



Clark County people fatter than most, but officials don't know why

In 2005, 62 percent of Clark County residents were overweight or obese, compared to 59 percent of the residents of the state of Washington, according to **Alan Melnick**, Clark County Health Officer. According to Melnick, it's difficult to know why, since people in Clark County eat the same amount of fruits and vegetables and exercise as much as other Washingtonians.

But, says, Melnick, the diabetes rate for people in Clark County is 6 per cent, compared to 7 percent statewide. Melnick says the county health department is working with community partners to find ways to bring the rates of obesity down.

The lifespan of people in Clark County is the same as it is for the state, 79.3 years, according to Melnick. However, the death rate is higher here, 812 per 100,000 residents, compared to 759 per 100,000 statewide. The county has slightly higher rates of obesity, stroke mortality, lung cancer and melanoma than the rest of the state.

County staff working on form-based zoning techniques for Highway 99

Clark County zoning officials are developing new zoning techniques for making Highway 99 and adjacent neighborhoods better places in which to live and shop.

Form-based zoning, a departure from zoning districts with distinct land uses, can advance a community vision or specific goals, according to Clark County community planning spokesperson **Colette Anderson**.

Highway 99 is a strip shopping area running from NE 63rd Street to NE 134th Street. The former highway currently is closed in the vicinity of NE 117th Street, where a new bridge crossing Salmon Creek is being built.

Planners will discuss the new process during a 5:30 p.m. meeting, Thursday, March 20, in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. For further information, call Anderson at **397-2280**, extension **4516**.

Clark College batons busy

The Clark College music department has scheduled three different concerts for this week, all of which are free to the public, although donations for the music department will be accepted.

The Clark College Orchestra, directed by **Donald Alpert**, is first up with a 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, concert in the Royal Durst Theatre in the Vancouver School of Arts & Academics. Featured is the U.S. premier of Antonio Rosetti's *Clarinet Concerto in E*, performed by **Julius Klein**, artistic director of the Slovak State Philharmonic.

The 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13, concert presents music by three Clark College choral groups, the Women's Chorale Ensemble, the Chorale, and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

The final concert of the week, featuring music from composers from around the world, is presented by the Clark College Choir, directed by **April Duvic**, and the college Concert Band, directed by **Rich Inouye**. The concert is in the Royal Durst Theatre. For further information on the concerts, call the college music department, **992-2662**.

People

Clark College student and editorial cartoonist for the college newspaper the *Independent*, **Nathan Childs**, has been named one of the top three editorial cartoonists in the Society of Professional Journalists regional student category. The second-year student is also the opinion editor for the *Independent* and covers sports for the paper. Childs received the Edda McCordic Talent Award in Journalist for three consecutive quarters.

News brief

Auditions for the Junior Symphony of Vancouver are being held Thursday March 13, according to conductor **Timoteus Racz**. The auditions, open to young musicians of southwest Washington and Oregon are by appointment. For further information, call Racz at **694-4084**. Calendar

Calendar

The Public Affairs Committee of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce is presenting a program on the proposed Columbia River Crossing project for members only, at 4 p.m. today in the auditorium at Washington State University Vancouver. <> The Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County meets at 7 p.m. this evening in the Public Works Conference Room, 4700 NE 78th Street. The agenda includes an update on the proposed Cowlitz Tribal casino and resort and a report from the Three Creeks Planning Advisory Group. <> The Vancouver Aviation Advisory Committee meets at noon Tuesday, March 11, in Pearson Air Museum. <> The Puget Sound Blood Center is holding blood drives in Longview Tuesday, March 11, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the *Longview Daily News*, 770 11th Avenue, and from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Longview Fire Department, 740 Commerce Avenue. <> Clark County commissioners meet in regular session at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 11. <> C-TRAN board of directors meet in regular session at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 11.

Monday on the air**Portland Blazers at Cleveland (live)—4 p.m. CSN, KXL**

Vancouver City Council Workshop (3/3)—4 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Tourism Awards (2-21)—5:45 p.m. CVTV

Gonzaga vs. St. Mary's, San Diego (live)—6 p.m. ESPN 2

SW Washington Alternative Energy (2/18)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver City Council (3/3)—7 p.m. CVTV

Universities and Urban Development (3/7)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Land Use Hearings (3/6)—11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Keith Upkes slaying dragons. <> **Tom Hunt** making things happen. <> **Andy Shorky** putting publisher to the test. <> **Celinda Rupert** ginning up downtown interest in annual meeting. <> **Joy Tindall** getting belated response. <> **Renato Fusso** still getting rave reviews. <> **Monday** mostly cloudy, faint sunbreaks, possible late showers, 46-61. **Tuesday**, scattered showers, 39-51. **Wednesday**, mostly cloudy, 41-55.