

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Legislators tell business audience that short session in Olympia will set the stage for '05

This morning a big turnout of southern Washington legislators, eight out of twelve, was greeted by a large turnout of Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, Identity Clark County and Columbia River Economic Development members, a couple of hundred, to share business priorities for the 2004 (short) legislative session that begins in January.

Presenters, introduced by Vancouver business consultant **Ed Hovee**, were Sen. **Don Carlson** (R-49th), Reps. **Jim Moeller** (D-49th), **Bill Fromhold** (D-49th), **Deb Wallace** (D-17th), **Mark Boldt** (R-17th) **Dan Newhouse** (R-15th) **Bruce Chandler** (R-15th), **Ed Orcutt** (R-18th).

Wallace said that the legislators will be preparing for the regular session in 2005. But, according to Boldt, there won't be any shortage of bills. He said most everything that didn't get passed last session, as well as a brand new batch of bills will be introduced in the first two weeks.

The legislators generally agreed that the shared business priorities proposed by the local business community are right on target: economic development, transportation, higher education, health care costs, and business tax issues.

Although lower down on the priority scale on the business agenda, health care issues appeared much higher among the legislators present. All agreed the issues were more than simply cost containment and access.

The fact that state of Washington's Medicare reimbursements are among the lowest in the nation and that Clark County's are among the lowest in the state, legislators agreed, is a problem that will be getting serious legislative attention.

The proposed Columbia River channel deepening was also on each of the legislators' radar screen.

All agreed that the I-5 transportation corridor needs to be improved, but not all agreed on how to finance those improvements.

Some, including Wallace, felt that tolls should be considered as part of a financing package. Orcutt, on the other hand, suggested that the congestion caused by collecting tolls would be counterproductive. But most agreed that the region should be given the same ability to create its own transportation district as Puget Sound got in from the last legislative session.

Short legislative sessions occur in even numbered years and generally are given over to adoption of a supplemental budget. But as Boldt says, a lot of bills will be introduced. Chandler said, "this is an exciting time to be in the legislature; an exciting time for the state."

Written testimony to be accepted as county public hearing on Growth Management Plan update continues next week

While further oral testimony will not be accepted as Clark County commissioners continue public hearings next week on the draft update of the 20-year Growth Management Plan, written testimony will to be accepted

Published by Tony Bacon, 7007 Corregidor Rd. Vancouver, WA 98664
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FRIDAY

Dec. 12, 2003

until the close of the public hearing phase.

The next public hearing session is 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the commissioners' hearing room on the sixth floor of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street.

The commissioners intent is to focus this stage of the hearing on determining their process for completing the plan update.

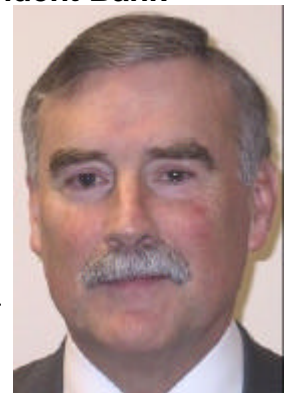
All written testimony should be mailed to the board of commissioners, P.O. Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98666, with copies to **Pat Lee**, in care of the county Community Development Department, P.O. Box 9810, Vancouver, WA 98666.

Further information is available by calling **397-2375**, or by going to the county's website: www.clark.wa.gov/ComDev/LongRange/CompReview/GMA2000.asp.

Michael Pomeroy named VP and senior trust officer at First Independent Bank

Michael Pomeroy, formerly retail area manager for Centennial/Umpqua Bank, has been appointed vice president and senior trust officer in First Independent Bank's Private Banking Department.

Pomeroy, who also has worked for First Interstate Bank and First Security/Wells Fargo, is a graduate of the University of Denver and a graduate of the American Banker's National Graduate trust School at Northwestern University.



Michael Pomeroy

Friday on the Air

Kootenay at Portland Winter Hawks (live)—7 p.m. KUPL
Animal Control Hearings (12/11)—7:30 p.m. CVTV
Comp Plan Update (12/9)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Friday, Dec. 12, 2003

Alaska Air Group	26.65	+17	Linear Technolog	41.21	-53
Alcoa	34.83	+18	Microsoft	26.65	+04
Amazon.com	50.99	+19	Nautilus	13.49	+36
Bank of America	75.85	-04	Nike	64.42	-07
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	33.81	-27
Bemis	49.18	+24	PepsiCo	46.88	unch
Boeing	39.37	-19	Precision Cast	45.10	-15
Boise Cascade	30.12	-06	RLRN	24.19	+09
CenturyTel	31.55	+04	Starbucks	31.73	-46
Costco	35.91	-23	TSM	10.10	-25
Expeditors Intl.	38.23	-06	Tektronix	27.43	+20
Georgia Pacific	29.31	+02	US Bancorp	27.98	+10
HPO	22.31	+11	Wash. Mutual	39.89	+46
Intel	30.86	-05	W. Coast Bancorp	21.74	+06
Kyocera	63.25	+59	Weyerhaeuser	60.85	+65

DOW: 10,042.16 +33.96 NASDAQ: 1949 +6.68 S&P: 11074.14 +2.93

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Scott Horenstein smoothly operating.	Acapulco	88/73
ZZZ Tom Hunt chasing lira. ZZZ	Athens	59/50
David Doss is where the action is.	Chicago	23/13
ZZZ Mike Worthy declaring bulletproof. ZZZ	Dallas	44/34
ZZZ Karen Stanley making Heart to Heart point. ZZZ	Hong Kong	67/57
John Fratt rousing the rabble. ZZZ	Los Angeles	65/48
Friday , mostly gray and rainy, 48.	London	51/49
Saturday , cloudy, and at times, rainy,	New Orleans	64/57
46. Sunday , may dry up and lighten	New York	44/30
up, 50.	Orlando	70/52
	Paris	49/44
	Phoenix	60/42
	Rome	59/47
	Seattle	46/39
	Sydney	82/63
	Tokyo	55/37
	Washington	47/30