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Press Release

MAY 14, 2007

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.....RESTAURANTS WIN BEST CHOWDER AWARDS AT THE 11TH ANNUAL SWANTOWN BOATSWAP & CHOWDER CHALLENGE

Over 1,300 people tasted South Puget Sound's finest clam chowder Saturday, May 12, at the 11th Annual Swantown BoatSwap & Chowder Challenge hosted by the Port of Olympia at Swantown Marina in Olympia.

(How many) area restaurants each made over 25 gallons (?) of delectable chowder. When the votes were tallied, the ~~Fire Creek Ale House at Capitol City Golf Club in Olympia~~, claimed first place. Second place was awarded to ~~Vern's Restaurant in Shelton~~, and the third place prize went to the ~~Riverbend Restaurant at Hawks Prairie Casino~~. Fire Creek Ale House also won the Chefs' Choice award, voted on by participating restaurants, and Anthony's HomePort was awarded the prize for the best decorated booth.

Other outstanding restaurants competing this year included ~~Ben Moore's, Budd Bay Café, Luna's Deli, Lueky Eagle Casino, Red Lion Hotel, Red Wind Casino, and South Puget Sound Community College Culinary Arts~~. The Chowder Challenge was just one part of this annual waterfront festival. Over 75 (?) vendors at the BoatSwap sold new and used boats and gear. Entertainment, including live music provided by the rock band ~~Raucous~~ as well as other family fun were featured all day.

"The BoatSwap and Chowder Challenge is a fabulous community event. It continues to grow in popularity and is one of South Sound's premier marine-oriented, family events," said Ed Galligan, Port Executive Director. "We would like to extend special thanks to our sponsors and supporters — ~~Anchor Bank, Heritage Bank, Alpine Experience, Red Wind Casino, KGY, MIXX 96.1, Back in Motion~~

~~Chiropractic, Capital City Yachts, Tom's Outboard, and West Marine~~ – for their generous support of this event.”

Save the date for the 12th Annual Swantown BoatSwap & Chowder Challenge to be held Saturday, ~~May 12~~, 2008! For information, contact the Port of Olympia at 360-528-8000.

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About the Port of Olympia

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia is Thurston County's partner in economic opportunity. The Port owns and operates a diversified international shipping terminal, an established niche facility that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates a strategically located regional airport, a vibrant 656-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a thriving real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County and indirectly over 5,000 jobs in Washington State.