

Southwest Washington Medical Center puts CyberKnife cancer killer in tool kit

The Cancer Center at Southwest Washington Medical Center put on a show today of its newest cancer-fighting tool, the CyberKnife, described by the medical center's manager of communications and public affairs, **Ken Cole**, as "the world's first and only intelligent robotic radiosurgery system—a revolutionary new scalpel-free, painless cancer-fighting system designed to treat tumors anywhere in the body with sub-millimeter accuracy."

Southwest's CyberKnife is the only one between Seattle and San Francisco on the west coast and is attracting patients from beyond the Vancouver-Portland area.

The device, in use since July, has been used to treat several patients with otherwise untreatable tumors, both benign and cancerous.

According to **S. Christopher Hoffelt**, medical director of the new CyberKnife Center in the Cancer Center, "For many patients, CyberKnife opens up the doors of treatment, that may have been closed to them because of the amount of radiation they've already received or because of the elusive location of the tumor."

The CyberKnife uses X-rays to define and record the location of the tumor to be treated. Physicians design the treatment and oncology therapists design the regimen—a single treatment. The single treatment isn't a massive shot of radioactivity but a series of small zaps, up to as many as 360, or more, from a wide variety of angles that the articulated CyberKnife can aim. The table on which the patient lies is also articulated, which also helps compensate for the slightest movements by the patient, usually caused by breathing.

The medical center's \$146 million expansion project, including its 154-private room patient tower and surgery center, is expected to be completed this winter, with the first patients expected in February 2007.

Battle ground eyeballing its largest annexation

The City of Battle Ground will be gathering information from the public on its largest proposed annexation, the South 503 annexation, during an open house at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31, in City Hall, 109 SW 1st Street.

The area along State Highway 503 is south of town and consists of 434 acres and 143 people.

Annexation will occur if property owners of at least 60 percent of the assessed valuation in the area sign petitions. Petitions will be available at the meeting. For further information, call **Adrienne DeDona, 342-5004**.

Camas girl to compete for Miss American Preteen



Katelynn Cox

Katelynn Cox, 12, Camas, a 7th grader at Cornerstone Christian School in Vancouver, will compete for the national title of Miss American Preteen at Disney World, Fla., November 20 through 26, sponsored by American Coed Pageants Inc.

Katelynn, daughter of **Cameron Cox** and **Wendy Strum**, recently won the title of Miss Washington State at the Miss American Preteen contest in Wenatchee.

Downtown merchants joining in Extreme Scarecrow Makeover

Vancouver's Downtown Association and the Clark County Historical Museum are sponsoring their first Extreme Scarecrow Makeover contest beginning immediately, reports museum executive director **Susan Tissot**.

For a \$30 entry fee, downtown merchants will receive a scarecrow frame on which to build either a traditional scarecrow or extreme scarecrow. Scarecrows are to be displayed at downtown locations September 9 through October 1, after which they will be taken to the Historical Museum, 1511 Main Street, judged and put on display for the museum's annual Harvest Fun Day, Saturday, Sept. 23. The scarecrows will



\$6 million CyberKnife is Southwest Washington Medical Center's newest cancer-fighting tool. Intelligent robotic radiosurgery system is one of only 100 in use worldwide and is attracting regional patients.

be sold by silent auction. For further information, call Tissot at **993-5679**.

Calendar

Port of Ridgefield commissioners' 3rd annual picnic is from 4 to 7 p.m. today at the Lake River Boat Launch picnic area in Ridgefield.

Wednesday headlines

[Commissioners unanimously approve Camp Bonneville transfer; send plan to governor--Columbian, **Thomas Ryll**](#)

[Clark seeks OK for camp cleanup--Oregonian, **Holley Gilbert**](#)

[Weekend too hot for Fuller's taste--Columbian, **Don Hamilton**](#)

[Current election to proceed as designed--Columbian, **Kathie Durbin**](#)

[Light rail essential across new Interstate Bridge--Columbian, **Tom Koenninger**](#)

[Cronies on the cusp emulating--Columbian, **Erin Middlewood**](#)

[Cool-headed dad saves live of newborn--Oregonian, **Karen Johnson**](#)

[New stem cell method avoids destroying embryos--New York Times, **Nicholas Wade**](#)

[Congressional report faults U.S. intelligence on Iran--New York Times, Reuters](#)

[Home sales fall to unexpectedly low rate--New York Times, **Jeremy W. Peters**](#)

[Debby likely to become a hurricane--New York Times, **Joseph B. Treaster**](#)

Wednesday on the air

Clark County Planning Commission (8/17)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

New York Yankees at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFXN

Las Vegas at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Telecommunications Commission (8/16)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Carol Marquez saying hello. ⚡ **Kye Davis** entertaining with yogurt trick. ⚡ **Louise Craig** not entirely escaping. ⚡ **Tom Hunt** expecting telephone call. ⚡ **Tracie Loonie** right on time. ⚡ **Wednesday**, early rain dries, cloudy, 70. **Thursday**, cloudy, 72. **Friday**, mostly sunny, 81.