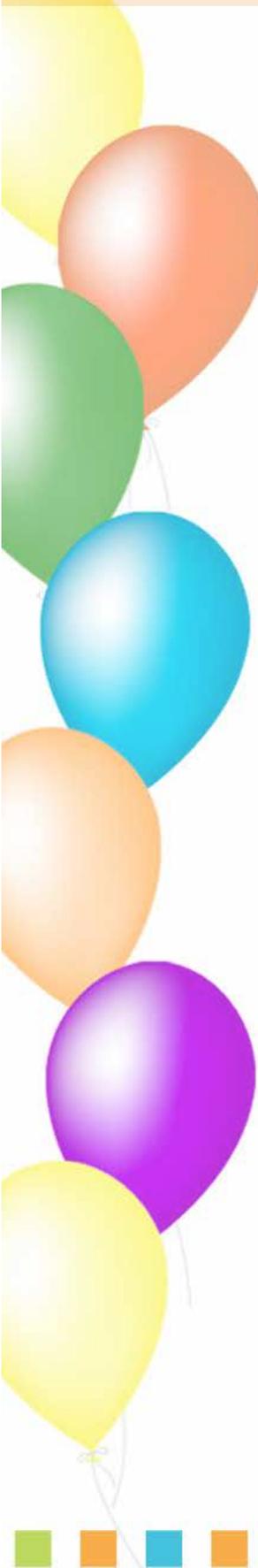
Safety Tips: Trick-or-Treating and General Safety

- Ensure costumes are flame retardant or resistant.
- Young children should always go trick-or-treating with an adult – never alone.
- Plan the entire trick-or-treating route and ensure the family knows what it is.
- Carry flashlights to be better seen by motorists.
- Take a cell phone.
- Accept treats only in the doorway – never go inside a house.
- Do not eat any treats until they have been inspected by a trusted adult.
- Walk on sidewalks – if there aren't any, always face traffic.

A moment's inattention is all it takes for an accident/incident to happen and it's always tragic when a child gets hurt. By making safety awareness part of your Halloween planning, it can be the evening of fun you intended.

Rich Jelks | Quality Control/Safety/Security Manager | Fort Hood, Texas

October Birthdays



1	Timothy Sloan	17	Carlton Hudson
1	James Catlett	17	Aaron Wright
1	Kalei Mosher	17	Linda Biedermann
2	Joel Nededog	17	Jared Tweedy
2	Eva Wilson	18	Steven Maitland
3	Michael King	18	Raquel Kaal
3	Dena Creekmore	18	Peleiupu Leiataua
3	Curt Lavender	19	IvyRose Espinal
4	Tiffany Arthur	21	Derrick Nakahara
5	Roberto Gutierrez	21	Robert Kelly
5	Michael Concepcion	22	Ariell Henry
5	Richard Plunkett	22	Alex Allen
5	Vickie West	22	Justin Tweedy
5	Gregory Martin	23	Stephen Prange
5	Scott Stivers	24	Ariel Pino
6	Byron Dickerson	24	Jerry Good
6	Gregory Jackson	24	Federico Aragon
6	Hwa Quick	24	Maria Martin
6	Bradley Pantaleo	25	Ronald Cabalong
6	Sherrie Thurman	25	Jason Slahor
7	Randy Clayton	25	Debra Stevenson
7	Genevie Borja	26	Remy Deleon
7	Constantine Karafas	26	William Pearson
7	Adam Snodgrass	26	Bradley Regan
7	Devin Gagne	26	Joseph Jones
7	Andrew Robbe	27	Jose Jimenez
8	Yvonne Hoffman	27	Susan Keim
8	William Bennett	28	Stacey Sessom
9	Thomas Whipple	28	Jocelyn Talucad
9	Michael Parsons	29	Brynn Cleveland
9	Joseph Hyson	29	Gene Tomes
9	Amber Gutierrez	29	Carl Singleton
9	Christopher Conway-Newton	29	Eric Pritts
10	James Vauss	29	James Stanfill
10	Mark Keaton	29	Jared Pinkerton
10	Matthew Garnett	30	Marie Campanoli
11	Peter Mannella	31	Rita Quitugua
11	Jeffrey Jennison	31	Kevin Hitchner
11	Stacey Day	31	Armando Felix
11	Alexander Edwards	31	Kevin Williams
12	Robert Fetter		
12	Le'Trell Whitehurst		
12	Wilmon Barber		
12	Brian Woodall		
13	Edwin Azurin		
13	Sun Smith		
14	Kelly Bowen		
16	Jason Hanson		
16	Rodney Harris		
16	Hudson Graf		



Happy Birthday!



