

Battle Ground Mayor John Idsigna upbeat about county's second city



Mayor John Idsigna

Calling Battle Ground the geographic center of Clark County in his State-of-the-City address last night, an ebullient Mayor **John Idsigna** portrayed the county's second largest city as a citizen-activated social and cultural center poised for growth and prosperity.

"We're celebrating a decade of progress and success; our future is bright. We're looking at a new age of prosperity," Idsigna declared. "Success," Idsigna added, "is never complete."

Idsigna spoke to a standing-room-only audience that included all three county commissioners in the community's new City Hall.

The mayor also proclaimed fellow city council-member **Bill Ganley** as Citizen of the Decade. Ganley, a former mayor, was at the helm in 1997, when Battle Ground council opted for its current city manager form of government.

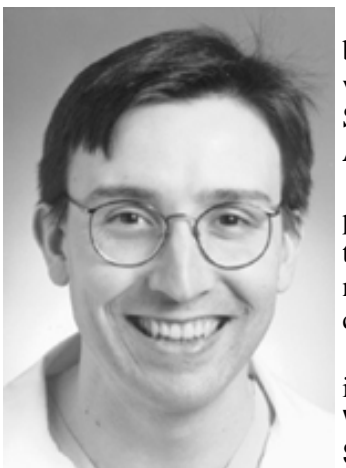
The mayor said that ten years ago Battle Ground was a town of 5,000. Today it is a city of 15,600, and has expanded from 1,879 to 3,000 acres and is growing.

In addition to shopping centers, the city has gained 32 restaurants in the past decade. On the horizon is a hotel, and within five years a freeway, Highway 502, will connect the city with the Interstate system.

The city is expanding its park system to include Fairgrounds Park on the east side, which will be connected to pedestrian and equestrian trails to Battle Ground Lake and the Lewis River.

"Battle Ground," Idsigna said, "is a destination city, serving 70,000 people."

Nick Schiller elected medical staff president at Southwest Washington Medical Center



Nick Schiller

Nick Schiller, Columbia Anesthesia Group, has been elected to a two-year term as president of Southwest Washington Medical Center's medical staff.

Schiller succeeds **Brian Harwood**, Vancouver Clinic.

Alden Roberts, Kaiser Permanente, was elected president-elect.

As medical staff president, Schiller will facilitate communications between hospital leadership and the medical staff. Of 545 physicians. He will also help oversee the process by which the hospital verifies education, experience and licensure of new physicians. He will also serve as a member of the medical center's executive committee.

Schiller earned his medical degree from Oregon Health and Sciences University in 1991 and completed his residency in anesthesia at OHSU in 1995.

Vancouver Symphony Gala features Simian Trio and guitarist Sam Battaglia

Vancouver Symphony's annual fundraising gala, which begins at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington, features the symphony orchestra's **Simian Trio** and guitarist **Sam Battaglia**.

Tickets to the reception, dinner and auction are \$125 each. For further information, call **735-7278**.

Calendar

A Clark County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan open house is at 5:30 p.m. this evening in the Northwest Regional Training Center, 11606 NE 66th Street. A number of alternatives will be discussed. This



Battle Ground city councilman Bill Ganley was named the city's citizen of the decade by Mayor John Idsigna Wednesday . Idsigna said Ganley's work in bring in city-manager form of government in 1997 was crucial to the city's decade of successes.

meeting will be followed up with a second open house at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in the Fire District 11 training room, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue. ☞ The Home Ownership Center's annual Home is Where the Heart Is breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington. The speaker, **Kim Herman**, executive director of the state Housing Finance Commission, will discuss "Apples, Airplanes and Affordable Housing. Admission is \$50 per person. For further information, call 690-4496.

Thursday headlines from at home and around the world

[Grammy Award winners](#)

[Study probes mystery of hit songs--Seattle P-I, AP, **Randolph E. Schmid**](#)

[Fireworks retailer blasts show sponsor--Columbian, **Thomas Ryll**](#)

[Four county officials get raises--Columbian, **Thomas Ryll**](#)

[Battle Ground School District reflects on levy failure--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)

[Battle Ground Mayor: Residents are key attribute of city--Columbian, **Jose Paul Corona**](#)

[Skamania Lodge begins \\$2.4 million upgrade--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)

[Overnight parking rates at PDX going up; long-term, economy and hourly rates remain the same--Oregonian, **Alex Pulaski**](#)

[WSP says motorists should call 9-1-1 more often--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)

[Kulongoski forms anti-discrimination task force--KATU](#)

[Seattle Sonics still after tax money for KeyArena--Seattle Times, **Jim Brunner** and **Ralph Thomas**](#)

[Microsoft announced \\$1 billion expansion in Redmond--Seattle P-I, **Elizabeth Gillespie**](#)

Thursday on the air

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

Oregon at Arizona (live)—5:30 p.m. KWBP, KXL

UCLA at Washington State (live)—5:30 p.m. FSN

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—6 p.m. CVTV

Arizona State at Oregon State (live)—7:30 p.m. KEX

Town Tabloids and the weather

Katie Ward getting off to a flying start. ☞ **Azizah Bennett** taking care of details with aplomb. ☞ **Brian Wolfe** getting extra credit. ☞ **Ginger Metcalf** covering all the bases. ☞ **Terri Tweedell** making the most out of "bucolic." ☞ **Carol LaForge** trying a new subscription. ☞ **Thursday**, sunny, breezy, 60. **Friday**, windy with more sunshine, 59. **Saturday**, mostly sunny, 57.