

Convention and visitors bureau budget going up to \$800,000 a year

A \$2-a-night hotel room tax supported by a majority of hotel and motel operators in Clark County and approved by both the Vancouver City Council and the board of Clark County commissioners has put the Southwest Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau on firm footing with an \$800,000 annual operating budget and has freed up Vancouver and Clark County lodging taxes for capital projects, including the city's convention center and the county's exposition hall.

During the current year the SWCVB operated on a \$350,000 budget, of which \$250,000 was provided by Vancouver and \$100,000 by Clark County.

The new tax is effective Dec. 1 and applies to some 2,000 lodging rooms in the county and Vancouver. It is in addition to two percent lodging taxes collected by the city and the county, part of which was used to support the SWCVB through Dec. 1, this year.

"The local hoteliers deserve a lot of credit for making this happen," according to **Kelly Sills**, polic assistant to the board of commissioners.

It happened quickly, too. The 2003 legislature created a statute allowing local entities to create Tourism Promotion Areas (TPA) and levy the \$2-a-room lodging tax, provided that a majority of lodging owners petitioned for the creation of the districts. By July this year the hoteliers responded.

Lodging owners representing over 60 percent of the amount of money to be collected by the \$2 tax petitioned both the City of Vancouver and Clark County to create TPAs. The city and county responded by forming a joint TPA

Kalama, the little port that could, does

The Port of Kalama, 30 miles up the road in Cowlitz County, once again was, in 2003, the third biggest on the west coast in terms of bulk cargo shipped, and third in the state of Washington in terms of total tonnage, loaded and unloaded.

According to information from the Pacific Maritime Association, 6,952,826 tons of bulk cargo, mostly grain, was shipped from the port last year, compared to 10,532,545 tons for number 1, the Port of Portland, and 7,269,307 tons from the Port of Long Beach, Calif., which was in second place. The Port of Vancouver was in sixth place, with 3,179,551 tons shipped.

The Port of Tacoma handled the greatest amount of total tonnage during 2003: 27.6 million tons, the Port of Seattle; 19.8 million tons; and the Port of Kalama, 7.3 million tons. The Port of Vancouver followed in fourth place, handling just under 4 million tons of cargo during the year.

Jennifer Edwards wins Preceptor Award



Jennifer Edwards

Jennifer Edwards, assistant director of Pharmacy Services at Southwest Washington Medical Center, has been named 2004 Preceptor Award winner by the Washington State University College of Pharmacy.

Pharmacy students with whom Edwards worked nominated her for the award. As part of the pharmacy preceptor program at the medical center, Edwards hosted 15 pharmacy students from WSU, the University of Washington and the University of Oregon. The students, whose primary focus was on clinical pharmacy, spent much of their time on patient floors under the supervision of practicing pharmacists.

Edwards says the award is recognition of the entire pharmacy preceptor program at SWMC and of the pharmacists who were involved in teaching the young about to become professionals.

Season tickets to Bravo! Vancouver's 11th on sale

Season tickets for Bravo! Vancouver's 11th concert season are now available, reports **Michael Kissinger**, conductor of the six-concert series which begins with the annual Handel *Messiah* oratorio at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, in the St. Joseph Catholic Church, 400 S Andresen Road.

Concerts during the season include "The Best of the Baroque," in February, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* in March, "Out of Africa," in May, and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Jazz Orchestra, **The New Washingtonians**, in June. A bonus concert, Oliver Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*, has been scheduled for Jan. 9.

Reserved season tickets for all six concerts range from \$60 to \$70. Reserved single admission tickets are \$15. General admission at the door is \$12. For further information, call 904-0441, or go to the Bravo! Vancouver website at www.bravoconcerts.com.

News briefs

Pearson Air Museum's Wednesday Cruz-In is from 4 to 9 p.m. today at Pearson Field, 111 E Fifth Street. 🚗 Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening and will consider a resolution supporting annexation of port property by the City of Ridgefield. 🚗 The Forum at the Library presents school district superintendents **John Erickson**, **Rick Melching**, **Bob Donaldson** and **Mary Vagner** in a discussion of local school issues at 7 p.m. tonight in the Vancouver Community Library Hall, 1007 E Mill Plain Boulevard. 🚗 The Puget Sound Blood Center is conducting a blood drive from 1 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, in St. John Lutheran Church, 11005 E Highway 99.

Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Sheriff to meet with family of girl rescued from predator--Columbian, **Kathie Durbin**](#) [Sheriff Garry Lucas and Sergeant Dave Trimble today issued apologies to 14-year-old Kylie Taylor and her family.]

[Healthy baby girl born in the parking lot at Southwest Washington Medical Center; hospital is trained to handle as many as a half-doze similar cases a year--Columbian, **Kelly Adams**](#)

[Plans envision Camas-Washougal freeway, but reality still a long way off--Columbian, **Dean Baker**](#)

[Oregon developer acquires 10,600-square-foot building at Evergreen Boulevard and C Street--Columbian, **Julia Anderson**](#)

[Asphalt and gravel companies want more protection from land-use plan in east Vancouver--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)

[Top three applicants \(Scott Collier, Robert Lewis and Mark Baum\) for superior court position to be interviewed by governor's attorney--Oregonian, **Holley Gilbert**](#)

[Tornado interferes with, but doesn't slow down carver working on Cathlapotle plankhouse--Oregonian, **Foster Church**](#)

[Kerry cements lead in Washington State--Seattle P-I, AP, **Davie Ammons**](#)

Wednesday on the air

Annual Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Dinner—5 p.m. CVTV

Mariners at Anaheim (live)—7 p.m. FSN, **KFXX**

Telecommunications Commission (9/1)—7 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Land Use Hearings (9/14)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Krista Hildebrand taking care of details. 🗣️ **Ken Cole** hustling up 1,000 words. 🗣️ **Barbara Ainslie** checking back issues. 🗣️ **Greg Shine** filling in details. 🗣️ **Candi Erlich** knowing good music when she hears it. 🗣️ **Lanny Cawley** once again has bragging rights. 🗣️ **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 73. **Thursday**, mostly sunny, a very slight chance of light precipitation, 76. **Friday**, mostly sunny, 78.