

# The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

## Library district, hit by declining income, increased costs, cuts budget, reduces staff

Decreased tax revenue and increased costs forced the Fort Vancouver Regional Library board of trustees to reduce the library district's 2003 budget by nearly 8 percent to \$14,855,133, and lay off six of the library's staff.

The decreases, made by the board during its Monday meeting, are not expected to have a significant public service impact, reports library executive director **Bruce Ziegman**.

"We looked carefully at trimming costs in areas that would minimally affect the ability to provide great library service, which is the district's primary mission and top priority," Ziegman said.

The staff positions eliminated were mainly in administration, according to Ziegman. Other spending adjustments will come in book purchasing, outside professional services, travel, training and capital purchases.

The new budget reflects a decline in tax revenue, including a decrease of \$274,000 in state timber harvest receipts.

Higher expenditures are the result of staffing at the "wildly successful" new Three Creeks Library, and significant increases in insurance and health benefit costs.

It was the first time in 20 years that the library has had to adjust its operating costs downward. The library district serves 382,905 southwest Washington citizens through 12 community libraries in Clark, Klickitat and Skamania Counties.

## BPA looking for ways to blunt increase

When Bonneville Power Administration begins its field hearings tomorrow in Portland to lay out its case for an October rate increase, it may find a way to make the increase more acceptable to customers—either less than the expected 15 percent, or by not locking in on a fixed rate over a three-year period.

For starters, the snow pack has improved by ten percentage points from 75 percent of normal to 85 percent of normal during what BPA calls the Miracle of March.

But BPA is also looking as suggesting a rate increase Wednesday that would not be locked in until all the variables have been considered up to the time the increase becomes effective on Oct. 1, 2003.

Current conditions suggest that BPA will have a \$1.2 billion shortfall in 2006. BPA customers, including Clark Public Utilities, hope BPA will not try to make up for a long-term potential shortfall with a short-term fix.

## Coalition of East Vancouver Communities meets Thursday to discuss new initiatives

The Coalition of East Vancouver Communities meets at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 17, in the Tan Complex' of the Evergreen School District's administrative center, 13501 NE 28th Street.

Deadline for registration for the luncheon meeting,

Published by Tony Bacon, 7007 Corregidor Rd. Vancouver, WA 98664  
(360) 696-1077 Fax 694-9886 E-mail: tony@dailyinsider.info, \$245 a year

TUESDAY

April 15, 2003

during which new initiatives will be discussed, is today. Call **604-4005** for further information.

## Eastport Plaza and Portland Airport Post Offices providing midnight post marks

Late federal income tax filers have until 7 p.m. tonight to have tax returns postmarked April 15 at the main Vancouver Post Office at 2700 Caples Avenue.

Missing that, tax returns can be mailed tonight until 12 a.m. at the Portland Airport Post Office, 7640 NE Airport Way, and the Eastport Plaza curbside collection, 3850 SE 82nd Avenue, Portland.

## With \$7 to \$9 million available, SWWDC is looking to make the most of it

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council today convened a summit meeting of public and private leaders to find ways of matching job needs and training requirements.

SWWDC will have \$7 to \$9 million available for training.. "We're looking for the best local thinking," says SWWDC chair **Marcia Fromhold**.

SWWDC provides resources for both employers and job seekers.

## News briefs

The NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. tonight in the Clark County Operations Division Community Center, 4700 NE 78th Street. ~~SWWDC~~ Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16.

### Tuesday electronic events

Clark County Close Up—4 p.m. CVTV  
Bravo! Vancouver: Bach to Bach—4:30 p.m. CVTV  
**Oakland A's at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KOTK**  
**Las Vegas at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**  
**Phoenix at Portland Trail Blazers (live)—7 p.m. KXL**  
The Columbia River and its Watershed—7 p.m. CVTV  
Charitable Foundations Report II—10 p.m. CVTV

### Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 15, 2003

Alaska Air Group	16.35	+0.36	Linear Technology	31.98	+0.55
Alcoa	22.59	+0.54	Microsoft	24.61	-0.14
Amazon.com	25.13	+0.08	Nautilus	11.69	+0.14
Bank of America	72.68	+0.68	Nike	53.77	+0.52
Bank of Clark County	18.00	unch	Nordstrom	17.00	+0.17
Bemis	43.75	-0.45	PepsiCo	40.57	-0.40
Boeing	27.29	+0.04	Precision Cast	26.04	+0.64
Boise Cascade	22.66	+0.03	RLRN	16.20	-1.64
CenturyTel	28.75	+0.47	Starbucks	26.74	+0.66
Costco	34.68	+0.93	TSM	7.39	-0.17
Expeditors Intl.	35.57	+1.57	Tektronix	17.78	+0.04
Georgia Pacific	14.14	-0.23	US Bancorp	21.10	+0.64
HPQ	15.57	-0.32	Wash. Mutual	37.05	+0.57
Intel	17.13	-0.03	W. Coast Bancorp	15.82	+0.30
Kyocera	47.42	-0.51	Weyerhaeuser	49.39	+0.33

DOW: 8402.36 +51.26 ~~ASX~~NASDAQ: 1391.01 +6.06 ~~S&P~~S&P: 890.81 +5.58

### Town Tabloids and The Weather

**Mike Worthy** precisely getting the drift. ~~SWWDC~~ **Kristy Mason** announcing Wednesday Gem meeting. ~~SWWDC~~ **Marilyn Chartrond** offering opt-out package. ~~SWWDC~~ **Staci Searles** making deadline. ~~SWWDC~~ **Ruth Conner** appraising nicely. ~~SWWDC~~ **Bea Proano** faxing well. ~~SWWDC~~ **Tuesday**, showers, sunbreaks, 59. **Wednesday**, mostly cloudy, sunbreaks, 60. **Thursday**, gray with occasional showers, 56.

Acapulco	90/73
Athens	62/48
Chicago	80/56
Dallas	78/60
Hong Kong	77/69
Los Angeles	66/48
London	71/56
New Orleans	80/63
New York	79/60
Orlando	83/60
Paris	69/52
Phoenix	70/50
Rome	62/43
Seattle	56/42
Sydney	75/55
Tokyo	60/49
Washington	84/60