

Port of Vancouver bustling, projects will double employment to 32,000 jobs

Port of Vancouver executive director **Larry Paulson** today opened his Port Report to a packed breakfast audience in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, declaring that "the port's role is to provide family wage jobs, jobs that pay enough to buy a house."

"We believe we can create enough of these jobs to help form a defining moment for our community," Paulson continued, "Imagine a time when thousands more Clark County residents can work close to home. We believe that time is now."

According to Paulson, the port today contributes over 15,500 jobs, with 6,000 of those jobs directly on port property.

"The Port of Vancouver could potentially generate another 15,000 additional jobs resulting from development of Columbia Gateway, the newly bought Alcoa/Evergreen site on the Columbia River and the new light industrial properties in Fruit Valley," Paulson said.

The Alcoa/Evergreen property was bought this month by the port and is being financed by a property tax-based industrial bond issue.

The port recently initiated a \$60- to \$70-million rail improvement project, being financed both privately and by the port, that will provide direct access to all port tenants. The project, to be completed in 2009, will result in a dramatic decrease in rail congestion on the west coast and on lines leading from Vancouver to Chicago in the east and Houston in the south, Paulson reported.

Paulson declared the port profitable in 2006. Revenue has more than doubled since 2001, he said. Last year saw a 50 percent increase in steel imports and a 13 percent increase in scrap steel exports.

Although part of the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, which leases its site at Terminal 1 from the port, is potentially in the path of a new I-5 Interstate Bridge, the hotel spent \$1.7 million in upgrades to the facility and its 160 rooms, for which the port named it winner of its Facilities Improvement-of-the-Year Award.

Marshall lecturer tells students this nation allows them to do their best

After being welcomed by Gov. **Chris Gregoire**, Sen. **Patty Murray** and **Royce Pollard**, mayor of America's Vancouver, who noted that this year's event attracted more students from more high schools throughout the area than any other Marshall Lectures, Gen. **Peter Pace**, 2007 General George C. Marshall Lecturer, promptly declared his remarks were intended for the students in the audience.

"Make a difference and follow your dreams," the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said. Another piece of advice: "Correct and follow your moral compass regularly."

Pace also answered questions from students in the audience. The questions ranged from treatment of those captured by U.S. Armed Forces to advice to young people who are considering military service. On the latter question, Pace spoke about the value of service and expressed his hope that, whether through the military or in other ways, every individual would find a way to serve his or her country.

Only one question involved the conduct of the war in Iraq, to which Pace replied, "That's a question you should ask the Secretary of State."

Pace also honored military families and led a standing ovation for those in the audience who are members of Gold Star families, who have lost loved ones in service to their country.

The lecture series honors General George C. Marshall, who led his command post at the Vancouver Barracks just prior to World War II. Marshall went on to become a five-star general of the army and Army Chief of Staff. He is the only soldier ever to have received the Nobel Peace Prize.

CREDC luncheon focuses on China

Former Columbia River Economic Development Council chairman **Bill Connelly** will share his perspectives on the Chinese economy at the 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 quarterly CREDC luncheon in the Hilton



Gen. Peter Pace

Vancouver Washington.

Connelly, who is with Vancouver-based Eric Fuller and Associates, recently returned from a trade mission of real estate and investment professionals in five cities in China.

Reservations for the \$30 luncheon are required. Call **Debbie Fortun**, 576-3171, or go to www.credc.org.

Museum reception is Thursday

The Clark County Historical Museum celebrates the Vancouver's 150th year with a reception and the opening of the exhibit, *Vancouver Uncovered*, from 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday Feb. 22, in the museum at 1511 Main Street. There is no charge.

The *Vancouver Uncovered* exhibit includes historic photographs and three-dimensional artifacts. The Museum's collection as artifacts on loan from the community will be featured. A selection of buried artifacts recovered from the salvage archaeology project conducted at the convention center site during its construction phase will also be featured.

Visitors will have the opportunity to compare and contrast the downtown Vancouver landscape by viewing a custom DVD presentation entitled *Vancouver Then & Now*, which features historic images from the museum archives, contemporary images and music by local artists **Mike George**, **Marv** and **Rindy Ross** and **The Trail Band**. Copies of the 17-minute *Vancouver Then & Now* production and music by The Trail Band will be available for purchase in the museum store.

The *Vancouver Uncovered* exhibit was made possible by support from the City of Vancouver, Clark County, Bank of Clark County, *The Columbian*, Techjet Imaging and RS Floors.

Wednesday headlines

[Vancouver man builds Mars Rover replica--Columbian, Tom Vogt](#)

["Vancouver Uncovered" at history museum--Columbian, Dean Baker](#)

[Two Orchards Elementary fifth-graders getting college scholarships--Columbian, Howard Buck](#)

[Care still hallmark of the hospital--Columbian, Tom Koenninger](#)

[Even after rescue battle brews over mountain emergency beacon--KATU, AP, Brad Cain](#)

[White House calls British withdrawal from Iraq a good thing--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Iraq militants use bomb with chlorine gas--New York Times, Damien Cave and Ahmad Fadam](#)

Wednesday on the air

Mental Health and Addiction Equity (2:17)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Portland Blazers at L.A. Lakers (live)—7:30 p.m. KGW-TV, KXL

Clark College Vocal Jazz Festival—7:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark College Jazz Band Festival—10 .m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Pat McDonnell, model of equanimity and circumspection. ☞ **Karen Stanley** saying hello. ☞ **Elson Strahan**, smoooooth. ☞ **Greg Kimsey**, beating St. Patrick to the punch. ☞ **Ethan Jobe** still celebrating. ☞ **Wednesday**, surprise appearance of sun, but possible late showers, 47. **Thursday**, mostly cloudy, chance of rain, 48. **Friday**, partly sunny, 49.