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Port of Vancouver does heavy lifting for the other Vancouver

The Port of Vancouver this week off-loaded gigantic reels of cable that will be used to create the longest ski lift in the world during and after Vancouver, B. C.'s 2010 Winter Olympics at Whistler, B.C.

Four reels weighed 90 metric tons, the fifth 84 metric tons, the heaviest cargo ever lifted at the Port. The Port of Vancouver was the destination for the cables because it has the largest mobile crane in North America and has become the port of choice for off-loading huge 80-ton wind turbine machines.

The port's crane, and a second on the way, each lift up to 140 metric tons.

When erected at Whistler between the peaks of Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains, the lift will be the longest free-span lift in the world. It will also be the world's highest detachable lift and will support the only gondolas of their kind in the world.

Twenty-eight cars, carrying up to 28 passengers each, will depart every 54 seconds between the mountain peaks.

The cable was fabricated in Europe and shipped through the Panama Canal to Vancouver. The cables will be taken by rail to Canada.

Harney dreamers take higher education access to a new level

In 1999, 70 fourth-graders at Harney Elementary School were adopted by I Have A Dream of Southwest Washington, the local organization that promises successful students a college education.

This year 53 completed high school on time, and seven more will finish high school next year. Six are working toward a GED high school diploma, and two have joined Job Corps, where they can complete GED requirements.

Says **Mary Granger**, president of I Have A Dream of Southwest Washington: "This is an outstanding record for a group from a low-income neighborhood where the high school dropout rate is usually over 50 percent."

Twenty-four of the graduates are planning to attend Clark College, and another ten are planning to attend four-year universities. Nine others will enter trade schools.

This year's graduating class of dreamers is the third in a series of four, whose college educations are underwritten by a group of local philanthropists.

The final class of 91 dreamers from Martin Luther King Elementary School will graduate from high school in 2010.

The sponsors are **Dick and Mary Granger, Broughton and Mary Bishop, Leslie Durst, Ed and Dollie Lynch, Mason Nolan, Ralph and Susan Gilbert, Wes and Nancy Lematta, George and Carolyn Propstra, William and Catharine Byrd, Gloria John, Russ and Sarah Tennant, Mertis Harmon, Eva Hunt, Candice Young, Kathi Wiley-Gladson**, the family of Don Campbell, and the Vancouver Rotary.

Project coordinators are **Sheila Peraza, Paul Schroeder and Deanna Green**.

The dreamers' funds are managed by the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. Contributions to help the dreamers may be sent to I Have A Dream, 1053 Officer's Row, Vancouver WA 98660. For further



Port of Vancouver's behemoth mobile crane, largest in North America, offloads 90-metric-ton reels of cable for trip to Vancouver, B. C. to become part of the largest ski lift in world for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

information, call Granger at 737-0720.

Notices of residential property assessed values in the mail

Owners of 114,000 Clark County residential and multi-family homes and condominiums will begin receiving notices of residential assessed valuation next week from the Clark County Department of Assessment and GIS.

The department is required to determine annually the full market value of all taxable property in the county and to notify property owners of any changes, says **Linda Franklin**, Clark County assessor.

The 2008 assessed value is based on the sales of homes and properties of similar characteristics and conditions during 2007. The information will be used to calculate residential taxes for 2009.

Property owners may see their assessed value and that of other home owners by going to www.clark.wa.gov/assessor. Assessor Franklin says she is available to speak before neighborhood and business groups. For further information, call 397-2391.

Washington's per capita income rises; workers' comp to go up too

The average annual wage in Washington increased by 5 percent in 2007, to \$44,721, reports the Washington Employment Security Department. The weekly average wage grew by \$42, to \$860.

As a result of the increase in wages, weekly unemployment benefits will also increase. The state's minimum weekly unemployment benefit will increase from \$122 to \$129. The maximum rate will increase from \$515 a week to \$541 a week.

People

The names of two of the 35 graduates of the Leadership Clark County class of 2008 were mangled by the *Insider* in a listing in Tuesday's editions. Corrections have been made in all editions to show the correct spellings of graduates **Michelle Allan** and **Nathan Webster**.

Calendar

Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet at 6 p.m. this evening in port offices at 111 Division Street. <> It is Open-Mic Poetry Night at the Vancouver Mall Community Library from 6 to 7:30 p.m. this evening. All ages are welcome, according to poetry leader **Rivkah Loewus**. <> The Southwest Washington Blood Program is holding a blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12, in the parking lot at Everest College, 120 NE 1136th Avenue. <> West Coast Bank is sponsoring a blood drive for the American Red Cross from 9 a.m. to noon, Thursday, June 12, at the bank's downtown office, 500 E Broadway. <> The Three Creeks Advisory Council meets from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, June 12, in the Clark Regional Wastewater District, 8000 NE 52nd Court. The meeting includes a presentation from the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council on high-capacity transit within Clark County.

Wednesday on the air

Port of Vancouver Commissioners (6/5)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

First Citizen 2008 (6/5)—6:15 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up (6/1)—6:55 p.m. CVTV

Portland Beavers at Las Vegas (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Hazel Dell Parade of Bands (5/17)—7:30 p.m. CVTV

Sustainable Vancouver (6/3)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Savoring Excellence (5/29)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Chris Crowley has a good wind at his back. <> **John McDonagh** reluctantly still cravated. <> **Doug Palin** contributing to full house. <> **Rod Cook** reporting veracity triumphant. <> **Kalin Schmoltdt** getting high capacity transit ink. <> **Wednesday**, dry spell begins, 51-63. **Thursday**, warming, partly cloudy, 53-74. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 50-72.