



Clark College President Bob Knight (left) and Clark health & physical education instructor Dave Caldwell (center) welcome students on the first day of classes at the college's newest facility, Clark College at Columbia Tech Center. The new building, which opened Monday Sept. 21, will be dedicated on Sept. 28.

### Clark College opens its doors to record number of students

As fall quarter 2009 begins, Clark College welcomed 15,169 students for classes Monday compared to last year's fall enrollment of 12,359 students.

Enrollment increases have been reported at all Clark facilities. On opening day, at the school's Columbia Tech Center 1,200 students instead of the projected 750 showed up, and fifteen students are currently taking classes in the new weekend degree program. Clark also now has the largest Running Start program in the state, with 1,609 students.

Plans for a new building devoted to science, technology, engineering and math are currently underway. They call for groundbreaking in 2011, with the building to open in 2013 at the corner of Fort Vancouver Way and Mill Plain Blvd. Options for a new facility in Northern Clark County are also

being explored.

### Flu symptoms prompt renewed plea to parents

Cases of suspected H1N1 flu have been reported in the Portland-Vancouver area in recent days. In the Battle Ground School District, the reports have prompted district officials to remind and urge parents to keep their children home if symptoms are present.

"The message here is that in over half of our schools we are seeing an increase in flu-like symptoms in students visiting the health rooms," says **Jane Mercier**, Battle Ground's director of special education, who oversees school nurses. "We are continuing to prepare for higher levels of absences and are asking for parents' help."

At Battle Ground High, which has an enrollment of 2,126, a typical absentee number this year had been about 250, but beginning late last week that number increased and was at 376 pupils today, with 40 of those known to have flu-like symptoms. One teacher at BGHS was home with a confirmed case of H1N1, but only two of the students home with symptoms were in his classes.

The district's lead nurse, **Jeanne Snow**, has reminded parents to keep their children home from school if they display flu-like symptoms, which include fever, cough, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Some guidelines suggest that those with the flu stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours, but Battle Ground schools have adopted a higher standard and urge students and employees to remain home until they have been free of all symptoms for 24 hours.

### People

The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) announced that Clark County Superior Court Judge **Robert L. Harris**, of Vancouver, will be honored with the 2009 Lifetime Service Award. **Mark Johnson**, WSBA president, will present the award at the WSBA annual awards dinner, to be held on September 24, 2009, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 in Seattle. Harris received his undergraduate degree from Washington State University, and his law degree from the University of Washington School of Law in 1958. He clerked for the chief justice of the Washington State Supreme Court in 1959 and, after his clerkship, became a deputy Clark County prosecuting attorney from 1959 to 1970. In 1979, Judge Harris was appointed to the Clark County Superior Court, and he has sat on the bench since then. Harris has devoted three decades of service to Clark County citizens, making him the longest-serving superior court judge in the state. <> **R. Wayne Branch** will take office as president of American Humanics in November. Branch, who currently advises a higher education technology consulting firm, formerly served as president of Clark College in Vancouver, WA, and as president and chief academic officer for the Community College of Baltimore County Essex Campus in Baltimore, Md. Branch brings over 25 years' higher

education, workforce development and civic leadership experience to the position. Branch holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from West Virginia State College and a master's and doctoral degrees in counselor education from the University of Pittsburgh. American Humanics oversees a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofits dedicated to preparing the next generation of nonprofit leaders. To learn more about American Humanics, visit [www.humanics.org](http://www.humanics.org). Branch also has a book entitled *High School Is Not Enough: Helping Students Take the Next Step in Their Lives*, scheduled for release early in 2010.

### News Brief

Today and continuing through Sept. 26, Vancouver Pizza will be giving a portion of its sales to Share Our Strength's Great American Dineout, which supports local community programs that provide help to children at risk of hunger in America. For more information, visit [Great American Dineout](http://GreatAmericanDineout.com). <> The Washougal Fire Department will be hosting an open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. There will be an extrication demonstration, Police K-9 demonstration, E.D.I.T.H. (Emergency Drill In the Home) exhibit for kids, car seat checks, and station and apparatus tours. Free hot dogs, ice cream and popcorn will also be served. Call **Aireanna Baldwin** at 835-2211 or email her at [abaldwin@washougalfire.org](mailto:abaldwin@washougalfire.org), for more information. <> Washington State University Vancouver's Diversity Council welcomes the community to the Diversity Film Festival at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, in the Multimedia Classroom building, Room 6, for *Punk's Not Dead*. *Punk's Not Dead* traces the origins of the punk movement in the 1970s U.K. and U.S. Parking is available at parking meters or in the Blue Daily Pay lot for \$3. The Diversity Film Festival runs through October 1. For a synopsis of each movie and show times, visit [www.vancouver.wsu.edu/diversityfilmfestival](http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/diversityfilmfestival). <> Vancouver's Farmers Market is holding its First Annual Harvest Dinner and Auction from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7. Festivities will be held at the Historic Reserves, E.B. Hamilton Hall, 605 E Barnes Street. Tickets are \$50 per person with all proceeds benefiting the Farmer's Market and its scholarship fund. For more information, visit <http://www.vancouverfarmersmarket.com>.

### Calendar

House Representative **Deb Wallace** will be a guest speaker at the next Battle Ground Cultural Task Force meeting being held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the Battleground Community Center, 912 East Main Street, Battleground WA. All are welcome to attend. <> La Center Planning Commission meets from 7 to 9 p.m. tonight, Sept. 22, La Center City Hall, 214 E. 4th Street. <> A monthly meeting of the bicycle advocacy group is being held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, in the Wallis Engineering Building, 215 W 4th Street. For more information, call 253-1742. <> Port of Ridgefield is holding a three-day Waterfront Planning Tour traveling through Seattle to North Vancouver, B.C., Monday through Wednesday, September 21-23. The regular meeting for Sept. 23 has been moved to Wednesday, Sept. 30.

### Tuesday on the air

#### Seattle Mariners at Tampa Bay (live)—4 p.m. FSN, KFXN

Statement of Support Signing Ceremony (9-18)—5 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes (9-20)—5:44 p.m. CVTV

C-Tran Board of Directors Meeting (9-15)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

H1N1 (Swine Flu): Coordinating a Regional Response in Southwest Washington (9-18)—8:30 p.m. CVTV

36th Annual Natural Areas Conference: Opening Plenary Session (9-15)—9:59 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and the Weather

**Nicole Cooke** go getter. <> **Jim** and **Liz Luce** speaking of appreciation. <> **Scott Miller** advising. <> **Lexi Laughton** painting the walls green. <> **Gregg Herrington** making it known. <> **Tuesday**, mostly sunny, 54-94. **Wednesday**, sunny, 55-87. **Thursday**, sunny, 51-76.