

### **Columbia River Crossing Project focus tightens on Interstate Bridge**

Having developed 23 ideas for improving the Columbia River crossing (Interstate Bridge) and 14 ideas for improving public transit between Vancouver and Portland, The Columbia River Crossing Project has scheduled a four-hour public meeting, to begin at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, to narrow this range of ideas that ultimately will be included within the scope of an environmental impact study.

The task force expects to narrow the number of ideas to four or fewer, for inclusion in a detailed analysis in a draft Environmental Impact Statement by the end of this year.

The 39-member task force is considering a variety of issues, including congestion, freight movement, high capacity transit, funding and funding related to improving the river crossing between Vancouver and Portland.

The meeting will be in Washington State Department of Transportation offices at 11018 NE 51st Circle.

### **Port of Kalama lands billion dollar power plant**

Energy Northwest, a consortium of 19 public utilities in the state of Washington, has signed a 50-year lease with the Port of Kamala to build and operate a \$1 billion electric power generating plant.

The plant, which would employ up to 100 people when operational in 2012, would produce 600 megawatts of power for both public utilities and investor-owned utilities in the northwest.

The plant would be one of the first large-scale producers of power from an integrated gasification combined cycle process, using coal as the basic fuel.

The low-emissions process turns coal and petroleum coke into a gas that is fed into turbines to produce electricity from generating turbines.

Construction of the plant could begin as early as 2008, according to **Lanny Cawley**, executive director of the Port of Kalama. During the four-year construction period, employment is expected to be at the 500- to 600-level.

Energy Northwest currently is making the rounds of regional electric utilities seeking customers for the power that would be delivered over existing electric grids.

Cawley said Kamala was selected as the site for the huge plant because of its location on rail and power transmission hubs. Kalama is served by both Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads and Bonneville Power Administration transmission lines.

Energy Northwest currently provides power for member utilities from nuclear, hydroelectric, wind and solar plants.

Currently, neither Clark Public Utilities nor Cowlitz Public Utility District is a member of the power agency.

### **Foreign trade representatives coming to Vancouver for day-long session**

Representatives of Washington State Department of Trade foreign trade offices for China, Germany, Japan, Mexico, South Korea and Taiwan will be in Vancouver throughout the day Wednesday, March 22, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington to discuss international trade opportunities with local businesses.

There is no charge for one-on-one consultations, according to **Pamela Allison**, spokesperson for the sponsoring Columbia River Economic Development Council. A networking luncheon at noon in the Hilton is \$25, however.

To set up consultations or register for the luncheon, call Allison at **567-1063**.



**Govs. Chris Gregoire and Ted Kulongoski share lighter moments during day-long Bi-State forum at Portland State University today. Sense of conference was that the Columbia River can divide us, it can also be a bridge between us. There was a heavy emphasis on education, workforce training and transportation. Photo by Ian Beckett, Clark College**

## Calendar

Legacy Cancer Services is holding a free community talk on what every woman needs to know following a breast cancer diagnosis at 7 p.m. this evening in conference rooms C and D in Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital, 2211 NE 139th Street. **Nathalie Johnson**, medical director of Legacy Cancer Services and Breast Health Centers, and **Marci Reed**, Legacy dietitian, will make presentations. Call **487-3500** to register. ☞ An open house to discuss the Erickson Farms Neighborhood Park is at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Fire District 6 Felida station, 11600 NW Lakeshore Avenue. For further information, call **Jilayne Jordan, 619-1141**.

## Thursday headlines from at home and around the world

[I-5 bridge, economy among topics discussed as regional bi-state governors and mayors and educators meet--KATU](#)

[County commissioners talk sales tax increase in 20-minute meeting--Columbian, \*\*Thomas Ryll\*\*](#)

[Surging Vancouver pushes the button marked 'grow'--Oregonian, \*\*Allan Brettman\*\*](#)

[Trust to buy land near Lacamas Creek--Columbian, \*\*Erik Robinson\*\*](#)

[Evergreen High School murals up for grabs--Columbian, \*\*Howard Buck\*\*](#)

[New Evergreen leader out to get more 'bang for the buck'--Oregonian, \*\*Holley Gilbert\*\*](#)

[Bomb scare likely to delay University of Washington's first-round NCAA tournament game against Utah State by as much as 90 minutes--Seattle Times, \*\*Bob Condotta\*\*](#)

[Idaho Sen. Dirk Kempthorne picked for Interior secretary post by President Bush--Seattle P-I, AP, \*\*David Espo\*\*](#)

[U.S. leads biggest air strike war in Iraq against insurgents--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[U.S. responds to Iran, saying it is read for talks on Iraq--New York Times, AP](#)

[Government lawyer in Moussaoui case put on leave--Washington Post, \*\*Jerry Markton, Carol Morello and William Branigin\*\*](#)

## Thursday on the air

**Gonzaga vs. Xavier (live)—4 p.m. KOIN-TV**

Clark County Close Up (3/5)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

**Clark County Planning Commission (live)—5:25 p.m. CVTV**

**Utah State vs. Washington (live)—6:30 p.m. KOIN-TV**

Depression, Suicide and Binge Drinking—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Bravo! Vancouver: Opera Rocks!—10:30 p.m. CVTV

## Town Tabloids and the weather

**Barbara Kerr** going extra mile. ☞ **Adrienne Willows** giving pets a break. ☞ **Annie Gannon** asking a good question. ☞ **Jim West** project on road to Final Four. ☞ **Diane Freng** arranging calendar. ☞ **Thursday**, gnarly want-to-go-south weather, 49. **Friday**, a few cold showers, 47. **Saturday**, mostly cloudy, could begin to dry out—a little, 48.