Skookum Excellence Awards

Mathis Pack

Fort Lee – **Nominated by: Karl Cupp, Operations Manager**

Mathis is the newest member of the Work Control Team. He is a full time employee working at the service order desk. His commitment to Skookum is extraordinary. If he has the ability to help, he will. He takes it upon himself to assist work control when required. Mathis also volunteers to cover the service order desk during times of inclement weather. While the non-essential employees are home during snow and other inclement weather, he is covering the service order desk. He also plays a key role reading hundreds of meters when the support is required. The quality of the work he performs is outstanding. His attitude is always positive and he continues to do an outstanding job as one of our Skookum service desk representatives. He performs a plethora of functions for us while he is at the service order desk and we are confident that they are done with the highest level of professionalism. He is an asset to our department.

Collin Thomas

Fort Lee - **Nominated by: Karl Cupp, Operations Manager**

Collin is always respectful and has developed positive relationships with his customers while performing his duties as a Carpenter. Collin's honesty and professionalism are the values that have created the trust between Skookum and its customers. The environment and assignments at Fort Lee are always changing, but Collin's commitment has far exceeded Skookum's expectations and those of its customers. Collin is very particular with the quality of work he performs and strives to give everyone his best, which he always accomplishes. Skookum has never received any negative comments from any area concerning Collin. His safety and attendance records are close to perfection.

Sean Hall

Fort Meade – **Eric Waters, Fort Meade, Maintenance Supervisor**

Sean Hall has shown outstanding achievement in all of the Skookum Core Values. He has demonstrated commitment to his work on numerous occasions remaining after hours to complete tasks. The quality of his work reflects the integrity that he places on the outcome of his performance. He has applied himself in continual training to become more proficient on the different vehicles for which he has the responsibility of repairing and maintaining. He always looks for ways to improve the work environment of his coworkers. He has provided on-time mechanical support for the installation fire department vehicles, with excellent customer service. Sean always follows up on customer concerns and issues promptly.

Violeta Candare

Naval Hospital Bremerton – **The Entire Grave Shift Crew at Naval Hospital Bremerton**

Violeta represents the Skookum Core Values of Diversity, Partnership, Integrity, Quality, and Commitment daily and throughout her entire workweek. Violeta has been here at the Naval Hospital for 22 years. In all that time she has never wavered from integrity or her commitment to her job, or her compassion for her co-workers. She puts her all into her work, always going the extra mile in doing everything to the best of her ability, and with an eye on quality. She is often at work until 1 or 2 AM, doing the employee scheduling, ordering supplies, and taking care of various other assigned tasks. Her workday is supposed to end at midnight, but seldom does. Violeta has a lot going on in her personal life, yet she always has time to lend an ear to another employee's problems and concerns. Violeta is in charge of supervising the swing and graveyard crews. She sees to it that everything functions seamlessly. All cleaning routes are covered, and even extra tasks are completed nightly. My co-workers and I feel that an excellence award for Violeta is long overdue.

Skookum Excellence Awards - Cont'd

Orlando DeJesus

NRL Fleet Maintenance – **Duke Pendergast, Site Manager**

Orlando DeJesus, is a professional driver who operates all types of vehicles: sedans, vans, buses, and trucks. His experience and solid judgment to navigate the increasingly difficult streets and highways of metro Washington, D.C. are truly outstanding. In fact, his local knowledge of secondary streets and routes to transport passengers during morning/evening rush hour traffic or inclement weather assures each passenger safe and timely arrivals. He is extremely versatile by transporting NRL staff, driving the employee bus shuttle, or delivering material to various Naval Research Laboratory sites and even picks up repair parts for Skookum maintenance mechanics. Orlando is called on short notice and always provides exceptional service to the Naval Research Laboratory customers. He is professional, polite, and knowledgeable and always reflects our Skookum Core values. He shows up for work early and is always ready to stay late to assure the mission is complete. We are proud to have Orlando as a member of our Team.

Vielka (Vicky) Stufflebeam

Sanitation – **Nominated by: Bob Ratliff, Project Manager**

Vicky started in the Sanitation department in April 2005. She is truly the “hub” of this department. Not only does she take care of the day-to-day business of answering phones and email and inputting latrine orders into the data base, she also does the majority of the invoicing. She is so well respected by all that words cannot describe. She treats all of our customers as if they were here kids, bending over backwards for them to ensure their request has been processed and the latrines are in place. She also balances their funds for them, sending them the information they requested. Vicky is one of the most dedicated employees I’ve had the pleasure to work with; she plans her time off around invoicing to ensure it’s completed on time. She is also the most talented person at multitasking I’ve seen. She’ll have the phone in one ear and be looking up something on the computer with one hand while writing something down with the other hand- all this while a huge amount of background noise is going on! While she has received several compliments from customers with regard to her work ethic, this is just the latest one she received from public works:

“I WANTED TO TAKE THE TIME TO THANK BOTH VICKI AND KEN OF THE SKOOKUM SANITATION SERVICE. THE 2 EMPLOYEES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE “SPOT ON” CUSTOMER SERVICE TO THE JBLM CYSS YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM DURING EACH SEASON OF SPORTS, I.E. BASEBALL, 2 SEASONS OF SOCCER, FLAG FOOTBALL, ETC... EACH SPORT SEASON REQUIRES THE CHEMICAL LATRINES TO BE RELOCATED THROUGHOUT THE 2 LARGE SPORTS COMPLEX ON JBLM MAIN AND TIMELY CLEANLINESS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK! BECAUSE OF THEIR EFFORTS AND DEDICATION TO DETAIL EACH SEASON, IT HAS KEPT PARENT COMPLAINTS TO A MINIMUM, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE YOUTH CENTER BUILDING IS CLOSED DURING PRACTICES/GAMES FOR INDOOR RESTROOM USE. PLEASE PASS ON MY THANKS, AND HEART FELT GRATITUDE FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO THEIR BUSY AND DIFFICULT JOBS!!”

It is truly a pleasure to work beside someone that is so dedicated to their work; I’d be lost without you, Vicky! Thanks for your outstanding performance that has not gone unnoticed!

The Closing of Summer at Fort Hood

Fall is upon us. The leaves are changing and the weather, fortunately is changing also. We're ready for the fall season. No more triple digit temperature days, or hot, sultry evenings. We love the feeling of just knowing it's getting colder outside in Central Texas.

The summer months, however, have been pretty exhilarating and very climactic at Fort Hood. This past July, we were honored by a visit from the Army Audit Agency. Never before have we gone through such an audit, so we really didn't know quite what to expect or how to prepare. The focus of the visit was to look at our procedural processes or the way we do business, property accountability, and inventory management. What really impressed the audit team was the ability for the employees to interact with customer. Their broad smiles, cheerful greetings and remarkable attitudes were an added plus in the eyes of the auditors. All of the employees with the CIF contributed greatly to the end result of the audit... zero deficiencies noted.

In August, we were again visited by an assistance team. This time it was ICEMP or members of the DOD Individual Chemical Equipment Management Program. The primary reason for the visit was to look at our warehousing procedures and the issuance process of the Chemical Defense Equipment or CDE. Many thanks to all of our employees that assisted in making this inspection a great triumph. I'd like to give a special thanks to **Michelle Ogan, Liz Gibson, Andrew "Mad Max" Maxwell,** and **Ron Smith** for their diligence and hard work. The inspection resulted in no deficiencies.

Tom DuChateau | Site Manager | Fort Hood, TX

Back to School

It was that time again...time for our annual "Back-to-School" supply drive! We want to thank all of you for showing your generosity by bringing in donations. Your donations, such as notebooks, pencils, crayons, rulers, markers, and backpacks gave us the opportunity to provide 21 Skookum employee's children the supplies needed to start the new school year. We were able to achieve our goal by the big-heartedness of our employees who have supported this venture. Thanks ever so much.

Christina Silva | Operations Manager | Fort Hood, TX

News from Skookum Business Systems & IT Department

Don't Forget....

We're on
facebook

Stay up-to-date on Skookum News and Updates by "Liking" our facebook page. Find us on facebook under:

Skookum Contract Services



Your HR team reached out to the Business Systems and IT team with a real issue. We needed a working online job application tool, and we needed it pronto! In about three weeks the teams worked together to identify new applicant tracking tools, conducted a review of features, worked through demos, selected, and implemented Applicant Pro®. According to **Sarah Davies** and **Aschlee Squires**, in one week, we have had 672 applications submitted for consideration from all across the land. This was introduced in concert with the new www.skookum.org web site so check it out!



SEASONAL FLU VACCINE MYTHS



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends anyone over the age of 6 months get a flu shot each year.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends anyone over the age of 6 months get a flu shot each year. Unfortunately, many people don't because they believe one or more of the following myths.

Myth: The flu isn't so bad.

Fact: The flu can lead to serious illness, including pneumonia, even for otherwise healthy people. Plus, a normal bout of the flu can keep a person out of work or school for several days.

Myth: The flu vaccine will make you sick.

Fact: The flu vaccine cannot give you the flu, although you may get side effects like a sore arm, low fever or achiness. Side effects are generally mild and short-lived.

Myth: Healthy people don't need a vaccine.

Fact: Anyone can become sick with the flu and experience complications, even people who are active and healthy. Plus, if you get the flu, you may endanger those around you who are at a higher risk for complications.

Myth: You can still get the flu after getting the vaccine.

Fact: This one is partially true for the following reasons:

- You may have been exposed to a non-flu virus, such as the common cold.
- You may have been exposed to the flu after you got vaccinated but before the vaccine took effect, which takes about two weeks after vaccination.
- You may have been exposed

to a flu virus that was different from the viruses included in the current year's vaccine. The flu vaccine protects against the three influenza viruses expected to be most prevalent, but other flu viruses circulate as well.

