



Jim Fischer to perform at a benefit concert at the Royal Durst Theater

Christmas with Jim Fischer & Friends, a benefit concert for Friends of the Carpenter, a ministry for the homeless, will be held with performances at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Royal Durst Theater, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, 3101 Main Street.

Joining Fischer on stage will be the Clark College Chorale performing at the 3 p.m. show and the Touch of Class Choir performing at the 7 p.m. show. Tickets are \$15 in advance, all ages, and \$20 at the door.

For further information regarding the concert, ticket sales, contact **Jan Cox** at Friends of the Carpenter at 750-4752 or visit www.friendsofthecarpenter.org.

Evergreen Public Schools bids farewell to long-standing board

Evergreen Public Schools bade farewell last night to long-time board member **Holly Williams**. Williams, who represented District V, was appointed to the board in 2000 and elected to the board in 2001. As a parent in the district, Williams brought drive and experience to the board from her work as an engineer at Hewlett Packard and her time volunteering with various organizations that served students throughout Evergreen Public Schools.

"Holly was never afraid to ask the hard questions," said Hearthwood Elementary School principal, **Scott Munro**, who presented Williams with flowers on behalf of the school principals. "She kept our schools accountable and pushed us to consider all of our decisions because her foremost concern was always whether we were doing the best we could for kids."

Williams was presented with some final words of appreciation from Superintendent **John Deeder**: "Holly is an excellent example of a school board member. She is always prepared, always well-informed and, first and foremost, she is dedicated to making education better for every student. She has left behind some very large shoes to fill."

Oregon and Washington state transportation leaders meet briefly with Oregon legislators on CRC project

The leaders of the Oregon and Washington state transportation departments appeared together this morning to update Oregon legislative committees on the Columbia River Crossing project. This is the first time a Washington transportation secretary has presented to an Oregon legislative committee.

Matthew Garrett, director of the Oregon Department of Transportation, and **Paula Hammond**, Secretary of Transportation for the State of Washington, appeared before the Oregon State Senate Interim Committee on Business and Transportation and the Oregon State House Interim Committee on Transportation. They were joined by the CRC director for Oregon, **Richard Brandman**.

Among the recent developments discussed was a draft recommendation to reduce the project's cost by up to \$650 million while maintaining the project's environmental, economic, transportation, and safety benefits.

Clark Public Utilities commissioners consider 2010 budget proposals

Electric rates could remain unchanged under proposed Clark Public Utilities budgets for 2010, CEO/general manager **Wayne Nelson** told the utility's board of commissioners earlier this week.

Nelson said that, with the current economic conditions, it was essential to keep expenditures as low as possible without reducing the service provided to customers. "As the economy worsened earlier this year, we took several major steps to reduce staffing and spending."

Utility commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2010 budgets at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24. The meeting will be held in the utility's Electric Center, 1200 Fort Vancouver Way. The commission is scheduled to consider budget approval at its Dec. 8 meeting.

Humana expands portfolio of Medicare advantage plans in Washington

Humana Inc. (NYSE: HUM) announced today the expansion of its Medicare health plan offerings in Washington. People eligible for Medicare in Clark, King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties can now enroll in the local Humana Choice Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan, with coverage taking effect as soon as Jan. 1, 2010. The new plan, approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, builds upon other Humana Medicare plans currently available in the state, and focuses on providing greater choice to meet the changing needs of seniors in Washington.

The Humana Choice PPO plan provides members the flexibility to select a health care provider or facility that is either in or out of Humana's network. Out-of-network co-payments for hospital and specialist care cost the member no more than co-payments at in-network facilities. The plan also offers unlimited generic medication coverage and low co-payments for in-network primary care and specialist office visits.

Humana Medicare Advantage is an alternative to original Medicare, not a supplement. For more information about enrolling in any Humana plans, visit www.humana-medicare.com or call toll-free 866-355-6152.

News Briefs

The Camas Fire Department needs the community to "Stuff the Bus," and support its C.A.R.O.L. program and other local gifting organizations. Buses will be parked at Camas High School, Washougal High School, and Camas Burgerville from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4. For more information, visit www.cwbusinessalliance.com. <> The Vancouver Dance Theater, a nonprofit community dance group, will be performing the Nutcracker under the direction of artistic director **Alexandrous Ballard**. Show times are the following: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in Fort Vancouver High School Auditorium, 5700 E 18th Street. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for children under 18 years-old and seniors. Group purchases of 15 or more tickets for any of the four performances will receive a discounted price of \$7 per ticket. Groups must register in advance with **Barbara Goold** by emailing her at bggoold@yahoo.com. Groups will also receive VIP check-in. For more information, visit www.vancouverdancetheatre.com.

Calendar

La Center City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Nov. 19, in the La Center Community Center, 1000 E 4th Street. <> A multi-school cast and orchestra numbering about 60 students from Battle Ground and Vancouver are participating in the ever-popular show *The Music Man* at 7 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night Nov. 19-20, at Prairie High School, 11500 N.E. 117th Avenue, Battle Ground. To purchase tickets in advance, go to www.prairiehighschool.org and scroll down the left column. Prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. <> Clark College is hosting "Oswald Crosses the Continents," a celebration of International Education Week, Nov. 16-20. All events are free and open to the public. Information about Clark's International Education Week events is available at www.clark.edu/cc/ieweek. Clark College's main campus is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Maps and parking directions are available at www.clark.edu/maps. <> Business After Hours, sponsored by Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, is being held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Hamilton Hall, 605 Barnes Street. Cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. <> Leadership Clark County is hosting the 2009 Outstanding Alumni award reception and will honor the 2009 recipient, **Paul Speer**. The event will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. tonight, Nov. 19, in Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person. Beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Attendees can also dress up as their favorite leader as awards and prizes will also be given out for the best costume. RSVP by contacting **Kathy Scott** at 567-1085 or email director@leadershipclarkcounty.com.

Thursday on the air

Accomplished and Under 40 (11-12)—4:29 p.m. CVTV
Community Pride Design Awards (11-13)—5:38 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Planning Commission (live)—6:25 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (11-15)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Edward Vidinghoff remembers. <> **Richard Brase** looking up. <> **Todd Martin** enjoying Italian cuisine. <> **Kate Jobe** making it through. <> **Nancy Olson** making announcements. <> **Thursday**, rainy and windy, 55-48. **Friday**, showers and wind, 49-43. **Saturday**, showers, 46-44.