

Wear play clothes to Firstenburg Center grand opening Sunday

Be prepared to have fun, wear play clothes, take the family and go early to the \$22 million Firstenburg Community Center, 700 NE 136th Avenue, Sunday to be part of the grand opening celebration of Vancouver's newest eastside recreating facility.

The celebration begins with a dedication at noon and ends at 6 p.m. Vancouver's acoustic quartet, **Misty River**, entertains at 2, 3, 5 and 5 p.m.

The pool, featuring a two-story water slide, will be open. There will be basketball competition for all ages. An obstacle course for youngsters under the age of 5 will be open. Personal trainers will be on hand to discuss fitness aerobics and dance. The indoor track will be open.

The Teen Zone and the Trapedero II, adjacent to a game room, for all ages will be open. Also available to try out in the 80,000-square-foot facility are the fitness center, multi-purpose classrooms and birthday party rooms.

There is no admission charge Sunday.

Cowlitz Casio Resort gets airing at chamber meeting

A pro and con discussion of the proposed Cowlitz Casino Resort on I-5 near La Center is being presented by the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, March 1, in the Heathman Lodge.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend, says chamber president **John McKibbin**.

McKibbin says that the program is a project overview with pro and con and rebuttal statements, followed by questions from the audience.

Admission is \$40. Registration can be obtained by calling **694-2588**, or by going to

www.vancouverusa.com.

Vancouver salary review group sets first meeting next week

The Vancouver Citizens Commission on Mayor/City Council Salaries will hold its first meeting in preparation for the 2007-08 biennium at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the city's Human Resources office in the Esther Short Building, 610 Esther Street.

The commission was created by city voters in 1994. Its members are appointed by the mayor, subject to ratification by the city council.

The commission is required to recommend salary schedules by May 1 to be included in the 2007-2008 budget.

Calendar

Open house at the new headquarters of Albina Fuel, 801 Main Street, continues until 7 p.m. this evening. The formerly Portland-based, family-owned company is also celebrating its 103rd year in business. ✎ The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra presents violin virtuoso **Elaine Skorodin** in concert at 8 p.m. tonight and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, in the concert hall at Skyview High School, 1300 NW 139th Street. Music director and conductor is **Salvador Brotons**. Tickets are available at the door. Sandwiched in between concerts this weekend. beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, is the annual Vancouver Symphony Orchestra gala fundraiser, dinner and auction in the Hilton Vancouver Washington. The \$125 per person event, *Carnival de Barcelona*, opens at 6 p.m. Dinner is at 7:45 p.m. ✎ The Day of Dance, presented by Southwest Washington Medical Center, is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Heathman Lodge. There is no charge for the participatory program that sets out to prove that exercise can be enjoyable as well as beneficial to the heart. Health screenings will be offered, and a physician will be on hand to answer heart-related questions. ✎ Share presents its second annual Mardi Gras Gala & Casino Night opens at 5:30 p.m. this evening in the Hilton Vancouver Washington. Tickets are \$75 each and include gaming scrip. ✎ "Opera Rocks" is Bravo! Vancouver's offering at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, in St. Joseph Catholic Church, 400 S. Andresen Road. The Bravo! Chorale, Chamber Orchestra and Portland Opera Studio Artists present Mozart and Verdi selections as well as Broadway hit tunes. Reserved seats are \$15 at the door. ✎ College presidents, **Wayne Branch**, Clark College, and **Algie Gatewood**, Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, present a program entitled "Increasing Our Passion for Excellence in Education" at 1:30 p.m. Sun-

day, Feb. 26, in Vancouver's Community AME Zion Church, 3605 E 13th Street. There is no charge for the program, which is part of Black History Month.

Friday headlines from at home and around the world

[President says ports deal not a security threat; Arab firm offers to delay deal on seaports--Washington Post, **Jonathan Weisman**](#)

[Violent cycle of revenge stuns Iraqis--New York Times, **Sabrina Tavernise**](#)

[Jim Moeller lambastes schools study lambasted--Columbian, **Kathie Durbin**](#)

[In six months after election, cost of Ridgefield school bond goes up \\$10 million--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)

[Albina Fuel Co. celebrates 103 years in new headquarters in Vancouver--Columbian, **Julia Anderson**](#)

[Bravo! Vancouver putting on rocking opera show--Columbian, **Angela Allen**](#)

[Portland Blazers looking for city and state handout--Oregonian, **Helen Jung**](#)

[Ed Firstenburg pronounces community center 'a work of art'--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)

[Kennewick Man yields more secrets--Seattle Times, **Sandi Doughton**](#)

Friday on the air

Clark County Close Up (2/5)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Boston at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL, KMUZ

Portland Winter Hawks at Kamloops (live)—7 p.m. KCMD

Animal Control Hearings 2/22)—7 p.m. CVTV

Cowlitz Tribe Casino Application Process (2/16)—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Grant Spolar taking machining prize home. ☞ **David Ballew** making new connection. ☞ **Michael Wilson** getting early start on Easter basket. ☞ **Dick Johnson** seeing students improving. ☞ **Kim Connor** coming up with numbers. ☞ **Friday**, mostly cloudy, one big sunbreak, 45. **Saturday**, possible sunbreaks, 49. **Sunday**, mostly cloudy, 52.