



Pour garden's bounty into Fall Harvest Sauce

FOOD, B1



Free Clinic helps uninsured with long-term health goals

CLARK COUNTY, A9

The Columbian

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\$1.5M grant to speed VPD body cams

Federal funds help city roll out program ahead of schedule

By **LAUREN ELLENBECKER**
The Columbian

The city of Vancouver is expected to roll out its long-awaited camera initiative to strengthen trust between police and the public ahead of schedule after receiving a large grant from the U.S.

Department of Justice.

On Monday, the Vancouver City Council accepted the \$1.5 million federal grant, which will be used to purchase cameras and accessories, software, infrastructure, data management and storage for the Vancouver Police Department. Without the assistance, the project wouldn't be unfolding as quickly.

To keep the program on the fast track, council members on Monday also

approved a contract with camera vendor Axon Enterprises Inc.

"We have arrived here at the point where this funding is in place for us to be able to move forward with the contract," Assistant Police Chief Troy Price said. "We envision that this is just bringing us up to the standard that we should have been at a while ago, and that is a level of transparency with our public."

The grant will be used in

conjunction with \$3 million the city of Vancouver previously committed to the program. All the equipment, training and storage services will cost nearly \$5.5 million over five years, which also includes a discounted rate to upgrade electronic stun weapons.

Federal monies will not replace local funding for the project, rather it provides city leaders additional time to assemble a plan and budget for a longer-term pro-

gram, according to a staff report.

Axon's cameras automatically turn on when an officer activates the overhead light in their vehicle. The body cameras turn on when an officer removes a weapon from its holster.

Council members relayed their excitement for the project's progress.

"I was able to go and meet with an officer and see (the cameras) in use and get a little test drive of the equip-

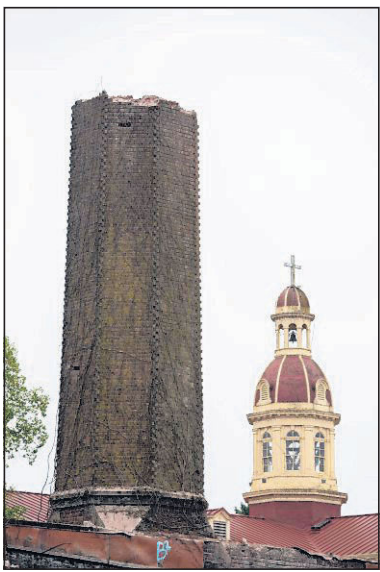
ment," Councilor Sarah Fox said. "I just heard nothing but good things about the ease of operation and the type of information that our officers will be able to derive."

Yet Mayor Pro Tem Ty Stober provided a reminder that the video from cameras are not a panacea.

"I'm going to say something that I said when we started this whole thing:

CAMERAS, Page A2

Demolition Continues at Providence Academy



Demolition of the 90-foot smokestack and the old boiler and laundry buildings continues at Providence Academy in downtown Vancouver. The structures, which were dilapidated and unsafe, are about a century old and once served the nearby Providence Academy, a historically significant institution built by Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1873. Vancouver-based 3 Kings Environmental is the contractor on the demolition project, which began about a month ago and is proceeding slowly to salvage the historic bricks for future use. Once cleared, the site will become part of a mixed-use development called Aegis. Two of the Aegis buildings are under construction in part of what used to be Providence Academy's parking lots.

Photos by **Amanda Cowan**/The Columbian

Openings for jobs fall 10% in August

Decline might cool nation's high inflation

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of available jobs in the U.S. plummeted in August compared with July as businesses grow less desperate for workers, a trend that could cool chronically high inflation.

That is good news for the Federal Reserve in its efforts to bring down high prices without plunging the economy into a recession. The government jobs report released Tuesday also showed that layoffs remained historically low, even after a modest increase in August. And overall hiring was essentially unchanged that month.

Altogether, the data suggested that even as companies take down job postings, they aren't cutting workers or slamming the brakes on adding jobs.

