

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Port of Vancouver, environmental group fail to agree in emergency session

Port of Vancouver commissioners today held an emergency session for the purpose of coming to closure on a lawsuit holding up development of Columbia Gateway and the Columbia River 43-foot channel deepening project, but attorneys for the port and the Columbia River Alliance for Nurturing and the Environment couldn't agree.

Although the projects are separate, the agreement would have eased the controversy over the Port's Columbia River Gateway project and ended litigation filed in state and federal courts against the channel improvement project.

CRANE opposes the port's efforts to develop maritime and industrial properties and also requests that the port preserve additional habitat.

After a very brief meeting at noon today, a port spokesperson said the two sides were very close to an agreement.

I-5 interchange with Highway 502 would give Battle ground more direct access to freeway

Although the estimated completion is at least six years away, 2009, design and environmental review of an I-5 interchange with Highway 502, west of Battle Ground, is now underway.

"The interchange is an important step toward improving mobility along the I-5 corridor," says Department of Transportation southwest region administrator **Don Wagner**.

It will also improve safety at the NE 179th Street, fairgrounds and amphitheater interchange on I-5, Wagner adds.

An open house to share initial alternative designs is from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, in the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce offices, 912 E Main Street, according to **Chuck Ruhsenberger**, state Department of Highways area engineer.

The estimated \$34.7 million project is funded through the five-cent gasoline tax adopted by the 2003 state legislature. For further information, call Ruhsenberger, **759-1310**.

No electric rate increase for at least a year

There won't be an electric rate increase from Clark Public Utilities for at least a year, according to utility CEO/general manager **Wayne Nelson**.

The utility already weathered an increase in wholesale power costs from Bonneville Power Administration this month. While the BPA increase was in the 3 percent range, its impact on the utility was much greater. However, favorable natural gas prices reducing the cost of power from the utility's Lower River Road plant were passed on to customers.

Nelson said Tuesday that the utility cannot predict future wholesale power costs. There are too many variables ranging from proposals before Congress and decrees from federal agencies.

Nelson, however, says there does not appear to be any

TUESDAY

Oct. 7, 2003

shortage of power through 2011. He adds, though, economic conditions could change even that.

Clark produces nearly half its power requirements at its gas-fired turbine. The property could support a second nearly 250-megawatt plant or a plant that could produce peaking power for wintertime spikes in use.

State School for the Blind gets lead role in promoting distance learning

The Washington State School for the Blind has been selected as one of 18 pilot schools in the state to promote distance learning through Digital Learning Commons.

The Vancouver school will design specialized training in Braille music. Classes will be offered nationally, according to school superintendent **Dean Stenehjem**.

Stenehjem says he hopes the enhanced technology will help blind kids improve achievement scores.

Recently remodeled, the school has digital learning technology in every classroom.

Funding for Digital Learning Commons comes from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Paul G. Allen Virtual Education Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and \$2 million from the state.

News briefs

International Walk Our Children to School Day is Wednesday, Oct. 8. "Walking school buses"—groups of parents, will pick up students at Washington Elementary 7:30 and 8 a.m. and Burnt Bridge Creek Elementary 8 a.m. to escort them on safe routes to school. ~~ZZZ~~ Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Tuesday on the Air

Vancouver Council Position 4 Candidates—4 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Council Position 5 Candidates—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Council Position 6 Candidates—5 p.m. CVTV
Port of Vancouver Candidates—5:30 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Mayoral Candidates—6 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV
Houston at Portland Trail Blazers (live)—7 p.m. KXL

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2003

Alaska Air Group	30.44	+19	Linear Technology	39.70	+43
Alcoa	28.19	-08	Microsoft	29.14	-05
Amazon.com	54.91	+76	Nautilus	13.60	+26
Bank of America	80.35	-10	Nike	63.56	+75
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	27.00	+48
Bemis	45.05	-35	PepsiCo	47.40	-10
Boeing	36.17	+36	Precision Cast	37.80	+30
Boise Cascade	27.61	+11	RLRN	25.88	+90
CenturyTel	35.56	+18	Starbucks	30.29	+25
Costco	33.34	+30	TSM	11.76	-22
Expeditors Intl.	35.81	+49	Tektronix	26.15	+13
Georgia Pacific	25.60	+27	US Bancorp	24.96	+08
HPO	20.36	-12	Wash. Mutual	39.95	+10
Intel	29.95	+39	W. Coast Bancorp	21.01	-64
Kyocera	63.26	+36	Weyerhaeuser	59.10	+02

DOW: 9654.61 +59.63 ~~ZZZ~~NASDAQ: 1907.85 +14.39 ~~ZZZ~~S&P: 1039.25 +4.9

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Tamie Cody taking CRESA chores.	Acapulco	90/75
ZZZ Sharon Martell looking for tune carriers.	Athens	77/63
ZZZ Jackie Brown giving Stepping Stones a boost.	Chicago	76/56
ZZZ Debbie Butcher taking care of business.	Dallas	80/62
ZZZ Tom Bradley correcting 34 to 43.	Hong Kong	82/75
Tuesday , partly cloudy, light precipitation, 64.	Los Angeles	76/63
Wednesday , shrouded by wet clouds, 62.	London	54/38
Thursday , clouds and showers, 60.	New Orleans	84/69
	New York	63/57
	Orlando	88/70
	Paris	49/34
	Phoenix	84/71
	Rome	73/48
	Seattle	60/48
	Sydney	70/47
	Tokyo	65/55
	Washington	67/57