Clark College leaders found copies of The Columbian inside a 25-year-old time capsule placed open last month to help celebrate the school's 75th anniversary.

There were a few newspaper articles from the milestone anniversaries in 1983-84 and 1958-59, with even older items sprinkled in.

Most chronicled the development of the Clark campus and evolving school programs.

Barbara Kerr, current Clark spokeswoman and a former TV newswoman, figured some recent Columbian stories might be of interest when capsule contents make their next appearance during the college's centennial in 2033-34.

Likely to make the cut: Coverage of President Barack Obama's inauguration; the present economic slump and 70th birthday tributes.

And, for good measure, one edition chronicling the heavy debate over a new Interstate 5 bridge over the Columbia River.

"We're certainly hoping there's a new bridge, by then," she said, with a smile.

Well, we think she was kidding.

School bonds

The formal part of a child's education happens inside school. But a kid can pick up a few things on the way there.

The importance of connecting with a child was shown in a Battle Ground school district newsletter. It came via Carmen Flores, secretary in the boundaries and transportation office.

Crossing guard Anita Tomovski told her how one boy was a little snotty at the start of the year. She learned his name and began greeting him when he rode past on his bike.

This not only surprised him, but he began to stop and talk to her. Anita asked him to walk his bike across the intersection and asked where his helmet was. He said he didn't use one.

She told him he'd be much safer with a helmet. He said he never used one, even at the skate park.

Then he asked her to watch him skate. He was glad to see her show up, even when Anita reminded him about wearing a helmet. Then his mom invited Anita to her son's music recital.

Each employee can make a difference in a child's life. Flores said, whether it's an aide, a teacher, an administrator, a custodian or a crossing guard.

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.