

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Nurses hit Southwest Washington Medical Center with unfair labor practice charge

The Washington State Nurses Association, representing about 1,000 registered nurses at Southwest Washington Medical Center, today filed an unfair labor practice charge against Southwest Washington Medical Center with the National Labor Relations Board.

The state Nurses Association has represented SWMC registered nurses for collective bargaining since August 1998.

The contract between the nurses' union and the medical center expired May 3. Efforts toward mediation thus far have failed, according to association spokesperson **Anne Piazza**. However, another session with a federal mediator is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 8.

Barbara Frye, director of labor relations for the state association, said the medical center has openly supported a decertification effort in violation of the National Labor Relations Act, including providing assistance to employees in circulating a petition to decertify the union.

Not so, answers **Ken Cole**, medical center spokesperson: "We intend to vigorously defend the charge, for which we believe there is no basis. The medical center is well aware of, and has complied with, federal labor laws and intends to continue doing so." Cole says he is not aware of any decertification petitions.

Cole adds that management will continue to bargain in good faith and will be at the mediation session Monday, adding, "Management negotiation teams have been negotiating for six months and have reached many decisions during that time."

According to Cole, the average pay for registered nurses at the medical center is \$55,000 a year. Piazza says that the hourly rate for registered nurses with five years' experience is about \$22 an hour.

Piazza says the sticking points in contract negotiations aren't current wages but a guarantee of future wages. The nurses want to know what they will be making in future years, she says.

Sausage lines begin forming Friday at St. Joseph Catholic Parish

More than 2000 volunteers are making final preparations for the 32nd Annual Vancouver Sausage Fest Friday, Sept. 5, through Sunday, Sept. 7, on the grounds of St. Joseph Catholic Parish, at Highland Drive and Andresen Boulevard.

Most of the volunteers will be cooking, selling, serving and cleaning up after tens of thousands of visitors show up, as they do annually. To see musical acts throughout each day, be entertained by Haworth Family Shows, one of the largest carnivals to tour Clark County, shop the many arts and crafts vendors, and renew friendships in the festival beer garden.

Apart from an evening cover charge in the beer garden, admission to the Sausage Fest is free. In addition to sausage and sausage trappings, there are barbecued ribs, barbecued chicken, baked potatoes

WEDNESDAY

Sept. 3, 2003

Shuttle buses will be available for fest goers, who may park at Marshall Elementary or MacArthur Middle Schools.

For further information on the festival and discount carnival ride tickets, call 696-4407.

Karen Stanley to wield baton during Carmen piece in free Vancouver Symphony concert

Salvador Brotons will conduct most of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's Riverview Symphony Under the Stars Saturday, Sept. 6, in Esther Short Park, but retired dentist **Karen Stanley** will wield the baton for *Les Toreadors* from the opera *Carmen*. Stanley earned the opportunity with a successful silent auction bid at the symphony's spring fund raiser.

There is no charge for the concert, which begins at 7 p.m.

News briefs

Dress rehearsal of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at 7 p.m. tonight in the Water Resource Education Center is free.—The City/County Telecommunications Commission meets in regular session at 7 p.m. tonight in City Hall. The commissioners meet informally at 6:30 p.m. with the public and the press for dessert and coffee.—InterACT discusses aging in Clark County at its First Thursday Forum at noon Thursday, Sept. 4, in My Friends & I Catering, 1010 Broadway. There is no charge.

Wednesday on the air

City-County Code Enforcement Appeal Hearings (8/14)—4 p.m. CVTV
Seattle Mariners at Tampa Bay (live)—4:15 p.m. FSN, KOTK
Clark County Focus—5 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Close Up—5:30 p.m. CVTV
City Minutes—6 p.m. CVTV
Telecommunications Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV
City Council Position 4 Primary Candidates—9 p.m. CVTV
City Council Position 5 Primary Candidates—10 p.m. CVTV
Port of Vancouver Commissioner District 2 Candidates—11 p.m. CVTV
Primary Video Voters' Guide—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2003

Alaska Air Group	28.95	+0.84	Linear Technology	39.54	-2.40
Alcoa	28.29	-0.33	Microsoft	28.30	+1.04
Amazon.com	46.19	-1.14	Nautilus	12.44	+0.43
Bank of America	78.00	-1.43	Nike	57.24	-0.24
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	26.20	-0.05
Bemis	46.34	-0.01	PepsiCo	44.96	+0.02
Boeing	38.37	+0.68	Precision Cast	36.36	+0.49
Boise Cascade	27.83	-0.22	RLRN	26.90	+1.85
CenturyTel	35.33	+0.46	Starbucks	28.96	+0.21
Costco	33.26	+0.13	TSM	11.76	-0.35
Expeditors Intl.	38.31	+0.30	Tektronix	24.45	+0.43
Georgia Pacific	24.05	+0.19	US Bancorp	24.10	-0.02
HPQ	20.64	+0.44	Wash. Mutual	39.59	+0.11
Intel	28.22	-0.52	W. Coast Bancorp	19.33	-0.17
Kyocera	68.57	-0.18	Weyerhaeuser	60.78	-0.17
DOW: 9568.46 +45.19 NASDAQ: 1852.9 +11.42 S&P: 1026.27 +4.28					

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Marie Sullivan keeping tabs on old place.—**Millie Schofield** cashing in on E-Bay outlet.—**Bryon Helgason** coming back for more.—**Mark Andrews** soon to arrive with charger.—**Mitch Bloemke** keeps on custom truckin.—**Wednesday**, bad air day, continued hot, smoky, 94. **Thursday**, marine air expected to bring some relief, 86. **Friday**, more clouds move in, 80.

Acapulco	90/75
Athens	86/61
Chicago	78/56
Dallas	86/71
Hong Kong	85/77
Los Angeles	84/66
London	67/53
New Orleans	91/76
New York	70/68
Orlando	88/74
Paris	63/47
Phoenix	108/85
Rome	73/54
Seattle	88/58
Sydney	69/42
Tokyo	86/61
Washington	82/70