

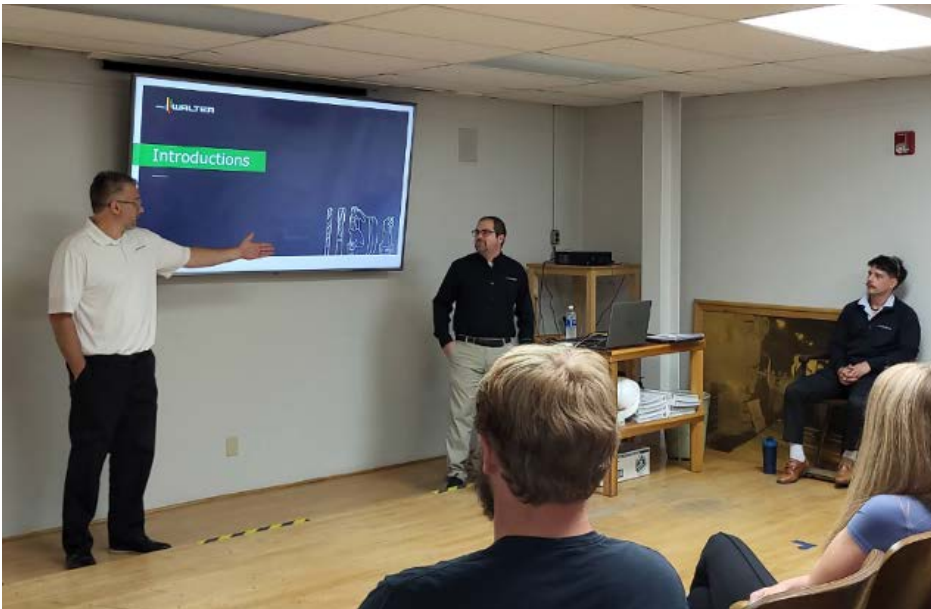
# Tapping Out

**HS** HARRISON STEEL  
CASTINGS COMPANY

VOLUME 104 | SEPTEMBER 2024

IN FULL COLOR

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# Shout Outs!

## MILESTONES THIS ISSUE

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DATE
Ron Lockhart	35	9/24/89
Sony Mascreen	20	8/2/04
Warren Wilson	20	8/30/04
Scott Boyer	5	7/15/19
Jon Anderson	5	8/5/19
Valerie Gray	5	8/6/19
James Cramer	5	8/19/19
Rusty Reese	5	8/19/19
Patrick N. Cunningham	5	9/3/19
Denny Sexton	5	9/16/19
Connor P. Howard	5	9/16/19
Alisson Lamas	5	9/30/19
Bradley Summers	5	9/30/19



Paul Kelsey and his wife Vanessa married in May.



Ashlynn Simonton and her husband Aaron married in June.

## CLEANING ROOM

Keygan Stonebraker received the TB3 award for the most runs in the minor league this past season. Left to Right: Terry Badger, Keygan Stonebraker, Tony Badger.



Left to Right: Terry Badger, Keygan Stonebraker, Tony Badger.

## HARRISON INTERNATIONAL

My son, Charles A. Trafford V (a.k.a. “Archer”), recently had a gender reveal with his wife, Emily. Since he is a punter and played for the Air Force Academy, then was a two-year starter for the SEC’s Mississippi State, and more recently attended East Carolina for his MBA studies, they decided to do a punter-themed gender reveal in February. It’s a boy!

He will be named Charles A. Trafford VI, with a nickname yet to be earned. Charles VI will be the third grandson born in the past six months and fourth in the past two years, joining his cousins Miles, Murphy, and Mason.

*Skip Trafford*





## Benefits & Wellness

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**Life Events** allow you to add/remove family members on your insurance. You have 30 days from the life event to obtain coverage at HS. Life event examples are: loss of previous coverage, marriage, divorce, birth/adoption, death, turning 26, and losing coverage through a parent. See someone in Benefits if you have questions.

**WeCare** – If you make an appointment but cannot make it or need to cancel, please call the clinic and reschedule or cancel your appointment. This will allow that slot to be filled by someone else. Flu shots are coming up in October, so watch for announcements on dates and how to sign up.

