

Observing

Clark County Responds to Shoalwater Bay Tribe Proposal: Chair of Board of Commissioners available for interviews

Vancouver, WA - On Thursday, April 8, 1999 Clark County will provide its formal responses to the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding a proposal to put 170.8 acres of land in the Ridgefield area into trust status. The Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe owns the land in question.

Judie Stanton, chair of the Board of Clark County Commissioners, and Chris Horne, from the Clark County Prosecuting

Attorney's Office, have set aside two periods of time to accept media calls or visits.

Commissioner Stanton and Mr. Horne will be available on Thursday, April 8, from 4 to 5 p.m. and on Friday, April 9, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Franklin Center (2nd floor), 1013 Franklin Street, Vancouver.

Complete written response

Copies of the county's written response to the Bureau of Indian

Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, will be available beginning at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, in the basement at 1013 Franklin Street, Vancouver;

By requesting it be mailed to you by calling Clark County's Public Information and Outreach Office at (360) 397-6012 (option 3); and

Through Clark County's web site (on the home page under the "What's New" section) at www.co.clark.wa.us.

Vancouver Welcomes Walkers at Discovery Walk Festival

Back-to-back will challenge seasoned walkers, while 5K and 10K trails will delight newer at the third annual Vancouver International Discovery Walk Festival April 23-25, 1999 at the Double Tree Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver, Washington. Walkers from over a dozen countries and many states are registered, with 1000 walkers are expected each day. Local walkers are welcome to register at the event and join in the fun.

The Discovery Walk Festival is the USA's only International March-

ing League event and is held each year on the fourth weekend of April. All participants are winners and earn a medal and certificate. The walks are also IVV volkssport sanctioned.

The festival includes the Friday's Mayor's Walk 5K/10K, and both Saturday and Sunday choices of 5K, 10K, 22K, 32K, and 42K. The trails are different each day. The Double Tree Hotel at the Quay Centennial Center start/finish provides entertainment by local musicians and a place to rest and meet new walking friends

from around the world.

Festival sponsors include the community Foundations for SW Washington, Kyocera Industrial Ceramics, New Balance Shoes, Safeco Insurance, Rotary International, the Soroptimists, and the city of Vancouver.

For more information, registration, contact Bill Byrd 360-892-6758, Wendy Bumgardner at 360-905-1771 or 503-692-3994, website <http://www.discoverywalk.org> or email info@discoverywalk.org.

Walk Set for Lacamas Lake Area

The All Weather Walkers Volkssport group will sponsor a free 6.2 mile walk on Saturday and Sunday, May 8 and 9, in Camas, Wash. The walk starts at the Underwriters Laboratories campus at 2600 NW Lake Road and winds along the shore of Lacamas Lake

and through nearby residential areas with lakeside views. A shorter trail is also available.

Participants can start anytime between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. and must finish by 4 p.m. All are welcome to walk, but people must register and carry a start card.

This is a sanctioned Volkssport event and credits and hatpins are available for free Water and restrooms are available. Leashed pets are permitted with proper cleanup.

Call Jan Breneman, 835-9686 for more details.

Pendleton Woolen Mills Workers In Oregon And Washington Eligible For Trade Act Assistance

The U.S. Department of Labor has certified workers at Pendleton Corporate Offices, Columbia Wool Scouring, and Foundation Mill in Portland, Oregon, and Pendleton Oregon Mill in Pendleton, Oregon, and workers at Washougal Mill in Washougal, Wash., as eligible to apply for assistance and benefits under the Trade Act of 1974.

This certification covers the period from December 21, 1997, to March 1, 2001, and could provide extra benefits to approximately 363 workers if they are laid off or reduced to part time work. Twenty workers at the Washougal Mill, eight

at the Pendleton Corporate Offices and five at Columbia Wool Scouring have been laid off so far.

Workers are engaged in employment related to the production of women's woolen pants and skirts the Labor Department found the company's customers have increased their reliance on imports of women's woolen pants and skirts, adversely impacting sales, production and employment at the Pendleton facilities.

According to the Labor Department's certification, the workers are eligible to apply for TAA assistance if they are laid off between December 21, 1997, and March 1, 2001.

After they are certified eligible, workers may apply for benefits at a state employment service office. They may receive a broad range of reemployment and retraining services, including career counseling, job placement assistance, job search and relocation allowances, income support during long-term training, and support services such as child care and transportation assistance.

Benefits are administered by the Employment Department, State of Oregon, and the Washington State Department of Employment Security, with funds provided by the federal government.

