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County Health looking to cut costs due to decreased state aid

Clark County Public Health's 2009-2010 budget of \$36 million is going to have to be cut by \$4.8 million, reports county health director **John Wiesman**. Wiesman says that financial pressure has been building for about ten years, primarily due to reductions in state funding.

Until now, local health officials have managed to prevent major cuts in public health programs through fee increases and increased use of local and federal funds. According to Wiesman, those options are disappearing.

Public health in the state of Washington has been on uncertain footing since 1999, when the motor vehicle excise tax was removed and the state general fund picked up only a portion of that funding.

Clark County Public Health must present Clark County commissioners with a balanced budget for the coming biennium this November.

Great Western Malting playing it cool with Pocatello solar cell manufacturer

Vancouver-based Great Western Malting, an industry innovator, has completed a series of agreements among the company, the City of Pocatello and Hoku Materials.

Hoku Materials is building a plant in Pocatello that will produce raw polysilicon for solar cell manufacturers. The process generates such a high degree of heat that Hoku Materials was facing construction of an expensive cooling mechanism.

Great Western Malting uses a high degree of heat in processing malt for brewing purposes. The agreement will allow Great Western to acquire the heat through an indirect heat transfer system to provide nearly all the company's heat requirements at the Idaho facility.

According to Great Western Malting's president **Jay Hamacheck**, the process will cut the company's carbon footprint and lower its energy purchases.

SWMC scholarship assistance helping local medical students

Southwest Washington Medical Center scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 have been awarded to 64 local students to help them through medical courses of study. About half the recipients are medical center employees.

Awards were presented for a wide variety of career majors, including nursing, pre-med, radiation technology, pharmacy, and biomedical engineering.

A new round of scholarships is being planned for the 2009-2010 school year. Over \$100,000 in scholarships were financed through Southwest Gift Shops. For further information, call **Michelle Halfhill, 514-7262**.

Port of Camas-Washougal to maintain industrial zoning

The Port of Camas-Washougal, following a months-long study of its 127-acre east industrial park, has decided not to make any zone changes.

Any future uses of the industrial park must allow continued public access to the Columbia River, according to **Scot Walstra**, the port's director of planning and development.

The east county port operates a 400-acre industrial park, a 79-hangar general aviation airport, a 315-slip pleasure boat marina, and has 40 industrial tenants.

News Brief

1220 Main Restaurant presents a "Spring into Summer Party & Dance" Friday, June 27. Enjoy live music, including **Ron Hughebs**, from 5 to 7 p.m. and the **X-Angels** from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Happy hour pricing will apply to all beer for the evening, and new owners **Dawson** and **Barbara Green** will be introducing 1220's new Spanish Tapas Bar menu items.

Calendar

A swearing-in ceremony for new officers and volunteers of Clark County Clark Fire and Rescue is at 7 p.m. this evening in the Station 2 training room, 911 N 65th Avenue, Ridgefield. <> County's Three Creeks Advisory Council meets from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, June 26, in the offices of the Clark Regional Wastewater District, 8000 NE 52nd Court.

Wednesday on the air

Seattle Mariners at New York Mets (live)—4 p.m. FSN, KFXN

Clark County Commissioners: Columbia Crossing Hearing (6/23)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Port of Vancouver Board of Commissioners (6/24)—7:00 p.m. CVTV

Hazel Dell Parade of Bands (5/17)—10:00 p.m. CVTV

American Indian Homelands—11:30 p.m. FVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Dennis Grunes channeling. <> **Julie Cieloha** surpassing the master. <> **Keith Wallace** and **Jimmy B.** shining their shoes. <> **Don Russo** gentlemanly as always. <> **Mike Macnab** earning kudos and building trust. <> **Susan Holton** purposefully re-subscribing. <> **Wednesday**, sunny, sunny day, 57-77. **Thursday**, easing into summer, 58-77. **Friday**, sneak preview of a brilliant weekend, 62-80.