

Luepke Center open Saturday to help Medicare enrollees

Swamped with potential Medicare clients trying to make sense out of the Medicare Part D planning, volunteers will report to the Luepke Center in a rare Saturday session to help those who are trying to make the Monday, May 15 deadline for enrollment or be penalized the rest of their lives at the rate of 1 percent per month.

Volunteers will be available at the center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 13, to assist those who are able to make appointments. Volunteers are also working 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today, tomorrow and Monday, May 15.

There is a telephone number to call for an appointment, **735-8873**, extension **4612**. That line is also on overload and may not be of much help during the current crunch time..

The government has a website that may be of some help, www.medicare.gov.

The best bet, if you cannot get to the Luepke Center, may be calling the Medicare telephone number, **1-800-MEDICARE**. The wait may not be more than a few minutes. (please see the link to *The Columbian* in today's *Insider* headlines.)

The Volunteers are from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, an organization that is now under the umbrella of the local Human Services Council.

According to **Bobbi Casanova**, manager of the program, the RSVP volunteers in this project were given extensive training by the state Insurance Commission in order to effectively help applicants choose the best programs for their particular needs.

These RSVP volunteers are known by the acronym SHIVA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) and they will continue to be active in helping those needing information on health benefits beyond the May 15 deadline for signing up for Medicare Part D.

Cowlitz Tribal Health Services opens office in Community Health Center

Providing services for primarily for American Indian and Alaskan Native populations, Cowlitz Indian Tribal Health Services is opening a treatment center in the Clark County Center for Community Health, 1601 E Fourth Plain Boulevard.

Treatment services will include chemical dependency assessments, alcohol and drug abuse treatment and support, outpatient services, individual therapy sessions, inpatient treatment placements and services coordinated with mental health and medical care.

Other Community Health Center partners are the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Community Services Northwest, Lifeline Connections, and the county Health Department and Department of Community Services.

The center opening marks the first direct tribal health service offerings to be made in southwest Washington, according to **Jim Sherrill**, director of Health & Social Services for the Cowlitz.

Sherrill said today, "We are extremely pleased to be joining the progressive-thinking partners at the center. Our holistic approach to patient care employs the mind, body and spirit philosophy to treatment that appears to be shared by all partners in the new Center for Community Health."

Michael Piper, director of the Clark County Department of Community Services said that, "our partners understand the need for culturally compatible services. American Indian and Alaska Native people now have resources in the county for a wide range of needs.

Fees for treatment are to be waived for federally recognized Native Americans and Alaska Natives, according to Sherrill, but treatment will also be available to the general public.

American Association of Community Colleges elects R. Wayne Branch to three year term

R. Wayne Branch, Clark College president, who was appointed to the board of directors of the American Association of Community Colleges a year ago, has been elected to a three-year term on the board of the national organization that lists 95 percent of all U.S. two-year community, junior and technical colleges as members.

Kim Peery, chairman of the Clark College Board of Trustees said that the college board is proud that Dr. Branch has been elected. "This recognition is a reflection of Dr. Branch's status as a national community college

leader. The AACC board will bring national attention to southwest Washington in the higher education arena.”

Port of Vancouver buys Cadet Manufacturing site

Port of Vancouver commissioners yesterday approved the purchase of Cadet Manufacturing’s electric heater production facility in Vancouver for \$5.4 million, reaching an agreement that saves more than 100 local jobs and opens the way for more economic development.

The purchase includes 11 acres of land and a 75,000-square-foot building located on Fourth Plain Boulevard adjacent to existing port properties. Operations at the manufacturing plant will continue, with Cadet leasing the building and seven acres from the port. Cadet has agreed to a five-year lease at the site, with two additional five-year options.

The remaining four-acre parcel will be available for new business development at the site.

“The Port of Vancouver, local jobs and the environment are all winners in this agreement,” said port executive director **Larry Paulson**. “We are acquiring property that is contiguous to the port’s current operating facility to promote jobs and economic development while allowing environmental cleanup at the site to occur more quickly.”

The sale is based on a settlement agreement, signed by the port and Cadet last February and approved by federal district and bankruptcy courts in March, which resolves a multi-year lawsuit over liability for the cleanup. Under the agreement, the port will take over responsibility for completion of the environmental cleanup project at the Cadet site.

To help fund the cleanup, the port received \$6.5 million from two Cadet insurance carriers, along with the right to seek recovery of an additional \$14 million in insurance claims.

Calendar

The Evergreen High School and the Pacific and Cascade Middle School jazz bands perform at Cascade School at 7 p.m. this evening in Cascade Middle School, 13900 NE 18th Street. ✂ Heritage High School presents *Much Ado About Nothing* in the school auditorium, 7825 NE 130th Avenue at 7:30 p.m. this evening, and Friday, May 12. General admission is \$5. Student and senior admission is \$4. ✂ Mountain View High School’s theatre production of *Guys and Dolls* is at 7:30 p.m. this evening through Saturday, May 13. There is a matinee at 1:30 p.m. The high school is at 1500 SE Blairmont Drive. General admission is \$8, Student and senior admission is \$5. ✂ The new Public Playhouse presents Moliere’s *The Imaginary Invalid* at 8 p.m. this evening in the Columbia Arts Center, 400 W Evergreen Boulevard. General admission is \$12. ✂ A three-hour executive seminar, “The Power Within.” is being presented at 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 12, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington. Speakers are **John Hester**, Nike’s director of learning and development, and **T. K. Kieran**, sales growth consultant. The seminar is sponsored by Clark College, the *Vancouver Business Journal* and LSW Architects. For further information on the \$40 seminar, call **Jennifer Young**, 695-2442.

Thursday on the air

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—6 p.m. CVTV
Albuquerque at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Town Tabloids and the weather

Terry O’Connor telling stories. ✂ **Jessica Swanson** offering tip of the day. ✂ **Rod McCulloch** recording epic moment. ✂ **Bobbi Casanova** helping out as usual. ✂ **Rich Nardine** working out creative details. ✂ **Thursday**, mostly cloudy, a few sprinkles, 68. **Friday**, mostly cloudy, 65. **Saturday**, partly cloudy, 71.