

### **Bush makes \$15 million commitment to deepen Columbia River channel**

President **George W. Bush**, campaigning in Portland today, announced support and a \$15 million budget amendment for deepening the Columbia River channel to 43 feet.

"By deepening the channel from 40 to 43 feet, it will create new export opportunities for Columbia River ports and will help our farmers and ranchers. It will help our manufacturers remain competitive and it will protect and restore jobs, really good paying jobs and will help restore the river's eco-system," the president said.

"The project will enhance the vitality of the river, on the 104 miles between the ocean and Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington," he declared.

Bush thanked Washington Democratic Sen. **Patty Murray** for her support of the channel deepening. "This project needs bi-partisan support," the president said.

The project, supported by all major Columbia River ports, except Astoria, does have bi-partisan support from lawmakers representing Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Just this week Murray wrote the president a letter pressing him to provide the \$15 million the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it needs to continue the project.

Murray said: "Members of Congress, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho all support this proposal. But, unfortunately, you have failed to step forward and support it. For two years running you requested zero dollars for channel deepening while also cutting overall funding for the Army Corps of Engineers. Despite your objections, many of us, on a bipartisan basis, have worked to secure the \$15 million the Corps says it needs to move forward. While your budget last year didn't provide a dime."

U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird** (D-3rd), among the first to champion the project, said, "We welcome the president to the team, but it is important to know that the rest of the team has been on the field and playing hard for a number of years now. We also have a number of other critical projects in the region, including maintaining our small harbors and channels and critical flood control projects. Unfortunately, the president's budgets have zeroed-out or frozen funds for many of these needs and our local economy is suffering because of that."

The project, which would enable new super-sized vessels to navigate the River as far inland as the Ports of Vancouver and Portland, is still a half-dozen years and a couple of law suits and scores of millions of dollars more away from completion. But, with the endorsement of the president, a redesigned Columbia River channel is expected to become a reality.

### **Harold Abbe appointed to Columbia River Gorge Commission**

Labor leader **Harold Abbe**, Camas, has been appointed to the Columbia River Gorge Commission by Gov. **Gary Locke**.

Abbe, active in community affairs throughout the county, was appointed to a term ending June 12, 2008.

### **Highway 500 at I-205 closed for the weekend**

Highway 500 traffic, in both directions between Interstate 205 and NE 117th Street-Fourth Plain Road, will be closed from 7 p.m. this evening until 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 16

The state Department of Transportation is closing the highway in order to make connections to a newly completed overpass. The project is one of the "Nickel" highway improvements funded by a five-cent per gallon gasoline tax. When completed in 2005, the project will replace a signal controlled intersection at NE 112th Avenue and Gher Road, with a freeway-type interchange.

### **County fair continues through Sunday**

A demolition derby at 7:30 p.m. tonight is the major entertainment for the third from the last day of the 2004 Clark County Fair.

Pro-Arena Trucks and Tuff Trucks entertain at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, and Tuff Trucks and Monster Trucks at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, the final day of the 136th annual fair.

Adult admission to the fair is \$8. Parking is \$5. Bus transportation is free.

### **1860s baseball free at the parade grounds Saturday**

Billed as "An evening of 1860s vintage baseball," two teams will face each other at the parade grounds in Vancouver Barracks at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14. Attendance is free. Visitors are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs. No alcohol or barbecues are permitted.

The barehanded ball game is presented annually by the National Park Service, a partner in the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust.

### **Free health screening Saturday**

A free health screening for children headed back to school this fall is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 14, in the East County Family Resource Center, 1702 C Street, Washougal.

Sponsored by the Clark County Health Department, activities include free immunizations for youngsters who have their shot records, free bike helmets, dental, hearing and vision screenings, \$20 sports physicals, safety ID cards and a sports shoe exchange. For further information, call **835-7802**.

[President Bush announces \\$15 million toward deepening Columbia River channel, KATU \(Video\)](#)  
[Free WiFi coming soon to Esther Short Park-- Vancouver Business Journal, \*\*Charlie Devereux\*\*](#)  
[David Richter's All Dad's Toys sprints on wheels--Vancouver Business Journal, \*\*Charlie Devereux\*\*](#)  
[Kerry rallies thousands in downtown Portland--KGW-TV, AP, \*\*Andrew Kramer\*\*](#)  
[Brad Prothero caters to the fair animals--Columbian, Justin Carinci](#)  
[Ground broken for county's \\$38 million health center--Columbian, \*\*Erin Middlewood\*\*](#)  
[Former Blazer Chris Dudley to hang with the president--Columbian, \*\*Andrew Seligman\*\*](#)  
[Pacific Coast Shredding upping the export market--Columbian, \*\*Jonathan Nelson\*\*](#)  
[Costco set to open August 27--Vancouver Business Journal, \*\*Cami Joner\*\*](#)  
[Julia Child dead at 91--USA TODAY, AP](#)  
[Category 4 hurricane Charley roars ashore in Florida, USA TODAY, AP](#)  
[New 192nd Avenue link to link to Highway 14 moving right along--Oregonian, \*\*Allan Brettman\*\*](#)

### Friday on the air

Pridemore, Carlson Senatorial Debate (7/26)—6 p.m. CVTV  
**Salt Lake City at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**  
Animal Control Hearings (8/12)—7 p.m. CVTV  
**Olympics: Opening Ceremony (live)—KGW-TV, 8 p.m.**  
Telecommunications Commission (8/4)—9 p.m. CVTV  
Comp Plan Update (8/9)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

### Town tabloids and the weather

**Mike Kasner** doing late knight work. 🍷🍷 **Dennis Grunes** striking out for the high road. 🍷🍷 **Nancy Olsen**'s positive example pays off. 🍷🍷 **Joan Whitehead** joining growing list. 🍷🍷 **Susan Benenson Whelan** building client relationships. 🍷🍷 **Jennifer Petersen** putting pie making contest. 🍷🍷 **Friday**, gorgeous sunny day, 90. **Saturday**, partly cloudy, 86. **Sunday**, a few more clouds, but nice, 87.