"Employers are thinking about who they don't need to hire, but not thinking about who they need to lay off," said Layla O'Kane, a senior economist at labor analytics firms Lightcast.

There were 10.1 million advertised jobs on the last day of August, the government said Tuesday, down a huge 10 percent from 11.2 million openings in July. In March, job openings hit a record of nearly 11.9 million.

The report pushed major U.S. markets higher because it is a potential sign that the Fed could slow its rapid pace of rate hikes, though most economists said that it would take more

JOBS, Page A2

Loretta Lynn, coal miner's daughter, country queen, dies



Loretta Lynn
Country music great and Kentucky coal miner's daughter died Tuesday at age 90

Songwriter blazed trail with frank lyrics about her life

By **KRISTIN M. HALL**
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Loretta Lynn, the Kentucky coal miner's daughter whose frank songs about life and love as a woman in Appalachia pulled her out of poverty and made her a pillar of country music, has died. She was 90.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Lynn's family said she

died Tuesday at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tenn.

"Our precious mom, Loretta Lynn, passed away peacefully this morning, October 4th, in her sleep at home in her beloved ranch in Hurricane Mills," the family said in a statement. They asked for privacy as they grieve and said a memorial will be announced later.

Lynn already had four children before launching her career in the early 1960s, and her songs reflected her pride in her rural Kentucky back-

LYNN, Page A2

Wall Street rallies to regain more ground

NATION & WORLD, A4



Jim Camden:
Candidates live in different worlds

OPINION, A6

Aaron Judge hits American League record-breaking 62nd home run of season

SPORTS, B9

LOCAL ANGLE

Scott Bailey, the Washington Employment Security Department's regional labor economist, had this to say about Clark County's August job market:

"After two red-hot months, Clark County nonfarm employment continued its expansion at a slower pace in August, adding, 200 jobs on a seasonally-adjusted basis. ... Since the onset of COVID in February 2020, the county has gained a net 11,800 jobs, an increase of 6.9 percent."



77°/54°

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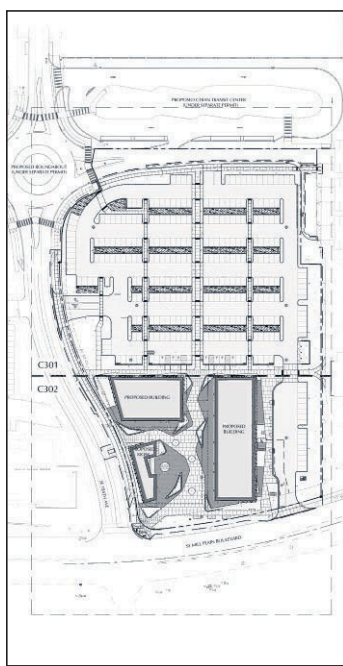


Photo contributed
by Hennebery Eddy Architects

A 70,000-square-foot, mixed-use commercial building is being proposed for the property adjacent to Clark College's Columbia Tech Center campus.

Mixed-use building planned at Tech Center

East Vancouver facility would be neighbor to Clark College campus

By **SARAH WOLF**
The Columbian

A three-story, mixed-use commercial building is in the works at east Vancouver's Columbia Tech Center, abutting the Clark College at Columbia Tech Center campus.

The development, at 18500 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd., would entail building a roughly 70,000-square-foot, mixed-use building and a 2,500-square-foot ancillary kiosk building. The development site plan sent to the city of Vancouver also includes a third building on the property.

The land, which is owned by the Columbia Tech Center LLC, would also include 290 parking stalls, 60,000 square feet of landscaped area and 24,000 square feet of space in a public plaza.

A "visually transparent photovoltaic roof structure" would be incorporated to both provide shading and weather protection for the public plaza below and tie the buildings together, according to the pre-planning documents. The building's exterior would be made of brick, metal panels and glass.

