



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

WELCOME Spring

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Kudos	2
New Employees	3 & 4
Promotions	4
HardHat Classic	5
Length of Service Awards	6, 7, 8
WSU Tree Report	9
Retirements / Upcoming Events	10
Kudos	11
APP Safety Question	12
Working Safely Awards	13 & 14
Honor Coins	15
Kudos & Holiday Schedule	16
Org Updates	17



**Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday, March 8, 2026.
Remember to set your
clocks forward one hour.**

**Safety Question
Contest is on page 12!**

Enter for a chance to win!



KUDOS

Customer: Kacie Deerkop
Comment: Got this issue resolved quickly!!
Employee(s): Torey Miranda, Jon Asplund

Customer: Marian Schiachitano
Comment: Thanks for lowering the temperature in this classroom. I immediately noticed the difference on the second day class. This is the most prompt response that I've ever had so kudos to FacOps staff who oversee College Hall
Employee(s): Erik Brown

Customer: Matt Leonard
Comment: They were very quick to respond!
Great work!
Employee(s): Ryan Larson

Customer: Jing Shang
Comment: Thank you for your service!
Employee(s): Derrick Rogers

Chris Hughes, Richard Priebe, Ari Perry-Lujan and Damon Valencia -

I just remembered that I wanted to give a shout out to the floor waxing crew. The floors on third floor Daggy Hall look amazing. It makes all of us smile everyday when we walk in. We don't even want to wear our shoes on them, they look so nice.

Thank you to a great crew! - Treva Beebe

Customer: Cassandra Chatelain
Comment: Zac was VERY helpful and completely on top of it. Even following up to make sure we liked the adjustment. Thank you so much!
Employee(s): Zac Howell

Ida Lou Anderson House Flooring Replacement Project

I wanted to reach out and say thank you to all the Tradespeople and Staff who worked on the Ida Lou Anderson House flooring replacement project this Summer. This project, which started out as a relatively small flooring replacement job, rapidly grew into a large-scale renovation project. Everyone who worked on this project played an integral role in the success of the job and showcased their skills and abilities as well as their willingness to pivot on a moment's notice as this project evolved. From Waste Services who delivered a dumpster to the site on short notice to our Accounting Team who juggled the myriad of scope changes and funding additions throughout the project and everybody in between deserves a pat on the back for their efforts. We watched this high-profile project effectively quadruple in size and scope right before our eyes, and yet our Shops were still able to keep the project on track all while juggling to keep their other ongoing projects moving along. Again, thank you to everyone involved for your hard work and diligence in completing this project in a timely manner.

Sincerely, Craig Gray

Workers on This Project:

JOSHUA LEAVITT - HEAVY EQUIPMENT
CHAD PALMER - HEAVY EQUIPMENT
DEREK WAKEFIELD - HEAVY EQUIPMENT
JAKE WYTCHERLEY - HEAVY EQUIPMENT
WADE JOHNSON - HEAVY EQUIPMENT
JEFF GULICK - CARPENTER
DAVID STODICK - CARPENTER
ZWAY ERICKSON - CARPENTER
JAMES SELF - CARPENTER
BEN ERICKSON - ELECTRICAL
CHRISTOPHER CROOK - FLOOR
CHRISTOPHER NILSON - FLOOR
WILLIAM WEST - PAINT
DEAN STANDON - PAINT
RICK FOX - PAINT

Welcome New Employees!