Partnership Restores Salmon Habitat

The Bagley Downs Neighborhood Association will celebrate its recent acquisition of a Metro Greenspace grant for Salmonid Education and Enhancement with a community tree planting at Headache Creek on Saturday, April 17. Community leaders are representing many of the organizations responsible for watershed restoration effort. The celebration is one of many community activities designed for Earth Day, a project of the Environmental Information Cooperative, C-TRAN and community stewards.

Activities at Headache Creek, lo-

cated north of Bagley Community Center, will begin at 9 a.m. with a ground healing ceremony by the Cowlitz Tribal Council. A welcome from Vancouver Mayor Royce E. Pollard will follow. Commissioner Betty Sue Morris, representing the state's Lower Colombian Fish Recovery Board, will begin the restoration by handing off the project to students from Vancouver's Lewis and Clark High School.

The Bagley Downs Neighborhood Association has provided project leadership to identify watershed improvements and acquire funding to restore

the habitat to a healthy condition. Through the use of seed money from the Metro Greenspace grant, they created a coalition to restore fish habitat through community education, citizen involvement, and by acquiring and organizing commitments.

Metro Greenspaces grants are used to develop programs and projects that benefit salmon, steelhead and watershed health. The grants encourage public education and awareness of native fish, and their habitats and the connection between human activities and aquatic systems.

Keep Kids Healthy FunDay On Saturday, May 8

Families with young children won't want to miss the City of Vancouver's 15th annual Keep Kids Healthy FunDay on Saturday, May 8. Highlights will include safety-related educational games, play stations, obstacle courses and other fun and engaging activities.

All activities are free and will be presented at Marshall and Luepke centers, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Free C-Tran shuttles will transport participants from the Hudson's

Bay High School student and faculty parking lot to the Marshall/Luepke site. No parking will be available at Marshall and Luepke centers.

Activities and displays will focus on: car seat safety; fire safety; health and nutrition; bike, skate and sports safety; drug and alcohol awareness; and water safety. The Vancouver Fire Department will teach children about home fire drills, first aid, CPR and Risk Watch.

Special characters in attendance will include: Hamburglar from McDonald's, McGruff the Crime Dog, Smokey Bear,

Vince & Larry Crash Dummies, Bobby the Boat and Barney the Bus. Free Burgerville train and fire engine rides will be offered and photo and fingerprint identification services and free snacks will be available. Stage show entertainment will feature Lizbeth, Tae Kwon Do and Friend's Puppet Company.

Based on the turnout at previous Keep Kids Healthy FunDays, anticipated attendance is about 3000 to 4000. Interpreters will be on hand. For more information, call the Vancouver Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau, 696-8166.

POLICE NEWS

CRIME STOPPERS

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying and apprehending the individual responsible for vandalizing numerous buildings with graffiti.

Over the past several months, the building have been vandalized by an individual spray painting them with the tag name of "HUGE." This person has been very active in the Southeast Portland area, and has painted the name on numerous apartments, commercial and government buildings.

In addition to being an eyesore, clean up costs for building owners can be extensive.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.



Governor's Task Group Recommends Ways To Reduce Youth Drinking

A special committee appointed to study problems and solutions associated with underage drinking is recommending more consistent enforcement, higher alcohol prices and local strategies to reduce access to alcohol and drinking by Oregonians under 21.

The Governor's Underage Drinking Task Group sent its recommendations in nine specific areas to Gov. John Kitzhaber. Completion of the recommendations coincides with Kitzhaber's proclamation of April as Alcohol Awareness Month. A reduction in underage drinking is one of the governor's priorities.

"The task group report represents Oregon's first comprehensive look at the issues associated with underage drinking," Kitzhaber said. "The recommendations form a critical road map of policies and community actions that are necessary to reducing alcohol use among teens, and associated alcohol problems."

After considerable study, the 20-member task group concluded that

enforcement of the state's alcohol-related laws and regulations should be enhanced in local communities.

"Varying standards of enforcement of laws, like the minor in possession law, result in many youth and adults believing that the consequences of violations are so minuscule as to be largely ineffectual," the committee said.

The committee also recommended: "Stings" by local law enforcement and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission be continued and enhanced.

"The price of alcoholic beverages be increased because of the strong correlation price increases have with decreases in alcohol consumption, especially among youths.

Community groups look at whether their areas have too many alcohol outlets and assess the level of local alcohol-related problems.

A statewide coalition investigate restrictions on the promotion, marketing and advertising of alcoholic beverages to young people.

