

Panel calls for metropolitan C-TRAN service only

Last night a special panel comprising the three Clark County commissioners and representatives of the seven cities in the county last night unanimously recommended that the countywide C-TRAN transit agency eliminate all rural service outside the cities and the Vancouver urban growth boundary.

Vancouver and its urban growth boundary and Camas and Washougal would be treated as a contiguous service area. However, service to the cities of Battle Ground, Ridgefield, La Center and the Town of Yacolt would be connected to the larger contiguous service area by non-service transportation corridors; no stops in between.

The county has 30 days to veto the new plan, and affected cities have 60 days to withdraw, if they wish.

The C-TRAN board is expected to review the new service area and revenue plan in May and could take action to schedule a ballot measure for a sales tax increase to support the cost of service within the new boundary.

When C-TRAN was approved by voters in 1980, the service and taxing boundary was countywide. Following elimination of 40 percent of its funding in 2000, C-TRAN eliminated rural service in the county. Last November a countywide election that would have increased sales tax by three-tenths of a percent to finance the agency failed.

Port of Portland, ruling on airport noise in May, still accepting written testimony

There is still time—until Saturday, April 9—to remonstrate with Port of Portland Commission, which in May is expected to adopt new Portland International Airport noise regulations recommended after a three-year noise compatibility study.

Vancouver citizens, who have found little relief in the recommendations, are especially angered that one recommendation in particular, Alternative 9A, which would have shifted flight paths west of PDX runways south of Hayden Island, was first ignored and then rejected.

Vancouver Mayor **Royce Pollard** argued that the largely industrial zoned and open space between Hayden Island and St. Johns is more suitable for aircraft noise than residential Vancouver or Hayden Island. The mayor concluded: “We remain convinced that the dramatic benefits of Alternative 9A for westside and downtown Vancouver are compelling enough to merit its adoption by the Port. We believe that the Federal Aviation Authority, as the regulatory agency, should be given the opportunity to consider Alternative 9A and make their decision to approve it or reject it.”

U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird** (D-3rd) is also on record as recommending Alternative 9A.

Comments may be sent to **Brooke Satern**, , Community Affairs, Port of Portland, Box 3529, Portland, OR, 97208, or to webmaster@portptld.com.

Auditor forms committee to help select new voting system

Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey** has formed an Auditor’s Election System Advisory Committee to help select a new countywide voting system.

Kimsey says the committee will attend presentations by voting system vendors and will provide input prior to the purchase of a new voting system. All meetings will be open to the public, according to Kimsey, who will chair the committee.

Other committee members are as follows: Democrats **Jane Buchanan-Banks**, **Tom Burkholder**, **Don Gardner** and **Morgan Miles**; Republicans **Lee Davis**, **Mike Gaston**, **Paul Mulwitz** and **Josephine Wentzel**; representing the general public, **Debbie Abraham**, **Onofre Contrares Jr.**, **Kim Dalton**, **Patrick Horenstein**, **Andrew Johnston**, **Robert Tice** and **George Vartanian**; and county elections director **Tim Likness**.

Hearings examiner sets schedule for public input on Storedahl project

Following three and a half hours of public input last night, Clark County hearings examiner **Daniel Kearns** set a schedule to receive additional public input regarding the appeals of the Daybreak Mining & Habitat Enhancement project, a surface gravel mining project of J. L. Storedahl & Sons on the Lewis River.

Kearns had earlier approved the project, but his decision was sent back to him for reconsideration by Clark County commissioners who, on hearing an appeal, asked the hearings examiner to reconsider the nonconforming use rights basis for approval.

Last night, Kearns said he would accept new information on the issue of nonconforming use rights until April 12, would accept responses through April 26, would allow final responses until May 3.

The matter is also on appeal to federal district court.

People

Stevenson High School juniors **Michelle Oliver** and **Ray Price**, and freshman **Kisdon Roe**, after being in a three-way tie for first place, wound up taking third place in the Washington State Knowledge Bowl. The statewide competition was held at Camas High School earlier this week.

News briefs

Vancouver OnStage Productions presents **Neil Simon's** *Proposals* as a benefit performance for the Junior Symphony of Vancouver at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Columbia Arts Center, 400 W Evergreen Boulevard. Admission is \$10. 📍 The Bi-State Coordination Committee meets at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, March 31, in the Clark County Elections Building, 1408 Franklin Street. Agenda items include a review of growth forecasts and a discussion of high occupancy vehicle lanes in Hazel Dell and Delta Park.

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

Wednesday on the air

C-TRAN Boundary Change Hearing (3/29)—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Houston at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL, KXMG
Portland Winter Hawks at Everett (live)—7 p.m. KCMD
Telecommunications Commission (3/16)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

📍 **Calvin Ryan Wrast** (8 pounds, 1 ounce, 20 1/2 inches) has joined the **David** and **Jennifer Wrast** family and is expected to bug **Spencer**. 📍 **Kay Dixon** taking care of business. 📍 **Scott Patterson** generating eight solid grafs. 📍 **Angela Meinig's** pralines rapidly disappearing. 📍 **Wednesday**, afternoon showers, 54. **Thursday**, gray, scattered showers, 60. **Friday**, gray and rainy, 53.