Ace Mordhorst, Custodian 1



Amber Villarreal, Custodian 1



Ashton Alvarado, MM 1



Sam Campbell, Custodian 1



Jack Hollister, Custodian 1



Kevin Mills, Control Tech



Evan Torres, Custodian 1



Judo Martin, Custodian 1



Jeff Bowland, Truck Driver 2



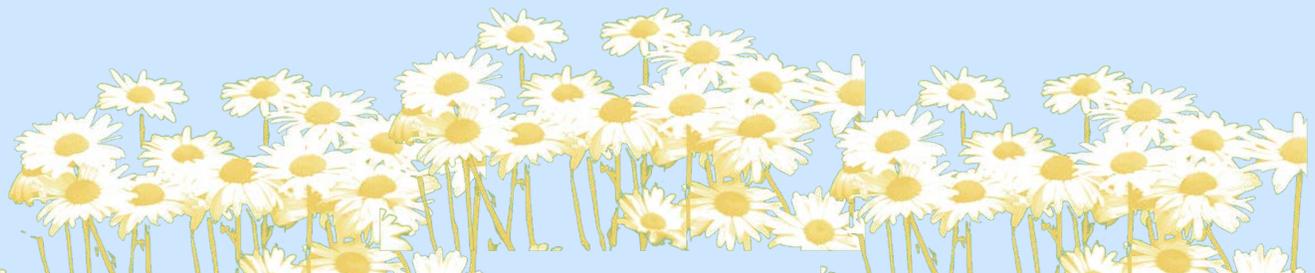
Ringo Wang, Custodian 1



Riley Kirsch, Custodian 1



Sean Larsen, Grounds Specialist 2



Welcome New Employees!



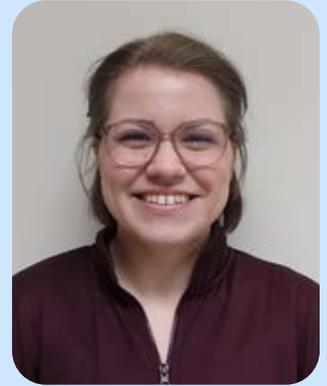
Tom Skinner, Custodian 1



Christopher Marshall, Custodian 1



Aaron Coile, Surplus Inventory 2



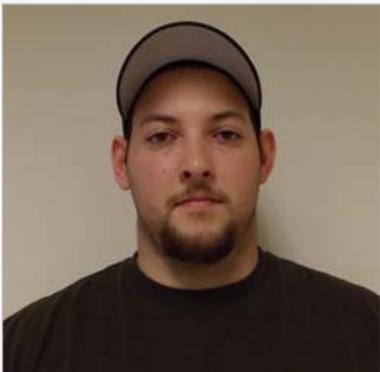
Kaylee Rapeta, Custodian 1



Lyrec Cano, Custodian 1



PROMOTIONS *Congrats!*



**Buddy Lockie,
Maintenance Mechanic 3**



**William Russell,
Custodian 3**



**Rich Miller,
Operations Manager**





July 25th, 2026

Help us make our golf tournament a Hole-In-One!

Facilities Services family-

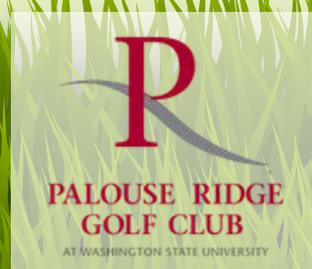
We're gearing up for our upcoming Golf Tournament and ***we need a few fantastic volunteers*** to help make it a success!

It's a fun way to connect with colleagues, enjoy some beautiful sunshine, and raise money for future Cougar students of FS employees!. No golf skills required. Just your great attitude! Ready to tee up and help out?

Scan the QR code or click the link below to sign up. You can also email me directly at lisa.hohnholz@wsu.edu!

[Click Here!](#)

Or scan this code with your phone:



Length of Service



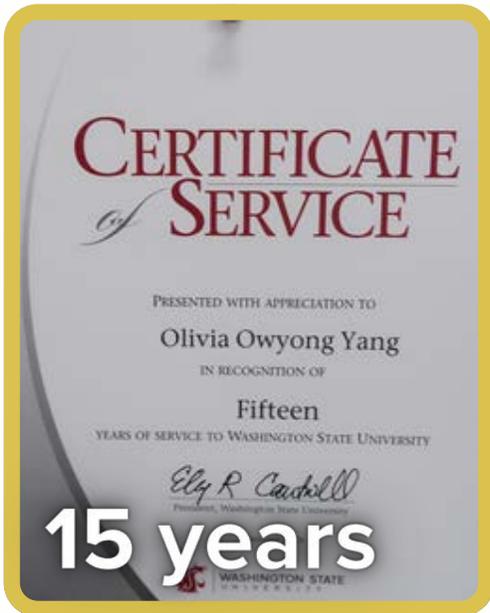
5 years

Chris Cyr - Grounds & Nursery Specialist 3



10 years

Rex Riggs - Construction Engineer



15 years

Olivia Yang - Associate Vice President



20 years

Maja Huff - Director, Capital Contracts



20 years

Ryan Gehring - Director of Trades & Shops Services

YAY!