**Retirement** – Jeff Prince from MJ Retirement is our Retirement Plan Advisor for the Harrison Steel Retirement Plan. He

is able to assist with any questions you have about your retirement plan. If you have questions, please reach out to him at 317-708-4154. On November 7th, we will again have a sign-up so that you can talk personally with him. Watch for UKG app announcement and TV announcement.

**Crystal Niccum, EAP Coordinator** – She is here to help our employees navigate life – she has a lot of resources that can help!

Scan the QR Code for Crystal's contact information or

O – 765-762-9037

M – 765-764-2212

[niccumcl@hscast.com](mailto:niccumcl@hscast.com)

**See Benefits for any questions! Live Healthy!**

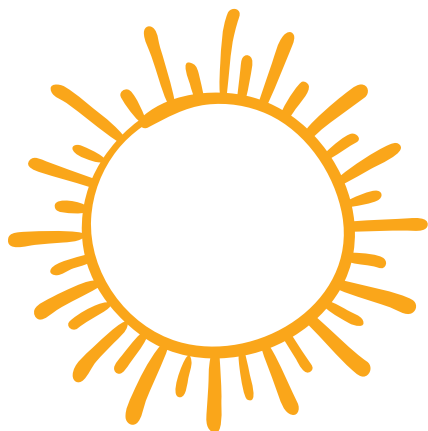


## Production Volumes

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We are revising our production target to 43 tons per day for the foreseeable future. Customer orders are weak for the next six months. We are building inventory to keep production flowing at the targeted rate. Please take extra precaution to ensure every casting is of the best quality.

This remains our year to work on Safety and Training; let's take advantage of it. Also, we have a tremendous opportunity in new product introductions (NPI). Be on the lookout for several new castings from Caterpillar and Komatsu Mining.



# Machine Shop

## HS EMPLOYEES RECEIVE EXPERT TRAINING FROM WALTER TOOLS

HS Machining Dept. employees recently participated in a comprehensive training session led by Walter Tools, a leading manufacturer of cutting tools, in collaboration with our trusted supplier, GL Technologies. The training focused on enhancing the employees' understanding of various aspects of machining, including:

- Identifying different types of insert wear
- Understanding basic machining cutting processes
- Exploring milling and turning applications

This valuable training equips our machine operators with the knowledge and skills necessary to optimize tool and insert wear, leading to more cost-effective machining processes and improved overall part quality.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the representatives from GL Technologies and Walter Tools for their invaluable contributions. Their expertise and dedication to sharing knowledge will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on our machining operations.

## SUMMER VIBES!

Everybody at the machine shop needs to beat the heat and relax. Caleb Askren and his family spent their 4th of July at Holiday World.

Our pro softball coach, Tony Badger, is making some great memories this summer with his daughter, Lyla. Tony's daughter won awards for the most outstanding pitcher and the home run derby. A huge congratulations to Tony's daughter!

We're thrilled to welcome new members to our HS family this summer—Cyrus Leonard, Caden Brant, Ethen Lewellen, and Zachary Pavlons.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Josh Beedle on the arrival of Baby Archer! Wishing all the best to the newest addition to Josh's family.



Caleb Askren and his family



Tony Badger with his daughter, Lyla.



Josh Beedle with baby Archer



## Pattern Shop

The Pattern Shop has been busy this Summer launching several new or existing patterns, and we are far from being done due to the influx of existing equipment and new job orders from Komatsu and Caterpillar. In addition to New Part Introductions, we are always on the lookout for casting improvement opportunities such as reducing defects and adjusting risers for robotic burning.

After years of research and testing prototypes, we have installed a 3D printer in the Pattern Shop office. 3D printed parts are already utilized in certain areas around the HS facility, such as the Core Room hook-holders and the grinder handle rings in the Cleaning Room. This printer will be used for special projects to improve or simplify processes throughout the company.

