

What is the Sanford Lab, Alex?

Category: Popular Game Shows

Clue: This Laboratory, located nearly a mile underground in Lead, S.D., received its own category in an upcoming episode of Jeopardy!

On Friday, February 21, at 6:30 p.m., Sanford Lab will be featured on Jeopardy! The popular TV game show sent its Clue Crew to the Lab in October, where they filmed the clues in various locations at the 4850-foot level.

Safety Specialist Woody Hover, who assisted the Clue Crew, is looking forward to seeing the show. "It's my favorite TV show," he said. "I watched it back when Art Fleming was on it." Fleming was the host from 1964-1975. Alex Trebek has been hosting the show since 1984 when it went back on the air.

Multimedia Specialist Matt Kapust served as a guide and photographer for the Clue Crew. "They were prepared and really professional," he said. "By far the best TV crew we've worked with," he said.

The category, "Figuring Out the Universe," will feature clues delivered by on-air talent Sarah Whitcomb Foss. At one point, Foss suited up and entered the MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR experiment as part of the program.



Photo by Matt Kapust



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Above: That's Emergency Response Team Lead/Safety Specialist Woody Hover driving the locomotive. Hover could appear as an extra in one of clues read by Sarah Whitcomb Foss (photo at bottom left) of the Jeopardy Clue Crew. Center: Jaret Heise welcomes a group of Sanford Lab employees, family and friends to the 4850 Level.

The first of three Friends and Family days took place Saturday, Feb. 15, with 81 people participating in tours of the Davis Campus.

"I'm thrilled we have been able to accommodate these tours," said User Support Manager Mandy Knight. "Saturday's event was a great success. It's been a team effort and I appreciate those who volunteered their time." More than 26 employees volunteered, she said. The next Friends and Family Day events are March 8 and March 22.



Photo by Connie Walter

Emick keeps the Yates Shaft in good repair

Behind the Scenes

Infrastructure Technician John Emick is part of the team that keeps the Yates shaft in good repair "so science can work on their experiments."

A 25-year veteran of the U.S. military, Emick began working at Sanford Lab in July 2013. He worked during the recent Friends and

Family Day, taking four groups down to the Davis Campus. "People really enjoyed this," he said. "It's nice to be a part of that."

One of Emick's biggest challenges? "Learning the tricks of the trade, the language of miners and scientists. And the acronyms." He smiles and adds, "But it's good because I'm always learning something new."

"John is an 'idea man' and a 'get-it-done' type of person," said Yates Foreman Jack Stratton. "Even with his limited shaft/mine background, he is very respected by his peers." When he's not at the Lab, Emick ranches at his "little place" near Piedmont, spends time with his family and does a little hunting and fishing.



Photo by Connie Walter