



Cruise to the Country event set for Amboy. See Page A-13.

Hazel Dell woman fears coyotes near her home. See Page A-11.



BG Superintendent rescues wayward dog. See Page A-11.



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BG will sue to get easement for sewer

Property owner doesn't want city sewer to cross his land

Heidi Wallenborn news director

The phrase "you can't fight city hall" does not apply to Gordon Overby of Mount Vernon.

The 74-year-old man is holding up the development of the northeast quadrant of Battle Ground by the city to put in a sewer line through his 80-acre property off of NE 142nd Ave.

And Overby wants it that way, he said.

On Aug. 15, city council members told staff to pursue an eminent domain lawsuit to obtain a 35-foot wide easement 1,038 feet long through Overby's property.

A developer needs the easement to put in a sewer line to serve proposed subdivisions that frame the active oat and hay farm Overby owns.

Overby would be paid fair market value for the strip of his land, regardless. Eminent domain simply means the government can take land when it is necessary and essential as a matter of public necessity and welfare and public interest.

There are several factors at work here, said public works director Sam Adams.

A relief sewer interceptor is already in place on the west side to handle future development at that area, accessible through Overby's land. The design cannot be reconfigured, Adams said.

To bypass Overby would mean the interceptor and all the lines it already has would have to be dug up and situated

elsewhere, Adams said. Or, to have a meandering pipeline to get to the interceptor would mean more expense, more roads dug up, and more inconvenience for citizens, Adams said.

"It would mean abandoning all the improvement of the west side interceptor that's already in," he said. "That's not fair to the folks who paid for it through rates and SDCs [Sewer Development Charges]."

"I've explained this to Mr. Overby, but he still seems to think there is another way," Adams said. "There just isn't."

The subdivision Tuxedo Junction on the corner of NE 142nd Ave. and NE 229th St., and the proposed Oak Meadows subdivision to the west, off of N Parkway Ave., are held up indefinitely until the eminent domain case is settled, Adams said.

If the strip of land is grant-

ed to the city, Overby could appeal, Adams said. Those two projects as well as all of the northeast side development, could be held up for several years.

"Ridiculous"

Via telephone, Overby seemed to scoff at city officials and the eminent domain threat.

"This is ridiculous," he said. "All they're doing this for is a bunch of developers."

"In the first place, they shouldn't have annexed that area," Overby added. "It was illegal. They did it through fraud by having a second hearing."

In 2001, city officials gained 142 acres in the Oak Meadows Annexation, which included Overby's property. Because the tape of the first boundary review board hearing



JAYDYN TIELYR ALI was the first baby born at the new Legacy Salmon Creek hospital. Pictured with Jaidyn are parents Carl Brown and Joshua Ali of Orchards.

First baby arrives at Legacy hospital

Marcus Brotherton staff reporter

After opening its doors to emergency patients Aug. 22, Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital did not have to wait long for the first baby to be born in the new facility.

Jaidyn Tielyr Ali, a 6-pound, 7-ounce boy, was born at 5:52 a.m. Aug. 24 to Carri Brown and Joshua Ali of Orchards.

The child and his family are reportedly in good health and doing fine.

Jaidyn was delivered by Dr. Patrick Marmion, a hospital physician.

Brown said she chose Legacy on the advice of her mom, who had heard about the new

hospital opening a few days earlier.

"We were really treated well," Brown said, "like a V.I.P. from the moment we arrived."

The hospital will be open for scheduled procedures September 1, Legacy representative Maggie Huffman said. Labor is considered a non-scheduled procedure.

Jaidyn's due date was not until September 14. He was born after about 13 hours of labor.

Proud grandparents are Debbie and Louie Brown, and Starr and Jeff Galloway, all of Orchards.

E. Coli cases linked to county fair

Heidi Wallenborn news director

Three area women are confirmed as having been infected with the E. coli O157:H7 bacteria, likely from visiting the Clark County Fair, health officials said.

Of the women, two are teenagers and one is in her 20s. Two are from Ridgefield, the other from Vancouver. None are related to each other.

Each said they had visited animal exhibits at the Fair between Aug. 9 and 14, County Health Department officials said.

All women had nausea, vomiting, and bloody diarrhea. One was hospitalized and released, and all are recovering.

E. coli incubates in 2-10 days, with a median of 3-4

days, health officials said.

The bacteria is most commonly found in the intestines and feces of cattle, but is also associated with handling other farm animals or visiting animal exhibits at fairs or petting zoos.

