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**Columbia Crossing hearings  
this evening and tomorrow**

The Columbia River Crossing Task Force is holding hearings and open houses from 5 to 8 p.m. this evening in the grand ballroom of the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, and tomorrow evening, May 29, in Hall D in the Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Drive.

The open houses are designed to provide information for attendees. The public hearing section of each evening is designed to receive information from attendees.

At stake is one of several alternatives for upgrading the I-5 Columbia River bridges linking Vancouver and Portland.

The Columbia Crossing Task Force is accepting information during a 60-day period ending Tuesday, July 1.

The City of Vancouver's preference is to replace the two existing bridges and bring light rail to the city from Portland.

This option comes in the \$4 billion range. Part of the cost would be financed through bridge tolls.

For further information, call **(360) 816-4038**.

**Port of Vancouver doubling  
its heavy lifting power**

The Port of Vancouver, already owners of one of the largest mobile cranes in the nation, yesterday voted to double its heavy lifting power by agreeing to buy a second crane of the same size.

The first Liebherr mobile harbor crane was bought in 2006 and has played a major role in moving nearly 400 wind turbines across its docks for wind farms in the United States.

That crane cost just over \$3.5 million, plus shipping from Europe. The port has budgeted a maximum of \$5.5 for the new crane, including shipping and setup.

When it is in place the new crane will allow the port to unload and load huge cargo, including parts of wind turbines, simultaneously.

More than 30 states have mandated some forms of wind energy development.

It's heavy lifting power has made the Port of Vancouver USA the primary port of entry for wind turbines, stands and blades.

**Rekah Strong, Terry Durazo  
to receive NAACP awards**

**Rekah Strong**, Clark County government's first-ever workforce diversity coordinator, will receive the 2008 Diversity Leadership Award from the Vancouver branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The award recognizes significant contributions to promoting diversity and inclusion in the work place.

**Terry Durazo**, civil rights program manager with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and a Vancouver NAACP youth advisor, will receive the 2008 Valree Joshua Community Activist Award. Joshua, for whom the award is named, led NAACP's Vancouver chapter for 29 years and continues to be a member of the local organization.

The awards will be presented during a Saturday, June 7, banquet. Admission is \$35. For further information, call **885.0644**.

**Pacific Continental Bank and Pepper's  
hosting June First Friday art event**

Pacific Continental Bank, 911 Main Street, and Pepper's Mexican Bar & Grill, 800 Main Street, are hosts for the 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 6, First Friday Art Walk in downtown Vancouver.

Organizers promise free fun, including wine and hors d'oeuvres, and walking tours departing every 20 minutes. Downtown art galleries will be open until 9 p.m.

Fort Vancouver High School's steel drum band will be performing outside Divine Consign, 904 Main Street. The concert is a fundraiser for the high school band.

**Calendar**

Five-time National Basketball Association Most Valuable Player **Bill Russell** keynotes Columbia River Mental Health Services' 4Results Mentoring, a special program on mentoring, at 7 p.m. this evening in the auditorium of Heritage High School, 7825 NE 130th Avenue. Admission is \$20 at the door. <> Keynote speaker for the Thursday, May 29, day-long North Clark County 2008 Business Opportunity EXPO, is **Jerry Greenfield**, co-founder of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. Greenfield's presentation, which includes free ice cream, is at 12:35 p.m. The event opens at 8 a.m. in the Clark County Fairgrounds Events Center. Kickoff speaker is **Jeff Shafer**, founder and CEO of Vancouver-based Agave, premium denim manufacturer. Admission is \$99 for the full day and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Admission for the keynote speech only, which includes lunch, is \$50. For further information, call **694-2300**.

**Wednesday on the air**

Clark County Planning Commission ((5/15)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

**Boston at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX**

**Sacramento at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**

City Minutes (5/18)—9 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up (5/4)—9:35 p.m. CVTV

Global Climate Change (5/16)—10:15 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus (5/1)—11:29 CVTV

**Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Kerry Hodge** helping to iron out delivery problems. <> **Kristy Weaver** planning big June 6 Arts Walk. <> **Nelson Holmberg** doing practice sessions. <> **Forrest Burger** getting help from a higher power. <> **Bob Gaylor** in new digs. <> **Wednesday**, possible thunder showers, 54-68. **Thursday**, gray skies, showers likely, 52-67. **Friday**, partly cloudy, 52-73.