

WSU Vancouver welcomes Ann Daley at Chancellor's Seminar Series

Washington State University Vancouver will present **Ann Daley**, executive director of the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, at the Chancellor's Seminar Series at 11:45 a.m. Friday, March 5, in the Firstenburg Student Commons.

Daley will address "System Design: A Roadmap for Higher Education in Washington."

The 2009 legislature gave an important assignment to Washington state's higher education leadership: propose cost-effective ways for the state to meet two aggressive goals. The first goal is to increase the number of college graduates. The second goal is to make college accessible to more of the state's increasingly diverse population. State lawmakers will use the System Design Plan to make decisions that will build a higher education system capable of achieving these goals. Daley will share background information on the system design effort and describe recommendations that have come from the state's higher education community.

Daley has a long and distinguished career in Washington state government. She was appointed as executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Board in January 2007. Daley is a member of Gov. **Chris Gregoire's** executive cabinet. Prior to this appointment, Daley served as executive director for Washington Learns, Gov. Gregoire's 18-month comprehensive study of early learning, K-12 and higher education in Washington, which issued its final report in November 2006.

The Chancellor's Seminar Series is open to the public. Tickets are \$25 and include the lecture, lunch and parking. For tickets, call **546-9580**. To learn more about the series and the speakers, visit www.vancouver.wsu.edu/css.

New foundation to provide grants to Ridgefield schools

The Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation, a nonprofit organization to support the Ridgefield School District, started its Principal's Checkbook Program on Monday, February 22, and will begin rolling out a mini-grant program later this spring.

"The Foundation's vision is to bring new resources to the table," says **Paul Lewis**, Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation board president. "We want to enhance the educational experience of all students."

The Principal's Checkbook Program allows school administrators to provide students with supplies and services that are not otherwise available. The mini-grants will help fund the implementation of improvement plans at each school. The programs are made possible through donations from ABM Janitorial, Chartwells, Columbia Credit Union and others in the Ridgefield community.

The Foundation will raise funds during the year to support two additional programs planned for the 2010-2011 school year. Those programs include teacher appreciation awards at each of the Ridgefield School District schools and scholarships for students planning to continue their education after high school. In addition, the mini-grant program will be expanded to include grants to teachers and other school organizations.

The Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation's primary purpose is to support programs and activities that enhance the academic, social and career development for all of the students in Ridgefield School District. For more information about the Foundation, or to learn how to make a donation, visit www.ridgefieldpsf.org.

Local tutoring agency doubles revenue, moves into new office space

Better Grades In-Home Tutoring, which was started in 2007 by local teachers, has moved into a new office at 237 NE Chkalov Drive in Vancouver. The agency has seen significant growth in the two-and-a-half years it has been in business. The local agency more than doubled its revenue from around \$100,000 in 2008 to more than \$200,000 in 2009.

"We are excited to see this kind of growth in a struggling economy," co-owner **Craig Curry** says. "It gives us hope for continued growth as the economy rebounds."

In the last year, Better Grades also has partnered with local nonprofits and school districts to provide free tutoring. Curry is interested in forming more partnerships in 2010 to make tutoring services available to more students who need help but who cannot afford it.

"We have served students in foster care through funding from the nonprofit Bridge the Gap, which has been working with the Department of Children and Family Services," Curry says. "Free tutoring has also been provided to students through the Title VII program in Evergreen Public Schools, and we also currently serve home-schooled students by working with Columbia Virtual Academy."

Next school year, the agency plans to serve as a supplemental educational services provider for Clark County school districts that have improved or are in the improvement stages under No Child Left Behind laws.

For more information about Better Grades In-Home Tutoring, visit BetterGradesTutoring.com.

News Briefs

Mayor **Tim Leavitt** will deliver the 2010 State of the City address, "We Are Vancouver," at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 4, in the Heritage Ballroom of the Hilton Vancouver Washington, 301 W. 6th St. in downtown Vancouver. The speech will begin at 10 a.m. Instead of an admission fee, Mayor Leavitt is asking for a minimum \$5 donation to SELF (Support for Early Learning and Families), a collaborative of community organizations in Southwest Washington whose goal is to prepare children 5 years and under for success in school and life. Cash or check donations will be accepted at the door. To RSVP, call **487-8600** or e-mail alexis.bafus@ci.vancouver.wa.us by Monday, March 1, 5 p.m. <> C-TRAN bus passes and tickets are now available at Safeway stores in Clark County. Discounted tickets and passes can also be purchased with a valid ID. Clark County Fred Meyer locations will continue to sell full-fare passes and tickets; however, discounted fares are not available. For more information, visit a local Safeway or Fred Meyer, or contact C-TRAN Passenger Service at **695-0123**.

Calendar

La Center City Council retreat will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, in the La Center Community Center, 1000 E 4th Street. <> Ridgefield City Council meets from 6:30 to 9 p.m. tonight, in the Ridgefield Community Center. <> The Vancouver School of Arts and Academics PTSA presents the 2010 Dinner Theatre production of *Storms & Scoundrels*, an original comedic production in the vein of The Commedia dell'Arte, at 7 p.m. tonight through Saturday night, Feb. 25-27, in the VSAA Royal Durst Theater, 3101 Main Street. Call **904-8507** for more information. <> Magenta Theater is featuring *Crossing Delancey* at 7 p.m. tonight through Saturday, Feb. 25-Feb. 27, at 606 Main Street. Tickets cost \$10-\$15 and can be purchased online at www.magentatheater.com. *Crossing Delancey* is mostly set inside a small bookstore. Magenta Theater asks patrons to please bring a new or gently-used book, suitable for children and youth, to the performances. The donated books will be delivered to Open House Ministries in late February. Patrons are asked to provide their name with the donation, so that they can be recognized on its website. Call **635-4358** for more information.

Thursday on the air

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)--6 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Board of Health (2-24)--11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and Weather

Rita Stout knows the magic words. <> **Pat Stryker** getting the word out about golf. <> Thursday, partly cloudy, 57-47. **Friday**, rain, 54-43. **Saturday**, showers, 57-42.