

**Vancouver to begin celebrating its 150th birthday
with Mayor Pollard's State-of-the-City Address**

This year's theme, of Mayor **Royce Pollard's** State-of-the-City address, "Pride, Progress, Possibilities," focuses on Vancouver's evolution over the past 150 years as well as what lies ahead. The mayor's address, to be delivered on Jan. 23, comes on the exact date of 150th anniversary of the founding of Vancouver in 1857.

The sesquicentennial is a major milestone for a community that has seen its share of ups and downs and everything in between in its 150 years, according to Pollard. "Vancouver, the cradle of Northwest civilization, wavered between being the regional hub of social and economic activities to downtrodden years of deterioration and decline," the mayor said. "As we approach our 150th birthday, Vancouver is proud to be recognized as one of the region's most vibrant and progressive cities."

The oldest public square in Pacific Northwest, Esther Short Park, now the focal point of downtown Vancouver, was opened two years earlier, in 1855.

Other celebratory events will include a community picnic, a citywide bike ride with the mayor and a special exhibit at the Clark County Historical Museum, which opens in February.

The mayor's address is at 10 a.m. in the Heritage Ballroom in the Hilton Vancouver Washington. Admission is \$5. The event is open to the public, but registration is required by calling **696-8200**.

Baird sworn in gets busy

Today, Congressman Brian Baird just after being sworn in for his fifth term as the representative for Washington's Third Congressional District, introduced legislation to make the state sales tax deduction permanent. Democrat Baird led the effort in the House that has given Washingtonians sales tax sales tax deductibility for four years.

According to the department of revenue, Washington residents saved \$355 million in federal taxes in 2004 due to tax deduction for state and local sales tax. Washingtonians who itemize can save, on average, \$500 if they take the sales tax deduction. The current law expires after 2007.

Baird is expected to retain his seats on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Committees and the Budget Committee in the new Congress.

**Sister City mayor requests, gets Fort
Vancouver Tapestry for exhibit in Japan**

Mayor **Akio Hashimoto** asked to borrow the Fort Vancouver Tapestry for exhibition in Joyo City, Japan from August through December, 2007. The Fort Vancouver Tapestry group is elated.

The Tapestry exhibition will be a centerpiece in the celebration of the sister-city relationship between Joyo City and Vancouver, and for mutual anniversaries. Joyo City celebrates 35 years of municipal administration this year. Vancouver celebrates its 150th birthday.

The Fort Vancouver Tapestry is a wool-on-linen textile narrative that details our regions' history, measuring 28 inches high and 108 feet long holding. The tapestry took hundreds of volunteers over 100,000 hours to embroider and became a Washington State Lewis and Clark Legacy project in 2001.

"The Tapestry is an incredible mix of art and history and we are proud an international audience will have a chance to view this piece and learn a little bit about more about America's Vancouver," says Mayor **Royce Pollard**.

"The many volunteers who worked tirelessly to create the Fort Vancouver Tapestry are to be applauded", declares **Sherry Mowatt**, artistic director of the tapestry. "Their artistic achievement will certainly inspire greater cultural exchange and appreciation. In fact, Joyo's international reputation as a textile art center makes this exhibition particularly rewarding."

The Fort Vancouver Tapestry is currently on display in the Columbia Room in the Washington State Capitol, through the 2007 legislative session.

Wireless zones growing

Free wireless zones in Vancouver are growing and now include city council chambers in City Hall, 210 E. 13th Street, the community room in the Firstenburg Center, 700 NE 136th Avenue, Esther Short Park, the Fort



U.S. Rep. Brian Baird

Vancouver National Historic Reserve, and Pearson Airport, 115 E 5th Street.

Calendar

A Columbia Crossing Forum, sponsored by several community action groups, including Friends of Clark County, is at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the New Columbia Community Education Room, 4625 N Trenton Street, Portland. ☞ The second annual Northwest Native American Storytelling Festival at Portland State University opens this evening and continues through Saturday Jan. 6. For reserved tickets call **(503) 725-3307**. The festival is being financed in part through an online auction, currently being conducted. For further information on the auction and the festival go to www.wisdomoftheelders.org.

Thursday Headlines

[Rainy day fund a legislative priority--Columbian, **Kathie Durbin**](#)

[State troopers make record 179 DUI arrests in December--Columbian, **John Branton**](#)

[United Natural Foods to build 238,000-square-foot \\$20 million distribution center at Ridgefield--](#)

[Columbian, **Cami Joner**](#)

[Saturday ceremony in Pearson Air Museum will mark deployment of 17 southern Washington soldiers to Iraq--Columbian, **Dean Baker**](#)

[County homicide toll dips by more than half--Oregonian, **Holley Gilbert**](#)

[El Nino, greenhouse gases predicted to make 2007 hottest year ever--USA TODAY, AP,](#)

[Raphael G. Satter](#)

[Demos take gavels in Congress--New York Times, **David Stout**](#)

[Another deadly bombing attack in Baghdad; 13 killed, 22 injured--New York Times, **Marc Santora**](#)

Thursday on the air

Telecommunications Commission (12/6)--4:47 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—5:55 p.m. CVTV

Is Tolling In Our Future (12/12)—11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Rachel Rose delivering umbrella. ☞ **Greg Flakus** boosting library card holders. ☞ **Don Russo** still greeting the season. ☞ **Susan Wolff** double checking. ☞ **Mike Heyward** among the glitterati (a less than 75-year-old word, by the way). ☞ **Craig Pridemore** returning to the capitol smokeless. ☞ **Thursday**, cloudy and drizzly, afternoon sun, 44. **Friday**, more rain expected, 44. **Saturday**, clouds reloading, afternoon showers, 44.