

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

City council votes 5-2 to proceed with hotel-convention center

The Vancouver City Council last night voted 5-2 to proceed with a planned \$71.2 million hotel and conference center. Downtown Vancouver is awakening from its slumbers, said Mayor **Royce Pollard**.

Opposing the measure, as they have throughout the several years the project has been on the table, were councilmembers **Jeanne Lipton** and **Jeanne Stewart**.

Lipton is a candidate in this year's general election for Pollard's office.

Lipton and Stewart regard the proposed convention center project as poorly financed and as not having been presented to the public for a vote.

But the prospect of some kind of downtown center has already brought life back to the Esther Short Park area. Apartments and condominium buildings face the east and north boundaries of the park, and a third set of apartments is nearly under construction on the west side.

The hotel, with a conference center inside, would be built on the south side of the park.

Although the council by its vote has given the green light, a few other elements are yet to be resolved. They include a lawsuit filed recently in Olympia protesting the state law that provides a sales tax rebate for communities which build public facilities (several in the state do) and an agreement with Hilton Hotels to operate the 225-room hotel and its 30,000 square foot convention facility once it is built, and whether or how much of the county's sales tax rebate would go toward the Vancouver center.

Unemployment lessens in Clark County

Although well above state and national unemployment statistics, Clark County continued to improve. Non-adjusted unemployment stood at 8.9 percent of the labor force here in September, compared to 9.1 percent recorded in August and 10.1 percent in July.

Statewide, non-adjusted unemployment stood at 7.0 percent, down .2 percent from August. Nationally, unemployment for September was 5.8 percent.

The best that state Employment Security Department chief **Sylvia Mundy** could say today was that "the labor market is not getting significantly worse."

Clark Public Utilities communicates a lot

Clark Public Utilities has been named Mailer of the Year by the Greater Portland Postal Customer Council for management excellence. Receiving the award for the utility, which includes \$100 for a celebration party, was **Rose Wiley**, the utility's office services manager.

The utility handles more than 4.5 million pieces of incoming and outgoing mail a year.

But, also, the utility handles 455,325 telephone calls annually. Customers each talk to the utility an average of 2 minutes and 19 seconds for a total of 17,600 hours a year.

Utility commissioners Tuesday approved a staff recommendation for a call monitoring system, "in an effort to further improve customer communications."

TUESDAY

Oct. 14, 2003

People

Dan Heine, formerly president of TODAY'S BANK, which was acquired earlier this year by Riverview Bank, will be representing the Pacific Northwest beginning Oct. 30 in Jackson, Miss., at the United States Tennis Association's intersectional men's championships. Heine, a 5.0 player, will compete in singles and doubles in the 55-to-60 age bracket. ~~ZZZ~~ Clark Public Utilities' **Kathy Weston**, **Jan Ralston** and **Mike McClean**, were cited during today's utility commission meeting for outstanding public service. Their actions were way beyond what's expected. Reported **Mat McCudden**, director of customer services: Their actions over an arrearage in a customer account this summer not only prevented an elderly, ill customer from losing electric power, after she had already lost water service, but quite possibly saved her life.

Vancouver city and port candidates to speak

Vancouver City Council and Vancouver Port District candidates have been invited to make presentations at a forum, 6:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, in the Vancouver Community Library, 1007 E Mill Plain Boulevard. The forum is sponsored by the Vancouver League of Women Voters and the Forum at the Library.

News briefs

The C-TRAN board of directors will meet in a budget workshop session at 4 p.m. and a formal meeting at 5:15 p.m. today in the C-TRAN administrative offices, 2425 NE 65th Avenue. ~~ZZZ~~ Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Tuesday on the Air

Brian Baird Town Hall Meeting—4:40 p.m. CVTV
Florida Marlins at Chicago Cubs (live)—5 p.m. KPTV, KKSX
Video Voters' Guide—6 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—6:30 p.m. CVTV
Seattle Sonics at Portland Trail Blazers (live)—7 p.m. KXL

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2003

Alaska Air Group	31.25	-.42	Linear Technology	42.00	+1.04
Alcoa	30.73	+.62	Microsoft	28.68	-.10
Amazon.com	59.91	+1.61	Nautilus	13.99	+1.14
Bank of America	82.50	+.76	Nike	64.45	+1.11
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	28.61	-.23
Bemis	45.02	-.24	PepsiCo	48.49	+1.16
Boeing	37.15	-.15	Precision Cast	39.40	+1.25
Boise Cascade	28.47	-.02	RLRN	26.06	+1.16
CenturyTel	35.25	-.15	Starbucks	30.36	-.03
Costco	33.47	+1.12	TSM	11.63	-.23
Expeditors Intl.	37.18	+.58	Tektronix	26.62	-.14
Georgia Pacific	26.10	-.28	US Bancorp	25.65	+1.32
HPQ	21.39	+1.15	Wash. Mutual	41.65	+1.19
Intel	31.08	+.28	W. Coast Bancorp	22.05	+1.53
Kyocera	63.09	+.99	Weyerhaeuser	60.01	-.19

DOW: 9812.98 +48.60 ~~ZZZ~~NASDAQ: 1943.19 +9.66 ~~ZZZ~~S&P: 1049.48 +4.31

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Jim Caley ironing out details. ZZZ	Acapulco	90/77
Matt Erickson pulls out all stops, including gulley washer, for anniversary classic. ZZZ	Athens	73/59
Pat Kenny planning globally. ZZZ	Chicago	58/40
Kathy Kiwala accepting moderator chores. ZZZ	Dallas	78/52
Bob Day heating up the campaign. ZZZ	Hong Kong	77/67
Tuesday , clouds hang on, but sunbreaks expected, 62.	Los Angeles	82/61
Wednesday , gray and rainy, 57.	London	59/45
Thursday , gray, rainy and windy, 63.	New Orleans	85/59
	New York	65/54
	Orlando	86/67
	Paris	54/40
	Phoenix	96/72
	Rome	70/47
	Seattle	58/44
	Sydney	71/49
	Tokyo	63/53
	Washington	68/54