

### **City property tax rates to decline**

The Vancouver City Council is beginning the process to set its property tax rate for 2006 this evening at City Hall. The new proposed rate will bring in just over \$335,000 more than last year, but the good news to the property owner is that the individual tax rate on assessed valuation will decline.

The overall increase to city coffers is a result of an allowed one percent increase in the amount of money the city can collect from property taxes next year. Because the total taxation is spread across a much larger tax base than this year, however, individual taxes will decline.

According to city officials, the tax rate for next year will be \$2.84 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. At that rate, the annual city property tax on a home with an assessed value of \$200,000 will decline \$52. The city property tax on the \$200,000 home will total \$568.

### **Southwest Washington Medical Center to dedicate Holtzman Twins Special Care Nursery Friday**

Southwest Washington Medical Center's Level II Special Care Holtzman Twins Nursery will be dedicated at 3 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18.

Named for the Holtzman twins, whose combined birth weight was 4.75 pounds in New Jersey exactly 77 years ago to the day, the nursery occupies 5,380 square feet in the medical center's Family Birth Center.

The twins, now **Lynne Nierenberg** and **Sue Glick**, are the mother and aunt respectively of **David Nierenberg**, who with his wife, **Patricia**, donated \$2.5 million toward the new 3.3 million nursery.

Nierenberg, who is vice chairman of the medical center's board of trustees, says: "It's easy to support the community's medical center because of its ongoing mission of providing high quality affordable health care in our region. Our family can certainly relate to the struggles and pitfalls faced by young parents with at-risk children. We hope this wonderful new facility will make those challenges a bit easier to face." Patricia is a member of the medical center's foundation board of directors.

The nursery provides 15 private patient rooms with overnight accommodations for family members. Visual access is maintained, and a telemetry system monitors critical life signs in the infants.

Says medical center president **Joe Kortum**, "We are honoring both the birth of two amazing women who overcame significant obstacles and the birth of a new facility designed to care for the most fragile newborns in Clark County."

### **Oregon's Loaves & Fishes Center to succeed local SNAP program**

Loaves & Fishes Centers, The Meals-On-Wheels People, headquartered in Portland, will take over the Senior Nutrition and Activity Program, which has provided senior citizens with meals since 1947, reports **Dave Miletich**, assistant director, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation.

The SNAP program was operated through the parks department. According to Miletich, the transition will be seamless. SNAP has provided more than 120,000 high-quality meals at a reasonable cost to both active and home-bound seniors.

Active seniors can have lunch at one of nine locations, and homebound seniors receive Meals-On-Wheels delivered by volunteers.

Loaves and Fishes, one of the largest meals-on wheels providers in the country, has signed a contract with the Southwest Washington Area Agency on Aging and will work in partnership Parks and Recreation and the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Washougal and Yacolt.

### **News briefs**

Clark County food banks are providing benefits to over 26,000 people a month, according to Council for the Homeless spokesperson **Karen G. Read**. This week, according to Read, is Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. She adds, during one night this year the council counted 1,578 homeless persons, two out of three of whom were in families with children. For further information on homelessness in Clark County, go to [www.icfth.com](http://www.icfth.com).

### **People**

State Rep. **Don Benton** (R-17th) will be presented the Association of Washington Business's Cornerstone Award, for his support of business-related issues, during the association's regional session at noon Tuesday,

Nov. 15, in the Heathman Hotel.

### Calendar

The Vancouver City Council will at 4:30 p.m. today to informally discuss updates in the city's solid waste system. The council will also meet at 6 p.m. to consider a consent agenda. ☞ The Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County meets at 7 p.m. this evening in the Clark County Public Works conference room at 4700 NE 78th Street. ☞ The Father Blanchet Park Neighborhood Association is holding a special meeting at 7 p.m. this evening in the Trinity Baptist Church, 6700 MacArthur Boulevard. ☞ Clark County commissioners will review school districts' capital facilities plans during their regular board session at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15.

### Monday headlines at home and from around the world

[Camas G-P mill, which employs about 950, is part of sale to conglomerate Koch--Columbian,](#)

[Julie Anderson](#)

[Russ Williams, 87, reads to kids--five days a week--Columbian, Howard Buck](#)

[Jewish education starts with a haircut--Columbian, Justin Carnici](#)

[Wrangling over cleanup of unexploded ordnance stalling Camp Bonneville transfer to county--](#)

[Oregonian, Allan Brettman](#)

[Oregon jobless rate falls to 6 percent--KATU, AP, William McCall](#)

[Bush rating hit new low in poll--USA TODAY, Susan Page](#)

### Monday on the air

**Vancouver City Council Workshop (live)—4 p.m. CVTV**

Vancouver City Council (11/7)—7 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus (10/14)—10:30 p.m. CVTV

Columbia River Crossing Task Force (10/12)—11 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and the weather

**Jane Cote** putting numbers on the numbers. ☞ **Brian Harwood** passing along good news. ☞ **Bop Fizzell** looking long range. ☞ **Jim Tangeman** promoting mentoring. ☞ **Lee Davis** claiming inside track. ☞ **Ken Cole** making timely revisions. ☞ **Monday**, clouds should fade, 55. **Tuesday**, mostly sunny, 53. **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 57.