

## **Governor orders immediate acceleration of toxic cleanup at former Alcoa plant**

Gov. **Chris Gregoire** today, out of the blue, issued an order to the state Department of Ecology to develop and implement immediately a strategy for accelerating cleanup of the former Alcoa aluminum smelter site on the Columbia River in Vancouver. It was not clear whether any cleanup had ever begun.

The governor, in a written statement, declared: "We must remove the high levels of PCB contamination from the Columbia River sediments at this site as soon as possible. They pose a threat to people and fish, and the sooner we get the cleanup started the sooner we can get it done."

Gregoire added: "I am confident that Alcoa will work with Ecology to get this important work completed. In the meantime, every effort will be made to protect public health and to remove remaining sources of PCB contamination on the Alcoa property. I have also asked **Jay Manning**, state Ecology director, to ensure that the department keeps the local community and other interested stakeholders fully informed about the progress of the cleanup."

The former Alcoa site is being sought by the Port of Vancouver as a potential riverfront industrial site.

## **Bank of Clark County hires BethAnn Bock**

**BethAnn Bock** has been hired in a newly created position as residential lending relationship manager in the Bank of Clark County real estate division, 1307 Columbia Street.

Bock has 11 years' experience in mortgage lending and 15 years' experience in bank branch operations and management in Washington and Oregon. Bock also worked for the Clark County Skills Center from 1988 to 1990.

Bock is a cum laude graduate of the University of Idaho. A member of the advisory board for the Skills Center, Bock has been active in hospice organizations and Rotary. She sings with the Pride of Portland, Sweet Adeline's International Group.

## **Two local companies get state awards for hiring vets**

SEH America and United Natural Foods were honored with Hire-A-Vet Challenge Awards in Vancouver today by the state Employment Security Department for their efforts to hire military veterans.

More than 10,000 Washington National Guard and Reserve members have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001.

Research by the Employment Security Department early in 2006 showed that 60 percent of National Guard and Reserve members who returned from war in 2003 or 2004 did not have jobs in Washington in 2005. Of those who worked before going to war and obtained new jobs after being deactivated, most were making at least five percent less than they did before being deployed.

SEH America employs 780 in its silicon wafer production plant in Vancouver. Since 2005 the company has hired 97 veterans. SEH America also employs 11 national guardsmen and reservists.

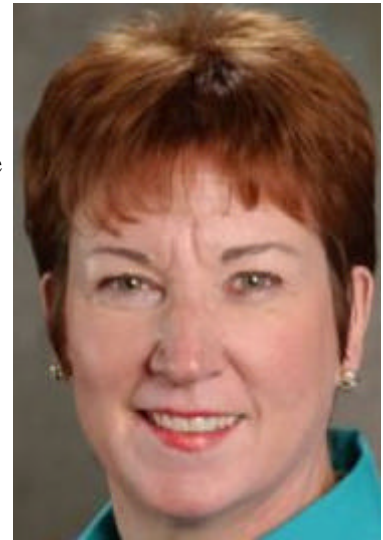
United Natural Foods, based in Ridgefield, is a wholesale distributor of natural and organic foods. Seven of the company's 21-person staff are veterans. The company also has a reservist on the payroll.

## **PDX offering tours and workshops on future plans**

The City of Portland and the Port of Portland, beginning a three-year process of determining future plans for Portland International Airport, are offering a limited number of tours and two facilitated workshops Saturday, Nov. 10.

In addition, airport officials are accepting additional public input on the north runway extension and deicing system enhancements.

Saturday airfield tours, for which reservations are being accepted now, are at 1 and 4 p.m. For further information on airfield tours, call **(503) 944-7151**.



**BethAnn Bock**

Facilitated workshops are at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on the first floor, south end of baggage claim.

Additional workshops will be held in Vancouver at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, in Hudson's Bay High School, 1601 E. McLoughlin Boulevard.

For further information on PDX future plans, call (800) 547-8411, extension 7047.

### **Vancouver one of five sites in state to design new child learning program**

The state Department of Early Learning has selected Vancouver as one of five sites in Washington to design a pilot rating system for child care, preschool and school-age programs. Educational Service District 112 will serve as the lead agency, bringing local partners together to help create a model rating system designed to help parents find the best early learning opportunities for their families.

This is the first phase of Washington's efforts to test a statewide voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System.

According to **Debbie Ham**, ESD 112's director of Early Learning, the local process will involve a number of stakeholders, including the Southwest Washington Childcare Consortium and Support for Early Learning and Families, Clark County's 22-agency member early learning collaborative.

"The goal is to improve the quality of care so all children thrive in a positive environment," said Ham. In addition, Ham said parents will have a strong voice in designing the system and the needs of child care providers will be identified. "We are enthused about partnering with the Department of Early Learning and the other communities in this planning effort," she added.

### **Calendar**

Students, staff of Evergreen High School, along with the public, will be celebrating the two-year \$40 million school remodeling beginning at 6 p.m. this evening in the field house at 14300 NE 18th Street, reports **Roland Brosius**, principal. The celebration includes refreshments, tours and performances by Evergreen Public Schools' all-district orchestra. <> Arts Equity Theatre presents *Blood Brothers* at 8 p.m. tonight, tomorrow, Nov. 9, and Saturday, Nov. 10, in the Main Street Theatre, 606 Main Street. Tickets range from \$15 to \$24. For further information, call 695-3770.

### **Thursday on the air**

Northwest Indian News—3 p.m. FVTV

Clark County Board of Health (10/24)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Cooking With Class—5:30 p.m. FVTV

Telecommunications Commission (11/7)—7 p.m. CVTV

SW Washington Wind Symphony: Celebration—8 p.m. FVTV

K-9 Dakota Remembrance (11/5)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Commissioners Land Use Appeals (11/7)—11 p.m. CVTV

### **Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Peggy Furno** lending helping hand. <> **Joe Booth** asking the right questions. <> **Kim Hash** offering small suggestion. <> **Marge Martel** boasting of at least two miracles. <> **Lynn Degerstedt** successfully grapefruit making rounds. <> **Thursday**, mostly sunny, 62. **Friday**, possible showers, 55. **Saturday**, rain likely, 54.