

Birtcher Business Center is under construction

Construction began Tuesday by Birtcher Development on one of the largest planned developments in recent Vancouver history, the Birtcher Business Center, on Fourth Plain Boulevard at Ward Road. The 216-acre development will include a light industrial business park, office and commercial buildings, mixed-use structures and residential lots.

Ron Kowamoto and **Garret Harper**, Norris, Beggs & Simpson, will be managing sales and leasing for the business center. Wal-Mart, last July, bought 22 acres of the retail complex and will anchor what will be the Eastgate Plaza Shopping Center.

"We've seen the demand for new light industrial and suburban office facilities with adjacent retail amenities go unfulfilled for the last two years," says **Jim Edwards**, senior vice president of Birtcher Development. "Birtcher Business Center Vancouver will provide these facilities within a few months."

The first phase of the development will open 35 acres of industrial and office land. According to Edwards, the infrastructure should be completed by mid-summer, with buildings following shortly afterward.

Wind causing some power problems

Clark Public Utilities reported power outages, mostly in northern Clark County Wednesday afternoon, as severe wind gusts blew into the area. Approximately 2,000 customers in the Woodland and La Center areas were without power for short periods of time in the late afternoon.

Bravo! Vancouver presents

***Missa Solemnis* Sunday**

Bravo! Vancouver presents Ludwig Von Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* at its 3 p.m. Sunday, March 20, concert in the sanctuary of St. Joseph Catholic Church, 400 S. Andresen Road.

"*Missa Solemnis* represents the grandeur of 19th-Century Romanticism," declares Bravo! Vancouver artistic director **Michael Kissing**. "Beethoven considered this his greatest composition."

The Bravo! Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will be conducted by **Maria Manzo**.

Tickets are available at the door and from TicketsWest. Admission is \$12 and \$15. For further information, call **906-0441**, or go to www.bravoconcerts.com.

Free pairs of tickets are being offered to the first ten persons who correctly answer the following two-part Beethoven musical question: *How many symphony's did Beethoven compose, and what is the name given to his 6th Symphony?* All answers, along with the contestant's full name, email address and telephone number must be emailed to: mkissing@pacifier.com.

Dell Inc.'s Mike Gray to keynote

day-long transportation symposium

Mike Gray, a logistics and supply chain management expert with Dell Inc., is the keynote speaker at the day-long transportation symposium in the Heathman Lodge, Thursday, March 24.

"Dell is a recognized leader in the area of logistics," according to **Lisa Pletcher**, executive dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education at Clark College, one of the sponsors of the symposium. Dell was also just named as one of *Fortune* magazine's Top Ten companies. The 8 a.m.-to-4 p.m. symposium is also sponsored by the Port of Vancouver.

Work force issues dealing with road, river, rail and air transportation systems will be discussed.

Other speakers are **Rich Nafziger**, chief clerk of the Washington State House, and **Barbara Ivanov**, director of Freight Strategy and Policy for the state Department of Transportation.

Required registration is \$25. For further information, call **Dena Horton, 992-2508**.

News briefs

Clark County Fairgrounds exposition hall opens with a dedication ceremony at 3 p.m. today and continues with red carpet and hot-air balloons until 7 p.m. at the county fairgrounds at the 179th Street interchange on Interstate 5. ☞ The Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership meets in regular session at 4 p.m. today in the offices of the Port of Vancouver, 3103 Lower River Road. ☞ Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey's** annual pre-St. Patrick's celebration and fundraiser is from 5 to 7:30 p.m. today at Club Green Meadows. ☞ The City/County Telecommunications Commission meets in regular session at 7 p.m. this evening. ☞ The Vancouver Cultural Commission is

holding its final workshop on community cultural grants at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 17, in City Hall. This year's pool is \$15,000. For further information, call **Leann Johnson, 696-8143**.

Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Gregoire cutting 1,000 mid-managers, slashing costs by \\$50 million--Seattle P-I, AP, **David Ammons**](#)
[Clark College, Cowlitz Tribe announce memorandum of agreement; casino employees will get training, Clark will get earned income--Columbian, **Tom Vogt**](#)
[James Swanger county Bar's first choice for District Court; John Hagensen is second--Columbian, **Stephanie Rice**](#)
[Gentleman prosecutor retires--Columbian, **Stephanie Rice**](#)
[Vancouver National Historic Reserve on the road to becoming one of the premier historic sites in the country--Columbian, **Tom Koenninger**](#)
[Curtain goes up on Exposition Hall at fairgrounds this evening--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)
[Clark County may try another approach to free Camp Bonneville--Oregonian, **Foster Church**](#)
[Army may repair Camp Bonneville fence as early as next week--Oregonian, **Foster Church**](#)
[Stoudamire's marijuana search illegal; Scott Peterson gets death penalty; Robert Blake found innocent--KATU](#)
[Stocks tumble as crude hits new high, GM earnings dip--USA TODAY, MarketWatch, **Mark Cotton**](#)
[Bush nominates Wolfowitz to head World Bank--Washington Post, **William Branigin**](#)
[U.S. Senate votes to open Alaska Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling--Washington Post, **William Branigin** and **Fred Barbash**](#)

Wednesday on the air

Historical Preservation on the Local Level—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Portland Blazers at Houston (live)—5:30 p.m. KGW-TV, KXL, KXMG
Cal. State, Fullerton vs. Oregon State (live)—7 p.m. KEX
Portland Winter Hawks at Spokane (live)—7 p.m. KCMD
Telecommunications Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV
Clark College Winter Concert—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Michael Kissinger looking for correct answers. 🍷 **Wally Hornberger** earning line of type. 🍷 **Andy Huck** object of birthday song. 🍷 **George Dechet** coming up with the right answer. 🍷 **Margaret Kretschmar** making another pitch. 🍷 **Judie Stanton** getting by-line. 🍷 **Lauren Smith** helping out. 🍷 **Warren Cook** measuring content. 🍷 **Wednesday**, windy, pouring-down rain in the afternoon, 52. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 57. **Friday**, mostly sunny, 58.