

Hard-hitting Boldt speech calls for teamwork, local taxes, third bridge



Marc Boldt

Clark County commissioner **Marc Boldt**, delivering his first State-of-the-County address, impressed a Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce audience of over 400 in the Hilton Vancouver Washington today with a straight-forward call for teamwork throughout all levels of government, and declarations that the county commissioners are going to talk about local taxes this year and that a third bridge across the Columbia River should be built before enlarging the Interstate Bridge on I-5.

Boldt began his speech, "The state of the county depends on the strength of its people." Boldt concluded: "The state of the county depends on each of us. You are the ones who will help us make the hard decisions and your contributions have much to do with whether our efforts succeed."

In between, the former Republican state legislator, now serving his second year as a county commissioner, said the three-member board of commissioners is not above using the "T" word, suggesting that the commissioners will consider a small sales-tax increase, and recommended that a third interstate bridge be built before the

I-5 bridge is improved.

Alluding to the commissioners' decision to slow City of Vancouver annexation, Boldt said: "I want to acknowledge right up front that, despite differences that arise among us, this board has the greatest respect for the council men and women who lead their cities. When we talk about the state of the county being strong, we are including them.

"We need to draw on those strengths to solve problems and confront challenges in ways that make sense for us—Clark County people solving Clark County problems."

Boldt stated that the county needs to be self-sufficient and that county problems have to have county solutions. "We need to be clear which services Clark County will provide and pay for. If state or federal funds for other services are not available, those services may not happen. We'll be looking at faith-based resources and other resources that aren't funded by tax dollars."

The commissioner suggested that the county can't count on state and federal support from many necessary programs.

"I want to be as direct as possible that we may still need to find additional local dollars to address many of the problems that are confronting this community. That's just a reality," Boldt said.

He declared: "County commissioners have the authority to impose an additional two-tenths of one percent sales tax within unincorporated Clark County. Additional revenue from this small bump in the tax would help [the county become more self-sufficient]. I want to make it clear that we are seriously considering it."

Young artists to audition for Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Sunday

Vancouver and Portland young artists will audition for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Young Artists concert series at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, in Trinity Lutheran Church, 309 W 39th Street. Admission is free.

The panel of judges includes Vancouver Symphony's conductor and music director, **Salvador Brotons**. The winners receive cash honorariums and will perform with the symphony orchestra April 8 and 9.

The finalists, 13 to 17 years of age, are as follows:

Piano: **Vivian Chang**, Beaverton, and **Hana Choi**, **Felicia Doni** and **Marine Kasparyan**, all of Portland.

Brass and woodwind instruments: **Erin Lowry**, **Quinn Middleman** and **Kelly Taylor**, all of Vancouver.

Strings: **Brandon Garbot**, Tigard, and **Michelle Leipzig**, Aloha.

Vancouver's Downtown Association sets annual meeting, elects officers

Celinda Rupert has been elected president of Vancouver's Downtown Association. Serving with Rupert are the following: **Linda Glover**, vice president; **Charlene Dahlen**, secretary; and **Stephanie Diaz**, treasurer. Members of the board of directors are the following: **Wally Hornberger**, **Dee Memering**, **Jennifer Petersen**,

Doug Pruitt, Lee Rafferty and Sue Tissot.

The annual meeting, which is open to the public, is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 911 Main Street.

Wal-Mart dissected

The global and local impacts of Wal-Mart and other big box retail stores is the subject of films, speakers and a workshop in the Student Services Building on the campus of Washington State University Vancouver, Tuesday, Feb. 21.

At 3 p.m. pro- and anti-Wal-Mart films will be shown under the sponsorship of the Center for Social and Environmental Justice.

A program of speakers is at 5 p.m. A workshop sponsored by the local Wal-Mart Watchdogs is at 7 p.m.

Calendar

The *Daily Insider* will observe President's Day, Monday, Feb. 20, with a day of silence. *☞* The Tears of Joy Theatre presents *Monkey King* at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, and 2 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, in the Winningstad Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway, Portland. Tickets are \$15 and \$12. *☞* The Oregon Chamber Players are presenting a children's concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, in All Saints' Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Boulevard, Portland. General admission is \$14. For further information, call (888) 627-8788.

Friday headlines from at home and around the world

[Casino verdict a long way off federal official tells Columbian editorial board--Columbian, Don Hamilton](#)
[Second Department of Interior meeting on Cowlitz Casino Resort draws big crowd--Oregonian,](#)

[Allan Brettman and Bill Stewart](#)

[Lynne Griffith finalist for Pierce County Transit post--Columbian, Thomas Ryll](#)

[Battle Ground man among those who will certify Steve Fossett's historic flight--Columbian, Tom Vogt](#)

[Northwest senators assail administration plan to take BPA profits to federal treasury--Columbian, AP](#)

[Boise Vancouver waterfront site generates considerable interest; bidding for the 29 acres ends March 17--Columbian, Jonathan Nelson](#)

[Housing inventory shows signs of weakening Vancouver market--Oregonian, Allan Brettman](#)

[Border rules threaten trade and tourism, legislators told, Seattle Times, AP, Mike Baker](#)

[Man shot by Cheney says it was 'an accident' leaves hospital--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Hundreds feared dead in Philippine landslide--New York Times, John O'Neil and Carlos Conde](#)

Friday on the air

GOP Lincoln Day Dinner (2/10)—4 p.m. CVTV

People's Court II (2/15)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

State-of-the County Address (today)—7 p.m. CVTV

Bravo!: Swinging Chamber Music—8:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Symphony: The Road Less Traveled—10:01 p.m. CVTV

Clark College Jazz Band Festival—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Nancy Nail wins grand prize. *☞* **Annie Casey** doing great job. *☞* **Barbara Kildun** remembering 40,000 hours or so. *☞* **Dawn Boldt** having good reason to be pleased. *☞* **Lianne Forney** getting farewell round of applause. *☞* **Friday**, really cold, some wind, but dry, 35. **Saturday**, continued cold but sunny, 42. **Sunday**, warming, partly sunny, 48. **Monday**, a regular gray day, 49.