

## **Former lawmaker Tom Mielke running for county commissioner**

**Tom Mielke**, eight-year Republican state representative in the 18th District, where he was a member of the Local Government & Land Use and Transportation Committees, has announced that he is a Republican candidate for Clark County commissioner, District 1.

Democrat incumbent **Betty Sue Morris** earlier said she would not be a candidate for re-election.

Last week former Clark County Democratic leader **Pam Brokaw** announced she is a candidate for the same position. Her announcement was then followed by former Fire District 6 chief **Brad Lothspeich**, who announced he is a republican candidate for the position.

Mielke is an avowed opponent of light rail in Clark County.

## **Celebration of life and reception for Helen Olson is Monday, Dec. 17**

A celebration of life and reception for **Helen Olson**, who died Saturday at the age of 73, will be at 11 a.m. in St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1309 Franklin Street.

Mrs. Olson, who seldom forgot others' birthdays and anniversaries, married the love of her life, **Clarence Olson**, in 1958.

Mrs. Olson, a homemaker and former Vancouver teacher, was a charter member of the Vancouver Press Club, and was the first to preside over the Clark County Fair as fair queen in the 1950s. She graduated from Vancouver High School and Washington State University.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Olson is survived by two daughters, **Susan Graham** and **Kathy Loughheed**, sons-in law **Glenn Graham** and **Bill Loughheed**, grandsons **Brian** and **Peter Graham**, and **James** and **Erik Loughheed**, and a brother, **Lindy DuPree**.

Vancouver Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

## **Port authorizes Alcoa purchase**

Port of Vancouver commissioners today authorized purchase agreements for the former Alcoa smelting properties on the Columbia River now owned by Alcoa and Evergreen Aluminum.

Earlier this year the port announced it would purchase the two properties from part of the proceeds of a property tax increase, but that proposal eventually was decisively turned down by port district voters in September.

According to port officials, the properties are essential for enabling the port to extend rail facilities to serve other port tenants. Most of the property, however, will be developed for industrial purposes.

Purchase price for the two parcels on the Columbia River, totaling nearly 220 acres, is \$48.25 million, and will be financed from existing port revenues.

Alcoa and the Environmental Protection Agency have come to an agreement for cleaning up the industrial site, with Alcoa picking up 95 percent of the tab.

## **Clark Public Utilities approves 2008 budget; no rate increases**

Clark Public Utilities' commissioners today adopted the electric and water district budgets for 2008. Neither contained rate increases for customers.

Director of finance **Rick Dyer** reported that, since 2004, the utility has put \$12 million into a rate stabilization fund designed to blunt possible future power increase demands. The fund amounts to about \$60 for each of the utilities' nearly 180,000 customers.

According to Dyer commissioners, will have to wait until January to see whether they could add to the fund.

The electric system budget for 2008 is \$343 million, about 70 percent of which is the cost of power.



**Tom Mielke**

## **State Rep. Deb Wallace holding town hall session**

Sate Rep. **Deb Wallace** (D-17th) has scheduled a town hall meeting to discuss senior and education issues at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, in the Firstenburg Community Center, 700 NE 136th Avenue.

For further information, call Wallace at **260-6110**.

## **News brief**

The board of directors of West Coast Bank today declared a quarterly dividend of 13.5 cents payable on January 21 to shareholders of record on January 11.

## **Calendar**

The C-TRAN board of directors meets at 5:15 p.m. today in the Firstenburg Community Center, 700 NE 136th Avenue. <> The City of Vancouver is holding an informational meeting and open house to present potential zoning and streetscape changes on Fourth Plain Boulevard between St. Johns Road and Burton Road. The meeting is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. this evening in the Vancouver School District Center for Educational Leadership, 2921 Falk Road. <> Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session in conference room B in the Public Service Center at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12. <> The Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership meets at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, in Port of Vancouver administrative offices, 3103 NW Lower River Road.

## **Tuesday on the air**

Community Tree Lighting (11/23)—4:15 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus (12/3)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark College Orchestra: South of the Border—5 p.m. CVTV

**Portland Blazers at Utah (live)—6 p.m. KGW-TV, KXL**

**Sacramento State at Oregon (live)—7 p.m. KCMD**

**Oregon State at Cal State (live)—7 p.m. KPAM**

Veterans Day Parade—7 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Urban Forestry Commission (11/14)—9:45 p.m. CVTV

*Vancouver Business Journal's* Accomplished Under 40—11 p.m. CVTV

## **Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Ron Hart** making the A list. <> **Chad Peru** taking helping hand to Chehalis. <> **Michael Green** looking for school board member. <> **Jim Sanders** says Beavers are doing just fine. <> **Mick Shutt** disclaiming new tie. <> **Tuesday**, mostly cloudy, 40. **Wednesday**, mostly cloudy, 46. **Thursday**, clouds, possible precipitation, 45.