

## Surveyors first to book Vancouver Hilton Hotel and convention center



Intersection at 6th and Columbia Streets is expected to get busy when 226-room Hilton Hotel and conference center is completed in mid-2005. Visitor and Convention Center has already booked 1,700 conventioners for early 2006.

Two major bookings were announced for the Vancouver Hilton Hotel and the convention center by the Southwest Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau today, which will bring in a total of 1,700 attendees.

The first to book the hotel and convention center, under construction at 6th and Columbia Streets, are 1,000 members of the Washington Land Surveyors' Association and the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon, who will hold a three-day conference in Vancouver in March 2006. Also booked into the hotel are 700 members of the Oregon and Washington affiliates of the National Recreation and Park Association in April 2006.

A total of 500 hotel rooms throughout the Vancouver area are being held for the surveyors' convention, according to **Kim Bennett**, president of the Southwest Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Hilton will have 226 rooms when it opens in mid-2005. Currently there are 2,100 hotel rooms in Clark County.

According to Bennett, the two conferences will add \$583,000 to the local economy. Bennett says the bureau is working with 34 other organizations and businesses interested in holding meetings in Vancouver.

When completed, the hotel and convention center will provide reception space for up to 1,300 persons, banquet space for up to 1,100 persons, a junior ballroom for up to 600 persons, nine breakout rooms and underground parking.

## WSU Vancouver professor participating in \$1 million nanotechnology research project

**Daniel Chiang**, engineering faculty member at Washington State University Vancouver, along with Washington State University Pullman and Portland State University professors, will be developing thermal switches using carbon nanotubes, under a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

"This multidisciplinary and multicampus effort will strengthen the nanoscience and microtechnology research in the Pacific Northwest," according to **Jun Jiao**, Portland State University physics professor.

Nanotechnology is a hybrid science combining engineering, materials science, and chemistry, the goal of which is to create useful structures and devices by manipulating individual atoms and molecules. Nonometers, the measurement of objects subject to nanotechnology, are objects no larger than a millionth of a millimeter.

## Clark College gets state grant to train Micropump employees

Clark College has received an \$11,650 grant from the Washington State Job Skills Program to provide employee training for Micropump, a local manufacturer of industrial gear pumps.

Ten Micropump sales, marketing and customer service employees will be trained in basic principles of pump technology, to help serve customers more effectively, according to Clark College spokesperson **Kristin Kautz**.

The training program is administered by the Clark College Customized Training Department, which earlier provided training to employees for Vancouver's nLight Photonics, a semiconductor laser manufacturer.

The training program was designed to provide specialized training for area employers in support of their need for qualified employees.

## Clark County road maintenance complies with Endangered Species Act

Clark County's routine road maintenance practices have been certified by the NOAA Fisheries as fully compliant with the Endangered Species Act, reports county Endangered Species Program coordinator **Joel Rupley**. Clark County is one of the first in the state to be certified in compliance.

County maintenance crews are trained to identify important habitat locations within road maintenance rights-of-way, and have developed provisions for responding to emergencies, such as chemical spills, Rupley says.

## RSVP looking for a few good 55-year-olds and up to volunteer for community projects

Vancouver' Retired and Senior Volunteer Program has issued a call for volunteers, 55 years and older, for upcoming community assignments.

Volunteers are sought for the Southwest Washington Medical Center hospital gift shop, for America Reads and America Counts Programs (to work with the Evergreen School District), the Columbia River Mental Health Services annual benefit auction, November 13, and the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop.

Training is available for volunteers. For further information, call **Bobbi Casanova, 696-8221**.

[Clark College's Blaine Nisson is a finalist for president of Rock Valley College, Rockford, Ill--Columbian, \*\*Brett Oppegaard\*\*](#)  
[Clark College is vital to the arts center--Columbian, \*\*Brett Oppegaard\*\*](#)  
[Apartments at Esther Short Commons going like hotcakes--Oregonian, \*\*Alan Brettman\*\*](#)  
[Superior Court may get 9th judge--Columbian, \*\*Erin Middlewood\*\*](#)  
[Louise Wynn completes back from month-long Mars experiment--Columbian, \*\*Don Jenkins\*\*](#)  
[Fallen Marine known for his laugh--Columbian](#)  
[Bear passes out after 36 beers--KATU \(Video\)](#)  
[Mortgage rates dip again--USA TODAY, Reuters](#)  
[Google shares jump to \\$100.34--New York Times, \*\*Gary Rivlin\*\*](#)  
[USA basketball team beats Australia--USA TODAY, \*\*David DuPree\*\*](#)

#### Thursday on the air

Seattle Mariners at Kansas City (live)—5 p.m. FSN, KFXN

Clark County Close Up—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Planning Commission (live)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Portland Beavers at Sacramento (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Puerto Rico at Portland Timbers (live)—7 p.m. KZNY, KRMZ

#### Town tabloids and the weather

**Susan Wolff** concluding successful ad campaign. 🍀🍀 **Mick Shutt** approaching natal day carefully. 🍀🍀 **Krista Hildebrand** giving upbeat report. 🍀🍀 **Bill Ayers** approach shows more practice. 🍀🍀 **Shelley Giesbers** promoting Open House Ministries concert. 🍀🍀  
**Thursday**, mostly sunny, 90. **Friday**, partly cloudy, 84. **Saturday**, few more clouds, some sunshine, 80.