

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

SWIFT promises razzle dazzle at Saturday's 7th Annual Art Auction

"From Community to the Community" is a fitting motto for an organization that raises hundreds of thousands of dollars each year for the betterment of Clark County.

SWIFT, Southwest Washington Independent Forward Thrust, will give back again following "Starry Starry Nights," its 7th Annual Art Auction Saturday, 5 p.m., at Heathman Lodge.

All of the auction's participating local and regional artists have donated their work at no cost. Proceeds from the event will go directly to SWIFT grants.

Last year, SWIFT gave more than 50 grants totaling more over \$150,000 to community organizations.

Tickets to the event are \$50. Participants will be treated to the auction itself, a student orchestra, a Vincent Van Gogh artistic interpreter, hors d'oeuvres, wine, champagne and dessert. Call **360-397-1091** for more information, or send email to info@swiftgrants.org.

Where there's a will, there's a better way

By Tauf Charneski

Governor **Gary Locke** is hot on the heels of legislators this week with a proposal to raise the state sales tax by 1 percent to pay for a dedicated education trust fund.

Any money spent on education is money well spent, to be sure; but ouch! Just when the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the City of Vancouver roll out the Welcome Mat and flip on the neon "Buy Here" signs, the Gov goes and sends would-be shoppers back across that blasted bridge.

Maybe a 1 percent increase in the sales tax as proposed by Locke wouldn't be so bad in the upper reaches of the state, but here down south on the border, a sales tax hike would be one bitter pill.

Perhaps what we need in Clark County is a "Brat Tax." Families with children born in Oregon should pony up for the ride. On second thought, that's a pretty dumb idea, but there's got to be a better way than putting another ding in the Clark Country retail sector.

Like many, I agree with the Gov and the League of Education Voters that teaching our children should be top priority. The point is, with \$1.6 billion in retail sales lost each year to Oregon, we've got plenty to consider before sending shoppers packing.

The Governor is concerned about education and so are our community leaders. But here in Vancouver, we've got plenty of adult education to work on—that is the "Three Rs" of living on the border—Retail, Retention & Responsibility.

Evergreen names Lisa Duerk board president

The Evergreen School District Foundation's Board of Directors has named **Lisa Duerk**, of State Farm Insurance, president. Duerk had held the position in the interim following the recent resignation of past president **David Nierenberg**.

The District's other board officers are **Kaycee Wiita**,

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vice president; **Tim Schiller**, CPA, of Schiller and Associates, treasurer; and **Carol Fenstermacher**, Evergreen School District, secretary.

For the past three years, Evergreen has focused on educational technology. Following unanimous approval from the Foundation's Board of Directors, the chief focus will shift to literacy in 2004.

Symphony offers an escape

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's 2003-2004 concert season *Escape with the Vancouver Symphony* continues with an invitation to meet THE OTHER 3 B's on February 28th and 29th at Skyview H.S. Concert Hall, 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver.

Performances are Saturday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Travis Hatton, Music Director for the Vancouver Children's Opera, hosts a "Musical Conversation", an informative and lively talk about the music and composers, beginning at 2:00 p.m. preceding Saturday's concert.

THE OTHER 3 B's features works by **Britten**, **Barber** and **Borodin** - lesser known, but equally great composers. Guest violinist **Nicholas Crosa** performs Barber's *Violin Concerto*.

Tickets are now on sale. Ticket packages are still available and start at \$40, a savings of up to 18 percent over single ticket prices. For more information, call the VSO office at **360-735-7278** or visit the symphony's website at www.vancouverSymphony.org.

Center for the Deaf to present awards

The Southwest Washington Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SWCDHH) will present two awards on Sunday: the Volunteer of the Year award and the Company of the Year Award.

SWCDHH will present the awards this Sunday, February 8th, at 3 p.m. at its annual General Meeting, which will be held at the PUD, 1200 Fort Vancouver Way.

This year's volunteer award is being presented to Lee Krusmark of Hewlett Packard for many donated hours helping to install a technology center at SWCDHH. The Company of the Year award goes to Krusmark's employer. HP donated a \$45,000 computer lab to the center.

Friday on the Air

Animal Control Hearings(2/4)—7 p.m., CVTV

Telecommunications Commission(1/21)—9 p.m., CVTV

2004 Battle Ground State of the City Address—11:30 p.m., CVTV

Blazers at Jazz—6 p.m., FSN

Winterhawks at Seattle—7:05 p.m., 970 AM KUPL

Town Tabloids and The Weather

John McKibbin choosing the perfect day to fly. *ZZZ*. **Addison Jacobs** taking air traffic control to new levels. *ZZZ*. **Kristine Meisner** getting hot news tip. *ZZZ*. **Linda Monahan** preparing for starry night. *ZZZ*. **Friday**, gray and rainy, 48. **Saturday**, chance of showers, high clouds, sunbreaks, hold onto your tulips, 50. **Sunday**, sunshine continues its grip, great day to frolic, 57.

Acapulco	88/72
Athens	54/60
Chicago	28/28
Dallas	54/36
Hong Kong	55/49
Los Angeles	68/46
London	52/44
New Orleans	71/53
New York	35/28
Orlando	80/60
Paris	54/41
Phoenix	60/42
Rome	66/52
Seattle	44/39
Sydney	85/69
Tokyo	45/29
Washington	35/30