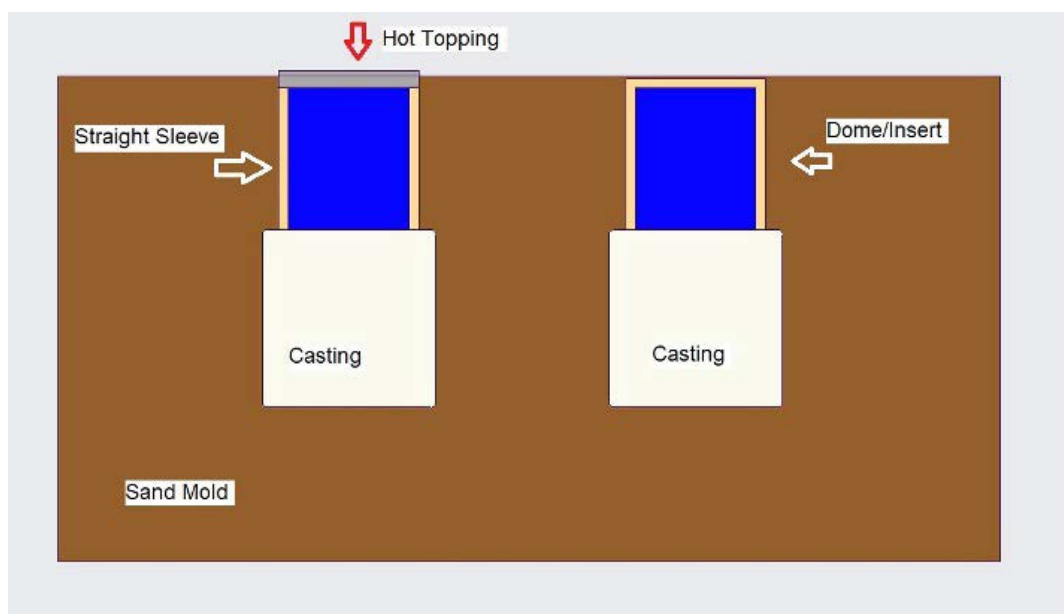


EVO22 3D Printer Installed

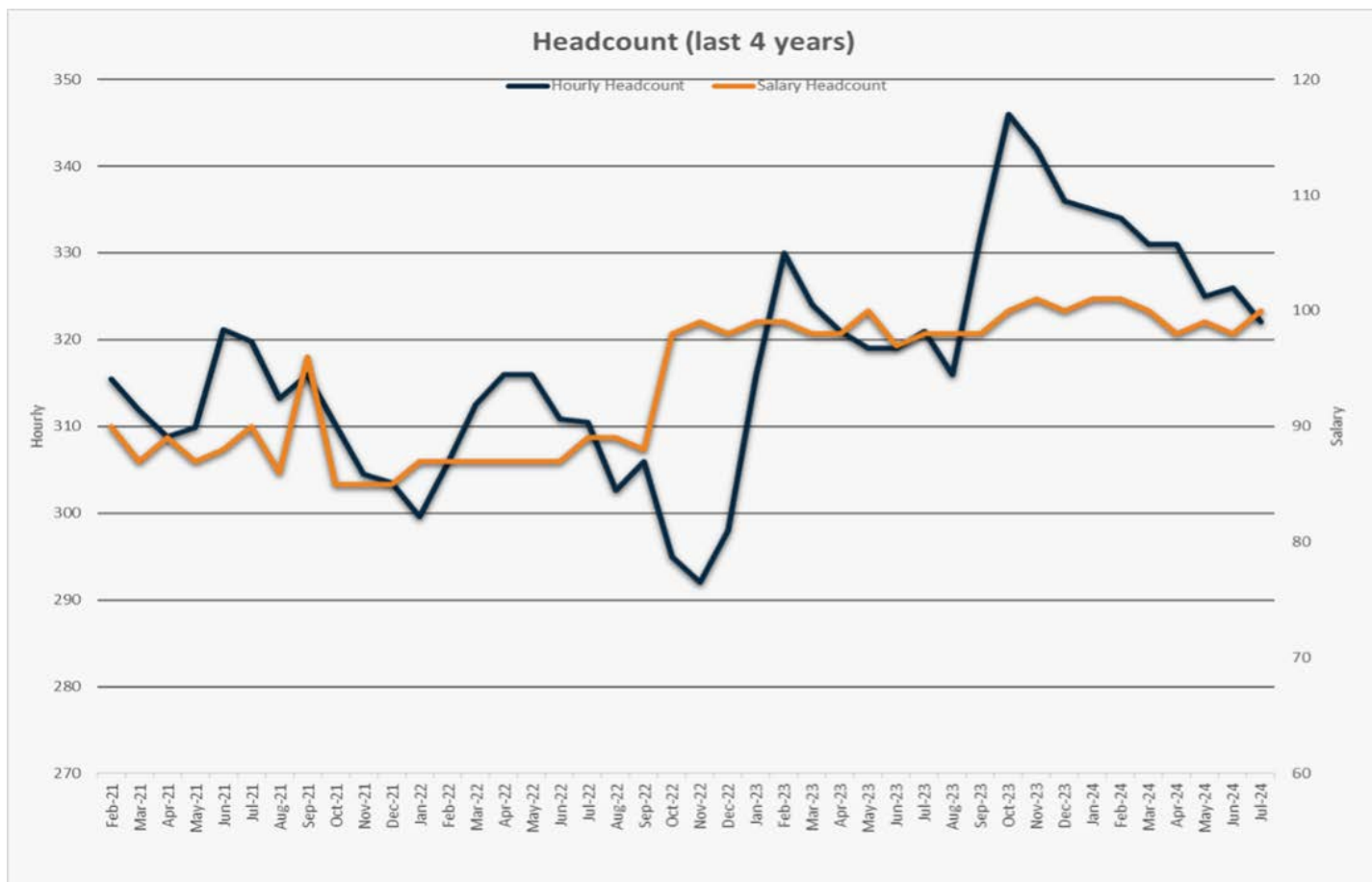


Prototype 3D-Printed Hook Holder

Conlan finished up his internship in the Pattern Shop after evaluating hot topping alternatives for the Summer. His main focus was the potential cost savings of replacing open risers utilizing hot topping with dome or insert risers to utilize the sleeve material in place of the hot topping. This project will be ongoing, with sample castings at a later date.



# Human Resources



The last several months in Human Resources have been steady, with our overall employee count consistently around 425 employees. We are still seeing pinch points in areas needing help, as the Cleaning Room and Machine Shop could use additional manpower. Welders, Inspectors, and Machine Operators are some tougher jobs to find good candidates for, so if you know of some people that may be a good fit, please refer them to us in the office. We are also still advertising and trying to find a good Welding Trainer / Technician, as we believe this job could be hugely beneficial to increasing efficiency and reducing the time many of our current operators have to spend helping new hires get up to speed.

We were able to fill several key support roles:

- Jacob Johns accepted the role of Security / Janitorial Manager
- Alex Carmean begins as 2nd Shift Supervisor in the Cleaning Room
- Michelle Baker in the Order Fulfillment / Sales Specialist Role
- Dara Spence in the Environmental Technician role



## NIGHT SHIFT COOKOUT

On 7/9, HS hosted a cookout for the night shift crews. Hamburgers, tenderloins, potato salad, chips and drinks were prepared and provided. Big thanks to all who helped get this meal ready and out to our staff in such a quick fashion (Sony Mascreeen, Geoff Curtis, Trevor Curtis, Rob Harrison, Derek Hughes, Matt Pierce, Mark Mitton, and others). Special thank you to Kris Sorters and Tammy Gates for all of their behind-the-scenes efforts in planning and preparation for events such as these. [four cookout photos]

