

## **Snow causes cancellations, brings out snow plows**

Today's snowfall has made street conditions slick and driving difficult on Vancouver's 1,650 lane miles of streets. Only a handful of streets, among them Devine Road, and 39th Street between Fruit Valley Road and Lincoln Avenue, were closed today.

Vancouver's 14 snowplows, 12 of which are combined units with sanders, and two of which also have de-icing capabilities, are currently at work clearing and maintaining main arterials. The city's primary focus is to clear and maintain those primary streets that provide a network connecting hospitals, police and fire stations. Remaining arterials, selected corridors, snow bus routes around schools and hills, are handled next.

Vancouver's de-icers are water soluble and not well suited to freezing rain. Should freezing rain occur, Buck says avoid travel on icy streets, if at all possible. Buck advises motorists to maintain a safe distance behind snow plows, sanders and de-icing trucks.

Currently, all roads maintained by Clark County are snow packed. Plowing and sanding should improve conditions somewhat by the evening commute. Motorists should use caution as even roads that appear clear may have black ice.

All available Clark County road maintenance crews are at work today clearing snow from major urban streets and main roads in the rural part of the county. All Clark County offices remain open today, observing regular working hours.

Similarly, state highway crews are busy with snow plows and de-icing equipment.

Although chains or traction devices are required in the Portland metro area, they are not required in southwest Washington, except on Highway 14, east of Washougal.

## **County employment numbers were good in December**

Clark County ended 2006 with 197,000 persons employed, according to the state Department of Employment Security, an increase of 1,400 over December 2006. The December figure also represented an increase of 1,200 employed persons over November 2006. The county's unadjusted employment rate for December was 4.7 percent.

Statewide, the unadjusted employment rate was 5 percent.

Gov. **Chris Gregoire** reports that the job picture in Washington continues to shine. She said, "Our steady growth in industries such as aerospace and software helps us reach out nationally and globally and create a strong job market that benefits Washingtonians."

Over the year, 79,200 net new jobs were created in the state.

## **Columnists to bare their souls**

The Forum at the Library brings three news columnists together to discuss what they do at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, in Library Hall in the Vancouver Community Library, 1007 E Mill Plain Boulevard.

The columnists will share where they get their ideas, who influences them and how they write. They are as follows: **Gregg Herrington**, *Columbian* editorial writer and columnist; **Susan Nielsen**, associate editor *The Oregonian*; and **Greg Jayne**, *Columbian* sports editor and columnist.

The forum, which is free, is moderated by Clark College journalism professor, **Christina Kapinski**.

## **Applications being accepted for Sheriff's Citizens' Academy beginning in March**

Applications are being accepted for 30 slots open for the Clark County Sheriff's Citizens' Academy, that starts a two-and-a-half-month weekly schedule of classes Thursday, March 1, reports sheriff **Garry Lucas**.

Trainees are given an overview of the major functions and responsibilities of the sheriff's office and the law and justice system.

Applicants are subject to a background criminal history check. For further information, call **Fred Neiman**, 397-2276.

## **Calendar**

Most scheduled meetings for this evening have been canceled. Vancouver Land Use Hearings have been canceled. Martin Luther King Jr. events scheduled for this evening and tomorrow at Clark College have been

canceled. ☞ It is advisable to call ahead to confirm whether any scheduled meetings will be held. ☞ Clark County commissioners have scheduled an informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17.

### Tuesday Headlines

[Surprise snowstorm sucker-punches region--Columbian \(update\)](#)  
[Home solar panels are energy saver--Columbian, \*\*Erik Robinson\*\*](#)  
[Blood donation center to open--Columbian, \*\*Tom Vogt\*\*](#)  
[Backers go to Olympia to argue for simple majority--Columbian, \*\*Kathie Durbin\*\*](#)  
[Moeller proposes sales tax holiday, Columbian, \*\*Jonathan Nelson\*\*](#)  
[Band students trying to raise \\$640,000 for trip to China, Columbian, \*\*Howard Buck\*\*](#)  
[Vancouver could get new police chief this week--Oregonian, \*\*Allan Brettman\*\*](#)  
[Obama takes first step toward running in '08--New York Times, \*\*Jeff Zeleny\*\*](#)  
[34,000 Iraqi civilians killed in '06--USA Today, AP](#)

### Tuesday on the air

Clark County Focus (1/10)—5 p.m. CVTV  
City Minutes (1/7)—5:30 p.m. CVTV  
Cooking With Class—6 p.m. FVTV  
Clark County Close Up (1/7)—6:01 p.m. CVTV  
Annexation Review Board (5/10)—10 p.m. CVTV  
Clark County Focus (1/10)—10:15 p.m. CVTV  
Vancouver Planning Commission (1/9)—11 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and the Weather

**Mel Kirkland** signing up. ☞ **Barbara Kerr** making snow angels. ☞ **Lena Wittler** celebrating birthday day before national holiday. ☞ **Jeff Williams** settling on breakfast. ☞ **Ron Moss** birthdaying in the snow. ☞ **Tuesday**, morning snow, afternoon snow showers, canceling a whole lot of meetings, 35. **Wednesday**, no precipitation predicted, foggy, 36. **Thursday**, mostly clear, warming slightly, 41.