

**Southwest Washington Medical Center shows off plans, \$146 million project to be finished in 2006**



An eight-story, 154-single-bed patient room expansion, which is of Southwest Washington Medical Center's Mill Plain campus was presented to the public Wednesday. It is part of the medical center's \$146 million expansion, which is already underway and is expected to be completed by December 2006.

Expansion at the 32-acre campus also includes an additional 612 parking spaces, as well as a centralized electrical and mechanical plant that will serve "state-of-the-art" electronic medical record keeping, a medical imaging network, digital imaging storage, and archiving of all diagnostic imaging services.

The medication dispensing system will be automated and verified by bar codes. Patient registration services will be decentralized to the individual patient rooms. Patients will also have entertainment and information systems at their bedside.

Private rooms will provide accommodations for family members.

The new heart and vascular center in the tower includes new laboratories and two dedicated open-heart surgery suites, and 13 new surgery suites for trauma, general and orthopedic surgery.

During the heavy construction phase, valet parking services will be available for both patients and their families.

Southwest Washington Medical Center, southern Washington's largest employer—3,200 employees—is a community-owned non-profit medical institution.

**Voters will write ballot statements for C-TRAN's November sales tax measure**

Six Clark County voters have been selected to write statements for the Clark County Voters' Pamphlet. Three will write statements favoring the proposed .3 percent sales tax increase; three will write statements opposing the increase.

Those drafting the opposing statement will be **Millie Martin, Larry Martin** and **Frances Rutherford**. The supportive statement will be crafted by **Mike Worthy, David Cooper**, and Battle Ground mayor **John Idsinga**.

The transit agency's board of directors is asking voters for a .3 percent sales tax increase, which would double the current sales tax support base, to bring C-TRAN's budget back to the position it held before Initiative 695 took away motor vehicle excise tax support from all public transit agencies in the state. By law, C-TRAN could have opted for a .6 percent increase.

If the increase is approved, C-TRAN will be on solid financial footing, according to its board. Without the increase, routes and service will be severely restricted, likely eliminating routes outside metropolitan Vancouver.

A 50 percent majority will determine whether the measure passes at the Nov. 2 general election.

### Clark County home sales lagging state numbers

While sales of homes reached statewide record levels in the second quarter of 2004, the Clark County housing market lagged the state in percentage increases.

A record 49,020 homes were sold across the state, a 15.1 percent increase; but Clark County homes sales increased by only 11.4 percent. According to Washington State University data, 2,050 homes were sold in the county during April, May and June.

The number of residential building permits declined during the second quarter by 10.9 percent. One thousand local permits were issued.

The median price for a single family residence in the state was a record high, \$223,700. The median price in Clark County was \$182,500. The lowest median home price was in Columbia County, \$75,000; in San Juan County, the median was \$329,000.

### Five Guys Named Moe concludes Six-to-Sunset series in Esther Short Park tonight

**Five Guys Named Moe** entertain this evening in Esther Short Park, concluding the 2004 Riverview Six-to-Sunset free concert series. Although named Five Guys Named Moe, the band is an 11-member aggregation and includes two females. They play 1950s Doo Wop, 1960s rock-n-roll and Motown tunes.

Concert goers are advised to bring blankets or low-back chairs. Food vendors are in attendance. No alcohol is allowed. Parking in the city Park-n-Go lot at 6th and Columbia streets is 50 cents an hour.

### Motorcyclists entertain at the county fair today

Billed as "Extreme 'Big Air' Motorcycles," trick riders perform in two free shows at the Clark County fair today, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Columbian Concert Stage area. Also on the bill are **Quad Wars and Mini Warriors**, another bust-'em-up show.

Today's shows are free with the \$8 price of admission to the fair. Parking is \$5. C-TRAN bus transportation is free. The 136th annual Clark County Fair continues through Sunday, Aug. 15.

### News briefs

Free Vancouver-Portland area bus service, due to bad air days, is extended through Friday, Aug. 13. ☞☞ The Vancouver Design Review Committee meets at 4 p.m. this afternoon in the 4th floor conference room in the Citizens Service Center, 1313 Main Street. The committee will review the Esther Short Streetscape improvements and a proposed election drop-off box location in the middle of W 14th Street just west of Esther Street.

(For the rest of the story, click on a headline below)

[Bush may announce Columbia dredging approval tomorrow--Columbian, Erik Robinson](#)

[California Supreme Court voids same-sex marriages--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Gay New Jersey governor quits after citing an affair--New York Times, Christine Hauser](#)

[Southwest Washington Medical Center plans unveiled--Columbian, Julia Anderson](#)

[PDX to get \\$20 million corridor--Columbian, Gretchen Fehrenbacher](#)

[FFA still a big part of the county fair--Columbian, Scott Hewitt](#)

[Dow Jones falls to lowest level of the year--USA TODAY, MarketWatch.com, Susan Lerner](#)

### Thursday on the air

Animal Control Hearings (live)—3:30 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Calgary at Portland Timbers (live)—7 p.m. KZMY, KRMZ

### Town tabloids and the weather

**Carol Keljo** sharing nice thoughts. ☞☞ **Bob Crosby** completing groundbreaking decision. ☞☞ **Marjorie Cartwright** trying to make subscription work. ☞☞ **Elinor Perlich** making the A list. ☞☞ **Jeff Williams** inflating news columns. ☞☞ **Thursday**, continued smoggy and hot. 94. **Friday**, cooling just a little, 89. **Saturday**, partly cloudy, 84.