## EMPLOYEE X-RAY PROGRAM

Harrison Steel acquired a new X-ray Machine in July, which was tested and the first day of X-rays went without a hitch. On August 15th, roughly 25 people had their initial chest X-rays done and we will continue to schedule more employees each month.

## EMPLOYEE PLANT TOURS

HR is working on creating a set of guidelines and schedule for any employee who would like to participate in family plant tours. More information to come on this in the next several weeks.

## COMMUNITY DAY CARE

River City Church in Attica will be opening a Day Care / Early Learning Program for children in the near future. They have secured state funding and part of the enrollment will be "income-based" and affordable. The other applicants will be based on average cost in the Fountain / Warren County area. We have been meeting with this organization since the beginning and are hoping to form some type of partnership with them where Harrison Steel employees can be guaranteed a certain number of spots. If you have a possible interest in this, please let Jason Beck know and he will add you to the list of those wanting more information.



## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

As you know, we are trying to highlight the great work our employees do on a daily basis. Many jobs that are done here in our Foundry are things that people from the outside would never see in their life, and yet our employees master them and make them seem like it's as easy as riding a bike. To better assist in showcasing these areas since all of you are very busy day-to-day, we have created a schedule for the various departments. When it's your week to be spotlighted, you may see Crystal around the area taking photos or talking with staff. If you think there's something neat to show her, please feel free to let her know. We are proud of our employees and know many of you enjoy showing family and friends the work you do!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 18th – Harrison Steel Blood Drive**

**October 5th – Harrison Steel Company Picnic. Save the Date!**



# Foundry

Two long-tenured employees have retired since our last issue: Brenda Mitton and Steve Estes. Both employees will be extremely difficult to replace.

