

Make Bank Deposits



From Your Desk.



Fire districts to consolidate to serve Battle Ground, La Center and Ridgefield

At a joint workshop yesterday boards of Clark County Fire Districts 11 and 12 agreed to functionally consolidate their departments in an effort to better serve their citizens. The consolidation is the initial step toward the goal of a full merger between the two districts which serve Battle Ground, La Center and Ridgefield.

Fire District 11 chief **Dennis Mason** was named chief of the consolidated department, effective February 1. Fire District 12 chief **Larry Bartel** will serve as deputy chief and will be in charge of support services.

The agreement was unanimous among the two three-member boards. Voting affirmatively for the consolidation and possible eventual full merger were Fire District 11 commissioners **Gerald Kolke, Linn "Penny" Dollar** and **James R. Johnson**, and Fire District 12 commissioners **John Babcock, William Hargett** and **Michael Lambrecht**. The six will serve as a new board for the consolidated departments.

The consolidated agency will be known as Clark County Fire & Rescue. The consolidation has the support of fire district local unions 4229 and 3674. The unions also endorsed a future merger.

Betty Sue Morris to deliver State of County address

Betty Sue Morris, who will be retiring from the Clark County board of commissioners at the end of her second four-year term in December, will deliver the 2008 State of the County Address at 11:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 8, in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay. Morris is a former newspaper reporter, public relations executive and Democratic state legislator.

Reservations are required for the luncheon. The cost is \$25, except for those who register by Wednesday, Jan. 23, who will be charged \$20. For further information and to make reservations, call **397-2232**.

Jerry Oliver takes seat on board of Port of Vancouver commissioners

Vancouver businessman **Jerry Oliver** today took his seat on the board of Port of Vancouver Commissioners, having defeated three-term commissioner **Arch Miller** last November.

Oliver, a graduate of the University of Michigan, is a national account manager for Tyler Technologies, a Plano, Texas-based company that supplies software to county governments.

Oliver, an ardent hunter, fisher and backpacker, has been involved with the Audubon Society, Columbia Land Trust, and Pheasants Forever.

He opposed the port's plan to increase property taxes to buy the former Alcoa smelting works on the Columbia River and he seeks resolution of the Columbia Gateway development.

Presidential candidates list

Sixteen candidates, eight for each major party, will be listed on Washington's February 19 presidential primary ballots, which will be in the mail to Clark County voters later this month.

In addition to the statewide presidential primary, the Democrats and Republicans will conduct local caucuses Saturday, Feb. 9, at a wide variety of polling places.

The Democratic Party will determine its presidential preference wholly on the results of the caucuses. The Republicans will make their preference based 51 percent on the presidential primary vote, 49 percent on the caucus vote.

The official list of presidential candidates is as follows:

Democrats **Joe Biden***, **Hillary Clinton**, **Christopher J. Dodd***, **John Edwards**, **Mike Gravel**, **Dennis J. Kucinich**, **Barak Obama** and **Bill Richardson**.



Betty Sue Morris

Republicans **Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Alan Keyes, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney** and **Fred Thompson**.

*Biden and Dodd have withdrawn from the race.

Traffic to slow during installation of I-5/Highway 502 bridge girders

Over the next two weeks, beginning Monday, Jan. 14, I-5 travelers can expect rolling slowdowns as 180-foot steel girders for the I-5, Highway 502 interchange are put in place.

The interchange, when completed next year, will connect Battle Ground traffic directly to I-5. The structure is part of the nickel tax transportation package adopted by the legislature. Cost of the project is \$56 million.

Following completion of the interchange, work on improving Highway 502 will begin.

Calendar

C-TRAN board of directors meets at 5:15 p.m. today in C-TRAN administrative offices, 2425 NE 65th Avenue. The board will hear a staff report regarding the Columbia River Crossing Project. <> The Ports of Vancouver, Ridgefield and Camas-Washougal are meeting in a joint dinner session that begins at 6 p.m. this evening in the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 Main Street. The ports will present and discuss their priority projects. <> The Puget Sound Blood Center is conducting a blood drive from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, in the Vancouver Wal-Mart parking lot, 221 NE 104th Avenue, and from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of Memorial Lutheran Church, 2700 E 28th Street.

Tuesday on the air

Columbia River Crossing Task Force Meeting (11/27)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Cooking with Class—8 p.m. FVTV

Clark College Orchestra: South of the Border—10:15 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Tim Likness holding knowledge keys. <> **Kelly Burns** spotting paparazzi. <> **Tom Nosack** reporting success. <> **Kurt Snyder** at the top of the list. <> **Nelson Holmberg** to put eyeballs on highest tech. <> **Tuesday**, showers, 37-46. **Wednesday**, showers, possible sunbreaks, 39-43. **Thursday**, mostly rain, 44-47.