

Music, viands and libations highlight city's biggest party

Attendance is usually measured in the thousands at the annual Splash, commemorating the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center at the old sewage treatment plant and little league ball field on SE Columbia Way.

The 10th annual Splash, from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 10, should be no exception. The party is free.

Musical entertainment is by local high school and college jazz musicians, led by **Darcy Schmitt**, accompanied by **Brent Gjevre**.

Food, at \$2.50 per "bite," is provided by waterfront restaurants Beaches, Pacific Grill and Chowder House, Joe's Crab Shack, and Who Song & Larry's Mexican Restaurant. McMenamin's will be serving microbrews, Corwin Beverage will be offering Pepsi products, Boyd Coffee will provide espresso, and Stein Distributing will be pouring northwest wines, all at popular prices.

Hands-on activities for the younger set are being conducted throughout the center, including in the water science lab, exhibit hall and the White Sturgeon Art Gallery.

The education center opened in 1996, with a mission to teach people of all ages how to better care for and make decisions about water. The center is a hub for environmental education and is a popular community meeting place.

On-site parking is limited, but, according to spokesperson **Rita Davidson**, hopping on a free shuttle is easy. Shuttle buses are available from several well-marked parking lots near the water center on SE Columbia Way.

Plenty of excitement in 2005 elections

Just when it seems we have elected just about all the people we need to occupy public offices, another list pops up. So it is this year with mostly nonpartisan races on the primary and general election ballots for 2005.

Steve Stuart, recently appointed Clark County commissioner from District 3, will be in the only partisan race as he runs for the unexpired one-year term to retain the job to which he was appointed last December. Stuart is a Democrat.

The mayor and three Vancouver City Council offices will be before the voters this year. Mayor **Royce Pol-lard** is expected to run for reelection, this time for a four-year term. Until this year the Vancouver mayor was subject to election every two years.

Other Vancouver council members whose terms end in 2006 are **Jeanne Harris**, **Pat Jollota** and **Jeanne Stewart**.

Twenty-five other city and town council jobs are up for election this fall, including the office of mayor and five city councilpersons in Washougal. Twenty-eight local school district directors positions are open. There will be elections for four commissioners in the three port districts in the county, as well as elections in junior taxing districts, including fire districts and cemetery districts.

Unless the state legislature decides otherwise, the 2005 primary election will be Tuesday, Sept. 20, reports county elections supervisor **Tim Likness**.

Port of Portland public hearing on airport noise Wednesday morning

Port of Portland commissioners are holding a public hearing on airport noise abatement at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 9, in port offices at 121 NW Everett Street. The commission's FAR Part 150 Noise Compatibility Planning Study for Portland International Airport is in its final stages of a three-year planning process.

Both verbal and written comments on the recommendations will be accepted. Written and emailed comments will also be accepted through Friday, April 8.

Clark College concert band and choir entertain Friday in Royal Durst Theatre

The Clark College concert band and concert choir perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 11, in the Royal Durst Theater at the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, 3101 Main Street. The band is under the direction of **Charles Ramsey**. **April Duvic** directs the concert choir.

Admission is free.

News briefs

The polls in the Battle Ground School District are open through 8 p.m. today. Voters are being asked to approve two bond issues totaling just over \$82 million, to pay for four new elementary and middle schools and a

new high school, as well as to modernize the rapidly growing school district. Absentee ballots may be dropped off at polling places. ☞ The C-TRAN board of directors meets in regular session at 5:15 p.m. today in C-TRAN administrative offices, 2425 NE 65th Avenue. ☞ Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9. ☞ **Rosalyn Hart** receives the 2005 General George C. Marshall Youth Leadership Award from Vancouver Mayor **Royce Pollard** during a 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, ceremony in the Marshall House on Officers Row. The public is invited.

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

[City considering putting Propstra name on Esther Short Park Community Square--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)
[City Council hears report from Leadership Clark County recommending tolls to pay for new interstate bridge--Columbian, **Erin Middlewood**](#)
["Most people in Clark County would support tolls for a new Columbia River crossing if they were convinced it would make their commuting lives easier," according to Leadership Clark County--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)
[SWAT team and Drug Task Force overwhelm O Street residence--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)
[Cowlitz Tribe serious about bringing NASCAR track to southern Washington--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)
[Columbia Dance on way to realizing dream of permanent home in Leslie B. Durst Columbia Dance Center--Columbian, **Gretchen Fehrenbacher**](#)
[Bill Clinton returning to hospital for removal of scar tissue six months after he underwent quadruple bypass surgery--USA TODAY, AP](#)
[Bush again orders Syrian army out of Lebanon--USA TODAY, AP \(audio\)](#)
[Huge pro-Syrian protest fills square and streets in Beirut--New York Times, **Leena Saidi** and **Jad Mouawad**](#)

Tuesday on the air

City Minutes—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Close Up—5 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Focus—5:30 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV
Portland State vs. Weber State (live)—8:15 p.m. KPOJ

Town Tabloids and the weather

Todd Boulanger crosses bridge, wins Alice B. Toeclips award. ☞ **Anne Digenis** making bid sale. ☞ **Debbie Fortin** in the loop. ☞ **Becky Archibald** wowed by pow wow. ☞ **Elson Strahan** taking care of business. ☞ **Walt Evans** bending solons' ears. ☞ **Paul Waadevig** getting emcee chore. ☞ **Tuesday**, mostly sunny, 68. **Wednesday**, possible showers, sunbreaks, 62. **Thursday**, warmest so far, 70.