

CRESA adds emergency services protocols

Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency has added a new feature so that cell phones, Voice over Internet Protocol phones, and emails can all be added into the Emergency Community Notification System.

This system may be used by emergency response personnel to notify specific at-risk homes and businesses with specific information about the emergency event. One will be called only when the associated address will be impacted by an emergency.

While both listed and unlisted land line phones are already loaded into the system from local phone company records, cellular and VoIP phones are not automatically included.

To sign up, go to the CRESA main website at www.cresa911.org and follow the "Alert Clark County Sign up, Be informed!" icon hyperlink, or click the same icon on the right side of the blog.

City's largest union foregoes raises

Another city union has agreed to forgo wage increases and cost of living allowances for 2009 and 2010. On Monday, Aug. 10, the Vancouver City Council will consider approving the collective bargaining agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 307VC. AFSCME, Local 307VC, members voted Thursday, July 30, to approve a two-year contract with no wage increases. If approved by City Council, a 0 percent COLA will save the city up to \$398,000 for 2009.

AFSCME is the largest union within the national AFL-CIO, representing 152 city employees at the water maintenance, wastewater maintenance, greenway/sensitive lands maintenance, street maintenance, storm water maintenance, facility maintenance, traffic signal, traffic sign, warehouse and dispatch divisions of the Public Works Department, as well as the administrative/clerical unit of the City Attorney's Office.

"I know this has not been an easy year for our employees, and I am grateful for their support," said City Manager **Pat McDonnell**. "I appreciate AFSCME's leadership and their willingness to collaborate with the city during this unprecedented financial time."

Air and Hospitality Academy celebrates thirty years

International Air and Hospitality Academy, founded by **Arch Miller**, celebrates its thirty years today, with students, faculty, staff and the public, with facility tours and cake.

In 1979, Miller concluded his career as a staff vice-president for Hughes Airwest and put his expertise to work in the travel training business.

The academy started as a training ground for the travel industry but throughout the years has grown to provide education in a variety of different fields, with courses in wind turbine climbing safety, culinary knife skills, airport operations, and wedding planning.

Dedication and groundbreaking for Port of Vancouver's new Terminal 5

Both Sens. **Patty Murray** and **Maria Cantwell**, and U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird**, will be on-hand from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 13, for the dedication of the port's new marine terminal, Terminal 5, formally known as Alcoa Aluminum smelter.

The dignitaries will also help the port with groundbreaking of its West Vancouver Freight Access rail project. The West Vancouver Freight Access rail project's unit train loop track is expected to be completed in the summer of 2010. The loop track is just one component of the bigger West Vancouver Freight Access project that will bring 1,900 construction-related jobs to the region between now and its completion in 2017.

Chelatchie Prairie Rail open house

Clark County Public Works and Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation will host a public open house at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 13, at the Battle Ground Community Center, 912 E. Main Street.

The open house concerns the Chelatchie Prairie Rail and the Trail corridor to be developed. The 2.7-mile trail section will be from Fairgrounds Park in Battle Ground to N.E. 249th Street near Battle Ground Lake State Park. Plans also call for a 10-12-foot wide multi-use trail and a 4-6-foot equestrian trail. Construction is scheduled to begin no later than spring 2011.

The informal open house will give interested residents and trail users an opportunity to learn more, review and comment on the preliminary plans and talk with staff.

For more information, please contact project manager **Troy Pierce** at 397-6118 extension 4403, or by e-mail at Troy.Pierce@clark.wa.gov, or visit the project Web page at www.chelatchie.org.

Evergreen Public Schools use own funds to bring nationally renowned education consultant

In the face of \$11 million in cuts for the upcoming school year, the Evergreen Administrators Association voted to use their own funds to bring nationally renowned education consultant **Alexander Platt** to the district to conduct a full-day workshop on Friday, August 7.

Platt, who is the lead author of the best-selling book, *The Skillful Leader: Confronting the Mediocre Teacher* is a founder and senior consultant with the Boston-based consulting firm Research for Better Teaching. In 2000 he founded Ready About Consulting, dedicated to working with leaders of underperforming schools. Platt, who specializes in coaching urban principals on raising the quality of instruction through supervision, has presented papers at many national conferences and institutes including the Harvard Institute for School Leaders and the Association of California School Administrators.

Principals **Margaret Varkados**, **Jan Davey** and **Kathy Stellfox** had heard Platt at a grant-funded workshop in 2003 and again last year in the Bethel School District. They were so impressed they came back to the Evergreen Administrators Association and proposed that they bring the workshop to the district.

Superintendent **John Deeder** says: "This a true sign of how committed these principals are to doing anything it takes to continue to hone their skills in providing quality education. I believe it's pretty outstanding that they are that committed to taking charge of and funding their own professional growth."

Calendar

The Clark County Fair opens at 8 a.m. Friday with free admission and a free breakfast to those holding sponsors coupons from area Fred Meyer stores. The fair continues through Sunday, Aug. 16. <> Uptown Outdoor Movies is showing the movie *Muppets Take Manhattan* and having live music at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 7, 23 and Main Street in Uptown Village. <> Vancouver Farmer's Market <> A reception is being held for Vancouver's Downtown Association's First Friday Artwalk from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 7.

Thursday on the air

Seattle Mariners at Kansas City (live)—5 p.m. FSN, KTRO

Portland Beavers at Albuquerque (live)—6 p.m. KKAD

Vancouver Land Use Hearings (live)—6:55 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver at Portland Timbers (live)—7 p.m. KXTG.

Forum: Meet the Candidates: Candidates for Vancouver Mayor (7-23)—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Sam VanMeter enjoying a quick lesson. <> **Lashonda Bradley** taking caring of the homestead. <> **Walter Evens** telling jokes. <> **Jim Mains** sword fights. <> **Johnnie Martin** finishes up revisions. <> **Thursday**, cloudy, 57-74. **Friday**, mostly cloudy, 57-71. **Saturday**, partly cloudy, 67-76.