

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Negotiations underway to give county railroad new management, new direction

Clark County commissioners Wednesday agreed to negotiate a contract with Pacific Standard Corp. to take over operation and management of the county-owned 33-mile railroad that runs between Burlington Northern Santa Fe's Wye Junction at the mouth of Burnt Bridge Creek and Chelatchie Prairie northeast of Yacolt.

Pacific Standard owns the Spirit of Washington and the Columbia Basin Railroad, both successful excursion operations.

The Spirit of Washington is also a successful dinner train that offers three-and-a-half hour excursions between Renton and Woodville that include a stop at the Columbia Winery.

The Clark County volunteer organization Battle Ground, Yacolt and Chelatchie Prairie Railroad, which has the contract—it expires at the end of this year—to operate the northern half of the railroad as an excursion line, also envisions a dinner train.

BYCX was paired with Northwest Container Services of Portland, the operator of the southern part of the line, in an unsuccessful proposal to continue current operations and management.

The line, currently in disrepair, is barely serviceable enough for a handful of railcar movements a month between Vancouver and Battle Ground.

But property adjoining the line that is owned by the county is worth millions of dollars.

Time will tell whether a dinner excursion run like the Spirit of Washington could be created. Cost of upgrading the line is estimated in the millions.

Pacific Standard's vision is for more than dinner and a train ride. It includes creation of a winery stop and a conference center and small amphitheater at the destination.

The county commissioners' vision includes a partnership between Pacific Standard and BYCX.

Future Olympians on the ice in Vancouver

The Pacific Coast Sectionals of the U.S. Figure Skating Association, sponsored by the Portland Ice Skating Club, continue in the Mountain View Ice Arena, 14313 E Mill Plain Boulevard, through Saturday.

The competition includes 158 top skaters from 11 western states.

Tickets for the events are \$10 a day or \$25 for all three days. Competition begins around noon each day and continues late into the night. Championship events end at 11 p.m. tonight and Friday, and at 10 p.m. Saturday. For further information, go to www.pisc.org.

WSDOT grant triggers foundation matching money to complete Cathlapotle plank house

A grant from the state Department of Transportation triggered Fred Meyer Foundation and M. J. Murdock Foundation grants of \$60,000 and \$75,000 respectively, to complete financing for reproduction of a Chinook

THURSDAY

Nov. 13, 2003

plankhouse at Cathlapotle north of Ridgefield.

Construction of the plankhouse, to be completed for Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities, has already begun.

The foundation grants assure completion and furnishing of the \$500,000 project, a reproduction of one of several seen by Lewis and Clark in 1805. Archaeologists project continuous occupation of the state back at least 3,000 years.

Sen. Murray booked by chamber

U.S. Sen. **Patty Murray** (D-Wash.) will address a Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce luncheon Monday, Nov. 24, in the Heathman Lodge.

Call **694-2588** to pre-register for \$30 tickets.

News briefs

Port of Vancouver open house presenting draft plans for development of the Columbia Gateway, which would nearly double port operations, is from 5 to 8 p.m. today in port offices, 3103 NW Lower River Road. ~~See~~ The Clark County Planning Commission begins deliberation on proposals to update the county comprehensive plan at 5 p.m. today in Vancouver City Hall. ~~See~~ The Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. tonight in the Church Community Room, 400 NE 179th Street. ~~See~~ Two Vancouver annexation proposals and one from Washougal will be reviewed by the State Boundary Review Board for Clark County at noon Friday, Nov. 14, in the Vancouver Citizens Service Center, 1313 Main Street. ~~See~~ Old Slocum House Theatre Company's *The Sorcerer* continues 8 p.m. tonight, Friday and Saturday in the theatre at Esther Short Park. A Sunday, Nov. 16, matinee is at 2 p.m.

Thursday on the Air

Animal Control Hearings (live)—3:30 p.m. CVTV
The 2003 Marshall Lecture: Marsha Evans—5:30 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Planning Commission (live)—6:30 p.m. CVTV
Sacramento at the Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. TNT. KXL

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Thursday, Nov. 13, 2003

Alaska Air Group	27.80	-.29	Linear Technology	43.85	-.48
Alcoa	33.13	+.42	Microsoft	25.69	-.29
Amazon.com	54.80	+.67	Nautilus	14.68	unch
Bank of America	75.41	-.40	Nike	61.84	+1.12
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	31.60	-.19
Bemis	45.59	-.13	PepsiCo	47.50	-.56
Boeing	39.90	+.83	Precision Cast	41.84	+1.53
Boise Cascade	29.33	unch	RLRN	24.15	-.07
CenturyTel	33.43	-.33	Starbucks	33.00	+.41
Costco	34.29	-.60	TSM	10.98	-.02
Expeditors Intl.	39.80	-.36	Tektronix	26.12	+.05
Georgia Pacific	25.81	-1.19	US Bancorp	27.70	+.08
HPO	22.35	+.08	Wash. Mutual	46.50	+.55
Intel	33.78	-.32	W. Coast Bancorp	21.91	+.01
Kyocera	60.60	-.80	Weyerhaeuser	57.20	-.33

DOW: 98.37.94 -10.89.04 NASDAQ: 1967.35 -5.76 S&P: 1058.41 -.12

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Emma Cyders and Jonathan Ng making the ice sing. ~~See~~ **Blaine Nisson** coming up with \$1,425 in less than a minute. ~~See~~ **Bill Hidden** promising entertainment. ~~See~~ **Val Ogden** checking absence slips. **Arlene Johnson** ahead of the pack. ~~See~~ **Thursday**, patchy morning fog, sunny afternoon, 58. **Friday**, clouds return, 54. **Saturday**, cloudy with possible showers, 52.

Acapulco	93/77
Athens	58/43
Chicago	40/24
Dallas	60/38
Hong Kong	73/61
Los Angeles	67/51
London	53/44
New Orleans	68/47
New York	54/35
Orlando	82/50
Paris	47/37
Phoenix	70/54
Rome	54/43
Seattle	54/42
Sydney	70/55
Tokyo	59/49
Washington	56/34