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Share House supplies running short for children's programs

The Children's Backpack program, an innovative volunteer effort to ensure that Clark County children eligible for free or reduced-cost meals through the schools, do not go hungry at home, is in dire need of food donations. There are 17,000 children in our community who are eligible for free or reduced cost meals.

Children's Backpack, along with the Children's Summer Meals Program, is operated in partnership with Evergreen Public Schools, Vancouver School District and Washington State University Vancouver. The programs served 313 children through the 2008 Summer Lunch Program and 330 children and their families each week through the backpack program.

The Backpack Program serves students at 22 participating schools. More than 400 packs filled with 5 to ten pounds of donated, non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food, are distributed discreetly each Friday after school to ensure that children and their families have nutritious food to eat during the weekend.

Food items currently needed include: peanut butter, tuna, pasta/rice-a-roni, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned beans, canned soups and stews, snacks (granola bars, crackers, apple sauce, puddings, small candies).

Donations can be delivered to the following Share shelters in Vancouver, 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.:

Share Orchards Inn, 5609 NE 102nd Avenue

Share Homestead, 4921 NE Hazel Dell Avenue

Share House, 1115 W 13th Street

For more information and to donate online go to www.sharevancouver.org or call (360) 695-7658.

SWMC unveils gem of a treatment device for treating artery disease

The "Diamondback 360" sounds more like the name of a super-cool mountain bike than a surgical device. But it is actually a brand new treatment device from Cardiovascular Systems, Inc. .™ unveiled today by Southwest Washington Medical Center as a gem of a tool for treating tough cases of PAD — Peripheral Artery Disease.

The device spins in an orbital motion to grind away calcified plaque. The catheter uses tiny diamonds to pulverize calcified plaque in the arteries that carry blood from the heart to the legs and the feet. Medical Center officials said its surgeons are among the first in the Pacific Northwest to offer treatment utilizing the device.

With every rotation, centrifugal force of the device presses a diamond "crown" against the hardened area to remove small particles of plaque until the artery is smooth again.

"This device is an excellent option for patients facing major amputation because of advanced PAD," says Dr. **Stephen Nicholls**, MD, vascular surgeon with Southwest Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, PS.. "We're saving feet and legs with this technology."

Learn more about the device and see a virtual demonstration at www.swmedicalcenter.org/diamondback.

Firefighters plan 2008 Ride for Toys

Clark County Fire & Rescue is proud to announce the second annual Rides for Toys! The event is scheduled for Friday, December 12, from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the parking lot to the Battle Ground Fred Meyer located at 401 NW 12th Avenue.

Firefighters will provide free rides in a fire engine, to both children and adults, in exchange for new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages.

The toys will be distributed to children of low-income families, living in our community, through the North County Community Food Bank.

For additional information, contact Tamara Bailey at 360-887-4609

Outdoors on sale: Oregon parks passes on sale for a whole year

Day-use passes good for 12 months at 26 popular Oregon state parks go on sale today (Dec. 1) for \$20, five dollars off their regular price. The passes will be good through Dec. 31, 2009.

The annual day-use pass sale is becoming an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) holiday tradition. "We've been having this sale in December since the year 2000, and the price is still the same," said OPRD Recreation Programs Manager Richard Walkoski. "That alone has to make the pass one of the best gift

bargains you can find."

This year, customers buying passes as gifts can add something special to their packages. A 2009 Oregon Sesquicentennial edition of the Oregon State Parks calendar also is on sale for \$10. "It's a one-of-a-kind calendar," said OPRD marketing specialist Jennifer McCormick. "It's a calendar that can turn into a souvenir if not a collector's item."

Customers can buy the calendar, the 12-month day-use pass and a 24-month day-use pass through the Oregon State Parks Information Center, 1-800-551-6949. Callers can use either a VISA or a MasterCard credit card. Extra vehicle passes, \$5 with a 12-month pass and \$10 with a 24-month pass, must be purchased at the same time.

The state park calendar also can be purchased through the Oregon State Parks Trust by calling 503-227-0479, or using an online mail order form available at <http://www.oregonstateparkstrust.org/>.

Walk-in customers can buy day-use passes at major OPRD offices, Joe's sports and outdoor stores, some state park friends' group stores and selected local businesses throughout the state. A list of vendors is posted at www.oregonstateparks.org/dayuse_permit_vendors.php.

OPRD even has something for campers. Gift certificates, redeemable at any state park campground at any time of year, are sold through the information center and major OPRD offices for any dollar amount. The certificates have no expiration date.

Calendar

- **12/1-12/3 -- Clark County Budget hearings** continue this week. Monday, **December 1** — 2 p.m. public hearing for elected officials and county department directors to discuss their 2009-2010 biennial budgets, sixth-floor training room, Public Service Center, Vancouver; Tuesday, **December 2** — Hearings for the public to speak on the budget: - 10 a.m., sixth-floor hearing room, Public Service Center, Vancouver - 6:30 p.m., Rainier Room, Clark County Fire District 5 Northwest Regional Training Center, 11606 N.E. 66th St., #103, Vancouver; Wednesday, **December 3** — 9 a.m., Board will meet to review the final 2009/2010 budget. Meetings will be held at 9 a.m. on **December 4 and 5** if necessary. Copies of Clark County's draft 2009-2010 biennial budget are available online at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/obis/documents.html> or at the Clark County Office of the Budget, sixth floor, Public Service Center, Vancouver.
- **12/2—Columbia River Crossing Open House**, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Vancouver Washington, 301 W. 6th St., Vancouver. Information about plans for light rail on Hayden Island and in Vancouver; a replacement bridge across the Columbia River; and improvements to seven interchanges between SR 500 and Columbia Blvd. in Portland. CRC technical staff will be available to provide information and answer questions. More information: www.columbiarivercrossing.org.
- **12/3—Port of Ridgefield Commissioners Meeting**, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, 6:00-8:00 p.m., PORT OFFICE, 111 W. Division St., Ridgefield. Meeting items include: Port Commissioner Applicant Interviews.
- **12/4—Divine Holiday Home Tour** benefitting the hungry among us in Clark County through the Walk & Knock program. [Click here](#) for additional information and online signup via paypal.
- **12/5--Columbia River Crossing Project Sponsors Council** meets 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Portland Building, 1120 SW Fifth Ave., Portland, Room C, second floor. More info: <http://www.columbiarivercrossing.com/>
- **12/8—Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Board of Trustees** meets in regular session on Mon., Dec. 8, 2008 at the Vancouver Community Library (in Library Hall) 1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver. An executive session is scheduled for 5 p.m. The public meeting begins at 6 p.m.
- [Click here](#) for the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Community Events Calendar

Monday on the air

Vancouver City Council Workshop (LIVE)--3:55 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver City Council (LIVE)--6:55 p.m. CVTV

Port of Vancouver Board of Commissioners (11/25) -- 11 p.m.

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Susan Forsyth looking ahead to Scotland. <> **Elizabeth Hovde** saying farewell & thanks.<> **Ruth Waite** wishing for a visit.<> **Kathryn Scott** updating.<> **Angela Bacon** getting warmer.<> **Kristy Weaver** rooting for the other ducks. <> **Monday**, glorious fall day sunny, 38-56. **Tuesday**, mixed clouds and sun, 39-55. **Wednesday**, rain likely, 39-48.