

## **Emergency responders ask county for up to \$50 million for digital system**

The Board of Clark County Commissioners will consider a request from police, fire and emergency management officials at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4 for an election in March aimed at funding a countywide emergency communications system.

The current analog public safety radio system will not be supported by the manufacturer beyond 2012, which will require replacement with a new digital voice and data system, according to Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency.

CRESA has advised the commissioners that a new system could cost up to \$50 million and is necessary to maintain an effective emergency responder radio system and related services for all of the cities and unincorporated areas in Clark County.

The proposed ballot measure would ask voters to approve a countywide sales tax of one-tenth of one percent. If voters approve the tax, it could not be used for anything other than emergency communications.

The commissioners will consider the request during their regular board meeting at 10 a.m. on the sixth floor of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street

## **Herrera sworn in as 18th District representative; votes in Olympia**

**Jaime Herrera**, sworn in as a state representative in the 18th District late Wednesday, drove directly to Olympia to participate in the special legislative session that saw fellow legislators restore provisions of voter-approved Initiative 747, which had been ruled unconstitutional earlier this month.

“Today has been an amazing experience, Republican Herrera said. “It’s truly an honor to represent my friends and neighbors in the 18th District. I look forward to working on the issues that are important to our communities.”

Earlier Thursday, Herrera, 29, was selected by Clark and Cowlitz County commissioners to succeed 18th District Republican Rep. **Richard Curtis**, who resigned October 31.

Herrera arrived in Olympia in time to vote against House Bill 2417, a controversial bill that would have created a tax deferral for families who earn less than \$57,000. The 7 percent interest that will be charged on unpaid taxes until the time the residence was sold will be a tax increase for them, Herrera said. The measure, however, passed.

Herrera voted for a measure that would have provided a \$400 tax rebate to all taxpayers who paid taxes on their homes in 2007. That measure was defeated.

Herrera arrived in Olympia too late to vote to restore provisions of Initiative 747. Herrera said she would have voted for the measure, which did pass.

Herrera comes to the position of state representative with experience in the areas of health care, education, veteran affairs, social security, Medicare and Medicaid. She worked on these issues as a legislative aide for U.S. Rep. **Cathy Morris** (R-5th).

Herrera can be reached at **(360) 786-7850**.

## **Jim Moeller elected House deputy speaker pro temp**

State Rep. **Jim Moeller** (D-49th) was elected by his House Democratic Caucus colleagues as House Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore-designate Thursday. He is expected to be confirmed by the full House when it convenes a 60-day session in Olympia on Monday, Jan. 14. Moeller was nominated by State Rep. **Bill Fromhold** (D-49th).

Moeller, a former Vancouver City councilman, is president of the Clark County Human Services Council, an honorary board member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southwest Washington and is a member of the Clark College Addiction Counseling Advisory Committee. He was a founding member of the Vancouver-Cark County Visitors and Convention Bureau, served as aboard member of the Association of Washington Cities, and is a past chairman of the Southwest Washington Health District Board.



**Jim Moeller**

## **Festival of Nativities continues on weekend**

More than 600 nativity scenes from around the world are on display this weekend in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10509 SE 5th Street, two blocks south of Mill Plain Boulevard.

There is no admission charge, says spokesperson **Fran Rutherford**. Display hours are noon to 9 p.m. through Sunday, Dec. 2. The display is accompanied by music from local high schools. Live nativity scenes will be presented at 6 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1.

## **Holland Inc. donates \$55,000 worth of equipment to Clark County Skills Center**

Holland Inc., parent of the Vancouver-based Burgerville restaurant chain, has donated \$55,000 in kitchen and restaurant equipment to the restaurant management/culinary arts program at the Clark County Skills Center.

Included in the donation were convection ovens, ranges, refrigerators and sauté stations.

In selecting the Skills Center for the donation, the Holland cited the school's culinary program's high standards and life skills development and leadership training, according to Holland spokesperson **Jackie Flaten**.

Accredited by the American Culinary Federation, the Clark County Skills Center program includes a high school student-operated restaurant that is open to the public.

## **News brief**

Washington State Department of Transportation crews throughout Southwest Washington are on winter schedules. Maintenance crews have spent the last month stocking up on solid and liquid anti-icers and de-icers, and are gearing up and testing all snow and ice removal equipment. Maintenance crews throughout the region will be working around the clock, seven days a week throughout the rest of the season. In other more low-lying areas, crews have been put on-call and are ready to work around the clock if needed.

## **Calendar**

Arts Equity Theatre is presenting the musical *Blood Brothers* at 8 p.m. tonight, tomorrow, Dec. 1, and Sunday, Dec. 2, in the Main Street Theatre, 606 Main Street. Tickets range from \$15 to \$24. For further information, call **653-3770**. <> The Kyle Corwin Blood Drive, sponsored by the Puget Sound Blood Center, is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, in DuBois Park, Palo Alto Drive and California Way. <> Uptown Village's annual Sip and Stroll is 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, on Main Street between Mill Plain and Fourth Plain Boulevards. For \$25 donation patrons receive up to 30 samples of wine. For further information, call **513-8999**. <> The Junior Symphony of Vancouver, conducted by **Timoteus Racz**, presents a fund-raising concert commemorating the synthesis of music and books in collaboration with the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, in the Faith Center Church, 2533 NE Andresen Road. Admission is \$25. For further information, call **696-4084**. <> Bravo! Vancouver presents Handel's *Messiah: An Oratorio* at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, in St. Joseph Catholic Church, Highland Drive and Andresen Road. All seats are \$20. For further information, call **906-0441**.

## **Friday on the air**

Festival of Trees Pops Concert (11/23)—4 p.m. CVTV  
**Portland Blazers at Dallas (live)—5:30 p.m. KGW-TV, KXL**  
Clark County Board of Health (11/28)—6 p.m. CVTV  
**Portland Winter Hawks at Chilliwack (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**  
Clark, Cowlitz commissioners select state representative (11/29)—7 p.m. CVTV  
**Iowa State at Oregon State (live)—8 p.m. FSN, KPAM**  
City Minutes (11/11)—9 p.m. CVTV  
Clark County Youth Town Hall (11/8)—10 p.m. CVTV



**Nativity scene from 2006**

**Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Mike Ripley** saying all the right words. <> **Larry Pedersen** joins A list. <> **John Bryden** trimming Christmas tree with bottle opener. <> **Wayne Yarnell** solving problems. <> **Becky Archibald** meditating. <> **John White** soon to pick up tab for Mexican lunch. <> **Friday**, rainy and possible snow or sleet, 42. **Saturday**, possible early snow mixed with rain, 39. **Sunday**, warming, windy, rainy, 44.