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Battle Ground Mayor Michael Ciraulo imagines possibilities in upscale center

Battle Ground mayor **Michael Ciraulo** took his upbeat State-of-the-City message to a packed house in one of the city's newest upscale developments, Battle Ground Village

Ciraulo's theme was "Imagine the Possibilities."

The new Battle Ground Community Library is within \$100,000 of its \$3.22 million goal and construction is to begin in May. City expansion by annexation will continue in 2008.

"We are going to have to compete with Vancouver and Portland for economic expansion," the mayor said, indicating that the city will be looking south toward the Vancouver urban growth area.

Taxes in Battle Ground are lower than in most cities and rural areas in Clark County, Ciraulo pointed out. He added that the city is financially sound. The city's infrastructure is also sound, according to Ciraulo.

Plans for a regional park stretching from north Battle Ground, across Tuke's Mountain to Battle Ground Lake and Lewis River are proceeding, he said. So, too, are city plans for an 86,000-square-foot motocross arena.

Ciraulo made it clear that the city is building on its past accomplishments, which in 2007 included a new hotel and a skate park that was home to international competition.

Battle Ground is a leader among north county cities, Ridgefield and La Center, along with the Port of Ridgefield in looking at expanding opportunities in what is being called the New Northwest.

Three Creeks Advisory Council selected

If "Three Creeks" was the City of Three Creeks it would rival the size of the City of Vancouver to the south. The Three Creeks area, which includes Hazel Dell, Salmon Creek, Felida, Lake Shore and the county fairgrounds, is urbanized rural Clark County.

It does have organized clout, thanks to Clark County commissioners who created the Three Creeks Advisory Council ostensibly to "assist with transportation, land-use planning and related issues."

Named to the council are the following organizations and their representatives: Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County, **Dan Bodell**; Fire District 6, **William Cline**; Washington State University Vancouver, **Hal Dengerink**; Clark Public Utilities, **Michael Harris**; Clark Regional Wastewater District, **Denny Kiggins**; Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital, **James Spinelli**; Hazel Dell-Salmon Creek Business Association, **Ila Stanek**; and Team 99, **Ron Wilson**.

Members of the organization at-large are as follows: **Jim Carlson**, **Beth Holmes**, **Ron Lauser**, **Vaughn Lein** and **Bud Van Cleve**.

Non-voting ex-official members are **John Caton** representing Vancouver, **Betty Sue Morris**, representing Clark County, and **Matt Swindell**, representing Ridgefield.

Retiring Clark County commissioner Morris will chair the council, which is expected to begin meeting in March.

Medical center combines health and dancing in free program Saturday

A free half day session focusing on heart diseases being offered by the Southwest Washington Medical Center is combined with an elaborate dance program and entertainment on Saturday, Feb. 23, in the Clark County Fair Exhibition Hall.

Interspersed are health screenings and healthy heart presentations.

Entertainment is by **Vancouver USA Scottish Country Dancers**, **Happy Hoppers Square Dancing/**



Mayor Michael Ciraulo

Round Dancing, Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Riverside Performing Arts, Yeates Academy/Molly Malone Irish Dancers and Zaina Hart, classical Egyptian belly dancer.

The event begins at 11 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m. For further information, call **256-2000**.

Calendar

Christian Youth Theater productions continue in Vancouver and Camas this weekend. *Little Women* is being presented at 7 p.m. this evening, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. tomorrow, Feb. 23, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, in Fort Vancouver High School. *Disney's High School Musical on Stage* is being presented at 7 p.m. this evening, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. tomorrow, Feb. 23, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, in the Joyce Garver Theater, 1612 NE Garfield Street, Camas. Tickets to either event are \$11 for adults, \$8 for children. For further information, call **750-8550**.

<> Republican lawmakers from the 18th District, Sen. **Joe Zarelli** and Reps. **Ed Orcutt** and **Jaime Herrera**, are presented town hall meetings Saturday, Feb. 23, at 10 a.m. in Fire Station 5 in Kalama, 415 Todd Road, at 1 p.m. in Battle Ground City Hall, 109 SW 1st Street, and at 3 p.m. in the Camas Public Library, 625 NE 4th Avenue.

Friday on the air

Vancouver Annexation Updates (22/5)—3:30 p.m. CVTV

Port of Vancouver Re:port (2/21)—5 p.m. CVTV

Animal Control Hearings (2/13)—7 p.m. CVTV

Portland Blazers at Seattle (live)—7:30 p.m. KGW, KXL

Portland Winter Hawks at Vancouver (live)—7:30 p.m. KKAD

Sheriff's Awards Ceremony (1/31)—8:10 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Food System Summit (1/31)—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

John McDonagh measuring pixels. <> **Brad Lothspeich** working the territory. <> **Ron Onslow** coaching in new league. <> **Jennifer Crooks** noting foundation successes. <> **Bill Ganley** doing interlocutor job with aplomb. <> **Karen Ciocia** held in highest esteem. <> **Friday**, morning sun, gray afternoon, possible precipitation, 35-53. **Saturday**, possible morning showers, sunbreaks, clouds, 38-54. **Sunday**, intermittent light showers, sunbreaks, 41-57.