

## **Clark College Columbia Tech Center groundbreaking is Friday**

Groundbreaking for the Clark College building at Columbia Tech Center, 18700 SE Mill Plain Boulevard, is at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 19, reports Clark College president **Bob Knight**.

According to Knight, “ Clark College at Columbia Tech Center will be a beautiful facility, housing 18 classrooms, eight science and computer labs, a 3500-square-foot multipurpose area for conferences, offices for faculty and support staff, and parking for 393 vehicles. It’s going to be great for our students, especially those who live and work in the eastern portion of our service district.”

Scheduled to open in fall of 2009, Clark College at Columbia Tech Center will offer general education classes, professional and technical training, basic skills classes, workforce development and personal enrichment courses.

During its 2007 session, the state legislature provided funding for the \$27 million project, which will be located on a 9.5 acre site in the Columbia Tech Center development. Columbia Tech Center is a 375-acre blend of offices, retail businesses, and light industry.

Vancouver-based LSW Architects won the design contract for the facility. With increased natural lighting, large projection-screen displays, acoustics, and ergonomic furnishings, LSW Architects plans exceed state-mandated certification from the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, otherwise known as LEED program. Todd Construction of Tigard, Oregon will be the contractor for the project.

## **Benton calling for special session to stop possible property tax hikes**

State Sen. **Don Benton** (R-17th) today announced he is calling on legislators to convene a special session of the legislature on Nov. 29 and 30, in an attempt to adopt a measure that would maintain a one percent cap on property taxes that had been in effect until the state supreme court ruled the tax limitation unconstitutional a week ago.

The one percent cap was mandated by voter-approved Initiative 747 in 2001. Now that the tax limitation is unconstitutional, local governments can call for 6 percent annual increases that could be accumulative over the past six years, according to Benton.

Benton says he has the backing of Republican legislators for the special session.

According to Benton, legislators will be in Olympia during committee assembly days, the last two days in November, anyway. The special session would not place any additional costs on taxpayers, he argues. Legislators may call for a special session with a two-thirds majority vote.

## **Three more Columbia Crossings on horizon?**

Imagine transportation corridors across the Columbia River east of 164th Avenue, across the east end of Government Island or across Lady Island into Gresham; visualize transportation corridors that skirt either the west or east side of Vancouver Lake, and cross the Columbia River where the river is joined by the Willamette River, or bisect Hayden Island.

This would not be so far fetched, however, if those doing the visioning are planning 50 years into the future when more than a million people will live in Clark County, half of whom will hold jobs in the county.

For further information to [www.rtc.wa.gov](http://www.rtc.wa.gov), or call **Lynda David, 397-6067**, extension **5205**.

More information on what the transportation future may hold can be obtained during an open house presented by the steering committee of the Transportation Corridors Visioning Plan from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, in the lobby of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street.

The committee was appointed by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council



**Clark College Columbia Tech Center, 18799 SE Mill Plain Boulevard, will serve east county students with 18 classrooms and eight science and computer labs. The new \$27 million building opens in the fall of 2009.**

## **Clark College presenting big-band jazz Friday**

The Clark College Jazz Ensemble, led by new director of bands **Rich Inouye**, is presenting a concert of big-band jazz at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, in Gaiser Hall.

The concert is free and open to the public, according to Inouye. For further information, call **Peggy Winston, 992-2662**.

## **News briefs**

The Clark County Skills Center's award-winning restaurant is open to the public for breakfast, 8:45 to 10 a.m., and lunch, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, at 12200 NE 28th Street. For further information and reservations, call **Robin McColley, 604-1050**. <> **Jan Apland**, a program manager for Clark County Public Health, was recently honored by the Washington Association of Local Women, Infants and Children Agencies as an Outstanding Breastfeeding Coordinator. Apland oversees a peer mentoring program that provides telephone support for breastfeeding families in Clark County. More than 2,300 mothers in the county are successfully breastfeeding infants.

## **Calendar**

Prospective Washington State University Vancouver students are invited to a preview session from 5:30 to 9 p.m. this evening in room 110 in the Administration Building on the Salmon Creek Campus. To register, go to <http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/ads/previewsvp.html>. For further information, call **546-9779**. <> A Puget Sound Blood Center blood drive is scheduled for 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, in the Glenwood Community Church parking lot, 12201 NE 72nd Avenue.

## **Wednesday on the air**

Port of Vancouver Commissioners (11/13)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

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

**Utah at U.W. Huskies Live)—7:30 p.m. ESPN2, KUIK**

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (11/11)—7:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Youth Town Hall (11/8)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

## **Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Tom Hagley Jr.** is the first to report good levy news <> **Pat Stryker** saying hello. <> **Sandi Simms** delivers good report. <> **Teresa Guise** stepping up with style. <> **Kristie Weaver** working on e-glitch. <> **Wednesday**, late showers, 56. **Thursday**, more showers, 55. **Friday**, heavy clouds, some precipitation expected, 55.