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Contributions to SWMC break all records

First launched as a \$15 million campaign by Southwest Washington Medical Center to help pay for what is now known as the Firstenburg Tower on the Mill Plain Boulevard campus, the community campaign, now concluded, raised a record shattering \$53.5 million, the most money ever raised in southern Washington for a single cause.

More than \$30 million of the total came from the families of the co-chairs of the multi-year campaign, **Jeanne Firstenburg** and **David Nierenberg**.

All totaled, nearly 20,000 gifts were tabulated. Included was over \$1.5 million contributed by employees and physicians at the region's largest hospital.

No sooner than the results of the campaign were made known, the Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation announced a new \$6 million campaign to help finance the cost of additional patient rooms in the Firstenburg Tower, construction of a Breast Care Center, acquisition of a robotic surgery system, and endowments for hospice programs, Healthy Steps Women's and Children's Center and Family Medicine Southwest Washington.

The medical center's foundation manages assets of over \$42 million, primarily for community health programs and for emerging medical technology.

Families who contributed \$1 million or more to the initial campaign, in addition to Firstenburg and Nierenberg, and two anonymous contributors are **Corky** and **Linda Angelo**, **David** and **Diane Difford**, **Ray Hickey**, **Lee** and **Connie Kearney**, and **Ed** and **Dollie Lynch**.

Cantwell takes green energy message to hustings

U.S. Sen. **Maria Cantwell** (D-Wash.) took her wind-power tax-credit message to a Port of Vancouver audience Monday, where most of the wind power machinery enters the Pacific Northwest.

Cantwell is the champion of a federal 1.5-cent tax credit offered for wind-power developers that helps make that green energy competitive for electric customers.

Cantwell is working in Congress to extend the tax credit by at least two years, she says.

According to a Vestas vice president, **Roby Roberts**, Cantwell has been a "tiger" on the tax credit issue.

Vestas is the company that supplies northwest wind farms with the huge machines that churn out electricity from the winds of eastern Washington and Oregon. The machinery is shipped through the Port of Vancouver. Wind blades are so gigantic that they stretch from one intersection to the next when being trucked east through Vancouver.

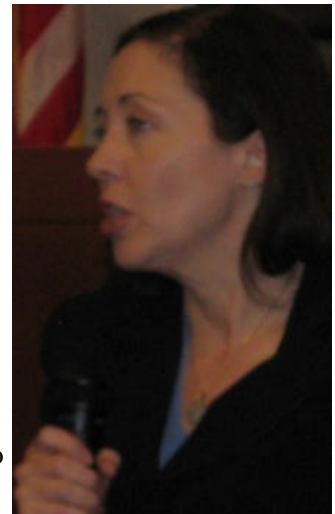
According to Port of Vancouver executive director **Larry Paulson**, during 2007 305 wind-turbine assemblies passed through the port's docks. He predicts a greater volume for 2008.

Currently the northwest is generating 2,000 megawatts of electric power annually, the equivalent of two Bonneville Dams, Cantwell says.

Green industry is very big in the northwest, according to Cantwell. She says that there are 241 organizations working in the clean energy industry in the state of Washington. Revenues are \$2.1 billion annually, she says, compared to \$1.9 billion in the logging industry and \$1.7 billion in the coffee/espresso shop industry."

Dino Rossi talks to BIA in Vancouver this evening

Republican gubernatorial candidate **Dino Rossi** is the keynote speaker for this evening's Building Industry Association of Clark County 7 p.m. dinner meeting in the Hilton Vancouver Washington.



Maria Cantwell

Rossi, Sammamish real estate businessman, lost the 2004 governor's race to Democrat Gov. **Chris Gregoire** by only 129 votes.

The dinner is open to the public. Admission is \$35. For further information, call **694-0933**.

**70,885 have voted so far;
there is room for more**

So far, 70,885 Clark County voters have cast ballots in the Washington State presidential primary election, about 38 percent of the 189,389 registered county voters.

Although likely too late to mail in a ballot today, voters do have until 8 p.m. to take ballots to the Clark County Elections Department, 1408 Franklin Street, or deposit ballots in the drive-by ballot box just outside the elections department office.

Results of Clark County voters balloting will be broadcast live by CVTC, Channel 23, at 8:30 p.m. tonight.

**Citizens' forum on light
rail set for Wednesday**

Fifteen Vancouver neighborhood associations have teamed up to sponsor a forum on light rail that is being presented from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, in the Water Resource Center.

The forum will be moderated by **Stacey Sellers**, mayor of Washougal. Sponsoring neighborhood associations are the following: Airport Green, Arnada, Bella Vista, Central Park, Fircrest, Harney Heights, Hough, Hudson Bay, Landover-Sharmel, Lincoln, Marrion, Ogden, Riverridge, Rose Village and Shumway.

Further information can be obtained by going to vancouver.neighbors@gmail.com.

Calendar

The Cities of Camas and Washougal are holding a joint meeting at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon to discuss mutual issues. The meeting will be in the Camas City Hall. <> The NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. this evening in the Clark County Public Works Community Room, 4700 NE 78th Street. <> The Bi-State Coordination Committee meets at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, in Port of Vancouver offices, 3103 NE Lower River Road. The agenda includes a report on the Columbia River Crossing and discussion of bi-state integration of long-range transportation plans. For further information, call **397-6067**. <> Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, in conference room B in the Public Service Center.

Tuesday on the air

Who's Attending to the Public's Health (1/17)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Columbian Economic Forecast (1/24)—6:05 p.m. CVTV

Sacramento at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. CSN, KXL

Clark County Board of Health (1/23)—7:10 p.m. CVTV

CVTV Presidential Primary Election (live)—8:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Planning Commission (2/12)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Wei Jiang making English language a little easier. <> **Brian Wolfe** choosing good company. <> **Cager Claybaugh** pulling double duty. <> **Chris Crowley** finding success in urban climes. <> **Wayne Clemetson** taking day off in honor of the birth of his and **Patty's** first grandchild, **Andrew Stephen Zecheriah Clemetson**, 7 pounds, 4 ounces, 21 1/2 inches, born this morning to **Scott and Sherah Clemetson**. <> **Tuesday**, sunny morning, possible late showers, 41-54. **Wednesday**, possible early showers, 40-53. **Thursday**, mostly cloudy, some rain, 39-51.



Dino Rossi