

### **Clark County gets \$1.8 million grant for its Fresh Start program**

Clark County's Department of Community Services and Corrections has been awarded a four-year \$1.8 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to support substance abuse treatment for juveniles and young adults returning to their families and communities from incarceration. This is the county's Fresh Start Young Offender Re-entry Program, one of 11 national programs benefiting from a total \$19.2 million federal effort.

Clark County will develop a continuum of services for young adult offenders, ages 18 to 24, designed to reduce relapses and recidivism.

The Fresh Start program is a key strategy aimed at treating the growing number of methamphetamine users in Clark County, according to **Barb Sussex**, Fresh Start program manager.

### **Battle Ground to I-5 connection environmental review completed**

The environmental assessment of the I-5, Highway 502 (NE 219th Street) interchange, which gives the Battle Ground area a more direct connection with Interstate 5, has been completed and will be presented in an open house for public review at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, in the Battle Ground High School cafeteria, 300 W Main Street.

The public comment period for the environmental assessment continues through Friday, Sept. 16.

Copies of the environmental assessment are available at the state Department of Transportation regional office, 1118 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver, and at the Battle Ground and Ridgefield Community Libraries.

For further information, go to [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR502/Interchange](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR502/Interchange).

### **Clark County Fair got over a quarter-million visitors**

The Clark County Fair, which concluded last Sunday, played to 269,056 visitors, reports fair executive director **Tom Musser**. This was a 22.1 percent increase over total attendance from last year.

Of those attending the fair, 153,362 were paid admissions, also up over 20 percent from a year ago.

Over 20,000 people took advantage of the free Fred Meyer breakfast on opening day of the fair, Musser says. The free breakfast included free admission to the fair.

The number of commercial and community exhibitors also established a record. All 406 commercial booth space and 27 community or governmental booths were sold.

The annual Junior Livestock Auction sales were up 20 percent from a year ago, to \$220,000.

The Clark County Fair has grown to be the largest single-location annual community event in the Vancouver-Portland area, according to Musser.

### **Mental Health Court gets national publicity**

Clark County's Mental Health Court program's success was featured in an article in the July issue of *Psychiatric Services* magazine, reports **Cheri Dolezal**, deputy director of the county Department of Community Services.

According to the article written collaboratively by Dolezal and **Steve King**, also with the Department of Community Services, and Portland State University staffers, the overall crime rate of Mental Health Court participants was reduced four-fold in one year after enrollment, and graduates were 3.7 times less likely to re-offend, compared to non-graduates.

The article examined 368 misdemeanants with severe and persistent mental illness.

Continued psychiatric care has proven to be the key to prolonged stabilization and successful reintegration into the community, Dolezal said.

### **Mobile police precinct set up in Rosemere**

As a neighborhood visibility project, the Vancouver Police Department has moved its new mobile precinct to the parking lot of the St. John's IGA Grocery, 2109 St. Johns Boulevard, where it will remain through Friday, Aug. 19.

In addition to providing increased police presence in the Rosemere neighborhood between 2 and 8 p.m. each day, the mobile command unit will offer information on crime prevention and crime reporting.

The unit was acquired through a grant from Homeland Security. The regional mobile unit allows multiple agencies to work remotely and provide fully operational service of a police precinct.

Primarily the unit will be utilized during major incidents when staff are working on a crime scene for an extended period of time.

### Calendar

Beaches Summertime Cruisin's continue, 5 to 9 p.m. today at the Portland International Speedway. Adult admission is \$5. Clark County commissioners will discuss the Salmon Creek moratorium at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 18. ✍

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

[Dr. Paul Kretschmar gets high praise in column of contrasts--Columbian, Tom Koenniger](#)  
[Bruce Fuerstenberg adding names to Clark County War Memorial in Vancouver Barracks--Columbian, Dean Baker](#)  
[County puts library issue on the November ballot, Boldt votes no--Columbian, Erin Middlewood](#)  
[Truckers honor slain comrade with procession on Evergreen Highway, Columbian, Howard Buck](#)  
[County gains jobs, state says--Columbian, Jonathan Nelson](#)  
[Rebounding state gains 12,800 jobs--Seattle Times, Shirleen Holt](#)  
[Fall will bring flurry of tax proposals--Oregonian, Allan Brettman](#)  
[Raise a glass to the master of toasts--Seattle P-I, Kathy Mulady](#)  
[Big wholesale inflation bounce fueled by gasoline prices--USA TODAY, AP](#)

### Wednesday on the air

Capt. William Clark Park Dedication Dinner (8/6)—3 p.m. CVTV  
 Subcommittee on Columbia River Crossing (7/20)—5 p.m. CVTV  
 City Minutes (8/14)—6:17 p.m. CVTV  
 Telecommunications Commission (8/3)—7 p.m. CVTV  
**Salt Lake at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**  
**Kansas City at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX**  
 County Commissioner Candidate's Debate (8/4)—8:30 p.m. CVTV  
 Vancouver Mayoral Candidates (8/10)—10 p.m. CVTV  
 Vancouver City Council Primary Candidates (8/10)—10:30 p.m. CVTV  
 Election 2005: Primary Video Voter's Guide—11 p.m. CVTV  
 Columbia River Channel Deepening Celebration (8/4)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and the weather

**Jane Jacobsen** going after checks in the mail. ✍ **Tom Hunt** trying dapper approach. ✍ **Don Russo** enjoying cat-bird seat ✍ **Pat Jollota** getting superb editing help. ✍ **Cora Chandler's** Vancouver USA coffee mug a colossal winner. ✍ **Flossie Wager's** contest has no losers. ✍ **Wednesday**, sprinkles in the morning, otherwise thin clouds, mostly cloudy, 71. **Thursday**, mostly sunny, 82. **Friday**, sunny and hot, 92.