Myth: It's too late to get protection from a flu vaccine.

Fact: As long as the flu season isn't over, it's not too late to get vaccinated. Flu seasons can begin early in fall and last until spring, so getting a vaccine can still be beneficial into the spring months.

Myth: You only need to get vaccinated if family and friends get sick from the flu.

Fact: If you wait until people around you get sick, it is often too late to protect yourself, because it takes about two weeks for the vaccine to kick in.

Myth: If you got the vaccine last year, you don't need it this year.

Fact: Research suggests that your body's immunity from the flu vaccine declines throughout the year, so there is often not enough immunity left to protect you from getting sick for multiple seasons. This is why the CDC recommends a flu vaccine each year.

Myth: The vaccine isn't safe.

Fact: Flu vaccines have been used for more than 50 years and have a very good safety track record. They are made the same way each year, and their safety is closely monitored by the CDC and Food and Drug Administration.

Wellness Quote... "Health is like money, we never have a true idea of its value until we lose it."

Race for a Soldier 2014



This year nearly 60 Skookum employees, family, and friends from Bremerton, Port Townsend, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord participated in the Race for a Soldier event in Gig Harbor, WA. This race is broken up into a few different events: the kid's fun run, the 2 mile run/walk event, and the 13.1 half marathon race. This event raises money to support programs that assist our returning veterans in learning coping skills and adjusting back into society when dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI).



Skookum had the largest group of registered participants. Way to represent and support a great cause Skookum! Special thanks to **Sharmon Hoff** for the photos!

News from White Sands Missile Range

As White Sands Missile Range (WSMR, D-51) enters into its third contract year, it will also be tackling a few new projects. Included are replacement of some older equipment such as boilers and chillers in addition to completing a few smaller projects while continuing our normal preventative maintenance work.

Over the summer, WSMR had the opportunity to add a few new members to the team. Joseph Rodriguez is the new QC/Safety Specialist II, assisting Ofelia Rios with the oversight of quality and safety and identifying opportunities for improvement. Joseph was previously employed with the New Mexico DOT where he was a Field Supervisor/Advanced Highway Maintenance Worker. Valerie Flores joined the team as a General Clerk III and tracks the department's time management as well as offering clerical support wherever needed. Tom Smith is the newest addition to the WSMR team and brings his experience as an Electrician.

Each new team member is proving to be an asset and WSMR welcomes you all to the Skookum family!

Gracie Gonzales | Scheduler | WSMR, NM

Babies, Babies, Babies!

Please help us in welcoming THREE new little ones to our Skookum Family!



Division 51 Welcomes,
Isabella Adrienne Chavarria DOB:
9/14/14 Weight: 7lbs 11 oz. 19" Long
Congratulations on the birth of your
new baby girl! **Mr. Alex Chavarria**
(HVAC Tech), first time grandpa.
May she bring you many years of
sugar, spice and all things nice.



Division 44 Welcomes
Beautiful Akiyah DOB: 9/11/14,
Weight: 6lbs 5 oz.
Congratulations **Tracy Thomas** on
your sweet little girl!



Division 51 Welcomes,
Noe Jr. Ontiveros DOB: 9/22/14
Weight: 6.9Lbs 19" Long.
Congratulations to **Noe Ontiveros**
and his family for the new addition.
In this little welcome note are wishes
for you all; including really special
ones to baby, sweet and small...
"Welcome to the world little man!"

Q CORNER

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Skookum's Joint-Base Langley Eustis (JBLE) Quality Control team is currently creating and refining documents for ISO certification in 2015. With a completion goal date for review by October 31st, the table of contents has been designed and a good portion of the process documents has been developed. While there are still several hours of work to complete, the team believes it is possible to meet the October 31st timeline.

The team is taking great efforts to ensure the JBLE ISO program mirrors the process of our busy daily activities.

Another challenge we are gearing up for upon receiving ISO certification is SARSS1 will be changing the business system they use for its operations and management. The QC team is already preparing for a seamless simultaneous transition.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone on the JBLE Quality team and to those who have assisted as we reach toward our ISO certification goal.

Earl Nichols | Stock Clerk/ISO Representative, JBLE



Sign-up to receive our newsletter by email!
Go to www.skookum.org/news/ Under **News** and **Current Events**, click the link to receive "The Skoop" newsletter by email

Skookum Excellence Award

The winner will receive a **\$100 Prize** along with a Skookum Excellence Pin. This award is based on our Core Values.



The Skookum Excellence Award Nomination Form

To Nominate Go to: www.skookum.org

Fill in form and click submit.
Your nomination will go directly to Skookum CEO, Jeff Dolven

Anyone is welcome to nominate a Skookum employee for this award: customers, supervisors, employees, peers, managers, etc.