

## **Columbia River Crossing meetings resume with session in Vancouver**

The recently formed Columbia River Crossing Task Force, charged with coming up with a plan to relieve transportation congestion in the Interstate 5 corridor between North Portland and Highway 500 in Vancouver, will resume meetings in 2006 with a session at 4:30 p.m. in the Washington State Department of Transportation's southwest Washington headquarters, 11018 NE 51st Circle.

The agenda includes a report from the project staff on the scope and history of the project and a discussion on criteria to be used to measure the effectiveness of alternatives that will be proposed.

Whether alternatives will include a Columbia River crossing other than across the existing twin interstate bridges on I-5 has not been definitively declared.

The task force, however, "will consider a variety of issues, including congestion, freight movement, high capacity transit, environmental issues, and financing a new or improved river crossing between Vancouver and Portland."

The 39-member task force is co-chaired by **Hal Dengerink**, chancellor of Washington State University Vancouver, and Portland attorney **Henry Hewitt**, former chair of the Oregon Transportation commission. The task force membership comes from community, business, civic and neighborhood activists, and represents, in addition, freight, commuter and environmental agencies and groups.

The task force is expected to meet frequently over the next two or three years. Meetings are open to the public, and comments from the public will be accepted.

Further information about the task force is available by going to [www.columbiarivercrossing.org](http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org).

### **People**

**Bergen Peterson**, senior vice president and chief information officer at Columbia Credit Union, has been appointed to the Audit and Security Policy Committee of the Washington Credit Union League.

### **News briefs**

Written comments on Internet filtering by the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District are being accepted through Saturday, Dec. 31. The library currently provides filtered Internet for those under 17, but allows persons 17 and older to complete Internet access. Those comments will be considered by the library district's board of trustees at a workshop scheduled for 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, in the Washougal Community Library 1661 C Street. No action will be taken at the workshop meeting, nor will further comments be accepted. The trustees' regular monthly public meeting follows at 6:15 p.m. The Columbia River Economic Development Council is offering businesses sponsorships of a variety of meetings and in its annual golf classic which is in July. For further information on sponsoring CREDC functions, call **Debbie Fortin, 567-3171**.

### **Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world**

[Vancouver nurse Troy Norman tells of lessons learned while helping with earthquake relief efforts in Pakistan--Columbian, \*\*Don Hamilton\*\*](#)  
[SeaTac flight 'absolutely terrifying' following explosion in the air--Seattle Times, \*\*Jennifer Sullivan and Melissa Allison\*\*](#)  
[Tom Koeninger gives projections and assertions about 2006--Columbian](#)  
[Another Battle Ground retail center in the works--Columbian, \*\*Gretchen Fehrenbacher\*\*](#)  
[Salmon Creek retail center on hold--Columbian, \*\*Justin Carinci\*\*](#)  
[Stevenson High School seniors 'grin and bare it'--Columbian, \*\*John Branton\*\*](#)  
[Holiday trash advice--Columbian, \*\*Howard Buck\*\*](#)  
[Flood watches issued for the region following heavy rainfall--KATU](#)

### **Wednesday on the air**

City Minutes (12/25)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

**Alamo Bowl: Michigan vs Nebraska live**—5 p.m. ESPN

Vancouver City Council Workshop 12/19)—5 p.m. CVTV

Philadelphia at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL, KXMG  
Vancouver City Council (12/19)—7 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and the weather

**Phil Elrod** extending a fore paw. ☞ **Dale Bowlin** recalling a late great restaurateur. ☞ **Jane Vanderzanden** right on time. ☞ **Staci Searls** working up plausible answers ☞ **Bill Reid** standing in endless lines. ☞ **Wednesday**, windy, driving rain, 52. **Thursday**, rain may taper off, but windy conditions could continue, 45. **Friday**, rain, 48.