

\$38 million community health center construction beginning



Artists rendering shows how \$38 million Center for Community Health building will look when completed in 2005 on six-acre setting in the Veterans Administration campus in Vancouver.

"Benefits of the new building will extend well beyond cost savings to the tenants, according to Morris." "The co-location of multiple health and social services will provide a continuum of care, preventing many people from falling out the system, a costly cycle that oftentimes ends in tragedy."

An example of collaborative care will be the county health department's access to mental health and substance abuse treatment services for the health department's clients. Individuals served by mental health and substance abuse programs often need health services, such as immunizations, clinical exams, maternal and child health visits.

Currently unavailable at the Vancouver VA campus, the new center will provide crisis triage services, medically monitored and sub-acute detoxification inpatient treatment options, intensive outpatient treatment and recovery beds.

The partners in the project, in addition to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, are the Clark County Community Services department, which administers youth and family programs, including alcohol and drug treatment and mental health services, the Clark County Health Department, the Clark County Council on Alcohol and Drugs, the Human Services Council, Mental Health Northwest, the Pacific Crest Consortium, and the Northwest Recovery Center.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters get \$700,000 in outside grand funding

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington has received over \$700,000 in outside grant funding, according to U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird** (D-3rd), who participated in the announcement this morning in the Restaurant in the Historic Reserve in Vancouver.

BBBSSW will launch a mentoring program for children of prisoners in Clark County and will expand its Juvenile Justice program to serve 55 children in Cowlitz County.

The nonprofit organization will also increase its school-based mentoring program to serve 60 children this fall in six Clark County elementary schools.

The national Big Brothers Big Sisters organization was founded 100 years ago to provide mentoring to 7- to 12-year-old children. The local affiliate, founded in 2001, has been ranked in the top 20 percent of Big Brothers Big Sisters across the country.

Growth management maps available, for public view, commissioners to adopt updated plan next Tuesday

It's nearly all over but the shouting. Clark County commissioners are expected to make the final decision on the 20-year update of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan at their 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17 meeting in the Public Service Center.

Before the final decision however, they will accept further public testimony at that meeting.

Maps of proposed changes in the growth plan will be available for public viewing from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, and Monday, Aug. 16, in the lobby of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17, in the sixth-floor lobby of the Public Service Center.

Dirty air means free bus rides

Bus transportation in the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan area is free today and tomorrow, Aug. 11 and 12, because the Southwest Clean Air Agency and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality have issued a Clean Air Action Day smog advisory.

The environmental agencies advise that the public limit driving as much as possible, refrain from operating gas powered mowers and yard equipment, and turn off automobile engines when parked or waiting in line.

County fair continues tonight with two free shows

The 2004 Clark County Fair, in its sixth day of a ten-day run, offers two free shows this evening.

Mutton Bustin' a popular kids sheep riding event begins at 6 p.m.

Amid considerable fanfare, since it is an unusual \$38 million collaborative project involving federal, state and local governmental agencies, and five nonprofit organizations, groundbreaking for the Center for Community Health building west of Clark College on Fort Vancouver Way is at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Campus, 1601 E Fourth Plain Boulevard.

Speakers are Washington's U.S. Senators **Patty Murray** and **Maria Cantwell**, the 3rd District U.S. Representative **Brian Baird**, the CEO of the Portland Veterans Administration Medical Center, **James Tuschmidt**, the chair of the board of Clark County commissioners, **Betty Sue Morris**, Vancouver mayor **Royce Pollard**, and state Legislative and Policy Office director, **Bill Alkire**.

The four-story, 175,000-square-foot, which will rise from a six-acre lot, will be completed in late 2005.

The headline show is the Northwest Bull Riding Championship at 7:30 p.m.

There are no reserved seats for either event, which are free to all with admission to the fair. Adult fair admission is \$8. Parking is \$5. Bus service two and from the fair is free.

News briefs

Pearson Air Museum Cruz-In is 4 to 9 p.m. today at Pearson Field. ☞☞ Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening in port offices at 111 W Division Street.

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

[Southwest Washington Medical Center's Rebound Clinic serves community, Blazers, Timbers--SWMC Update](#)

[Ben McGough "still making the cut"--Columbian, **Tom Vogt**](#)

[Commissioners likely to reduce the growth plan--Columbian, **Erin Middlewood**](#)

[Local Democrats stump for Gregoire--**Don Jenkins**](#)

[Commercial vendors take aim on fair attendees--Columbian, **Erik Robinson**](#)

[Downtown property assessments skyrocket--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)

[Identifying young local leaders paying dividends--Columbian, **Tom Koenninger**](#)

[10,000-plus expected for Kerry Portland rally; Bush visit more elusive--KGW-TV, AP](#)

[How to catch a four-star meteor show--MSNBC News](#)

[U.S. women 'Hamm it up' to win first Olympic soccer game in Athens--USA TODAY, **Kelly Whiteside**](#)

[Bonnie and Charlie headed for Florida, USA TODAY, AP](#)

[U.S. assault on Sadr forces in Najaf delayed; Iran calls U.S.](#)

[Najaf operations "Crimes of Humanity"--Washington Post, **Karl Vick**](#)

Wednesday on the air

Portland Beavers at Oklahoma (live)--5 p.m. KKAD

Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Update (8-10)—6 p.m. CVTV

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

Town tabloids and the weather

Matthew Beck wins one, loses one. ☞☞ **Bob Knight** steering a safer course. ☞☞ **Wayne Branch** getting bum weather report. ☞☞ **Blaine Nisson** visualizing connections. ☞☞ **Candy Bennett** looking for stamp. ☞☞ **Chuck Whitlock** sparks Mountain View Thunder. ☞☞ **Jani Jason Williams** telling of blonde moment. ☞☞ **Wednesday**, smog and heat, 94. **Thursday**, continued smoggy and hot. 94. **Friday**, cooling just a little, 89.