Length of Service



Norman Fung - Custodian 1



John Gray - Custodian 1



Chris Nilson - Maintenance Mechanic 2



Kate Kamerrer - Assistant Vice President



Rick Hull Sr. - Operations Manager



Neal Wallen - Per/Pipefitter/Steamfitter Lead

Length of Service



25 years

John Baldwin - Plumber/Pipefitter/Steamfitter Lead



35 years

Vic Linderman - Equipment Tech Supervisor

WOW



Pullman, WA registered a 102 mph gust of wind on December 16, 2026, which qualifies as a category 2 hurricane force! Many other winds registered in the 70s-80s that night, which qualify as category 1.





Over the past several months, several trees located across the Washington State University (WSU) campus have fallen following periods of significant wind activity combined with prolonged saturated soil conditions.

Prior to these incidents, the affected trees appeared healthy, upright, and structurally sound. There were no visible signs of disease, decay, root disturbance, or structural defects that would have suggested an elevated risk of failure. Based on outward appearance and routine observations, there was no reasonable indication that these trees posed a safety hazard.

The Grounds unit within WSU Facilities Services maintains a proactive tree risk management program, which includes documentation of trees identified as potentially hazardous. This internal monitoring system, commonly referred to as a “watch list,” tracks trees exhibiting observable risk factors so they can be evaluated and prioritized accordingly. The trees that recently failed were not previously identified as hazardous and were not included on the watch list.

Facilities Services personnel attribute the tree failures to the combined effects of repeated high winds and extended periods of wet soil. Saturated soil conditions can significantly reduce root stability, even in otherwise healthy trees. When coupled with strong wind events, these conditions can increase the likelihood of sudden failure.

Each of the recent incidents was weather-related and occurred without prior visible warning signs. Upon discovery, Facilities Services responded promptly to secure affected areas, remove debris, and mitigate any potential safety concerns.

Washington State University remains committed to maintaining a safe campus environment and will continue proactive monitoring and assessment of campus trees, particularly following significant weather events.

For additional information, please contact:
Facilities Services
Washington State University

Derrick Reynolds
Washington State University
Campus Landscape/Grounds
Coordinator
Plant Services, Grounds
voice: (509) 335-9067
Email: derrick.reynolds@wsu.edu



Happy Retirement!



Randy served as a Maintenance Specialist Supervisor from November 1, 2013, through December 30, 2025. During his tenure, he supervised the Carpenter, Key, Paint, Roofing, and Sign Shops, overseeing a team of 18 employees.

Randy was widely respected for his leadership, professionalism, and dedication. He was known for taking great care to ensure nothing was overlooked and that every detail was carefully reviewed and completed to the highest standard.

His commitment to quality, accountability, and teamwork has left a lasting positive impact on Facilities Services, and his contributions will be greatly missed. We thank Randy for his years of service and wish him a fulfilling and enjoyable retirement.

Upcoming Events



Facilities Services Employee Picnic

Get ready for our annual employee picnic, happening in July!

Fun, food, and FS family! Hope you can join us in celebrating each other!

More details coming soon!

KUDOS

Scott Kelly and Will Gram from Supply Management Services: Thank You for all the hard work and making sure our deliveries are on time, and when you go the extra miles to make it happen faster. Our Team is very appreciative for Everyone in the Warehouse. -Anglea Scott



I wanted to send out a quick THANK YOU to the Heavy Equipment Crew who did the furniture/equipment move-out & move-in for the Bustad 324 flooring replacement project that wrapped up this week. Some of the items that were moved were apparently very research-sensitive/valuable and the lab occupant was visibly under stress and pressure to make sure the items were moved & handled carefully. The guys doing the moving were patient & easy-going with our client and really helped to calm her anxiety and stress regarding the move. This is the kind of customer service that deserves to be recognized and I appreciate their patience and professionalism throughout this project. Thanks guys for a job well done. Craig Gray

Please pass on our thanks to the crew for getting the two trees that came down Wednesday night. The one hung up in the other tree had to be a tough one to get out. Lucky they didn't fall into the building!

