

## **I-5 opens to all traffic**

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) opened I-5, closed due to flooding, to commercial trucks (more than 10,000 GVW) shortly after 5 p.m. Thursday. Later that evening, crews opened an 11-mile portion of southbound I-5 to all traffic. All vehicle types were allowed to enter the southbound lanes of I-5 at SR 6 in Chehalis (milepost 77) and continue south with no further closures. Crews spent the rest of the night monitoring traffic, repositioning barriers and fixing guardrail.

Friday morning WSDOT crews plan to begin replacing Jersey barriers that were shifted by swift flood waters on I-5 in Chehalis. Once the barriers are repositioned, two lanes in each direction on I-5 will be opened to all traffic. Visit WSDOT's [Web site](#) for more information about the flood response.

Drivers are advised to check their route before they go at [www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov). Updated travel information is also available by calling 511. Out of state callers can call 1-800-695-ROAD (7623).

## **Ronald McDonald House Charities Supports Free Clinic's "Dental Express"**

Free Clinic of Southwest Washington is pleased to announce a \$17,000 grant award from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington. The funds will be used to pay for supplies and equipment to provide free preventive and restorative dental care for children. The grant program is funded by canister donations made at McDonald's restaurants throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Free Clinic Dental Program Manager **Fran McN**a says, "We are so pleased with the continued financial support from Ronald McDonald House Charities and with the tremendous volunteer efforts of our dental community. So many people need help with dental care, and this program is really making a positive difference in the oral health of children in our area."

Free Clinic's mobile dental van, the Dental Express, has been serving the community since 2005. The main goal is preventive oral health care, including fluoride varnishes, sealants, and home care instruction. Free Clinic's dental program receives donated services from members of Clark County Dental Society, local dentists, hygienists, assistants, and students from Clark College.

## **Governor's Best Practice Award presented to Clark County WorkSource Partnership**

A model public/private partnership linking local employment priorities with the skills of people with disabilities is one of six projects statewide to receive a 2007 Governor's Award for Best Practices in Workforce Development. The award announcement came November 15 at the Workforce Training and Educating Coordinating Board's annual Leadership Conference in Tacoma.

The partnership consists of Clark County's WorkSource partners, led by the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), Arbor E&T, Washington Employment Security Department (ESD), Columbia River Mental Health, the Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and other community partners.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the results of this creative partnership. It demonstrates how a focused and committed team and community can reach a traditionally hard-to-serve population, benefiting both an untapped pool of job seekers as well as employers," says Lisa **Nisenfeld**, SWWDC Executive Director.

In 2003, WorkSource Vancouver had served only 103 individuals with disabilities, placing 38% in jobs. In just the first six months of project implementation, WorkSource-Vancouver served 575 individuals with



**Clark County WorkSource Partnership honored by Governor Chris Gregoire**  
**Back Row:** Karen Ramage, Jerry Petrick, Barbara Reed, Keith McPhun, Robert Gaffney, Paul Vertrees, Tennille Johnson. **Middle Row:** Teresa Anda, Monisha Wasson, Matt Sneed, Beverly Kimble, Lisa Nisenfeld, Cindy Williams, Sally Garcia **Front Row:** Beth Hammer, Lynnae Ruttledge, Meredith Hardin, Darcy Hoffman, Medolie Pazolt, Joyce Smith

disabilities, with 77% having secured employment. In addition, during this same period, the number of employer job orders generated by the Business Services Unit and filled by people with disabilities increased 445%.

### **Vancouver Port Commission to consider purchase and sale agreements Dec. 11**

The Vancouver Port Commission will consider a staff recommendation to execute proposed purchase and sale agreements for the Alcoa Aluminum and Evergreen Aluminum LLC properties at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 11.

The open public meeting, which will also include another 13 action items as the last meeting of the commission in 2007, begins at 9:30 a.m. at the port's Commission Room (3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver), and will be carried live on CVTV Channel 21. The CVTV coverage will also be streamed live online at [www.cvtv.org](http://www.cvtv.org).

Among the 14 action items are the following: the port's strategic plan; two proposed property acquisitions; five leases with port tenants; rail project actions; grading, construction and contract extensions; and a resolution in honor of outgoing commissioner Arch Miller.

### **Vancouver seeking Parking Advisory Committee applicants**

The City of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill one vacancy on the Parking Advisory Committee. This recruitment is for a full term, which will expire January 2012. Members may serve a maximum of two four-year terms. Applications must be received in the City Manager's Office by 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 3.

For applications or further information, contact **Myk Heidt** in the City Manager's Office at City Hall, PO Box 1995, Vancouver, WA, 98668, or call **(360) 696-8181**; email [myk.heidt@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:myk.heidt@ci.vancouver.wa.us) or fax **(360) 696-8049**. To apply on-line visit: <http://www.cityofvancouver.us/boards>

### **Clark sets Running Start information sessions**

High school sophomores and juniors can learn how to take the next step in their education by attending one of two "Running Start Information Night" sessions in January. The sessions will be held on Tuesday, January 15 and Thursday, January 24, 2008.

The identical sessions will be held from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Clark College gymnasium, located in the O'Connell Sports Center on the southwest corner of Clark College's main campus. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Parking will be available in the college's red lots on the east side of Fort Vancouver Way and in the purple lot on the west side of Fort Vancouver Way.

According to Running Start manager **Linda Calvert**, "These are the kick-off sessions for sophomores and juniors, and their parents, who want to know more about Running Start and what the 'Next Steps' are to begin the program in fall 2008."

Calvert added, "After they attend an information night session, students should sign up online for the Running Start test for fall 2008 at [www.clark.edu/runningstart](http://www.clark.edu/runningstart). The 'Fall 2008 Test Information' web link will be activated in mid-January."

For more information on Running Start, visit the Clark College website at <http://www.clark.edu/runningstart>. For information about "Running Start Information Nights," call **360-992-2842**.

### **Calendar**

The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce is hosting a special member meeting to discuss the Columbia Crossing I-5 Bridge project.

Chamber members are invited to learn more about the CRC project at an open meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors on December 18 at Washington State University – Vancouver, 14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave. Free. Seating is limited. Call the Chamber at 360-694-2588 for more information.

### **Friday on the air**

Community Tree Lighting (11-23-07)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Bravo! Vancouver — Messiah: An Oratorio (12-2-07)—7:00 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus (12-3-07)—9:00 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (12-6-07)—10:00 p.m. CVTV

## Town Tabloids and the Weather

**Derrick de Lay** making every breath count. <> **Ken Cosentino** determining that two is company. <> **Shawna Smith** sending invites.<> **Grant Jobe** standing tall. <> **Susan Rahl** heading up the Holiday cheer. <> **Friday**, chance of showers in evening. Patchy fog overnight. 48. **Saturday**, morning clouds with patchy fog, becoming mostly sunny, 36. **Sunday**, cool but pleasant, 40. [Click here for additional local weather information.](#)