

C-TRAN adds commuter trips from new 99th Street Transit Center

Clark County C-TRAN officials cut a ribbon today to celebrate the completion of the 99th Street Transit Center and the expansion of commuter bus service by 12 round trips a day.

The 99th Street Transit Center will support expanded bus service on the heavily congested I-5 route across the Washington-Oregon border. The transit center and new bus service are projected to improve the efficiency of the transportation system by reducing the need for 317,000 vehicle trips and 4.4 million vehicle miles traveled.

“This is an exciting time for C-TRAN and our customers as we implement the most significant service change in the agency’s history,” said **Jeff Hamm**, C-TRAN’s CEO and executive director. “Not only will these changes provide many of our riders with better service, but we hope to attract many new riders to the system as well.”

The new transit center was paid for in part through \$1.19 million in WSDOT Regional Mobility Grants.

Columbia River Crossing begins geotechnical drilling Sunday to refine bridge designs

The Columbia River Crossing project will start test drilling work Sunday west the Interstate Bridge to determine the type and stability of soils under the Columbia River.

Results from the nearly four-month project will be used to refine bridge foundation designs and pier placement. Currently, the project is considering two bridge options. Designs for both the replacement bridge and supplement bridge options would place a new bridge west of the existing I-5 bridge location.

Work is expected to continue during daylight hours every day through February. Initially, the geotechnical investigation will use a drill mounted on a barge anchored downstream of the Interstate Bridge.

Starting in mid-December, as many as three barges could be in the river at any time.

Diana Fitzpatrick gets VP post at Riverview Bank



Diana Fitzparick

Diana Fitzpatrick has been appointed vice president and cash management officer at Riverview Community Bank, reports **Jim Baldwin**, vice president retail banking.

A certified treasury professional, Fitzpatrick has 25 years of local banking experience.

Fitzpatrick is a 2007 graduate of Leadership Clark County and is a member of the board of the Association for Financial Professionals, Northwest Chapter, and is a former member of the board of Southwest Washington Forward Thrust.

Assessor Linda Franklin to explain property values at four meetings

Clark County assessor **Linda Franklin** will discuss county property evaluations and the property tax system at four meetings this fall. “It’s my hope,” Franklin says, “that by talking with the community about the assessment and taxation process, we will better understand property owners’ concerns and they will better understand what we do.”

Meetings will be as follows: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street; 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, in the Public Service Center; 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, in Battle Ground Fire District 11 station, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue; 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, in the Camas Public Library, 625 NE 4th Avenue.

nLight closes deal with Liekki

Vancouver-based manufacturer of high-power semiconductor lasers nLight has closed a deal to acquire the Liekki Corporation based in Lohja, Finland, according to nLight president and CEO **Scott Keeny**. No further acquisition details were offered.

The company has manufacturing plants in Vancouver, Hillsboro and Shanghai. Liekki manufactures and markets specialty optical fibers and fiber subassemblies.

A privately held company that was formed in 2000, nLight has grown an average of 70 percent a year for the past five years.

News brief

Evergreen Public Schools is one of 14 school districts in the state to receive a grant to pursue an apprenticeship pilot program, reports Gov. **Chris Gregoire**. This is the second year the state has encouraged active apprenticeship programs in high schools. The grant was for \$19,000.

Calendar

The Christian Youth Theater presents *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at 7 p.m. this evening at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. tomorrow, Nov. 17, and 3 and 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, in the Fort Vancouver High School auditorium. Admission is \$8 and \$10. <> The Clark College Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of **Rich Inouye**, presents a concert of big band music at 7:30 p.m. this evening in Gaiser Hall. For further information about the free concert, call **Peggy Winston, 992-2662**. <> **Willy Russell's** musical *Blood Brothers*, directed by **Llewellyn Rhoe**, is being presented by Arts Equity Theatre at 8 p.m. this evening, tomorrow, Nov. 17, and at a 2 p.m. matinee, Sunday, Nov. 18, in the Main Street Theatre, 606 Main Street. Tickets range from \$25 to \$24. For further information, call **695-3770** <> The public's only chance to cross the Maya Lin land bridge from Old Apple Tree Park, 112 Columbia Way, to historic Fort Vancouver until 2008 begins at 3 p.m. today at the park. Engineers and artists will be on hand to discuss the over \$12 million Confluence Project commemorating the legacy of the Lewis and Clark exploration of 1805-1806. There is no charge. <> A presentation of proposed traffic safety improvements for SE 15th Street between DE 164th and 192nd Avenues will be made during a 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, meeting of the Northfield Neighborhood Association in Fire Station 89, 17408 SE 15th Street. <> Lantern tours of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site continue at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17. For lantern tour reservations, call **816-6230**. <> The Puget Sound Blood Center is conducting a blood drive from noon until 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, in the fellowship hall of the Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 13001 NW36th Avenue.

Friday on the air

Portland at Philadelphia (live)—4 p.m. CSN, KXL

Chief Red Heart Memorial—5 p.m. FVTV

Accomplished and Under 40 (11-8)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus (10/4)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Animal Control Hearings (11/14)—7 p.m. CVTV

Army News Watch—9 p.m. FVTV

Port of Vancouver Commissioners (11/13)—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Joe and Maurene Leland hosting social event of the year. <> **Jill Fuller** adding class to glass. <> **Carol Keljo** standing out of monochromatic milieu. <> **Chris Wheat** packing the mail. <> **David Ballew's** \$1 burgers in great demand. <> **Friday**, heavy clouds, a lot of rain. 55. **Saturday**, looks like rain most of the day, 52. **Sunday**, cloudy, showers, 49.