Health officials are also looking at other possible causes. Foods, such as ground beef, produce and unpasteur-

ized dairy products, may have been responsible for the infections, as well as waterborne exposure and person-to-person spread.

Health officials are monitoring the situation for more cases related to these, and any secondary cases.

For more information, call the Health Department at 397-6012.

New bike trail opened in Vancouver

Bicyclists and walkers can now traverse an 8-mile paved pathway in Vancouver that extends from Fruit Valley Road on the west to almost I-205 on the east.

Officials dedicated the completed path during an Aug. 11 ceremony.

The pathway travels through the Burnt Bridge Creek greenway, along power transmission lines and through existing parks.

About 3 1/2 miles of the path is newly-created as part of a water quality, flood control, fish enhancement and storm drainage program.

The remaining 4 1/2 miles were pre-existing.

Kelly Puntney, park developer with Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation, said the new pathway is part of an ongoing program of trails development that includes consideration of new trails along other power transmission routes, greenways, and the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad.

The completed Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway begins with a trailhead and parking at Fruit Valley Road and Bernie Drive near Vancouver Lake. The first 1 1/4 miles is eight feet wide which is to be expanded to 12 feet by 2007.

The path travels on a new pedestrian bridge over I-5 near Main Street, then over Burnt Bridge Creek and into Levecher Park where loops allow for seeing more of the park.

near the creek to Arnold's Park, then somewhat uphill to St. Johns and SR-500.

The path then moves along a power transmission right-of-way, crosses Fourth Plain and then crosses Devine Road where a new trailhead has been constructed with rest rooms and parking.

Farther east, the trail divides at 65th Ave. with a main trail and secondary loops, crosses Andresen at 18th St., moves under the 87th St. bridge, and reaches Meadow Brook Marsh.

An extension of the trail to Burton Road has yet to be constructed.

The newly-completed segments of the trail are from Hazel Dell Ave. to Levecher Park, Nicholson to Fourth Plain, and Devine Road to the Burton area.

Puntney said the trail is fairly easy to ride, with minor hills.

The state Department of Transportation constructed the 1.5 pedestrian bridge near Main St. at a cost of \$1.2 million, which qualified Vancouver-Clark Parks for a matching \$1.2 million grant from the state Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation. The wetlands enhancement project had a price tag of about \$5 million, said Puntney. The trail work itself cost about \$1.5 million.

More trails planned

Puntney said planning is underway for more trails, with a draft trails plan due to com-



MAP SHOWS route of bike trail which extends through portions of Vancouver. Wider portions of route shows segments recently completed.

ty staff by early September, and an inventory of proposed trail corridors due in October.

A landmark trails symposium has been set for Fri., Nov. 4, 6-10 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver.

Puntney expects business and community leaders, planners and engineers, and trail and bike advocates to attend the symposium, set on the very day on which Lewis and Clark set up camp on the Columbia River 200 years ago.

Volunteers are needed, said Puntney, to lead or record table discussions at the symposium.

Public comments are encouraged on new trails, gaps in trails, and how trails should be

Firefighters, birdman rescue owl

Bill Myers staff reporter

A great horned owl is cranky, but will fly again thanks to Clark County Fire District 11 firefighters and "birdman" Christopher Driggs.

Firefighters responded to an Aug. 15 call and found the bird, with its three-foot wing-spread, snared in a barbed wire fence on a small farm south of Dollars Corner.

In shock and worn out from struggling, the large predator was listless as firefighters carefully extracted it from the fence. The bird remained lifeless as rescuers placed it in a box.

Birdman to the rescue

Christopher Driggs, aka: the Birdman, said he was enroute to see his dad, a patient at Kaiser Hospital in Sunnyside, OR, when he got a call from firefighters. Driggs answered the call. "The bird appeared emaciated, and had torn its tendons while struggling in the fence," said Driggs.

Using a special metal syringe, Driggs injected electrolyte fluid into the bird's mouth. The fluid contained an energy booster and anti-shock formula. He gently placed the



GREAT HORNED OWL was rescued from a barbed wire fence near Dollars Corner.

bird in a cage.

Driggs said the bird was soon standing. In spite of a surly look on its face, it seemed to know it was being helped.

Driggs called veterinarian Jan Ackerman of Molalla, OR, and arranged to meet her at Kaiser Hospital in Sunnyside.

A recent report from Ackerman indicates the owl is doing well, said Driggs. He said the bird will be released at the farm in Dollars Corner when it heals completely.

Driggs, who specializes in rescuing wild birds from such predicaments, can be reached by dialing BIRDMAN (247-3626) or 911 in emergencies.

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