## BRENDA MITTON

Brenda Mitton was originally hired at HS on October 13, 1997, and called it quits on July 19, 2024. Congratulations, Brenda! Wishing you a long and enjoyable retirement.

## STEVE ESTES

Steve Estes was hired at HS on August 18, 1986, with his last work day was July 19, 2024. Congratulations, Steve. Enjoy your retirement.

## NEW ARRIVAL

We're delighted to announce a new addition to the Harrison Steel family. On June 29, 2024, Nathan Swanson and Brianna Stevens, both second-shift Foundry employees, welcomed their baby Carter Madison Swanson into the world. The healthy baby weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces, and measured 20 inches long. Congratulations to the proud parents!

## NEW FOUNDRY PROCESS ENGINEER

We are excited to introduce our new Foundry Process Engineer, Jose Velasco.

*Hi! My name is Jose Velasco and I was born and raised in Panama City, Panama. I am fluent in Spanish and English. I went to Purdue University for Chemical Engineering. I enjoyed my time there by going to the basketball games and the football games. After work, I enjoy going for runs, watching movies, and watching football or basketball games. I am excited to be the new process engineer for the Foundry and learn more about Harrison Steel.*

Jose Velasco

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

Finally, James Russell (Pattern Shop) is assisting Dusty Beedle and Ben Barnett with youth football this season. The kids are really responding well to Coach James, and we hear that James is enjoying the kids as well.



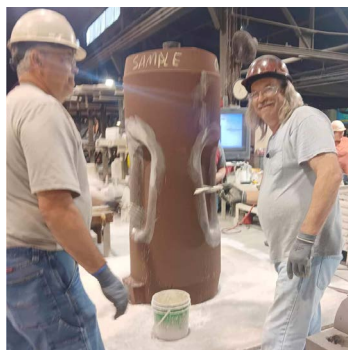
Brenda (left) is pictured below standing in front of her direct supervisor, John Allen, while lead person, Rick Rothrock, stands behind Brenda's daughter, Staci Key.



Steve (right) is pictured above with his long-time supervisor, Jerry Howard (left).



Steve Estes (left) with Geoff Curtis.



Core Room Leaders John Allen (left) and Rick Rothrock (right) have a combined 76 years of foundry experience.



Carter Madison Swanson



Jose Velasco



James Russell



## Sales/Customer Service

Susie Brooks has moved into the Shipping Coordinator role from her previous role as the Order Fulfillment Specialist. She is catching on quickly and providing enormous value as she has a background in transportation and by working at a Caterpillar warehouse. She has worked with HS for about one year. As the shipping coordinator, Susie is in charge of scheduling trucks, invoicing for castings, creating shipping paperwork, organizing shipping paperwork, and bringing in and sending EDI (EDI is how CAT receives invoices, shipping notices, and how they send and receive order updates). EDI just stands for electronic data interchange. We look for more customers to utilize this going forward.

Paul Zeis has moved from the machine shop to the office to become our Supply Chain Specialist. He has been doing this role for a couple weeks but is showing great promise in his abilities thus far. His 13+ years working with machining here at HS will prove extremely valuable to him when performing his duties in this role. His role includes organizing and controlling all outsourced castings. He is always in contact with different machine shops and vendors to make sure our castings get processed through in a timely fashion.



Left to right: Paul Zeis, Michelle Baker, Susie Brooks, and Adam Dennis.

Another element to his role is quoting. The quoting process for castings can be quite complex and can take quite a bit of time as it touches quite a few hands before we can give the customer a good price.

Michelle Baker is brand new to our team. She will be joining us as our Order Fulfillment Specialist after working 11 years at Quaker in Danville, IL. We are very lucky to have her on board and looking forward to getting her up to speed. Michelle's work primarily deals with managing schedule requirements with our customers, commonly referred to as MRC (management review controls). She also makes sure that all of their PO entries and PO date move-ins and move-

outs are logged into our system (these dates change every day). Overall, through her first couple weeks, she is doing an awesome job.

