


Mayor Royce Pollard loves Vancouver, USA yesterday, today and tomorrow

Vancouver, USA's Mayor **Royce Pollard** took his annual State of the City Address to Clark County this morning, telling a nearly packed house in the 40 et 8 American Legion building in Hazel Dell that his love for Vancouver, evidenced by "I  Love Vancouver" invitations to the speech, is not just a slogan, but a statement.

While sticking with the theme, the mayor said, "We are looking ahead, focusing on the Vancouver of today, tomorrow and beyond."

Going beyond fixed city limits, the mayor said people are moving to the Vancouver area in record numbers. The number of people who have moved here from Oregon has risen by 20 percent since 1999.

One of the reasons, Pollard enumerated, is a lower tax burden: "A typical family living and working in Multnomah County pays 87 percent more in state and local taxes than a family living and working in Clark County."

Other reasons Pollard listed were affordable housing, lower crime rate and quality schools.

"The truth is people see our boundless potential and know about our proven track record for success. They may come initially for financial reasons. We want them to fall in love with Vancouver the way we have.," the mayor said.

Employment is up, according to Pollard. He cited the move of Nautilus to the Columbia Tech Center, SEH America's expansion into 300 millimeter chip production, and Oregon companies moving to southern Washington, including Albina Fuel, Kokusai Semiconductor, IGI Gaskets and Logic Product Development. 2005 will be another busy year, Pollard said.

The first unsolicited applause erupted from the crowd as Pollard praised Washington State University's ambition to become a four-year university.

Alluding to the city's vision for downtown, the mayor pointed out that the Firstenberg Community Center, the downtown convention center, the Hilton Hotel and a permanent Farmers Market will open in 2005. The mayor said a hotel and housing on the waterfront, a more active Main Street, a stronger connection between downtown and the historic reserve are part of the vision.

"Folks, the mayor said, "I love Vancouver because we are not bound by our city limits. As much as people think we should work in our own silos and keep to ourselves, we know that we are a region that needs to work together to sustain our health and vitality."

CREDC presenting workshop on Industrial Revenue Bonds

A workshop on Industrial Revenue Bonds is being presented by the Columbia River Economic Development Council at 9 a.m. Feb. 22, in the Cascadia conference room in the Murdock Trust. Building.

Manufacturers, attorneys, accountants, financial advisors and banking professionals are encouraged to attend to learn about this manufacturing sector finance tool, according to spokesperson, **Dana Harroun**.

IRBs are tax free, low interest investment tools used to expand manufacturing facilities and equipment. participating companies.

The two-hour workshop is \$20, which includes materials and refreshments. To register call Harroun at **567-1063**.

Mayor unequivocal regarding Cowlitz Casino Resort

In citing examples of the City of Vancouver working together with other jurisdictions, Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard cited the city's relationship with the proposed Cowlitz Casino Resort near La Center:

"When the Cowlitz Tribe announced their interest in opening a resort and casino in La Center, Vancouver got involved. Traffic impacts, jobs, housing...we knew all of it will have an affect on us. It would have been easy to get angry or defensive about their proposal. Instead, we have build a good working relationship with the Cowlitz. Because of this, when I met with the Cowlitz chairman **John Barnett**, John looked me dead in the eye and made a firm commitment. He said, 'Mayor, we have no intention of causing any harm to Vancouver.' At the end of our meeting, John and I shook hands, and I left feeling confident that he would honor his word and hold up his end of the bargain. And, I believe, he felt the same way about us. This relationship didn't happen with contracts or lawyers. We are building this relationship based on the values of trust, honor and integrity."

News briefs

The Portland International Airport Noise Compatibility Study Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. this evening in Hudson's Bay High School to discuss concluding recommendations for airport noise mitigation developed after three years of study. 📍 **Robert Miller**, Lewis & Clark University law professor, discusses American Indian treaties and Lewis and Clark, in a free program at 7 p.m. this evening in the Student Services building at Washington State University Vancouver. 📍 **Rob Bernardi**, president/COO, Kokusai Semiconductor Equipment Corporation, **Arjen Sundman**, president, Amfit and **Dan Scott**, vice president, The Hasson Company will share their candid comments on why their companies located in Clark County, at the quarterly membership meeting of the Columbia River Economic Development Council, at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in the Heathman Lodge. To register, call **Dana Harroun** at **567-1063**.

Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Nierenbergs' \\$2 million donation will bring neo-natal care to Southwest Washington Medical Center--Columbian](#)
[C-TRAN may drop rural stops--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)
[Vancouver, Wash., professional basketball team Volcanoes \(IBL\) selling tickets--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)
[Mohegan's Shining Sun Casino in Uncasville, Conn., is second largest in the world; Mohegans are investors in Cowlitz Casino and Resort--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)
[Indian casinos rake in billions, easily surpassing Nevada's take--Seattle Times, AP, **Erica Werner**](#)
[Bones push back human time 195,000 years--New York Times, **John Noble Wilford**](#)
[Columbia Queen returning to Columbia River cruising scene--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)
[Greenspan urges restraint on growing budget deficit--Washington Post, **Nell Henderson**](#)

Wednesday on the air

Portland Blazers at Indiana (live)—4 p.m. FSN, KXL, KRMZ
Clark County Close Up—5:30 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver State of the City Address—6 p.m. CVTV
Regional Tribal Task Force—7:30 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: Mostly Mozart—10:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Elena Wood getting public mayoral approbation. 📍 **Paul Mitch** rethinking stocks and bonds. 📍 **Ken Cole** burning rubber. 📍 **Steve Harris** one of a pair. 📍 **Allison Schultz** expanding workload. 📍 **Dana Harroun** providing gentle reminder. 📍 **Wednesday**, a second sunny day in a row, 52. **Thursday**, should get one more good day of sunshine, 54. **Friday**, good weather tapering off, but should be dry, 53.