

# The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

## Demolition signals start of Southwest Washington Medical Center expansion



SWMC's Joe Kortum wears \$120 million smile after he bashes former Hannah Chrysler Building to signal start of medical center expansion

Southwest Washington Medical Center president and CEO **Joe Kortum**, at the controls of a behemoth Samsung back hoe this morning, took the first bite out of the former Dick Hannah Chrysler Dealership just north of Mill Plain Boulevard, signaling the beginning of the medical center's \$120 million expansion program

Behind the 2.5-acre property south of the medical center an eight-story tower will rise, housing new surgical suites and new one-patient rooms that eventually will replace all multi-beds in the center.

Southwest Washington Medical Center has the busiest emergency department in four states. The medical center is the third largest health care facility in the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan area, according to Kortum.

"It's the epicenter of health care in southern Washington," the chief says.

The state Department of Health gave the 360-bed non-profit institution authorization to expand by 82 new beds at the same time last year when it granted Legacy Health System permission to build a 220-bed hospital in Salmon Creek.

Site preparation is already underway on Legacy's hospital, although details of who will pay for all traffic improvements have not been ironed out.

Kortum says Southwest Washington Medical Center's expansion and modernization is a work in progress.

Construction is expected to begin next spring. Kortum says that final design will follow form as planners try to keep up with advancing medical technology.

The most complicated technological advances are in medical communications—how patient records are handled. There are significant advances in surgical robotics that we have to consider. The most important thing, though, Kortum says, is maintaining the highest level of patient care during construction.

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TUESDAY

Sept. 2, 2003

MBJ Architects, Seattle, are developing the physical plans requested by the medical center.

## Natural gas prices expected to cost average residential customer \$7.62 more a month

NW Natural has asked the state Utilities and Transportation Commission permission to increase retail natural gas prices by 16.3 percent for residential customers, by 17.6 percent for commercial customers and by approximately 21 percent for industrial.

The increases, adding \$7.62 cents to the average residential customer's monthly bill, would take effect on October 1.

The company, which files for rate adjustments annually based on wholesale gas costs, passes those costs directly through to customers with no markup. NW Natural's profit is derived from its transportation of natural gas to the customer.

## White Sturgeon Art Gallery features student photography; oil on fabric by Karen Elhers

A two month long exhibit of local student photography from the Inner Light Photographic Society is on display through Friday, Oct. 31, in the Water Resources Education Center, White Sturgeon Art Gallery. Also on view are oil on canvas and linen by **Karen Elhers**. The shows are free.

## News briefs

Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3.—The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council meets in regular session at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, in the Clark County commissioners' training room on the sixth floor of the Public Service Center.

### Tuesday on the air

Seattle Mariners at Tampa Bay (live)—4:15 p.m. FSN, KOTK  
City Council Convention Center Workshop (8/18)—7 p.m. CVTV  
PDF-DRA special meeting (8/27)—9 p.m. CVTV

### Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2003

Alaska Air Group	28.11	+52	Linear Technology	41.94	+70
Alcoa	28.62	+06	Microsoft	27.26	+74
Amazon.com	47.33	+1.01	Nautilus	12.01	+31
Bank of America	79.43	+18	Nike	57.48	+50
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	26.25	+18
Bemis	46.35	+1.05	PepsiCo	44.94	+40
Boeing	37.69	+30	Precision Cast	35.90	+50
Boise Cascade	28.05	+80	RLRN	25.05	-04
CenturyTel	34.87	+11	Starbucks	28.75	+36
Costco	33.13	+88	TSM	12.11	+33
Expeditors Intl.	38.01	+36	Tektronix	24.02	+38
Georgia Pacific	23.86	+69	US Bancorp	24.12	+22
HPQ	20.20	+27	Wash. Mutual	39.48	+50
Intel	28.74	+15	W. Coast Bancorp	19.50	+74
Kyocera	68.75	+5.42	Weyerhaeuser	60.95	+1.45
DOW: 9523.27 +107.45 NASDAQ: 1841.48 +31.03 S&P: 1021.99 +13.98					

### Town Tabloids and The Weather

Pat Lassanske's grant writing skills pay off.—**KC Fuller** earning full plate.—**Steven Sechrist** helping make news.—**Brittany Degen, Shanna Robinson** and **Nicole Palmquist** helping give the Red Cross volunteerism.—**Bruce Hagensen** sniffing kelp on the canal.—**Tuesday**, hazy and hot, 92. **Wednesday**, continued hot, 90. **Thursday**, relief from marine air, 82.

Acapulco	90/75
Athens	90/70
Chicago	76/60
Dallas	83/71
Hong Kong	88/79
Los Angeles	86/66
London	65/51
New Orleans	90/75
New York	69/62
Orlando	90/74
Paris	67/41
Phoenix	106/85
Rome	78/55
Seattle	84/56
Sydney	66/48
Tokyo	85/75
Washington	85/70