

County says compliance with smoking ban has not decreased revenues

Two years after voters statewide overwhelmingly approved a comprehensive smoking ban, data from the Washington State Health Department and Washington State Revenue Department indicate that the economic impact on businesses has been negligible and that the number of employees working in restaurants and bars who were exposed to secondhand smoke has decreased by 90 percent.

“This good news is not surprising,” says **Theresa Cross**, Clark County Public Health spokesperson. “We expected our experience would be similar to that of other states with similar laws, and that has turned out to be exactly the case.”

According to Cross, the state department of revenue reports that slight increases in gross business income among bar establishments and taxable retail sales among restaurants both increased modestly in 2006. More recent data for 2007 show continued growth.

Cross says that the local health department gets two to three complaints about outdoor smoking a month.

Some bars and restaurants are providing outdoor smoking areas where customers can take drinks and food to tables. To be legal, outdoor smoking areas must be at least 25 feet from restaurant or bar outdoor service areas.

Community Choices calling county agriculture summit

Clark County’s Community Choices has set a summit meeting on the county food system for Thursday, Jan. 31, in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay.

The topic of the 9 a.m.-to-2:30 p.m. meeting is “Connecting Food, Farm and Community,” and is part of a series called “Moving Clark County from Good to Great.”

Keynote speaker is **Ken Meter**, president of Minneapolis-based Crossroads Resource Center. Panel members are as follows: **Allison Dennis**, director of supply chain management for Holland, Inc.; **James Fitzgerald**, manager, Clark County Food Bank; **Sheila Martin**, director and associate professor, Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies; and **Bill Zimmerman**, owner of Clark County-based Bi-Zi Farms

The registration fee, which includes breakfast and lunch, is \$50 through January 23, after which the fee increases to \$60. Call **Kristine Perry**, 567-2067, for further information including sponsorship opportunities.

Free landlord-tenant mediation service offered by Community Mediation Services

Clark County Mediation Services is now offering a new mediation service for residential landlords and tenants in the county.

The new service is in addition to the Small Claims Court mediation program that CMS offers, and is designed to assist residential landlords and tenants prior to filing claims in court.

“There are almost always emotional components or communication barriers to landlord-tenant disputes, making them difficult to solve,” says **Ken Carlisle**, coordinator for the new program.

All CMS services are free, according to Carlisle. The new program uses CMS staff and trained volunteer mediators. For further information, call **619-1151**.

Last-minute gifts include county atlas and history

The 30th edition of the *Clark County Road Atlas* is available for purchase in the GIS Map Store on the 2nd floor of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. The purchase price, including sales tax, is \$22.

Also immediately available is *Clark County History, 2007*. Single copies are free to Clark County Historical Society members, otherwise copies are \$14 plus tax. Both are available from the Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main Street.

The popular county atlas is 9 inches by 11 3/4 inches. It contains the latest technology, combining aerial photography and shaded relief into a single image. Shown are locations of major public sites, places of community interest and an address grid for all streets and avenues.

Women entrepreneurs bearing gifts Wednesday

Attendees at the Women Entrepreneurs Organization of Washington holiday dinner are being asked to bring \$20 exchange gifts as well as a gift for YWCA of Clark County Safe Choice Winter Shelter.

The evening begins with a networking session at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 19, in the Heathman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Drive. Admission is \$20 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. For further information, call **Cathy Nielson, 573-5744**.

People

Jennifer Kujava, Battle Ground High School senior and student in the Clark County Skills Center Criminal Justice Program, and **Kelsey Niemeyer**, Camas High School Junior and student in the Skills Center's Restaurant Management/Culinary Arts program, have been named Students of the Month at the Skills Center.

Calendar

The Vancouver City Council meets at 4 p.m. today in workshop session review the city's strategic planning and to discuss C-TRAN's participation in the Columbia Crossing Project. The city council convenes a 7 p.m. meeting this evening to consider a consent agenda. <> Clark Public Utilities' commissioners meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18. <> Clark County commissioners meet in regular session at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18. <> The Clark County Board of Health meets at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18.

Monday on the air

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

Cooking With Class—4 p.m. FVTV

Northwest Indian News—6:30 p.m. FVTV

Vancouver City Council (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

New Orleans at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. CSN, KXL

U of P at Eastern Washington (live)—7 p.m. KBNP

Bravo! Vancouver: The Messiah, An Oratorio—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Les Wolf sees himself in celluloid. <> **Lisa Gibert** waxing poetic. <> **Billy Jo Campbell** recalling Woodstock adventures. <> **Bill Wheeler** fits Santa hat perfectly. <> **Tom Bashwiner** moving up in listings. <> **Monday**, occasional showers, 37-44. **Tuesday**, rainy and windy. 39-45. **Wednesday**, drizzly, 40-47.