The building would include about 20,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space and about 48,000 square feet of office space in the upper levels. The structure would have a steel frame with a cast-in-place metal deck.

The architect, Hennebery Eddy Architects, is planning for about 2,000 square feet of interior common space, called the "core." That space would include the main lobby, shared meeting space, building support spaces, vertical circulation and restrooms on each floor. There would also be a 1,000-square-foot roof-top terrace at the third floor.

"Large overhangs create generous protection from the elements at the ground floor," read the documents. "Highlighting the difference in massing, a clear glazed storefront system and light toned brick wrap the base, while alternating panels of dark face brick and fixed windows with gray glazing clad the floors above."

The document added that about 30 percent of the building's façade will be transparent/high-performance glazing.

Hennebery Eddy Architects is a Portland-based design firm, with additional offices in Bend, Ore., and Bozeman, Mont. It is one of the architecture firms that collaborated on the extension of Concourse E at Portland International Airport.

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County council adds new tax to charter

Councilors also OK new fund to collect revenue

By **SHARI PHIEL**
The Columbian

The public safety sales tax passed by 58.78 percent of voters in August goes into effect Jan. 1. On Tuesday, the Clark County Council unanimously approved adding the new tax to the county charter. The council also approved creating a new fund for collecting the revenue, rather than placing it in the general fund.

The 0.1 percent tax, or 1 cent for every \$10 spent, is expected to bring in \$12 million in tax revenues annually, with 60 percent going to the county government and 40 percent to local cities.

"The county must officially notify the Department of Revenue before Oct. 16 so they can start collecting the tax starting Jan. 1, 2023. The first disbursement that will be coming to the county will be in March 2023," County Manager Kathleen Otto told the council.

Councilor Gary Medvigy said he wanted to ensure the tax is

collected and spent in the "most straightforward and most transparent" manner possible.

The county council has previously said the tax revenue will be used to fund a dashboard and body-worn camera program for the Clark County Sheriff's Office. But the new tax will bring in more revenue than is needed, and the council has yet to decide on how to spend the remainder.

According to a staff report, the county expects to receive around \$6 million in 2023 and then \$7.2 million each year thereafter.

"I'm not in favor of raising taxes,

generally," Medvigy said. "But this is a need, and not just for body cams and dash cams but for salaries, improvements at the jail, administrative staff, our deputies — we need to get their salaries up to where they're competitive. This will go a great step forward in giving us a little bit more flexibility in moving each of those challenges forward."

But the first priority, Medvigy said, is to launch the body and dash camera program.

There are also limits set by state

SALES TAX, Page A10



Photos by **JAMES REXROAD** for The Columbian

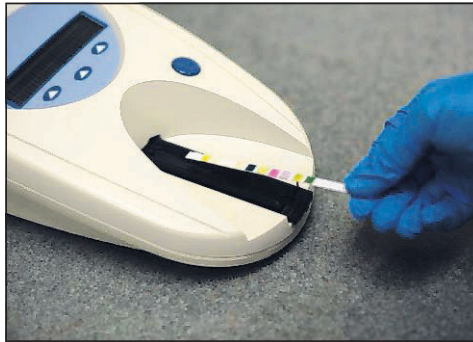
Susan Davis, M.D., from left, talks about a patient's case with Rafaela Volkov, a Community Health worker, and Deb Brown, a physician assistant, Sept. 28 at the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington.

Care is primary mission



Medical assistant Daniel Salazar cleans an examination room between patients Sept. 28 at the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington. The clinic, on Plomondon Road, offers free health care for those without insurance and advocacy for those with limited English language skills.

State-of-the-art equipment helps the clinic operate more effectively, as this urine analysis machine gives results in seconds.



Free Clinic pivots to routine medical checkups for county's uninsured

By **NIKA BARTOO-SMITH**
The Columbian

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington ran as a walk-in urgent care, providing basic health care needs for uninsured and underinsured Clark County residents. Now, it operates on an appointment-based system, serving as more of a primary care facility where patients can come for repeat, routine care.