More intensive and effective public education and awareness programs.

More financial support for community-based efforts to reduce underage drinking.

College and university campuses increase efforts to change their policies and procedures to more adequately deal with alcohol problems on campuses.

"Alcohol use and abuse is clearly the number one drug problem among youth," the task group concluded. "Alcohol use among college students is twice as popular as marijuana and five times more popular than cocaine."

The group includes representatives of the governor's office and several state agencies, the criminal justice system, the Oregon Medical Association and the Oregon Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking. The group's work is coordinated by the state Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs in the state Department of Human Resources.

Drug Deaths Fall Hardest On The Poor, Minorities

Inner-city minorities and the poor suffer most of the drug- and drug-law related harm. Consider this: whites, blacks and Hispanics all use drugs at about the same rate, yet blacks are 3.5 times more likely to die from overdose and have 7.5 times more drug-related emergency room visits than their white counterparts. Blacks are also four times more likely than whites to be arrested and 20 times more likely to be incarcerated for drugs. On average Hispanics fair little better than African-Americans.

One additional finding Dr. Drucker reports: annual state and federal drug enforcement expenses are estimated at more than \$40 billion, compared with less than \$8 billion for all treatment, research, and Drucker concludes, "From a public health point of view, drug prohibition is a disaster. While over government officials claim success in reducing drug use, drug-related deaths and diseases have increased sharply. That's the best measure of the impact of our drug policies - and they are failing."

There is a huge ethical and moral dilemma here, perhaps too big for those now in charge of the public's health and safety. It may also, one day, become a defining issue in this historic struggle for peace and justice against a massive, out of control "war" against the poor.

There is much more we could do to reduce drug-related harm and death, especially from heroin overdose. That's why we must be reasonable and dispatch sacred political cows like this so-called War on Drugs that has ravaged the Constitutional landscape and fouled the social waters for far too long now.

More and more average, working-class people realize we should decriminalize drug addiction. That both the drugs might be better controlled and the consumers better protected by those who are trained and qualified in the fields of drug addiction, mental illness and the public health. Unfortunately most of Congress is still way out in right-field, too busy pounding the drug war drum to hear us.

In the long run the drug war will break us both financially and morally. The more victims we create the more international drug cartels will grow in order of magnitude on the spoils of that

despair. Yet, for every tax dollar that goes into prevention and treatment, according to a recent Rand study, society saves \$7 in future criminal-justice cost.

We need more than "Zero Tolerance" and provide a complete "menu" of harm reduction, prevention and treatment options, especially to the indigent. Even if that means we must undercut the street dealers and supply the drugs under medical control while encouraging abstinence, dose reduction and other positive steps (often it takes more than just "12") toward eventual sobriety. To cut crime we need to get the hardcore addicts, of which many also suffer mental illness, - off our streets, out of our neighborhoods and especially away from the kids who they often sell drugs to.

Rational people like Dr. Drucker know there are more humane, intelligent as well as cost-effective ways to reduce both drug access by the young, and adult use and abuse without resorting to such an expensive and socially damaging policy like this insane "war" on (some) drugs and so many people. Unfortunately not all rational people are as brave, or ethical, as Dr. Drucker.

Please Join Us for a Free Special Presentation

Stroke Myths and Reality: Prevention, Treatment & Rehabilitation

Saturday, May 15th, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon, Lorenzen Conference Center
Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, 2801 N. Gantenbein, Portland

"Innovations in Acute Stroke Treatment & Prevention"
9:00 am-10:00 am
Maurice Hourihane, MD, Neurology Assoc Northwest, Oregon Stroke Center & Legacy Health System
Choice 2 of 3 Mini-Sessions Offered at 10:15-11:00 am and again at 11:15am-12:00.

"Taking Care of the Caregiver"
Jill Duren, Legacy Caregiver Services

"Emotional Effects of Stroke"
Diane Pierce Ph.D., Legacy Health System & Jack Elmer, Stroke Survivor

"Rehab After Rehab"
Marie Valleroy MD, Debbie Dressler LPT, Kathy Hotz OTR & David Prillwitz SLP, Legacy Rehab Services

Free: Health Education Information and Blood Pressure Screenings Available
Seminar Refreshments: Courtesy of DuPont
Parking: Emanuel Medical Office Bldg. Parking Structure on Graham Street or main hospital parking structure on Gantenbein

Please RSVP for this FREE seminar by calling 335-3500 Mon-Fri 8:00-12:00 or 1:00-5:00 pm