New weir allows state to trap, tag spawning steelhead, coho

By ERIK ROBINSON
Columbian staff writer

When Clark County replaced the crumbling Highway 99 bridge over Salmon Creek earlier this year, the span became wider, longer and much safer for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. Salmon benefited, too.

As part of the $15.6 million project, engineers took the opportunity to improve the stream channel itself. Previously, steelhead and coho were forced to make a 6- to 8-foot leap where the creek poured across an old sheet piling that had been installed in the 1940s to prevent erosion around the old bridge piers.

Contractors removed the piling, then widened the stream channel by about 10 feet. They also placed concrete slabs over a 700-foot stretch of creek, creating a series of pools intended to allow easier passage for salmon.

How well is the new channel working? At least one longtime area resident said the proof may be in the three tule fall chinook he spotted circling the creek near his house in early October.

"Growing up on that creek, I never saw any chinook salmon," said Chris Sicilia, 40.

Workers with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife installed a weir across the creek where it runs close by Salmon Creek Regional Park and Kline Pond. Clark County is contracting with the state for $60,000 to check it daily, place radio tags on the spawning steelhead and coho, and then find out how long they stay in the area.

At the same time Clark County improved human passage with a new Highway 99 bridge, it improved fish passage by widening a stretch of Salmon Creek.

Japanese garden to grace Clark College

Anonymous donor offers to pay up to $1 million to build and maintain facility

By HOWARD BUCK
Columbian staff writer

When an anonymous donor approached the city of Vancouver about paying to construct and maintain a Japanese garden, a suitable site quickly came to mind.

Clark College, about home to nearly 100 Japanese flowering cherry trees that paint the campus a precious pink each spring, will gladly accept the gift.

Clark has sought campus and community feedback on a conceptual design of a tranquil oasis of rock, sculpture and greenery.

The garden would be folded onto the campus "quad" behind the O'Connell Sports Center and Music Building, and blend into one row of cherry trees.

The comment period ends Monday.

The donor has pledged up to $1 million for design, construction and future maintenance of the garden.

That commitment eased worries that Clark not take on new maintenance costs while facing dramatic budget cuts, due to a ballooning state budget shortfall this winter.

The garden is not expected to include any large water feature that could drive up costs.

Clark President Bob Knight welcomes the addition.

The garden is a near-perfect match for the two long rows of Shirotoge cherry trees planted in 1990. The trees were donated by John Kageyama, then president of America Kotobuki, to celebrate Washington state's centennial the year before.

"Our predecessors had the vision to embrace that gift and we are all the beneficiaries of that legacy," Knight said in a written statement.

"We now have the chance, during our
LOCAL & NORTHWEST

Cons build furniture for Oregon Capitol

SALEM, Ore. (AP) – Lawmakers wanted something unique in the furnishings for their recently renovated Capitol digs. Naturally, they turned to state inmates.

"We were looking how we could get furniture made special, but also at a cost we could afford," said Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem. Whether the furniture was finished, however, is subject to debate.

Though the project was approved by bipartisan majorities in both chambers in 2007, it became a campaign issue this fall. Rep. Susan E. Gordon, Senate District 22, said her furniture's price tag in jobs against Democratic challenger Jeff Merkley, who was speaker of the House when the buy was approved.

All 32 inmates will get a set of walnut furniture, including a $4,400 desk, a $1,512 credenza, a $1,901 credenza, a $1,857 desk chair and a $950 bookshelf.

House members, meanwhile, will get a set of oak furniture, including a $3,200 desk, a $735 credenza, a $1,417 credenza, a $1,067 desk chair and a $110 bookshelf. The combined cost of all the furniture comes to $11,090.

Landscape architect David Maran, who designed the capitol, helped develop the project.

"The furniture is being handled by the city, Clark College and the Parks Foundation of Clark County," said Clark County Commissioner John Tripp. "We are very excited for the opportunity to have a cultural garden in the heart of our county." To which the public response has been "amazing," according to Tripp. "This will be a unique and beautiful addition to our community." Maran was also quick to point out that his firm was solely responsible for the design.

Garden:

From Page 1.

SAVANNAH ELIZABETH BURNS
November 30, 2008

Savannah Elizabeth Burns
was born Nov. 30, 2008 and passed away the same day. She leaves her mother, Perry, step-father, Jackie Lee Burns, step-sisters, Danielle and Elizabeth Burns, grandparents, Gary and Mary Wright, and her uncles, Eric, Jeff, and Corey Wright. She will be missed by her great-grandparents, Lee and Marie Wright.

Garden: The planning garden is being handled by the city, Clark College and the Parks Foundation of Clark County.

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Death notices


Brendette L. Bowes

Brendette L. Bowes, of Vancouver, WA, went to her heavenly home on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at the age of 95. She was born on April 21, 1913 in Steilacoom, WA to Roland and Martha Clark. Her family moved to Salem, OR in 1914 in close to relatives. There she met and married Frederick Bowes on June 16, 1936. The family moved their wholesale grocery business to Grants Pass, OR in 1947 where they raised their family.

Brendette was gifted musically and played the organ and piano for several congregations and communities. Her love was her children, teaching around the house and working in their flower gardens. She also enjoyed traveling with her husband and family in their RV around the country. Most recently, she settled at Loma Linda, CA where they raised their family.

The celebration of Brentedette's life will be held at Evergreen Memorial Gardens on Monday, December 12, 2008 at 12:00 noon. Please send the Guest Book at www.columbian.com/bowes.