Clark County



The Northwest: Washington's medical marijuana laws foster confusion /C2

Opinion, Leonard Pitts: Left-wing terrorists don't kill people /C4

Johnston Ridge amphitheater plans move ahead

Outdoor venue would seat up to 160 for presentations

By ERIK ROBINSON

The Forest Service is moving forward with plans to build an outdoor amphithe-

ater at the Johnston Ridge Observatory. The \$400,000 amphitheater would seat as many as 160 people during presentations by interpretive rangers, freeing up space in the outdoor plaza where visitors first encounter the jaw-dropping view into the steaming crater of Mount St. Helens from five miles away. It's part of \$1.2 million in upgrades announced in July.

Besides the amphitheater itself, located in an open area just west of the observatory, the Forest Service is planning to add a food cart nearby. The amphitheater would be roughly the size of a similar venue at Windy Ridge on the east side of Spirit

Construction would get under way sometime next summer, said Bill Uyesugi, recreation and facilities manager for the national volcanic monument.

Meanwhile, on the south side of the vol-

ON THE WEB Review two preliminary analyses: www.fs.fed.us/r6/gpnf/04projects

cano, the Forest Service is planning a new \$175,000 parking area for Ape Cave

The largest intact lava tube in the continental United States, with a length of 12,810 feet, Ape Cave harkens back to an eruption 1,900 years ago. Lava flowed out of the volcano all the way to the North Fork of the Lewis River. When it cooled from the outside in, it left behind the basalt cave swarmed by as many as 100 carloads of visitors on busy summer days.

The new parking area would include a trail allowing visitors to access the cave while avoiding walking next to traffic on

Forest Road 8303. "When available parking fills up, people are commonly parking in any open space they can find," according to the new envi-ronmental analysis. "This includes parking partially in the roadway, in emergency parking lanes, in spaces designated for recreational vehicles, buses and handicapped drivers, which also create law enforcement issues.

TO COMMENT

Tom Mulder, manager of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, will accept comments on plans for a new amphitheater at Johnston Ridge and an expanded parking area at Ape Cave through mid-October. Send comments by mail to 42218
N.E. Yale Bridge Road, Amboy
WA, 98601; by fax at 360-4497801; or by e-mail to commentspacificnorthwest-giffordpinchotmtsthelensnvm@fs.fed.us.



Did you

know?

■ Rebound Orthopedics

and Neurosurgeons dates

back four decades. An

early member, Dr. Ben

nhysicians at Rehound

Over the years, those

doctors have performed

nearly 6,000 total joint

replacement surgeries.

Rebound provides team

physicians for the Portland Trail Blazers, Portland

Winter Hawks and Portland

State University Vikings

McGough, still is with the

Photos by ZACHARY KAUFMAN/The Columbian Some 400 people who have had hip, knee and shoulder replacement surgery took a stroll Sunday during the Ambulation Celebration.

Replacement surgery recipients gather for a stroll

By DAVE KERN

It was called the Ambulation Celebration and more than 400 people turned out to take a stroll from Pearson Field on a gorgeous Sunday afternoon. Why?

Because the Rebound doctors who improved their lives through total joint replacement invited patients for a get-together and a ½- to 2-mile

"I just thought it would be a fun thing," said Dr. David Hayes. He's done between 1,000 and 2,000 knee replacement surgeries. Rebound doctors do hip, knee and shoulder replacements.

In the Pearson Air Mu-seum hall, Hayes told patients

that he came to Vancouver in 1975, when replacement surgery was in its infancy. He said "prosthetics were rather crude" and replacement surgery was done only on people 65 or older.

Those rules are out the window today, as the metal (including titanium) and plastic joints now generally last from 10 to 20 years, he said.

Tom Marler, 59, of Ridge field, was participating just two months after having replacement surgery on his left knee. Marler was on crutches. but that is because he lost his right leg to cancer in 1980 when he was 30.

He said he was at the walk

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Tom Marler, center, whose left knee was replaced on July 20, sets off on a short walk during Sunday's event. The Ridgefield man lost his right leg to cancer in 1980.



"I just thought it would

be a fun thing."

Dr. David Hayes

Hazel Dell ballpark plan to get closer look By MICHAEL ANDERSEN

Clark County's plan to put a baseball complex in Hazel Dell is getting an extra round of scru-

tiny.

The county's parks advisory committee put the plans on hold for a month, in order to compare the cost of putting baseball and soccer fields at Fairgrounds Community Park instead.

The county originally intended to put ball fields near the fairgrounds, but decided they couldn't be built without extensive excavation.

"This is being sent back to staff to re-crunch the numbers," said John Karpinski, a lawyer representing some Hazel Dell residents opposed to the ball field plan. In 2008, the county estimated

it could build the ball fields in Hazel Dell for \$7.5 million or at Fairgrounds Park for \$7.2 mil-

But those estimates didn't reflect a deal with King's Way Christian School, according to county Public Works Director Pete Capell.

The school has offered to build a public soccer field on its own property in exchange for the right to use the five baseball diamonds proposed for the site north of 78th Avenue and west of St. Johns Road.

That'd save the county the cost of a soccer field, Capell said.

Parks director Pete Mayer said Friday that he doesn't expect the committee to recommend a different site than the one next to King's Way.

"I'm not sensing any reversal of the track they're on," Mayer said. "What I'm sensing from the commission is we'd like some additional information."

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission makes nonbinding recommendations to the three county commissioners, who can

"To be prudent and to be respectful of the input we got today from citizens, we have delayed voting on the question for a month," committee co-chair Florence Wager said Friday.

The next parks commission meeting is scheduled for noon Oct. 16 in the sixth-floor hearing room of the county Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St.

With the heat on, fire station kitchen doubles as bakery

wasn't your typical save for the crew at Fire District 6. They rescued some wedding plans - and they didn't even have to

leave the station. After a fire destroyed part of a nearby wedding venue last week, Fire District 6 volunteered the use of the kitchen at its

Hazel Dell station for some emergency baking duties. Dawn Johnson, public information

officer for Fire District 6, said she stopped by the Hostess House on

Wednesday, the day after the fire, to see how things were going.
"I said, 'If there's

anything you need, let us know," Johnson recalled. Well, there was some

thing they needed, and they asked. 'They came to us the

next day and asked if they could use our kitchen

'We said, 'Yeah,'" Johnson said "We're part of the community, and the community supports us.'

Late Thursday afternoon, Hostess House baker Kevin Congrove had spent 10 hours in the kitchen and he still had plenty of work to do before completing a cake for a Friday wed-

A trio of circular cake segments, destined to become another threelayer wedding cake, were on a nearby

"Just the two cakes so far," Congrove

It took longer to turn out the cakes in the smaller firehouse oven, but "This is really neighborly," the baker said.

"We need to get out of their way," Congrove added.

And, a stack of pizza boxes sug-

gested that the firefighters hadn't used their kitchen much that day. The guys have been eating take-

out," Johnson confirmed.

Temporarily powerless

There was one more bit of adjustment, noted firefighter Rick Renne

When we go off on a call and the alarm goes off, it shuts off the power in the kitchen," Renne said.

"But there's a reset button on the wall, and we told him to wait a minute or so and then push it, and, hopefully, he wouldn't lose much heat in the oven," the firefighter said.

So why does kitchen's electrical power shut down when the fire engines

"So we don't burn down the firehouse," Renne said.

Off Beat lets members of The Columbian news team step back from our newspaper beats to write the story behind the story, fill in the story, or just tell a story.