

Camas Septemberfest opens weekend run this evening

Septemberfest 2004 opens this afternoon at 4 p.m. at 5th and Birch Streets. in downtown Camas.

The two-day community celebration features German-style food, a beer garden, cruise-in car show, and arts and crafts booths.

Musical headliners are the **Smilin Scandinavians** at 6 p.m. today, and **Saints or Sinners** at 4 p.m. and **Ron Ruedi and the Hurricanes** at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18.

Admission to the beer garden is free except when bands are playing, in which case admission is \$5.

In its third year, the celebration, organized by the Camas-Washougal Rotary Club and the Columbia Gorge Chapter of the American Business Women's Association, benefits youth and community projects.

Social event to show off 54 feet of tapestry

Tapestry, stitched by scores of volunteers, will be shown off at a Fort Vancouver Tapestry social from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, in the tapestry workroom in the State School for the Deaf, at the corner of Evergreen and Grand Boulevards.

Stitchers have put together 54 feet of tapestry depicting historic events in Clark County and are hard at it, working toward completing the project in time for Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebrations.

Fort Vancouver Tapestry spokesperson **Sherry Mowatt** promises music, refreshments and raffle prizes during the social event. For further information, call **992-0975**.

Rally to supporting C-TRAN

Set for Monday in the park

Bus riders, community leaders and others supporting C-TRAN Proposition 1, an increase of three-tenths of a cent in sales tax in Clark County, will gather in the public plaza in Esther Short Park at 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20, to kick off the campaign to get voters to vote yes on the proposition Nov. 2, according to YES for C-TRAN committee co-chairs, **Mike Worthy** and **David Cooper**.

Passage of Proposition 1 will ensure that buses and para-transit systems across Clark County remain in place, according to the co-chairs. Without the increase in sales tax of three cents on every \$10 purchase, transit service will be reduced by nearly half and most outlying cities would be entirely without bus service.

C-TRAN provided nearly 7 million passenger trips in 2003, traveling over 19,000 miles a day taking county residents to work, to medical appointments, to churches and on other errands.

Clark Public Utilities to get nearly \$2 million from antitrust settlement

Clark Public Utilities has been awarded nearly \$2 million from the Washington Consumer Energy Fund, based on an antitrust settlement with three energy companies, which allegedly illegally manipulated energy prices during the West Coast energy crisis of 2000-2001.

"While this is a wonderful opportunity for us to help our customers, the settlement represents only a small percentage of the massive overcharges by unscrupulous energy companies during the crisis," says **Nancy Barnes**, president of the utility board of commissioners.

The three energy companies are Williams Energy, El Paso Energy and Duke Energy.

The Washington Consumer Energy Fund was selected to make distribution of the funds to utilities in the state. The Clark Public Utilities settlement was the largest awarded in the state of Washington.

Under guidelines established by WCEF, the money must be used for conservation programs and assistance for low-income customers.

Barnes said Clark will use the funds to add \$550,000 to Operation Warm Heart that provides assistance to low income customers, will provide \$525,000 as rebates for purchase of energy efficient refrigerators and clothes and dishwashers, \$450,000 for weatherization programs, \$100,000 for replacement of refrigerators for low-income customers, and \$80,000 for supplemental funding for the federally funded Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program.

Some of the of the programs will be administered by the Clark County Department of Community Services.

Senior volunteer positions take city activities to next level

Senior volunteers are making city programs run more smoothly by serving as ushers, hosts and hostesses, greeting visitors, and caring for artifacts in the historical museum.

Vancouver's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is seeking more volunteers 55 years and older for the following assignments:

Four-hour shifts once a week in the Clark County Public Service Center, Vancouver City Hall and Clark County Courthouse greeting visitors and answering questions.

Working as ushers, hosts and hostesses during theater productions at the Slocum House Theater.

Working in the Clark County Historical Museum.

For further information, call **Jeanne Phipps** or **Bobbi Casanova** at **696-8221**

News briefs

A free forum, "Let's Talk: Introducing Friends and Loved Ones to Recovery, is at 6 p.m. this evening in Southwest Washington

Medical Center. For further information, call **397-2075**, extension **7822**. ☞ The Riverview Community Bank Parade of Homes at Granite Highlands in Washougal continues 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily through Sunday, Sept. 19. General admission is \$12.

Friday headlines from at home and around the world:

[County high school graduation rate mostly above par--Columbian, **Amy McFall Prince**](#)

[Work getting underway on Cathlapotle plankhouse that will have big role in Lewis and Clark Bicentennial--Columbian, **Dean Baker**](#)

[Port of Ridgefield cleanup project working--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)

[17th District candidates maintaining leads--Columbian](#)

[Downtown Vancouver gets high marks from former mayor of Indianapolis--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)

[Cheney praises Bush's action on security--KGW-TV, **Abe Estimada**](#)

[Two chairlifts to open at Timberline this weekend--KGW-TV, **Abe Estimada**](#)

[Bush clear leader in Gallup Poll--USA TODAY, **Susan Page**](#)

[U.S. air strikes said to kill at least 44 in Iraq--New York Times, **Edward Wong**](#)

Friday on the air

Vancouver Business Journal Top Projects 2004—3:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up—6 p.m. CVTV

Oakland at the Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFXX

Animal Control Hearings (9/9)—7 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver City Council Retreat (6/7)—11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Roger Qualman given mantle of leadership with cabernet sauvignon gavel. ☞ **John McKibbin** able to rise to the occasion. ☞ **Tom Hunt** claiming construction toys are for grandchildren. ☞ **Mike Worthy** giving C-TRAN top billing. ☞ **Rhonda Carey** getting good marks. ☞ **Nancy Wolf** making things look easy. ☞ **Friday**, clouds bring rain off and on, 66. **Saturday**, a little cooler, possible showers, 62. **Sunday**, showers give way to sunbreaks, 68.