

### **Fairgrounds Site Management Group to oversee fairgrounds operations**

A new Clark County Fairgrounds Site Management Group has been assigned responsibility for the ongoing operations of the county fairgrounds and the annual county fair will continue to be managed by the Fairgrounds Association in a realignment of responsibilities as the county prepares for the opening of its \$18.5 million, 112,000-square-foot Exposition Center next month.

County director of general services **Doug Johnston** is chair of the new group. **Tom Musser**, who has been executive director of the Clark County Fair, will continue in that capacity, and he is now assigned the new position of general manager of the new management group.

The five-member group will be responsible to the county for management of the entire site. Emphasis will be placed on marketing, maintenance and customer service, says Johnston.

“The new Exposition Center is designed to meet the needs of the marketplace and is expected to have a positive financial impact on our community,” says **Betty Sue Morris**, chair of the Board of Clark County Commissioners. “Rentals of the new building will mean jobs and economic development. It’s a great project.”

Fairgrounds operations, including the annual fair were handled by a staff of 15. Because of a realignment of duties that staff will be reduced to 12. Staffers currently are bidding on newly created positions.

The annual fair, now in its 137th year, will be Aug. 5 through 14.

The grand opening of the Exposition Center is at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 16. The first event is the Petersen Auction Group Collector Car Auction on Saturday, March 19.

### **Woodland Community Service Center names Robin Parker development director**



**Robin Parker**

**Robin Parker**, Vancouver, has been hired as fund and program developer for the Woodland Community Service Center, reports **Rosa Cervantes**, executive director of the five-year old community organization.

According to Cervantes the position is for one year and is funded through a contribution from one of the center’s major donors.

“The goal is for Parker to raise funds to allow the center to enhance services, create self-sustaining programs and hire a permanent development director,” says Cervantes. The center provides weekly free food and clothing distribution and translation services. In addition it makes referrals for legal aid, housing and employment services.

Parker is a graduate of the University of Kansas. She has five years experience in the nonprofit sector and recently completed a year of national service as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer development associate for the Free Clinic in Vancouver.

### **Evergreen Schools selects five finalists for superintendent’s job**

Evergreen Public Schools board has selected five finalists for the position of superintendent of schools, which is being vacated by the retirement of **Rick Melching**.

Public forums begin Tuesday, March 1, during which time each of the candidates will be presented to the public.

The finalists are **Ronald G. Barnes**, superintendent of the ABC Unified School District, Cerritos, Calif., **Allen J. Coles**, region superintendent of the southwest region of the Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nev., **Suzanne M. Cusick**, assistant superintendent, Hillsboro School District, **Steven L. Hull**, superintendent, Bethel School District, Eugene, Ore., and **John P. Welch**, deputy superintendent, Highline Public Schools, Burien.

### **Carnivale of Rio to benefit Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra’s annual auction, dinner and dancing fund raising gala, this year called Carnivale of Rio, is at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 12, in Royal Oaks Country Club.

**Michael Liu**, pianist and member of the symphony board provides the reception music. After-dinner dance music will be by the **Stage III Band**.

Tickets range from \$125 to \$175 per person and can be obtained by calling **735-7278**. Table sponsorships are

also available.

### **Involvement in environmental justice subject of day-long WSU Vancouver conference Saturday**

Activists, educators, students and involved community members will be discuss Washington and Oregon environmental justice issues during a day-long conference on the Washington State University Vancouver campus beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26.

Workshops will provide participants with information the issues and how to get involved. The conference is sponsored by the WSU Vancouver Center for Social and Environmental Justice and Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice.

Registration is \$10. For further information, call **Ben Duncan, 546-9490**.

### **News briefs**

The Animal Protection and Control Advisory Board' meets at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. ☎ The Portland International Airport Noise Compatibility Study group meets at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Lake House, 21160 NE Blue Lake Road, Fairview. ☎ Clark County Land Use Hearings are at 7 p.m. this evening in City Hall.

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

[It's a twist of fate: John Karpinski will defend Clark County Growth Plan--Columbian](#)

[Volunteers are being sought to help with operation of Cathlapotle planthouse when it's ready for tourists--Columbian](#)

[Lots of Chinook but few coho--Columbian, \*\*Allen Thomas\*\*](#)

[First Independent Bank on St. Johns held up this morning, hostages held, robbers escape--KATU](#)

[SWAT team surrounds Hazel Dell apartment in search for bank robbers, but none found--KGW-TV, \*\*Antonia Giedwojn\*\*](#)

[Pope has successful tracheotomy--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Bush, Putin agree to fight nuclear terrorism--Washington Post, \*\*Michael A. Fletcher\*\* and \*\*William Branigin\*\*](#)

### **Thursday on the air**

Clark County Focus—5 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Arizona at Washington State (live)—5:30 p.m. FSN

City Minutes—6 p.m. CVTV

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

Stanford at Oregon State (live)—7 p.m. KEX

California at Oregon (live)—7:30 p.m. FSN, KXL

Gonzaga at Portland (live)—8 p.m. ESPN2, KKAD

### **Town Tabloids and the weather**

**Michael Wilson** preparing for Caring Hearts Awards dinner ☎ **Tim Welch** making connections. ☎ **Vince Kelly** presenting check. ☎ **Sondra Powell** selling tickets ☎ **Flossie Wager** filing up her dance card. ☎ **Thursday**, sun sticking around, 61. **Friday**, clouds may stray into sun's path, but still comparatively warm, 62. **Saturday**, mostly sunny and slightly warm, 65.