New Buildings Institute honored
Vancouver-based New Buildings Institute was awarded the California Energy Commission Public Interest Energy Research Program's top prize for energy efficient design. The institute's $2 million effort, called " Evidence-Based Design and Operations," was ranked first out of 13 submissions.

The project included an energy savings assessment and enhanced sky lighting model to improve efficiency.

Vancouver office vacancy falls slightly
Vacancy in Vancouver's office market fell more than a percentage point to 16 percent in the first quarter of 2009, according to reports from NAI Norris, Beggas and Simpson. More than 62,242 square feet were absorbed, and more than half of that was in Class A space.

Clark recognized for Cairo partnership
Clark College was awarded the 2009 national Collaboration Award of the Community College National Center for Community Engagement. The honor recognized the school's international service-learning partnership with the St. John American International School in Cairo. The program provided Egyptian students with English skills practice and Clark students with instruction in Egyptian culture.

GWI Software releases c.Support 8.0
Vancouver-based GWI Software has released the latest version of c.Support, its web-based help desk software. The company says the update incorporates numerous performance improvements and additional management tools, including an enhanced user interface, alerts, and other graphical design options.

Electrical collective wins governor's award
The National Electrical Contractors Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48's joint safety committee won the Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health award. The honor is given to committees that make substantial efforts in the reduction of workplace injury and illness.

Several Southwest Washington companies are affiliated with NECA, including Vancouver-based Electrix.

BILL MCFADDEN
Sigma Design adds engineer
Bill McFadden has joined Sigma Design as an electrical engineer at the Vancouver office. He has more than 20 years of experience developing high-speed digital circuits, analog and mixed-signal circuits and software. In addition to his work at large firms, McFadden also was an independent contractor.

KEITH CHRISTENSEN
Cedarlake Co. makes general manager promotion
Vancouver-based general contractor Cedarlake Co. has promoted Keith Christensen to general manager. He will focus on expanding tenant improvement and ground-up construction business. Christensen has more than 30 years of experience in the construction industry, recently assisting with the opening of America's Best Contacts and Eyeglasses at Hazel Dell Towne Center.

DATE BOOK
SATURDAY, APRIL 25
' Starting Up and Managing Small Business' free seminar. Presented by SCORE. Clark College Joan Stout Hall, Room 124, in Vancouver, 10 a.m. to noon. Call 360-699-1079 or email scorevancouver@inet.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28
Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. Innovative Services NW, 9414 N.E. Fourth Plain Road in Vancouver, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. $10-$20. Contact 360-694-2588.

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