

Clark County



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

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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
Columbian staff writer

The Forest Service is moving forward with plans to build an outdoor amphitheater 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 Lake.

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

Meanwhile, on the south side of the vol-

ON THE WEB
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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 environmental 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 360-449-7801; or by e-mail to comments-pacificnorthwest-giffordpinchot-mtsthelensnm@fs.fed.us.



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.

GREAT Rebound

Replacement surgery recipients gather for a stroll

By DAVE KERN
Columbian staff writer

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 1/2- to 2-mile walk.

"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 Museum 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 Ridgefield, 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

Did you know?

■ Rebound Orthopedics and Neurosurgeons dates back four decades. An early member, Dr. Ben McGough, still is with the group. Today, there are 29 physicians at Rebound. 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.



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
Rebound doctor

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With the heat on, fire station kitchen doubles as bakery

It 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 something 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 wedding.

A trio of circular cake segments, destined to become another three-layer wedding cake, were on a nearby counter.

"Just the two cakes so far," Congrove said.

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 suggested 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 roll out?

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

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