

Signed steel beam to top out Firstenburg patient tower

A signed steel beam will be hoisted into place during an 11 a. m. Monday, Jan. 16, ceremony at Southwest Washington Medical Center, signaling the topping out of the eight-story Firstenburg Patient tower.

The \$146 million addition to the medical center is expected to be finished by the end of the year and occupied in January 2007. In addition to five floors of private patient rooms, the tower will house a surgery floor with 13 surgical suites, two open heart surgery suites, and a heart and vascular center with five cardiac catheterization labs.

Visitors to the medical center may sign the steel beam between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily through Sunday, Jan. 15. It is located at the emergency department entrance.

The topping out ceremony will be conducted from the top level of the medical center parking garage at 92nd Avenue and Mill Plain Boulevard.

Firstenburg Center grand opening Sunday, Feb. 26

Called East Vancouver's new family room, the Firstenburg Community Center, 700 NE 136th Avenue, will open Sunday, Feb. 26, with grand opening ceremonies being conducted from noon to 6 p.m.

The 80,000-square-foot recreational and social center includes the following:

Indoor leisure pool, with spa and outdoor spray ground, community room with catering kitchen and terrace, multi-purpose classrooms, fitness center with cardiovascular and strength training equipment, aerobics/dance studio, dedicated space for teens and seniors, climbing wall, child watch area, indoor walking track, juice bar and deli, and a two-court gymnasium.

Memberships acquired before grand opening will receive one month free. For further information, go to

www.clarkparks-rec.org.

At last

Oliver and Nonny Orjako recently became parents of **Danielson Chukwunonso Uzochukwu Orjiako**.

The 9-pound, 9-ounce boy joins sisters **Ashley, Tiffany, Jessica** and **Emily** at home. Oliver works in the Clark County Long Range Planning Department.

News brief

Innovative Services NW, 750 children, adults, and families each week, is seeking nominations for its 4th annual Caring Heart Awards Dinner and Celebration. Eight awards will honor individuals, businesses or organizations within the community that provide services for children with special therapy needs or adults with employment barriers. The deadline for nomination submissions is 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19. Winners will be announced Tuesday, Feb. 14. For further information on nominations, event sponsorships, or to reserve tickets for the April 1 awards ceremony, call Innovative Services development director, **Michael Wilson, 823-5177**, or go to www.innovativeservicesnw.org.

Calendar

The Clark County Antique & Collectible show, expected to attract over 300 vendors, is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, in the Clark County Fairgrounds exhibition hall. Admission is \$6 per person, Parking is \$5 per vehicle. ☞ Volunteers for the Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center's Stewardship Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, are asked to wear appropriate clothes for planting trees and removing blackberry vines. Gloves, tools and refreshments will be provided. The center is at 12208 SE Evergreen Highway. For further information on this volunteer effort, call **Jane Van Dyke, 882-0936**.

☞ Out of Iraq Public Forum is 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in Library Hall in the Vancouver Community Library, 1007 E Mill Plain Boulevard. Presentations will be made and videos shown. The public event, co-sponsored by Democracy for Vancouver and Vancouver for Peace, is free. Further information is available by going to www.democracyforvancouver.org and www.vancouverforpeace.org. ☞ The Portland Boat Show at the Expo Center continues until 9 p.m. this evening and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, and concludes with an 11 a.m.-to-5 p.m. showing Sunday, Jan. 15. Adult admission is \$8; parking is \$7. ☞ Most governmental offices, banks and some private businesses will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Nor will the regular edition of the *Insider* be issued.

Friday headlines from at home and around the world

[Kitzhaber won't challenge Kulongoski--KATU, AP, **Brad Cain \(VIDEO\)**](#)
[Sen. Patty Murray tells chamber audience new drug plan is a nightmare--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)
[Sen. Murray hears tales of drug benefit hassles--Columbian, **Thomas Ryll**](#)
[Casino opponent sees threat to area economy--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)
[Columbia River cruise boat faces rough water--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)
[Battle Ground: bucolic yet bustling--Columbian, **Jose Paul Corona**](#)
[Speakers at Battle Ground chamber luncheon debate effect of Cowlitz Tribal casino--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)
[Redskins reminisce about Seahawks--Washington Post, **Howard Bryant**](#)
[Four things the Seahawks must do--Seattle P-I](#)
[Insurgents shoot down U.S. helicopter, two soldiers killed--New York Times, **Sabrina Tavernise**](#)
[Dee and J. B. Garrison trim down, lighten up--Senior Messenger, **Jan Elder Wulff**](#)

Friday on the air

Clark County Close Up (1/1)—3:30 p.m. CVTV
City Minutes (12.25)—4:06 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Focus (12/14)—4:36 p.m. CVTV
49th District Town Hall (1/7)—5:06 p.m. CVTV
Orlando at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. KXL, KXMG
Portland Winter Hawks at Everett (live)—7 p.m. KCMD
Animal Control Hearings (1/11)—7:06 p.m. CVTV
State Anti-Smoking Act—10:06 p.m. CVTV
Forum: Meth and Associated Crimes (1/5)—11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Dan Ogden reflecting on Cougar highlights. ☞ **Linda Martin** setting table for gustatory delights. ☞ **Marge Martel** is *not* retiring. ☞ **Glenda Stamps** lending a helping hand. ☞ **Todd Krout** complimenting customer service. ☞ **Cami Joner** earning “irrepressible” encomium. ☞ **Dawn Johnston** making things happen. ☞ **Friday**, continued, almost uninterrupted rain, 50. ☞ **Saturday**, rain tapering off, 46. **Sunday**, sun may poke through clouds, 47. **Monday**, windy and showery, 47.