

### **Pridemore's bill supports Clark Public Utilities appliance repair program**

As promised, the first bill introduced by newly elected State Sen. **Craig Pridemore** (D-49th) is Senate Bill 5348, which would legalize Clark Public Utilities' 60-year-old appliance repair program. The bill is co-sponsored by Sen. **Jim Katstama** (D-25th), who is also chair of the Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee, which will hear the bill.

According to Pridemore, State Rep. **Bill Fromhold** (D-49th) will introduce a similar bill in the House of Representatives..

Clark Public Utilities has offered appliance repair services to its customer-owners since the early 1940s when the system was acquired from Portland private utilities which had provided their customers with appliance repair service.

The repair program has three times been declared beyond the utility's legal ability to provide, but Clark has pursued the matter through the court system. Currently the state Supreme Court is considering Clark's appeal of previous rulings against the service. Last session a bill similar to Pridemore's failed. This session, however, Democrats control both the House and Senate.

The popular service had come under increasing opposition by private contractors who claimed appliance repair provided by the utility was unfair competition.

The utility offers repairs of heating and cooling equipment, water heaters and ranges. The utility also has a guaranteed hot water maintenance program, which provides guaranteed repair of a hot water heater within 24 hours of failure.

### **Low-cost industrial revenue bonds are the focus of CREDC workshop**

A workshop detailing the availability of low-cost, tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds for manufacturing expansion is the subject of a Columbia River Economic Development Council workshop in the Murdock Trust Building, Tuesday, Feb. 22.

The \$20 workshop is aimed at manufacturers, attorneys, accountants, financial advisors and banking professionals, according to CREDC executive director **Bart Phillips**.

A panel of experts has been assembled to explain legal and financial aspects of the bonds..

"Industrial revenue bonds are federally tax exempt," says Phillips. He adds, "As a result, bond buyers are willing to accept lower rates of interest for participating companies."

CREDC processes industrial revenue bonds for southern Washington.

For further information, call **Donna Harroun, 567-1063**.

### **Sheriff's academy offers citizens free training**

Clark County residents interested in learning more about law enforcement and the Clark County Sheriff's office may sign up for a free 11-week Citizens' Academy, according to sheriff **Garry Lucas**.

The academy sessions, which are 7 to 9:30 p.m. each Thursday, beginning February 24, provide a general overview of the major functions and responsibilities of the Sheriff's office and the local law and justice system. Information offered covers patrol functions, K-9 activities, jail operations, the narcotics task force, shooting range, the court system and crime scene investigation.

Letters of interest will be accepted through Friday, Feb. 11. For further information, call **Kari Schulz, 397-2244**.

### **Salmon putting on show At Lucia Falls**

Salmon are coming into full view at Lucia Falls, north of Battle Ground daily as they battle the natural falls in search of East Fork Lewis River spawning grounds, reports Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation officials.

The 24-acre park at 21803 NE Lucia Falls Road is open from 7 a.m. to dusk daily. There are no fees for using the park, which is 5 miles northeast of Battle Ground.

### **People**

**Michael McCrary**, Stevenson Elementary School 5th grade teacher, has won state level competition for the Citizen Education Teacher Award sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is the state's only candidate for the national award. He was cited by the VFW as being an exceptional and innovative teacher who promotes civic responsibility, flat etiquette and patriotism.

### **News briefs**

Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening in port offices at 111 W Division Street. 🗳 Former State Sen. **Don Carlson** is being honored by a reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m. this evening in Hamilton Hall in the Red Cross Building at 600 Barnes Road in Vancouver Barracks. A \$30 donation per person is requested. For further information, call **Margie Ferris, 892-8607**.

### **Mistake**

The somewhat good news is that the *Insider* was wrong when it reported Tuesday that La Center monthly sewer service rates for seniors was increasing from \$22.50 to \$29. Those rates are increasing from \$20.25 to \$26.

[Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:](#)

[Deadliest day in Iraq, 31 U.S. soldiers die in helicopter crash, 5 others in attacks--MSNBC, Jim Miklaszewsky](#)

[Mount St. Helens may be building up to something really big--Columbian, \*\*Erik Robinson\*\*](#)  
[Renovations underway at Doubletrees on Hayden island--Columbian, \*\*Jonathan Nelson\*\*](#)  
[Pridemore looking for senate pages for paid, week-long jobs--Columbian](#)  
[County must come to grips with casino--Columbian, \*\*Tom Keoninger\*\*](#)  
[County Commissioner Betty Sue Morris says commission will try to settle land use appeals to avoid state intervention--Oregonian, \*\*Bill Stewart\*\*](#)  
[Ten die, 180 injured when passenger train collides with SUV at grade crossing in Glendale, Calif--KGW-TV, AP, \*\*Tim Molloy\*\*](#)  
[In praise of the little black dress--Lexus.MSN, \*\*Anna Johnson\*\* \(with music\)](#)

### Wednesday on the air

Clark County Economic Forecast—4 p.m. CVTV  
Clark County Close Up—6 p.m. CVTV  
**Dallas at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL, KRMZ**  
Vancouver's Funk Factor—7 p.m. CVTV  
Bravo! Vancouver: Quartet for the End of Time—9 p.m. CVTV  
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: Mostly Mozart—11 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and the weather

**Rich Koplán** mixing and matching. 🍷 **Edward Renner** making things happen. 🍷 **Scott Swindell** giving Hockinson school levy good marks. 🍷 **Lena Wittler** taking care of facts. 🍷 **Hugh Ackroyd** making mincemeat of actuarial tables. 🍷 **Wednesday**, showers and sun-breaks, 52. **Thursday**, cloudy showers expected, 49. **Friday**, gray day, some moisture, 50.