"It's important for people to know that we can be their primary care homes. If you don't have insurance, that doesn't mean that you can't come get your annual checkup, that you can't talk about chronic disease management," said Rebecca O'Brien, executive director at the Free Clinic. "We're in the capacity where we can help you with your long-term health goals."

The clinic also recently transitioned to its first electronic

health record system, which aids in providing continuity of care so patients can see the same provider months later.

To provide free, high-quality care, the Free Clinic relies on donations from the community. During the Give More 24! fundraising campaign on Sept. 22, 107 donors helped raise more than \$140,000. This winter, the nonprofit hopes to raise even more.

The Free Clinic's annual Holiday Ball is coming up — its largest fundraiser of the year. The goal is to raise \$200,000, with all proceeds going toward providing free health care for the uninsured, according to Pam Knepper, communications, development and outreach manager at the clinic.

The evening features a sit-down dinner, dessert dash and auction in support of the Free Clinic. The event takes place at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 3. Tickets are on sale now for \$150 each or \$1,200 for a table of eight.

"Our mission is to provide and facilitate access to free, high-quality, compassionate health care for individuals who would otherwise be unable to attain those services,"

FREE CLINIC, Page A10

Vancouver City Council bans fossil fuel terminals

Zoning codes changed to prohibit new facilities

By **LAUREN ELLENBECKER**
The Columbian

After years of employing temporary moratoriums on new fossil fuel developments, the city of Vancouver can finally lift its hold now that protective zoning codes are in place.

New facilities that distribute, extract, refine or process fossil fuels were prohibited from being established beginning in 2020, when the first six-month moratorium was implemented. Four addi-

tional moratoriums later, the Vancouver City Council unanimously approved proposed amendments Monday to make the ban permanent. The ordinance is set to take effect in early November.

Chad Eiken, city community and economic development director, told the council on Monday that the amendments will safeguard the public and further the city's climate action goals.

The code amendments create new land use categories for fuel storage and handling facilities and prohibits large new fossil fuel facilities in all zoning districts. Facilities with a capacity of 60,000 gallons or less are permitted in in-

dustrial zones. Cleaner fuel facilities with a holding capacity up to 1 million gallons are permitted.

Existing bulk fossil fuel facilities can receive maintenance and upgrades, including a conversion to cleaner fuels, which permits an expansion up to 15 percent.

Residents who backed the ordinance filled the Vancouver City Council's public hearing session, many of whom have closely followed the yearslong journey to ban new bulk fossil fuel facilities. In 2018, Gov. Jay Inslee vetoed a plan to develop the nation's largest crude-oil-by-rail terminal at the Port of Vancouver, after almost five years of controversy

and debate.

"We appreciate our Vancouver City Council and staff for developing and passing this important health and safety protection for Vancouver," Cathryn Chudy of Vancouver said. "This reflects our council's commitment to addressing the safety risks and environmental health disparities that are disproportionately felt in the neighborhoods where these facilities are located."

"As a mother of two children growing up in Vancouver, I appreciate that this ordinance helps Vancouver meet its climate goals

COUNCIL, Page A10

AROUND THE AREA

Council OKs \$725K settlement in shooting

The Vancouver City Council approved a six-figure settlement agreement Monday in the police shooting of a Vancouver man in April 2020.

Three Vancouver police officers fatally shot William Abbe, 50, while responding to an April 28, 2020, assault at Northeast Fourth Plain Boulevard and Stapleton Road. A review of the shooting by the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office deemed it was lawful and justified.

Kara Brandon, Abbe's daughter, filed a federal lawsuit in October 2021 against the city of Vancouver and the involved officers. It alleged wrongful death, negligence, assault and battery, and excessive force.

Brandon and the city agreed to settle the lawsuit for \$725,000.

"The settlement does not concede any wrongdoing by the involved officers or the department," a staff report states.

