Clark College 75th anniversary continues

The first 75 hours of Clark College’s 75th year continue through this weekend with activities on the main campus an open house and tours of Clark College at Town Plaza.

Events are as follows:

Open house and tours of Clark College at Town Plaza, 10 a.m. to noon, Friday, Oct. 3.

Dedication of the Clark College Andersen Educational Complex, 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3.

Penguin Oktoberfest, 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, main campus, free public festival.

Penguin Oktoberfest Alumni Hospitality Suite, 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, Penguin Student Lounge.

Kalani Rodrigues (K-Rod) Memorial Scholarship 5k run and walk, 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Oct. 4.

Christensen Soccer Field.

Ruth Patterson Hart artists reception, Archer Gallery, 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5.

Local banks in good shape; bankers say OK to bailout

The “You are pre-qualified for $50,000 credit at 0 percent for the next 15 months” letters this week stopped coming from the national bank and credit card companies. Yesterday Bank of America sent a letter: “As our customer, you qualify to apply for a line of credit up to $50,000*” [emphasis added.] The lowest interest rate is 7.99 percent for this particular offer.

So, the national financial market bumbling is affecting us locally, but not by much, according to at least two local bankers, both of whom support the U.S. Senate bailout bill.

Mike Worthy, president of the ten-year-old Bank of Clark County, says, “It’s true that credit markets are really tight, but for our no-risk customers things will feel like the good ole days.”

Says Bob Sznewajs, president of West Coast Bank, with four of its 62 branches in Clark County, “Our interest rates are not going up for small business, home equity and commercial loans.”

Of the Senate-passed bailout, Worthy says: “It is hard to see now how the recommended actions in the bill will settle down to economic conditions in Clark County, but the latest iterations of the legislation are likely to be of help to local clients, particularly the possible increases of FDIC insurance for bank deposits. At the Bank of Clark County we have no expectation of, or need for help from, such a federal rescue plan; but we can see why the elements of the plan have been included and welcome their speedy adoption to restore some predictability to financial markets.”

Sznewajs says, “What passed last night is not a perfect bill, but it does two things that will help bring stability for smaller bank customers: increasing the Federal Deposit Insurance to $250,000 will bring more stability for customers; and the bill will help maintain mortgage-backed securities at more stable, market-related values.

Carol Curtis, member of the Clark College Foundation, and husband George Welsh, president of the college Alumni Association, were key donors for the chime tower lighting project. Lights were turned on for the first time last night.
Sznewajs concludes, “We are well satisfied where we are.”
Worthy adds: “It is critical to stabilize financial markets. It seems that taxpayers are understandably resistant to a ‘bailout,’ but without stability in credit markets the implications for the near term economy are really bleak.”

Southwest’s Acute Rehab Unit Marks 15 Years of Service
Southwest Washington Medical Center's nationally recognized acute inpatient rehabilitation unit has completed 15 years of service, reports Robert Djergaian, M.D., administrative director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center and physician director of Southwest’s Rehabilitation Services.
“We’re very lucky as a community to have this amazing resource, and I’m pleased to help recognize the commitment and compassion of staff and providers who continue to offer the very best treatments and rehabilitation services for stroke patients and patients with other physical disabilities like traumatic brain or spinal cord injury,” adds Djergaian.
Clark County’s only hospital-based acute rehabilitation program served 230 patients in 2007, with an average daily census of 10 patients and an average length of stay of 13 days in 2008.
The inpatient rehabilitation unit is part of a system approach to rehabilitation that includes emergency medicine, acute medical surgical units and intensive care units. The full continuum of rehabilitation care at Southwest includes acute care therapy, acute inpatient rehabilitation, neuro-outpatient clinic, musculoskeletal outpatient clinic, home care rehabilitation, and a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician practice.
Southwest’s inpatient and specialty stroke care programs first earned accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities in 1996. A CARF Stroke Specialty Program designation followed in 2005. Southwest was also the first hospital in the Pacific Northwest to be honored with CARF Stroke Specialty Program designation and Primary Stroke Center status by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

PDX offering long-range plans update in Vancouver
The Port of Portland is holding a Portland International Airport long-range futures open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the community room at C-TRAN’s Fishers Landing Transit Center.
Airport officials will discuss planning through 2035. Topics include the following: noise management, north runway extension, I-205-Airport Way interchange, and deicing system enhancement.
The same open house will also be presented in Portland at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, in the Meek Professional Technical High School, 4039 NE Alberta Court. For further information, call (503) 460-4839.

Calendar
Laurie Mercier, professor of history at Washington State University Vancouver, will discuss the roots of the nation’s crisis, and the emergence of enormous creativity, based on her recent book, The Forgotten Decade: A Social History of the 1970s, at a presentation at 7 p.m. this evening in the Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main Street. There is no charge for this event.

Thursday on the air
Greater Vancouver Chamber Installation (9/15)—4:15 p.m. CVTV
Oregon State at Utah (live)—6 p.m. Versus, KPAM
Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—6 p.m. CVTV
Telecommunications Commission (10/1)—9 p.m. CVTV
County Code Enforcement Appeal Hearings (9/25)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather