

### Feasibility study recommends federal courthouse in Vancouver

A congressional feasibility study recommends that planning begin for a federal courthouse in Vancouver that would serve southwest Washington. The recommendations were announced in Vancouver this afternoon by U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird** (D-3rd), who got the study authorized in 2002, and U.S. attorney for western Washington, **John McKay**.

The study calls for planning for an Article III District Court judge, a magistrate judge, a branch U.S. attorney's office, and a full spectrum of federal laws enforcement agencies to be located in a federal courthouse.

The southwest Washington area would include Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, Wahkiakum and Pacific Counties.

It was noted in the report that Vancouver currently is the fourth largest city in the state and is expected to become the second largest city in Washington by 2010.

No timetable was outlined.

### Jenn Smeller named SWCVB convention sales manager



**Jenn Smeller**

**Jenn Smeller**, formerly of San Francisco, has been named convention sales manager of the Southwest Washington Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Smeller has nine years' experience in direct sales in the hospitality and advertising industry, according to **Kim Bennett**, SWCVB president.

In addition to working with meeting planners and trade show users, Smeller will be responsible for helping promote southwest Washington as a premier meeting destination site.

So far this year the SWCVB has generated 62 conventions through 2009, representing 19,350 hotel nights and an estimated economic impact of over \$9 million.

The bureau is at 101 E 8th Street, suite 110. For further information, call **750-1553**.

To see what southwest Washington offers tourists, go to

[www.southwestwashington.com](http://www.southwestwashington.com).

### Grain elevator back in business

The United Harvest Grain elevator at the Port of Vancouver, one of the largest on the west coast, is back in operation after being shut down for repairs after explosions in two dust collector bins last May. No one was injured but damage was in excess of \$5 million.

This week two ships bound for Korea loaded 69,000 metric tons of wheat. Annually, United Harvest ships nearly 3.5 million metric tons of wheat across Port of Vancouver wharves.

Columbia River ports represent the second largest export hub on the west coast for all types of cargo. The Columbia-Snake River system is the nation's largest wheat export gateway, accounting for 39 percent of total U.S. wheat exports. A quarter of the world's wheat flows through Columbia River ports, most of which is bound for Asian countries.

### Elephant paints picture, SWIFT to auction it

An original painting by Rama, a critically acclaimed Oregon Zoo resident, has been acquired by Southwest Washington Independent Forward Thrust and will be at auction, along with pieces by other talented local artists at the 8th annual SWIFT art auction that opens at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, in the Heathman Lodge.

**KC Cowan**, Oregon Public Broadcasting's ArtBeat reporter, will be the mistress of ceremonies. Tickets are \$60 and may be obtained by calling **Allison Cole** at **619-4498**. For further information, go to

[www.swiftgrants.org](http://www.swiftgrants.org).

### People

**Joel Penoyar**, South Bend, who has been serving as superior court judge for Lewis and Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties, this week was sworn in as judge for Division II of the state Court of Appeals. Division II covers Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Lewis Counties.

## Calendar

The Ridgefield School District board and the Ridgefield City Council meet in a joint session at 5 p.m. today in the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 N Main Street. ⚡ **Steve Stuart** vs. **Tom Mielke**, Clark County commissioner candidates, debate at 7:30 p.m. this evening in Foster Hall at Clark College. The debate is sponsored by the *Reflector*.

## Thursday headlines at home and abroad

[2006's most fuel efficient cars--MS Money](#)  
[Bush Rallies U.S. soldiers ahead of Iraqi constitution vote--Washington Post, \*\*William Branigin\*\*](#)  
[Highway 99--Light at the end of the strip--Columbian, \*\*Erin Middlewood\*\*](#)  
[Voters asked to invest in libraries--Columbian, \*\*Margaret Ellis\*\*](#)  
[Vancouver Oil saving school districts' fuel costs--Columbian, \*\*Howard Buck\*\*](#)  
[Clark College and Portland State University sign co-admissions pact--Columbian, \*\*Howard Buck\*\*](#)  
[Position 3 council race focuses on economy--Oregonian, \*\*Allan Brettman\*\*](#)  
[Migrating cranes to enliven Birdfest 2005 this weekend--Oregonian, \*\*Dee Ann Finken\*\*](#)  
[Changes in tech world almost too fast to follow--Seattle Times, \*\*Brian Dudley\*\*](#)  
[I-912 threat costing taxpayers millions--Seattle P-I, \*\*Chris McGann\*\*](#)  
[Mortgage rates top 6 percent for first time since March--USA TODAY, AP](#)  
[Columbus Day Storm 1962 remembered--KATU \(includes video\)](#)

## Thursday on the air

Public Disclosure Forum (10/5)—3:30 p.m. CVTV  
City Minutes (10/9)—5 p.m. CVTV  
Clark County Close Up (10/2)—5:30 p.m. CVTV  
**Clark County Planning Commission (live)—6:30 p.m. CVTV**  
Disability Employment Awareness Awards (10/4)—10 p.m. CVTV

## Town Tabloids and the weather

**Linda Greep** speaking, training, consulting and entertaining. ⚡ **Karen Keller** says Festival of Trees in good hands. ⚡ **Duane Kanooth** could use a couple of M-80s. ⚡ **Judith Davis** showing off album. ⚡ **Cheri Cole** achieving perfection. ⚡ **Jimmy O'Banion** getting much deserved credit. ⚡ **Dale Bowlin** still in the swim of things. ⚡ **Thursday**, clouds and morning showers, late pale sun, 62. **Friday**, mostly sunny, warmer, 70. **Saturday**, clouds and showers return, 61.