Russ - Beasley Director

Customer: Sheila Heyns

Comment: As always, our thanks to the Heavy Equipment team for their help!

Employee(s): Daniel Roe, Joshua Leavitt

Customer: Idah Zellmer

Comment: Mike Rima and Adam did a great job, even during a busy time when they were being pulled to help with other buildings as well.

Employee(s): Mike Rima

Customer: Nicole Dumas

Comment: Your maintenance guys are very much appreciated over here in the FSHN buildings and couldn't ask for a better group of guys thank you for all you do to keep our buildings going and helping when we have emergencies.

Employee(s): Calvin Baisley

Customer: Kimberly Lawton

Comment: Floors look AMAZING! Better than I thought they would be able to get them! Thank you so much!

Employee(s): Jonathan Williams

Customer: Kat Odell

Comment: Response was very speedy! Thanks so much.

Employee(s): Forrest Gilchrist

Customer: Thanks a bunch for the rapid service

Employee: Lance Mitchell

Customer: Wes Dowd

Comment: Thanks for the quick response.

Employee(s): Brian Swan

Safety Question Contest - For the months of March, April, & May 2026



Directions: The answer to the question below can be found in the Accident Prevention Program (APP). Link to APP Chapters is on the [Safety Sharepoint Site](#). Read the question carefully. When you have found the answer, you may email your answer to Teresa Cole teresa.cole@wsu.edu, print off this page and give to your supervisor to give to Teresa Cole, or drop it off in the APP Question box by the McCluskey Key Shop. The names of all employees who submit the correct answer will go into a hat for a drawing. Whoever's name is drawn will be able to pick out one of the safety awards. This contest will be open only until 5 p.m. on May 22, 2026.

Under D: Responsibilities in Chapter 22: General Materials Storage, write down one of the seven bulleted points of the responsibilities of Employees.

Answer: _____

Employee submitting the above answer:

Name: _____ Division: _____



Congrats to **Brian Swann** from the key shop who answered the Ergonomics APP chapter question correctly for December 2025!

Working Safely Award - December 2025



Cate Johnson,
Grounds department,
was observed during
the emergency tree
cleanup after the
windstorm on
December 19, running
chainsaw equipment
safely. She was using
proper PPE and made
sure that everyone
working around her
was safe

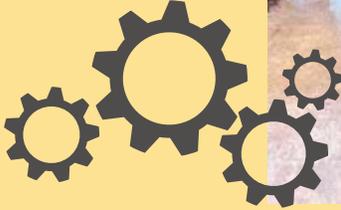
Working Safely Award - January 2026



Jed DelNero, Chris Cyr and Carlos Amado Cogollo, Grounds department: for their outstanding commitment to working safely during the campus clean-up following the high winds that closed campus on December 17th. Their work involved removing fallen branches, limbs, and debris under challenging and potentially hazardous conditions. Throughout the cleanup, they consistently demonstrated a strong focus on safety. Each team member wore the appropriate personal protective equipment, including hard hats, gloves, safety glasses, and chaps, ensuring they were properly protected while performing the work. They also took proactive measures to protect others by setting up cones and flashers to clearly identify the work area and safely direct pedestrians and vehicles away from potential hazards. Their attention to detail, teamwork, and adherence to established safety procedures reflect a strong safety culture and a commitment to keeping both themselves and the campus community safe. Jed, Chris, and Carlos set an excellent example of working safely under difficult conditions and are deserving of recognition for their efforts.

Working Safely Award - February 2026

Derrick Rogers,
Maintenance
Mechanic, was
observed properly
locking out
equipment for
maintenance/repair.



Facilities Services

“Thanks for Working Safely” Award Nomination Form

Your Name:	
Nominated Worker’s Name:	

Detailed description of the event you observed for which you want to nominate the above named person(s) for a “Thanks for Working Safely” award. Include the exact location, time, date, and circumstance of the safe action.	
Location:	
Date & Time:	
Circumstance or Situation:	



Dec, Jan, Feb HONOR COIN

I would like to nominate **Steve Gates** for a coin. Steve consistently goes above and beyond to assist other shops and other FS teams. He is a highly skilled craftsman whose years of experience are evident in the quality of his work, and he shares his knowledge to help others. Steve is always willing to take on any task, no matter how challenging, and approaches each job with strong skills and a commitment to completing the work safely and efficiently. His teamwork, and dedication deserves recognition and appreciation.