— Lauren Ellenbecker

Cascade Care Savings program announced

Washington Healthplanfinder announced Tuesday that more than 40 percent of Washingtonians who receive their health insurance through Washington Healthplanfinder may be eligible for new state-funded savings when enrolling in coverage for 2023.

Enrollment for the new savings, Cascade Care Savings, begins Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 15, 2023. Eligible customers have a household income up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level, are enrolled in a Cascade Care Silver or Gold plan and are a qualified health-plan eligible resident of Washington, according to a press release.

For more information on Cascade Care Savings and eligibility, visit www.wahealthplanfinder.org/us/en/my-account/savings-options/cascade-care-savings.html.

— Nika Bartoo-Smith

Applicants for water commission sought

Clark County Manager Kathleen Otto is seeking to fill three open positions on the Clean Water Commission, an advisory group representing the community's needs and interests in stormwater management decisions.

Terms for all three positions begin in January and end December 2025.

Applicants must be residents of Clark County, either unincorporated areas of the county or a city or town. Professional experience in stormwater management is not required. Applicants with an interest in water quality, data and program analysis, education and outreach, or experience advocating for the environment are encouraged to apply.

To apply, submit a letter of interest and resume to Clark County Public Works Clean Water Division c/o Brent Davis, P.O. Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98660-5000 or via email to cleanwater@clark.wa.gov. Applications are due by noon Oct. 31.

Applicants should request interpretation, translated materials or assistance overcoming challenges to meeting participation, if needed, by emailing pw.outreach@clark.wa.gov or calling 564-397-1679. Interpretation and translation are available, upon request, for all commission meetings, communications and materials.

More information about the Clean Water Commission can be found at clark.wa.gov/public-works/clean-water-commission.

— Shari Phiel

Sales tax

From Page A9

law, which requires one-third of all money received from the tax to be used solely for criminal justice purposes, fire protection purposes, or both. The remainder of the funding can be used at the discretion of the county council.

Medvigy said he appreciates the voters for recognizing and supporting the county's public safety needs.

"We're all supportive of law enforcement here," added Medvigy, who is a retired major general and California superior court judge. "I haven't heard a single word against law

enforcement in any discussion that we've had at the county council."

Councilor Richard Rylander Jr. said he was glad voters were asked to decide whether to fund the body and dash camera program, as well as other expenditures.

"I look forward to the fact that, I hope, it will end up protecting the police and the public and provide firsthand awareness and knowledge on what's really going on and pulling things out of the shadows," Rylander said.

To watch the public hearing, go to <https://clark.wa.gov/councilors/clark-county-council-meetings>.

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Crews pick up 816 tons of trash from roads

By AMANDA ZHOU
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Are you doing your part to keep public roads clean?

Despite 75 percent of Washington residents saying they never litter, nearly 31,000 pieces of litter can be found per acre on urban interchanges, according to the Washington Department of Ecology.

New funding is allowing the Department of Ecology to conduct a litter study through 2022, with results available in March. The study seeks to identify where litter comes from and what kind of litter is found on Washington roads, interchanges and public areas. The last comprehensive litter study was in 2004.

Washington spends over

\$9 million annually on crews from the Department of Ecology, the Department of Corrections and other agencies that pick up litter. In the first seven months of 2022, crews collected more than 1.6 million pounds of litter from state highways.

Common sources

Fines for littering or illegal dumping range from \$103 to \$5,000, according

to the Department of Ecology. Most litter comes from people who either toss it out of their car window or do not properly secure cargo. Out of the 816 tons of litter collected, 11.5 percent came from homeless encampments.

According to the Department of Ecology, litter hurts wildlife and unsecured loads cause traffic crashes and fatalities.

Free Clinic

From Page A9

O'Brien said. "In a nutshell, we're providing free care for the uninsured. Our health care system is very complex, it's hard to navigate even if you have insurance. And if you don't have insurance, your options are incredibly limited."

