



# Police News/Vancouver

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## This Week in History

On May 18, 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.  
 On May 20, 1961, a white mob attacked a busload of "Freedom Riders" in Montgomery, Ala., prompting the federal government to send in U.S. marshals to restore order.  
 On May 23, 1934, bank robbers Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were shot to death in a police ambush as they were driving a stolen Ford Deluxe along a road in Bienville Parish, La.

## Weather

Through the weekend

Today	Rain	66°F/19°C
		50°F/10°C
Thursday	Rain	72°F/22°C
		51°F/11°C
Friday	Showers	71°F/22°C
		48°F/9°C
Saturday	Scattered Showers	71°F/22°C
		50°F/10°C
Sunday	Partially Cloudy	75°F/24°C
		51°F/11°C

### Thought for the week

*What is moral is what you feel good after.*  
 —Ernest Hemingway

## Students convene summit on teen homelessness

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Many students have grown accustomed to seeing the outstretched hand of a homeless person, a fellow human being who has lost their way and needs a helping hand. Most of the time, that hand is ignored, because people feel they cannot make a dent in the homeless problem in America. However, students from across Clark County are directly tackling the problem of teen homelessness by convening together to advocate on behalf of this large but silent population. "Our experience in working with these students is that they are more interested than ever in solving local problems," said Edward O'Brien, Executive Director of Street Law, Inc., the organization that helped establish the Youth Act! Program. "These young human rights activists are tackling an important issue and every day that most people forget — the population of homeless teens who live in their community."

In January, Street Law, Inc. partnered with Project Service Leadership in Vancouver to conduct youth training sessions in which students learned about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how to apply the human rights framework to local problems. Through Project Service

Leadership, twenty-five PeaceJam students from Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, Fort Vancouver High School and Lewis and Clark at Columbia River High School and their adult advisors participated in training sessions through Youth Act! For Human Rights.

During the past four months, these students put their training to use by advocating on behalf of the teenage homeless population in their communities. Some of the advocacy strategies that they have used include writing letters to elected officials, surveying homeless teens on their needs and concerns, creating and distributing flyers and brochures, and distributing petitions. They have also prepared recommendations for action of this issue, which they will deliver to their elected officials. On May 8, 2000, students shared the strategies they have practiced with each other, and impart what they have learned to their state legislators.

Street Law and Youth Act! For Human Rights operate under the belief that young people can solve community problems through application of a human rights framework and activism. First, the program established project sites and conducts training for the youth in these communities. After the training, the program supports these young people as they return to their communities and practice local activism. Finally, their achievements are showcased in community summits. Vancouver is one of two sites for this project, which is funded by The Ford Foundation. Street Law is practical, participatory education about law, democracy and human rights.

## City/county funds available to support tourism projects

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) announces the kick-off of its 2001 funding cycle to support tourism projects in Vancouver/Clark County.

Projects will be solicited from non-profit organizations and public agencies. Up to \$200,000 is available with grants ranging from \$1,000-\$50,000.

These funds are collected from a tax on lodging throughout Clark County.

This is the first year that the City of Vancouver and Clark County are jointly providing grants from the lodging tax revenue fund. Clark County previously awarded grants to support tourism projects in 1999 and 2000.

An informational meeting regarding the tourism grants will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2000 at 5:30 pm in the Vancouver City Council Chambers. City Hall is located at 210 E. 13<sup>th</sup> St., Vancouver, WA.

Non-profit and public agencies interested in applying for grants are encouraged to send a representative to the meeting. The goal of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for interested parties to ask questions and receive

information about the proposal process. Interested organizations will be asked to submit a one-page concept paper outlining its proposed project by June 30, 2000. The LTAC will then review the concept proposals and request more detailed applications from those proposals that merit further consideration.

Projects eligible for lodging tax funds include:

- Projects that assist in creating a tourism infrastructure that results in long-term economic benefit to the community.
- Tourism infrastructure is defined as real or tangible property with a usable life of three or more years.
- Projects that create additional day trips or overnight stays in Clark County
- Promotion of events or activities that would bring tourists to Vancouver/Clark County
- The LTAC does not fund proposals for general operating costs. For additional information or to receive a copy of the Concept Proposal Guidelines, please call the City Manager's Office at 360/696-8121. Concept Proposals are also available at <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/ lodgingtaxgrants.htm>.

## Vancouver Briefs

### County Projects Receive National Awards

Clark County has received awards in two categories from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO). This year more than 500 entries were evaluated by seventeen judges, all professionals working in fields such as communications, graphics, video production, and public relations.

Clark County received an Excellent award for its Millennium Youth Time Capsule in the Special Projects category. The 100-year time capsule was buried in December 1999 near the flag pole at the Clark Regional Communications Agency building. Containing items suggested by young people, the capsule was designed to paint a picture of what life is like in the county on the eve of the new millennium.

The county also won a Meritorious Award for the graphic design of its Community Pride Design Awards. This annual project is intended to promote construction projects that enhance the community. The

individualized award plaques were designed to look impressive and convey sense of prestige. They were made using a gold-colored metal sheet mounted on a solid piece of polished wood. The metal was etched with an image of the specific Community Pride Design project winning the award. Both NACIO awards will be presented on July 14 at the association's conference in Charlotte, NC.

### Lewisville Park Reservation System Changes

Lewisville Regional Park, the county's major group picnic area has new policies this year regarding the reservation of its picnic areas. Thirteen shelters and three mini-sections without shelter may be reserved May through September including Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day. The Central Shelter may be reserved anytime during the reservation season. The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Services Park reservation phone number is 360/696-8041.

### Ron Bergman Resigns as Clark County Public Works Director

Ron Bergman, who has served as Clark County's Public Works Director since 1993, has resigned his position effective Thursday, May 11, 2000. Pete Capell, current County Engineer, will serve as acting director.

In announcing Bergman's resignation, County Administrator Bill Barron noted Bergman's leadership through eight years of substantial growth and change, both in the department and in the community it serves.

"Ron has played a major role in creating a nationally recognized Public Works organization," Barron said. "Not the least of his accomplishments has been building a highly competent management team and a department known for its professionalism and customer service ethic."

Capell, who has a degree in civil engineering from Oregon State University, has worked for Clark County since 1997.

**Thanks tons... and tons... and tons.**

On April 29, SOLV IT, PGE and other community volunteers put on their gloves and collected tons of debris from Oregon's natural spaces. As the SOLV IT presenting sponsor, PGE joins the folks at SOLV IT in saying thank you.

From removing illegal dump sites to cleaning up parks, streams and beaches, the volunteers' work makes a big difference in our community.

On June 3, PGE volunteers will help out again, at the PGE/SOLV Starlight Parade—the cleanest parade in America.

Thank you all for pitching in and helping to preserve this treasure we call Oregon.

**PGE**  
Portland General Electric

*Peggy Fowler, CEO and president of PGE, teams up with Jack McGowan, director of SOLV, to keep Oregon clean.*

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