-John Baldwin



In addition to these efforts:

- Steve volunteered to take over coil repairs after Mike Watson's departure and has already repaired seven coils since taking on that responsibility in mid-summer.
- At the Education Addition, Steve worked closely with the Control Shop to track down airflow issues and successfully identified a faulty damper that was causing the problem. The damper in question really had no access to it so Steve cut a hole in the duct-work to gain access and repair the damper.
- At VBR, he collaborated with the Carpenter Shop, the department, and the contractor to resolve access issues with the hoist control boxes used for lowering lights during maintenance. Not having a good solid plan of what to do made this particularly challenging, but as always Steve can through.
- Steve never complains about the work he is assigned and he simply gets it done.

-Ryan Gehring



KUDOS

I would like to say Thank you to Tonya Prewitt and David Huffman for helping when we were low staff. You are both amazing and I appreciate you both.

-Shelly Jacobs

Re: cleaning Vogel Plant Sciences before that WSU Wheat Academy...Thank you! Josh did a very nice job for us and had great communication!

- Jenna Osiensky

Customer: Galen Gorence

Comment: Lee did an excellent job explaining what temperature changes were possible and implemented the change. He also advised that we wouldn't get the change we were after and why. This was due to the building limitation. Much appreciated for not only the timely adjustments but the communication.

Employee(s): Lee Bannister

Randy, I wanted to reach out and let you know how happy we are with Laura. You all made a fabulous hire for us. We've had so many changes, and it is nice to stabilize after losing Angela. Laura is a quick thinker, has flexibility to handle events in the building, is a hard worker, presents professionally for our event attendees, and is a great addition to our team. I wanted to provide you with a report given our discussions in finding the right fit, that you definitely did! Thanks, Deb Bell

Customer: Lia Wilson

Comment: Your staff is always efficient and friendly. They make sure to communicate with us when the work has been completed or if they will need to return.

Employee(s): Adam Beck & Mike Rima

WSU Holiday Schedule for 2026 - 2027

Memorial Day	5/25/26	Native American Heritage Day	11/27/26
Juneteenth	6/19/26	Christmas Holiday	12/24/26
Independence Day	7/4/26	Christmas Day	12/25/26
Labor Day	9/7/26	New Year's Day	1/1/27
Veterans Day	11/11/26	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	1/18/27
Thanksgiving Day	11/26/26		

Recent Org Changes

All,

We recently consolidated our five FS shops into four by aligning Controls with Maintenance Mechanics and combining Refrigeration with Plumbing. This structure is designed to streamline workflow, strengthen collaboration, and reduce overhead so we can keep as many trades personnel in the field as possible. We recognize that change can raise questions, and we will continue to support everyone through the transition.

With Randy's departure, our search for a new Operations Manager is in progress. We have an interim coverage plan in place to ensure continuity until the role is filled.

Beginning mid-January, Robbie Dudley will transition to report to Ryan Gehring. This change will strengthen coordination between the Work Management Center and our planning and scheduling efforts, improving how we manage routine and emergency work and how we analyze resource use across campus.

Thank you for your continued flexibility and commitment. We'll keep you updated as these efforts move forward.

Best regards,



Asst. Vice President, Capital and Operations
Facilities Services



Assistant
Vice
President
Joe Kline



Executive
Director
Ryan Gehring



Operations
Manager
Scott Cleveland



Operations
Manager
Rick Hull Sr.



Operations
Manager
Rich Miller



Operations
Manager
Tom Moore



Manager
Robbie Dudley

Electrical
High Voltage
Life Safety
FOMS

Plumber/Pipefitter/
Steamfitter
Insulator
Sheet Metal
Refrigeration

Carpentry
Floor
Paint
Key
Roofing
Sign

Maintenance
Control Technician

Work Management
Center
Estimators