

Center for Community Health open house for is Friday

Clark County's \$38 million Center for Community Health at 1601 E Fourth Plain Boulevard, on the U.S. Veterans Affairs campus, officially opens 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 6.

The building, the first of its kind in the nation, combines in a single structure U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, the Clark County Health Department, Lifeline Connections, Northwest Community Services, and the county Department of Community Services.

In addition, the facility offers 60 residential drug and alcohol treatment beds for adults, a 16-bed combined co-occurring mental health and substance abuse evaluation and treatment center, 16 residential drug and alcohol treatment beds for the deaf and hard of hearing, and 16 detoxification beds.

"The community health center will serve as a national model for collaboration, savings and efficiency as a unique combination of multiple health and social services," according to **Marc Boldt**, chairman of the board of Clark County commissioners.

Tours of the facility will be offered following opening ceremonies remarks by Boldt, **James Whitfield**, regional director of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, **James Tuchschnidt**, director of the Portland VA Medical Center, **Mary C. Selecky**, secretary of health for the Washington State Department of Health, and **Ruth Leonard**, regional treatment manager for the state Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

First of two lantern tours of Fort Vancouver begins Friday

Visitors to Fort Vancouver will see firsthand what it was like to live at the Hudson's Bay Company fort in the early 19th century during lantern tours of the fort, the first of which is from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6. Another lantern tour is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3.

Accompanied by National Park Service guides, participants will be issued lanterns and will tour the fur store, kitchen, chief factor's house and the counting house.

Tour fees are \$3 per person. Reservations are required. For further information, call **696-7655**, extension 10.

C-TRAN's Salmon Creek shuttle service begins Monday

C-TRAN's first new service route since voters approved the transit agency's sales tax financing package last fall, opens Monday, Jan. 9, providing service between Washington State University Vancouver and the Salmon Creek Park & Ride. The shuttle service includes stops at Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital and Kaiser Permanente health facilities.

The Salmon Creek shuttle service was designed with input from local Salmon Creek businesses and community members, reports C-TRAN executive director **Lynne Griffith**. The trip between the park & ride and the university campus is 13 minutes. The half-hour service will be offered between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Transit service that was curtailed when C-TRAN lost automobile excise tax support four years ago will be restored later this month to Ridgefield, La Center and Yacolt, according to Griffith.

Griffith and WSU Vancouver chancellor **Hal Dengerink** are scheduled to arrive by bus at the university at 8:53 a.m. for an official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new service.

Clark Public Utilities adds over 500 new connections in November

Clark County residential growth in November surged by 511 new customers, according to Clark Public Utilities' records for new residential hook-ups.

The annual rate of customer growth is 2.72 percent, according to utility records. During the first 11 months of 2005, the electric utility added 3,986 families to its roster of customers.

49th District town hall meeting to follow conversation café

An hour-long conversation café meeting scheduled by InterACT and the Forum at the Library at 9 a.m. Sat-

urday, Jan. 7, in the Dragonfly Café in the Public Service Center, 11300 Franklin Street, will be followed by a 10 a.m.-to-noon 49th District town hall meeting being presented by the district's Democratic legislators, Sen. **Craig Pridemore** and Reps. **Bill Fromhold** and **Jim Moeller**, in the 6th floor hearing room at the center.

There is no charge for either event.

The conversation café session puts groups within the room at separate tables with a facilitator to help develop consensus on selected topics. That session is a follow-up of a meeting last October, during which citizen participation in government was discussed. The conversation café will be headed by **Heather Tischbein**, a member of the Making Democracy Work advisory committee.

The legislators will provide their audience with a preview of the 60-day state legislative session that begins Monday, Jan. 9, in Olympia.

Patty Murray to give chamber members legislative update

U.S. Sen. **Patty Murray** (D-Wash.) will brief a Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce audience on major issues facing the U.S. Congress in 2006, at a luncheon meeting at noon Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington.

Sen. Murray will focus on the Patriot Act, and on drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic Refuge.

Nonmembers are welcome and are encouraged to attend the briefing, says chamber president **John McKibbin**. The luncheon is \$30 per person. For reservations, call **694-2588**.

Thursday headlines from at home and around the world

[New house torn down to end dispute between home owner and homeowners' association in Camas--Columbian, **Thomas Ryll**](#)

[Paul King and Port of Vancouver again arguing over port's future--Columbian, **Erik Robinson**](#)

[Vancouver resident, Multhomah County deputy sheriff Roger Gelvick, pulls man from burning truck--Columbian, **Kelly Adams**](#)

[Twenty homicides, a six-year high, recorded in Clark County in 2005--Oregonian, **Holley Gilbert**](#)

[Attacks in Iraq kill 120 as post-election violence escalates--New York Times, **Richard A. Oppen Jr.** and **John O'Neil**](#)

[Sen. McCain's day to crow--Washington Post, op-ed columnist, **Richard Cohen**](#)

Thursday on the air

Tree Planting Demonstration (12/3)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes (12/25)—7:31 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—6 p.m. CVTV

Pearl Harbor Day Observance—11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Tom Unger making timely corrections. ✂ **Keith Koplán** putting Clark College on big screen. ✂ **Paul Winters** puts good idea into motion. ✂ **Justin Myers** double checking. ✂ **Bruce** and **Pam Paris** on the Road Less Traveled. ✂ **Jim Ladley** doing superior work. ✂ **Mary Ennis** making connections. ✂ **Thursday**, pluvial conditions taper off, 51. **Friday**, gray and lightly rainy, 52. **Saturday**, cloudier more showers, 47.