

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Eight events ready for booking; dignitaries doing official ground breaking tomorrow on conference center-hotel



Although concrete in the footings of the downtown Vancouver convention center and hotel are barely set up, eight organizations are ready to sign letters of intent to book events in the Vancouver Conference Center and hotel, according to **Kim Bennett**, president of the Southwest Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Construction actually began last week, and most of the two-block site south of Esther Short Park along Columbia Street has been razed.

To make it official, dignitaries will gather on the site at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, for the ceremonial ground breaking of the \$72.1 million publicly owned, 226-room hotel and convention center.

Ginger Metcalf, executive director of Identity Clark County, initiator of the hotel-convention center concept, will be the master of ceremonies at tomorrow's event.

Speakers will be the following: Vancouver Mayor **Royce Pollard**; **Ed Lynch**, chair of the board of Identity Clark County; **Robert Gallup**, senior vice president, operations, FaulknerUSA, general contractor of the project; **Tracey Simpson**, associate principal, Fletcher Farr Ayotte Architects; and **Brad Hutton**, area vice president/general manager for Hilton Hotels Corporation.

When completed in 2005, the four-star hotel facility will provide reception space for 1,167 people, banquet space for 933, and junior ballroom space for 469.

The hotel also includes a restaurant and lounge.

2004 GEM executive board completed

Terry McClure, Vancouver, has been elected chair of the GEM executive board, succeeding **Steve Roberts**, Washougal.

Elected with McClure were **Chris Carlson**, vice chair, **Amy Sorenson**, secretary-treasurer, both of Vancouver, and at-large member, **Cliff Price**.

GEM, an acronym for grounds, equipment and maintenance, is a regional network of public agency employees that promotes governmental efficiency and the sharing of equipment and expertise. Membership encompasses regional cities and towns, school districts, fire districts ports and other municipal corporations.

MONDAY

Dec. 29, 2003

Fireworks sales continuing through 11 p.m. New Year's Eve

Fireworks for New Year's celebrations are on sale through 11 P.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the following locations:

- 15th and Washington Streets
- 307 SE Chkalov Road
- 3017 NE 112th Avenue
- 3200 SE 164th Avenue
- Vancouver Plaza
- 3021 NE 72nd Avenue
- 136th Avenue and SE Mill Plain Boulevard
- 15th Street and SE 164th Avenue
- Vancouver Mail and Thurston Way
- 200 block of SE 164th Avenue

Realtors present annual awards

Kathy Rylander, Windemere Stellar Group, has been named Realtor of the Year by the Clark County Association of Realtors.

The local Realtor's group presented **Freeman Keller**, who has been a Realtor for 48 years, its Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Achievement Award for the current year was given to **Randy Hunzeker**, GMAC Real Estate. Clark County Commissioner **Betty Sue Morris** earned the Realtors' Citizen of the Year Award.

The affiliate of the year is REALTOR Multiple Listing Service. The Media of the Year is the *Columbian*.

Monday on the Air

- Vancouver City Council (12/22)—4 p.m. CVTV
- Portland Blazers at New Jersey (live)—4:30 p.m. FSN, KXL, KRMZ**
- Alamo Bowl: Michigan St. vs. Nebraska (live)—6 p.m. ESPN**
- Vancouver City Council (12/15)—7 p.m. CVTV
- Vancouver Police Recognition Ceremony—11 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Monday, Dec. 29, 2003

Alaska Air Group	27.94	+29	Linear Technology	42.37	+1.60
Alcoa	38.91	+1.42	Microsoft	27.46	+25
Amazon.com	53.47	unch	Nautilus	14.26	+47
Bank of America	80.30	+215	Nike	67.84	-01
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	34.16	+32
Bemis	49.10	+34	PepsiCo	46.76	+29
Boeing	42.00	+53	Precision Cast	45.61	-11
Boise Cascade	32.36	+76	RRLRN	24.18	-17
CenturyTel	32.23	+71	Starbucks	32.30	+36
Costco	36.98	+60	TSM	10.02	+15
Expeditors Intl.	38.66	+77	Tektronix	32.02	+33
Georgia Pacific	30.60	+52	US Bancorp	29.60	+39
HPQ	22.93	+33	Wash. Mutual	40.08	+66
Intel	31.15	+79	W. Coast Bancorp	21.68	+31
Kyocera	67.50	+75	Weyerhaeuser	63.65	+105
DOW: 10,450 +125.33 NASDAQ: 2006.48 +33.34 S&P: 1109.48 +13.99					

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Dan Heine heading for sunshine with racquet. del del Tim Barbutt shoveling news. del del Lee Davis imploring. del Theresa Baker telling Gem story. del del Dave and Ceci Smith adding Happy New Year, too. del del Pat Doran sending tools. del del Monday , morning skiff of snow, cloudy, sunbreaks, 42. Tuesday , white morning, gray later, chilly, 38. Wednesday , cold and rainy, 40.	Acapulco	88/72
	Athens	54/42
	Chicago	42/23
	Dallas	56/32
	Hong Kong	70/62
	Los Angeles	62/50
	London	37/30
	New Orleans	69/42
	New York	53/44
	Orlando	76/56
	Paris	34/26
	Phoenix	56/42
	Rome	40/23
	Seattle	51/37
	Sydney	82/64
	Tokyo	51/42
	Washington	60/42