The clinic has six exam rooms where volunteer physicians and providers give basic medical care for issues including infections, hypertension, diabetes, injury and vision care. For those in need of specialty care, such as for cancer, the Free Clinic can refer them to Project Access. The program, staffed by the Free Clinic, provides access to specialty care for low-income, uninsured residents of Clark County.

The Free Clinic serves patients 18 and older. On average, there are 265 appointments a month, around 4,000 a year, according to O'Brien. Most of those appointments are for people who are uninsured and otherwise would not have access to health care.

"Cost is a huge factor in people's overall well-being," O'Brien said. "If you're having to decide between whether you can pay rent or whether you can address your health needs, a lot of people are going to choose rent and food."

The Free Clinic is run by 12 staff members and about 200 volunteers. Of those volunteers, about 30 of them are physicians or providers, many of them are retired from regular clinical care but still want to use their skills to help care for the community, O'Brien said.

Many of the providers offer routine family practice care, though the clinic also has several specialists, including a cardiologist, endo-



Photos by JAMES REXROAD for The Columbian

Deb Brown, a physician assistant, retrieves medications from the storeroom for patients with diabetes Sept. 28 at the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington. The clinic, on Plomondon Road, offers free health care for those without insurance and advocacy for those with limited English language skills.



Rebecca O'Brien is executive director of the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, which offers free health care for those without insurance and advocacy for those with limited English language skills.



Volunteer Linda Buckley, a behavior health professional, talks about the benefits of giving back to her community Sept. 28 at the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington. The clinic, on Plomondon Road, offers free health care for those without insurance and advocacy for those with limited English language skills.

crinologist and neurologist, among a few others. The clinic also hosts a mobile dental van two to three times a month, according to O'Brien, providing urgent care, such as extractions and fillings.

The other volunteers serve mostly as clinical assistants and interpreters. Though all of the staff members speak Spanish, as much of the population the Free Clinic serves is Spanish speaking, not all of the providers do. And some patients speak languages other than English or Spanish. The interpreters serve to help communicate with patients speaking any language.

"Our first priority is always making sure that the patient is comfortable and understands what's going on for their medical visit. And they walk away from here with a good understanding of what their health goals are, how we can help them achieve that and what they need to do

on their end," O'Brien said. "And that usually means conducting those visits in the language that they speak."

Linda Buckley began volunteering at the Free Clinic in 2018, providing behavioral health care in both English and Spanish. Buckley sees about three patients, once a week, who are referred to her from medical providers. In the therapy sessions, she helps patients who are struggling with depression, anxiety and trauma. Currently, Buckley is the only mental health services provider at the clinic, though she hopes to recruit more providers to volunteer.

"There's a lot of (post-traumatic stress disorder), and most people haven't ever been in therapy before. So I try to normalize it," Buckley said. "Being that listening ear, an empathetic person that can hear about trauma that happened in childhood that a patient never talked about, and

then to try to provide healing for that — that's very rewarding."

The Free Clinic is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday by appointment only. For more information on how to access services or volunteer, visit freeclinics.org or call 360-450-3044.

For more information about the Holiday Ball fundraiser and where to buy tickets, visit freeclinics.org, email pam@freeclinics.org or call 360-450-3044 ext. 101.

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Council

From Page A9

and also its environmental justice goals," Monica Zazueta of Vancouver said. "Without this, our air quality would diminish and our climate-changing pollution would increase, and my kids would breathe dirtier air."

Heidi Cody, Alliance for

Community Engagement co-director, said it makes more economic sense to transition to clean energy than to pay the health and safety costs of relying on fossil fuels.

Representatives from local conservation groups, including Columbia Riverkeeper and the Washington Environmental Council, also relayed their support, noting the necessity to protect the region's natural re-

sources.

"The Columbia River is the lifeblood of our region, and more fossil fuel terminals would greatly exacerbate the safety and spill risks we already face from existing terminals," said Dan Serres, Columbia Riverkeeper conservation director.

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