

Ridgefield getting \$9 million from feds for interchange

The massive federal transportation budget awaiting President **George W. Bush**'s signature advances another \$9 million for the Ridgefield I-5 Interchange at Highway 501 (Pioneer Street), Ridgefield mayor **Gladys Doriot**, and Port of Ridgefield commission president **Bruce Wiseman** announced today.

The current interchange is a diamond shape, considered inadequate for the city's and port's dramatic population and jobs increases.

The complete interchange is to be funded with additional state, federal and private dollars, including \$10 million from the state that hinges on gasoline tax the legislature approved, but which now will go to the voters in the form of Initiative 912.

Ridgefield predicts a nearly ten-fold population increase over the next 20 years, to 25,000 residents. Port development, including the Union Ridge project anchored by the giant Dollar Tree distribution center, suggests that the projection may come true even sooner.

Health Fairs offer hope for uninsured children

Health fairs being conducted by the Clark County Health Department during August provide an opportunity for parents to discover the kinds of free or low-cost health services, including insurance, available in the county.

The number of uninsured children in Clark County has risen to 7,000 in the past two years, but most of those children are eligible for health insurance through the state, according to county health spokesperson **Maureen Taylor**.

Working families earning up to \$48,000 or more may qualify for the low-cost or free health coverage available through Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program, Taylor says.

Health fairs are scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 13, in the Lacamas Center, 3240 NE 3rd Avenue, Camas, and Saturday, Aug. 20, in the North County Family Resource Center, 701 E Main Street, Battle Ground. The hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Health fair activities include free immunizations (when shot records are presented), enrollment in the state's free/low cost health coverage, dental, hearing and vision screenings, bicycle helmets, and low-cost sports physicals.

For further information on health care for low income families, call **397-8215**, extension **7308**.

Commercial property owners get market value notices

Notices of the market value of their commercial property have been sent to 6,335 owners of commercial property in Clark County. The notices reflect the rapidly accelerating increase in the value of all property in Clark County.

Although some commercial property values have increased dramatically, the new values generally reflect upward changes of individual commercial properties in the range of 20 to 40 percent. The new values serve as the basis for computing 2006 taxes, reports **Mark Rauchenstein**, spokesperson for the county Department of Assessment and GIS.

All property in Clark County is supposed to be appraised at market value, according to Rauchenstein..

Notices of value for new commercial and residential construction and for re-evaluations will be sent later this year.

Property owners with questions are urged to contact the county Assessor's Office. Appeals to the county Board of Equalization must be requested within 60 days. For further information, call **397-2391**.

Vancouver School District race goes to September 20 primary,

Three candidates who filed for an unexpired open position on the Vancouver School District Board have forced a Tuesday, Sept. 20, primary vote. Vancouver attorney **Mark F. Stoker**, was the first to file for job, and **Roger K. Smith** was the last. In between was former educator **Edri Geiger**, who was Vancouver's Teacher of the Year in 1994.

Geiger's campaign has already taken on an unusual wrinkle. Instead of spending money on campaign adver-

tising, Geiger has made a \$500 donation to the Vancouver School District Foundation. She says she will forgo signs, buttons, banners, flyers, brochures and other advertising. Anyone wishing to support her candidacy is asked to make a contribution to the foundation, she says. The money will be earmarked as a grant to a teacher to develop a curriculum on good citizenship.

Calendar

Vancouver's First Thursday Art Walk is all over town from 5 to 7 p.m. this evening. Music in the Sculpture Garden, 9th Street and Broadway. ☞ **The Beatniks** entertain this evening during the Riverview Bank Six-To-Sunset concert in Esther Short Park. Admission is free, and food vendors are in attendance; but no alcoholic beverages are allowed. ☞ For those who have picked up a coupon from Fred Meyer stores, the 2005 Clark County Fair, which opens at 8 a.m. Friday, Aug. 5, is free until 11 a.m. Not only that breakfast is free; in addition, C-TRAN is providing free transportation until 11 a.m. from most park-and-ride stops and transit centers. The fair runs through Sunday, Aug. 14.

Thursday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Union Ridge project burgeoning--Columbian, Gretchen Fehrenbacher](#)

[Retired former Washougal neurosurgeon finishes 2,284-mile walk for peace in Fort Vancouver today--Columbian, Dean Baker](#)

[Lewis and Clark nickel to be released near Ilwaco tomorrow--Columbian, Dean Baker](#)

[Seattle's annual Seafair opens with Blue Angels today, continues through Sunday and championship hydroplane races--Seattle Times](#)

[Discovery needs no further repairs--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[GOP embraces new heights in spending--Washington Post, Jonathan Weisman](#)

[Al Qaeda warns of further attacks--Washington Post, Daniela Deane](#)

[Lip plumpers: "Kiss my puffy lips"--New York Times, Elizabeth Hayt](#)

Thursday on the air

City Minutes (7/31)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

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

Clark County Focus (7/29)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Propstra Square Dedication Ceremony—6 p.m. CVTV

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

Town Tabloids and the weather

Doug Lasher taking shortcut. ☞ **Marie Day** breaking the ice. ☞ **Bill Fromhold** moving the bar. ☞ **Jim Justin** betting on speech suppressors. ☞ **Dean Sutherland** in familiar surroundings. ☞ **Will Pollard** writing check. ☞ **Mike Oster** providing service with a flair. ☞ **Suzy Taylor**, the girl in charge. ☞ **Ruth Crossland** starting new adventure. ☞ **Merry Cromack** making joyful announcement. ☞ **Thursday**, pretty hot, like, 99. **Friday**, having a heat wave, 92. **Saturday**, still hot. 90.