

Vancouver Symphony's gala-features music, dancing and optional black tie and masks

Billed as the Carnivale of Venice, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's big bash of the year, its annual benefit concert, is so posh guests are encouraged to wear masks. Black ties are also optional.

The celebration begins with a silent auction at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 6, in Royal Oaks Country Club. The prize auction item is the opportunity to conduct the orchestra, last year won by **Karen Stanley**.

Michael Liu, symphony orchestra board member, will provide background piano music. Board member **Julia Anderson** and symphony principal cellist **Jerry Bobbe** are masters of ceremony.

All proceeds benefit the symphony orchestra and its community outreach program. Ticket prices range from \$125 to \$175. For reservations, call **735-7278**.

League of Women Voters says check the box

The League of Women Voters Clark County supports National League of Women Voters President **Kay J. Maxwell** in saying, "It's tax season again and Americans are agonizing over pages of complicated tax forms. Anxious to get to the bottom line, millions of tax payers skip over the first question, the one that asks whether you want to check the box to designate three dollars to the Presidential Election Fund.

"This election year, we ask that you take that question seriously. Checking the box is important for our democracy. It funds the public system that allows Americans to own the presidency, rather than special interests."

It is important to know that by checking the box one's *taxes will not be increased or one's refund be reduced*. A checked box simply takes three dollars from the taxes that one has already paid and places it into the Presidential Election Fund. The size of this fund is then determined by the number of people who choose to check the box.

In 1976, in response to special interest funding of presidential campaigns, the Presidential Election Fund was started in order to create a political system that was open and responsive to all citizens.

Candidates and the public alike, benefit from the public financing system, according to the League, because candidates are able to receive special interest free money to help cover their campaign costs, and voters are assured that fundraising rules and spending limits are followed.

For more information, go to www.lwv.org.

Find your way around the fair

The Clark County Fair Transition Team has put the final touches on the new layout for the 2004 Clark County Fair. The plan brings a new commitment to hold the annual Fair scheduled for August 6-15.

Fair Board Directors and Team members **Roy Garrison, Jack Giesy, Sharon Marble, Dick Streissguth, Janet Bellcoff**, and **Jerry Kolke** have been diligently

meeting nearly every Monday evening for the past 120 days to facilitate the relocation of several live and still exhibits displayed at the annual fair. Chair person **Janet Bellcoff** said, adding: "Even though our new building won't be complete we recognized that the heart and soul of the Fair are the many groups who participate, and it is the Fair Board's obligation to insure that those groups and the fairgoing public have a great experience during the construction phase this summer. That's why this has been so important."

"I'll bet we talked to representatives from over 25 organizations and everyone has been understanding, cooperative, and very, very supportive of our efforts. The most important thing, the priority of this team, has been to insure that every group has been accommodated," said Bellcoff.

In late December 2003, the Clark County Fair Association and Clark County began construction of a new 100,000-square-foot exposition hall, currently slated to open sometime in the first quarter of 2005. Plans call for that hall to host a variety of consumer shows including boat shows, RV shows, and antique and craft shows.

News briefs

The Vancouver-Clark County Telecommunications commission meets in regular session at 6:30 p.m. Today, March 3, in City Hall. ~~ZZZ~~ The Clark College Theater presentation of **Stephen Schwartz** and **Nina Faso's Working** are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 4 through 6, in Gaiser Hall on the main campus. Admission is \$10. Call ahead for reservations, **992-2815**.

People

First Independent Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of **Tim Heine** as Vice President and Manager of retail banking. Heine's primary focus will be on the support and development of the bank's 23 branches. Heine serves on the Clark County Skills Center Financial Customer Services Advisory Board and is involved in the Greater Vancouver and Camas-Washougal Chambers of Commerce, and in the Vancouver Rotary.

Wednesday on the air

Memphis at Portland — 7 p.m., FSN and KXL 750

City Minutes -- 6 p.m., CVTV

City/County Telecommunications Commission (LIVE) -- 7 p.m., CVTV

Town Hall Meeting: 19th Legislative District -- 9:30 p.m., CVTV

Clark County Close Up -- 11:30 p.m., CVTV

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Dr. Dyehouse having the perfect cure. ~~ZZZ~~ **Jeremy Williams** finding the fountain of youth. ~~ZZZ~~ **Joni** and **Bruce Knight** lighting candles. ~~ZZZ~~ **Mike Smedley** rebounding with flying colors. ~~ZZZ~~ **Wednesday**, wet, wet and more wet, 48. **Thursday**, mixed rain and showers, blustery, 52. **Friday** a few rain showers, but nothing serious, 52.

Acapulco	91/72
Athens	53/38
Chicago	49/35
Dallas	68/62
Hong Kong	61/50
Las Vegas	60/41
Los Angeles	66/50
London	47/39
New York	56/42
Orlando	82/63
Paris	46/32
Phoenix	63/41
Rome	46/34
Seattle	46/36
Sydney	79/63
Tokyo	44/33
Washington	65/46