I, Adam Dennis, am taking over the role as Customer Service Manager from Tony Crane. I started at HS in March after moving back home to Covington, IN from Florida. I came from the defense industry working with Raytheon the past two years, but I have foundry and some steel mill experience from a previous role working at Steel Grip, as we made apparel for the molten metal industry. My primary role at HS is supporting Caterpillar and customer service. I am also involved in supporting the sales group in any way I can; contract reviews, keeping track of customer prints and models, or tracking down necessary documentation. My job is different about every day I come in here and I enjoy that very much. I also enjoy the team we've put together and feel we have tremendous potential here. In my first six months I can honestly say I've enjoyed this job more than any other role I've been in and am very excited about the future here.

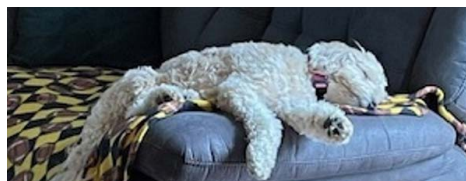
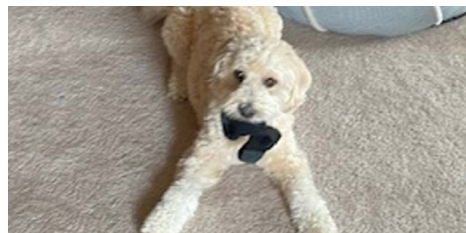
*Adam Dennis*

## Quality

Quality would like to welcome Cody Peters, part-time Gauge Calibration Tech, to the Quality team. Congratulations to Dylan Bottorff, Soundness Technician, for passing his RT Level II. Both Dylan and Jon Anderson, Soundness Technicians, will be taking their Level II Penetrant Testing later this month.



Jon Anderson's daughter, Callie Anderson, took 3rd place in State S3DA 3D Archery. Callie scored a 179, which is also her personal best.



Brad & Kim Gayler's dog, Bella, for National Dog Day.

# Maintenance

The past couple of months have been a little bit of a lull in between very large projects, but as we finish up the Andromat project in Plant 2, we do have several smaller projects to enjoy completing this summer.

#25 Crane is back in service with new remote-control capability after several years without much use. 25 is located in the Southwest Shakeout Bay. This area of the plant is much busier than it was just a couple of years ago with the addition of the new BCT 5 wheel and two (2) new burning stations. Having a second remote crane active in this bay provides additional versatility for all of the activities in this area.

HS will be completing a landfill expansion project next year in 2025, but this summer we were able to complete the building of a new road running over the north side of our existing landfill. This road will provide much better access for construction vehicles and long-term access to the new landfill cell for our own maintenance equipment. Though most employees don't see HS's landfill very

often, it is a well-maintained hilly green space bordered by woods, the Wabash River, and cornfields where our waste sand and dust is collected.

In July, we said a final goodbye to the Line 7 Pusher Furnace. Longer-term cleaning room and maintenance employees will remember working on this furnace for many years. Due to size limitations, this furnace has been sitting idle for quite a while. The furnace was removed in July to make room for additional in-process casting storage and potential future projects. [photo]

This summer has seen the completion of several other smaller projects including:

- A large concrete pour at the north shakeout
- New fans at the L3/4 wetmag
- New hose-reels in several areas of the plant
- Perimeter rock around the knocking pad

- New lighting on the outside of the new casting storage building down south

It has been a busy summer and we are looking forward to the rest of the year.

Here are a couple of the employee continuous improvement card projects that have been worked on so far this year:

#73 VTL New, Improved Guard Cage Design – CI #2200028. Paul Zeis was the originator.

Light installed in drive outside Casting Storage Building—CI #2400035. Jackie Anderson was the originator.



The new Deere 50G mini-excavator.



Extensions to the Coreroom flow-coat tank designed by intern Tyler Haygood



THE HARRISON STEEL CASTINGS COMPANY

# COMPANY PICNIC

**OCTOBER 5, 2024**

**HARRISON STEEL SAND FARM**

**GATES WILL OPEN AT 5:00 PM**

**BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET**

**LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL!**

**LIVE BAND | FOOD TRUCKS | BEER | FIREWORKS**





**HARRISON STEEL**  
CASTINGS COMPANY