

## Clark College expands reach to serve 80 employees in Bingen company

Eighty workers are receiving training through a Job Skills Program grant awarded Clark College to provide training to 80 employees of The Insitu Group Inc., Bingen, in Klickitat County.

The \$71,000 grant from the state Board for Community and Technical Colleges is aimed at providing employees at The Insitu Group with special training to help the company comply with International Standards Organization registration. The ISO quality-management system designation will increase the company's marketing opportunities.

"ISO 9001 training is essential for Insitu's continued business and sustained growth," according to **Michelle Giovannozzi**, Clark College corporate relations manager for customized training, who developed the successful grant proposal.

The southern Washington company is a pioneer developer of long-range, unmanned, autonomous aircraft and manufactures these products for federal contractors, including the Boeing Company. Insitu is also active in the research, design, production and testing of miniature robotic aircraft for applications in meteorology, surveillance, communications, relay, geophysical measurements and other military applications.

Giovannozzi says, "Over the past year, Insitu has received contracts that have doubled its revenues, and business projections indicate this rapid growth will continue. However systems and procedures have not kept pace with this expansion and the company is seeking to improve its process control, quality and productivity through the ISO certification process.

"Corporate education and training is a rapidly expanding area for Clark College," says **Lisa Pletcher**, Clark's dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education. The training at the company site began earlier this month.

## Port of Vancouver signs record seven shipping companies to five-year contracts

A record seven shipping companies have signed five-year contracts with the Port of Vancouver to operate specialty handling cargo facilities in the port's over one-million square feet of waterfront warehousing.

The port's ten-year modernization program, updating terminals and adding warehouse capacity and equipment, are credited for the new business being generated at the publicly owned port, according to director of marketing and operations, **Alastair Smith**.

Smith says, the port's track record for efficient handling of specialty cargo, excellent labor relations, and quality logistics operations also contributed to inking the new contracts.

The Port of Vancouver specializes in niche cargo, called break-bulk cargo, as opposed to container cargo.

The newly signed shipping companies are Star Shipping, which has been calling on the Port of Vancouver for 30 years, Saga Forest Carriers, STX Pan Ocean, and Hyundai Merchant Marine. The other two are New Zealand-based shippers who bring in lumber and steel products from Asia, New Zealand Lumber Shippers and MAN Ferrostaal.

## Attorney General Rob McKenna to present forum on public disclosure

As part of his statewide tour on open government, state Attorney General **Rob McKenna** is holding a forum to gather public input on open disclosure rules and to increase citizen involvement in government.

The free forum, hosted by *The Columbian*, is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, in the auditorium at Washington State University Vancouver, 14204 NE Salmon Creek Avenue.

Representatives from government, news media and the general public are encouraged to attend. For further information, call **(360) 586-0725**.

## Calendar

Final Beaches Summertime Cruisin's of the season is 4 to 9 p.m. today at the Portland International Raceway. Adult admission is \$5. ☞ Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening in port offices, 111 W Division Street. ☞ State Rep. **Jim Moeller** (D-49th) is keynote speaker at the 4th annual Community Recovery Forum at 6 p.m. this evening in the Southwest Washington Medical Center's Health Education Center. Theme of the free forum is "Living Meth Free: Healing Lives, Families and our Community."

### Friday headlines at home and abroad

[A Texas grand jury today charged Rep. Tom DeLay and two political associates with conspiracy in a campaign finance scheme, forcing the House majority leader to temporarily relinquish his post--Washington Post, AP, \*\*Larry Margasak\*\*](#)  
[Maya Lin will visit in November for land bridge ceremony but construction may not start--Oregonian](#)  
[Growth limits coming into focus--Columbian, \*\*Erin Middlewood\*\*](#)  
[Evergreen Airport project would bring millions in taxes to the city of Vancouver--Columbian, \*\*Jeffrey Mize\*\*](#)  
[Paul Allen foundation boosts Confluence Project with \\$250,000 donation--Columbian, \*\*Dean Baker\*\*](#)  
[BYCX hoping to make Christmas tree excursions in the north county this year--Columbian, \*\*Erin Middlewood\*\*](#)  
[Nautilus going to bicycle shows--Columbian, \*\*Jonathan Nelson\*\*](#)  
[Battle ground shopping center faces school board vote on liquor license--Oregonian](#)  
[Columbian Wednesday Business Roundup](#)  
[Semi spills load of ceramic tiles on the Terwilliger curves early this morning tying up traffic for hours--KATU](#)

### Wednesday on the air

Clark County Close Up (9/4)—4:30 p.m. CVTV  
City Minutes (9/25)—5 p.m. CVTV  
Homicide Victims Day of Remembrance (9/23)—6 p.m. CVTV  
**Texas at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFXN**  
Telecommunications Commission (9/7 and 9/14)--7:30 p.m. CVTV  
Pearson Field's 100th Birthday—10 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and the weather

**Walt Evans** opens and shuts easy case. ☞ **Tracie Looney** right on top of things. ☞ **Mick Shutt** delivering the goods. ☞ **Patrice Jacob** posting documentary schedules. ☞ ☞ **Wednesday**, fog lifts to reveal sunshine and light clouds, 74. **Thursday**, starts better than it ends, possible showers, 70. **Friday**, expect more showers, 68.