

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Chamber urges city to take different approach to budget woes

The City of Vancouver is considering a multi-million-dollar tax hike that could have a significant impact on local businesses.

The city is projecting a \$3 million shortfall for the next two years. Adding to the budget crunch is a proposal to accept a \$1.125 million federal grant to help pay for 15 new police officers, but taking the grant would cost the city \$1.4 million per year to maintain a higher police staffing level.

One of the top options for fixing the budget as proposed during a city council retreat last night is bringing back the local business and occupation tax at a rate of \$1 per \$1,000 of gross receipts.

"They need to be talking about all the options and all the options include service levels," says **John McKibbin**, President/CEO of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce. "This discussion needs to start with 'what do we have and what does that mean in terms of service.'

McKibbin said the Chamber has yet to see a proposal from the city and will process the issue through the Chamber's Public Affairs Committee.

But he said that for the city to start tax hike discussions just weeks after Vancouver mayor Royce Pollard announced in the State of the City address that Vancouver is "Open For Business" is not exactly business friendly.

Still, McKibbin said, the Chamber will do what it can to work with city officials.

"We have a strong business relationship with the City of Vancouver and we want to work with them to come up with a solution that is acceptable for all involved," McKibbin said.

Never a dull moment — Jeanne Harris announces bid to run for County Commissioner seat

Clark County Commissioner **Judie Stanton** isn't running for reelection, commissioner **Craig Pridemore** is running for a state Senate seat, and now Vancouver City Councilor **Jeanne Harris** has her eye on county government.

Harris, 47, will file in late July as a Democrat and will run for the seat being vacated by Stanton. She has served on the Vancouver City Council since 1996.

"Clark County deserves experienced leadership," said Harris. "I believe Clark County is a great place to work and raise our families and I want to make sure we continue to grow jobs, keep our communities affordable and safe, and ensure a healthy future for our children."

Harris also said she supports increasing the county's jobs-to-homes ratio, supports a performing arts center and supported the downtown Vancouver hotel & conference center now under construction.

For more information about her campaign, call Harris at **360-896-0422** or send email to **Jeanne@jeanneharris.com**.

Tuesday

Feb. 10, 2004

Chamber to host Sen. Patty Murray March 16

The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that U.S. Senator **Patty Murray** will be the featured speaker at a Chamber luncheon on Tuesday, March 16, 12 p.m. at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver. The luncheon is one in a series of GVCC Public Affairs advocacy forums.

The Chamber's Advocacy Series is intended to facilitate access for GVCC members and citizens to elected officials. The purpose is to gain insight into legislative decision making at local, state and national levels and share views regarding impacts to business.

The cost to attend the luncheon is \$30.00. Pre-registration is recommended by Friday, March 12, 2004. To register, call 360-694-2588. This event is open to the general public.

Water Center to host annual Splash!

The Water Resources Education Center will host its anniversary event on Thursday, March 11, at 4600 S. E. Columbia Way. The 9th annual Splash! features waterfront restaurants serving delectable "bites" for \$2.50 each. Guests can eat and drink from 5 until 8 p.m.

Admission is free. Enjoy live jazz performed by students from Battle Ground High School and Clark College Jazz Choirs, directed by **Darcy Schmitt** and accompanied by **Brent Gjevre**.

There is some on-site parking, but to ease congestion, guests can hop on a free shuttle from well-marked parking lots near the Water Center on S. E. Columbia Way.

News Brief

Bravo! Vancouver continues its 10th anniversary season with an all-choral concert February 22 at 3 p.m. "A Choral Kaleidoscope" shines the light on the 70-voice Bravo! Chorale. Tickets are \$15 reserved and \$12 general admission. Call 696-4407 or **906-0441** for tickets.

Tuesday on the Air

42nd Annual Clark College Vocal Jazz Festival, 4 p.m., CVTV

Vancouver Planning Commission, 7 p.m., CVTV

Blazers at Utah, 7 p.m., FSN, KXL 750

Alabama at Kentucky, 4 p.m., ESPN

Colorado at Missouri, 4 p.m., ESPN2

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Bob and Jo Harris on cloud nine after second grandson **Nathan Robert** is born into the **Rob Harris** family.

☺☺☺. **Greg Kimsey** appreciating the little things. ☺☺☺. **Heidi Young** planning Valentine surprise. ☺☺

☺. **Tuesday**, sunshine feels great, don't be chained to your desk, 51.

Tuesday, some morning fog, sunshine later, creeping up to 52. **Wednesday**, more sunshine, enjoy it, rain is coming, 52.

Acapulco	92/73
Athens	60/43
Chicago	36/24
Dallas	48/37
Hong Kong	52/35
Los Angeles	68/46
London	39/30
New Orleans	65/58
New York	44/36
Orlando	74/56
Paris	35/26
Phoenix	65/44
Rome	53/35
Seattle	49/34
Sydney	96/64
Tokyo	37/26
Washington	48/36