

Money woes lead Vancouver Symphony to cancel April concerts



Scott Milam

For the first time ever, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra has canceled performances. A severe budget shortfall has led the board and staff of the organization to call off the shows planned for Saturday, April 17, and Sunday, April 18. The Young Artists scheduled to perform will instead be featured at the May 29 and May 30 concerts. The board also announced the appointment of **Scott Milam** as the interim executive director today. One of his first duties was to explain the cancellation.

"It's unfortunate that The VSO needs to take this action," Milam said. "With the difficulties many nonprofit arts organizations face these days, we face a severe budget shortfall in April. Our Board and staff feel that eliminating one concert is the best way to save the music. While attendance is the highest in the history of the orchestra, ticket sales are only a small percentage of our total revenue. Our new 'Save the Music' campaign endeavors to raise \$20,000 between now and April 30, and to remind people of the power that The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra brings to our community."

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra is a 70-member professional orchestra presenting outstanding guest artists and varied programs at Skyview Concert Hall, 1300 NW 139th St., Vancouver. Tickets for performances are available at www.vancouversymphony.org or by phone at **(360) 735-7278** and at the door.

Battle Ground student wins appointment to U.S. Air Force Academy



William Loving

Battle Ground High School senior **William Loving** is the first student from the district in eight years selected to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Loving, who maintains a 3.82 grade point average, will follow his dream of becoming a fighter pilot to Colorado Springs, Colo.

U.S. Rep. Brian Baird, D-Vancouver, chose Loving from a field of candidates throughout his congressional district. Baird is allowed one appointment to each of the five military academies every year.

"Holy smokes," said Battle Ground High School associate principal **Jann Byrd**. "This is absolutely incredible." Loving, of Yacolt, is at the top of the class of the 84-member ROTC program at Battle Ground High School. Two other ROTC students, **Alex Arlint** and **Kathleen Zietz**, have been awarded three-year Air Force ROTC scholarships.

Paulson to testify in DC on National Export Initiative

Port of Vancouver USA Executive Director **Larry Paulson** was to testify today in front of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs and Global Competitiveness.

Paulson was scheduled to testify along with executive directors from the Ports of Seattle, Portland and Coos Bay. He will describe the Port of Vancouver's position as the third-largest port in the state, one which does not specialize in containers but does have a niche as a bulk, auto, and project cargo port, including the import of wind energy cargo.

Despite the import of wind energy cargo and being the west coast port of entry for Subaru, 85 percent of the cargo at the Port of Vancouver is exported. The Port of Vancouver, created in 1912, exports approximately 16 percent of all U.S. wheat—3.2 million metric tons in 2009—annually. Paulson also will have the opportunity to deliver an outline of the work he believes must be done to eliminate inefficiencies and improve competitiveness.

This afternoon, Paulson's testimony was postponed. **Oregon Public Broadcasting** reported today that advocates for a proposed new wilderness area in central Oregon were turned away from their scheduled testimony on Capitol Hill this week.

News Briefs

The Center for Social and Environment Justice at Washington State University Vancouver is hosting a spring conference on Saturday, March 27, entitled "Mobilizing Community Health, Well-Being and Equity." More information is available at www.vancouver.wsu.edu. <> The Nutter Foundation is accepting community grant applications. The foundation supports nonprofit organizations that focus on youth development programs. In 2009, the foundation awarded more than \$100,000. Applications are available online at www.nutterfoundation.org. <> The city of Vancouver is seeking applicants for a full-term position on the new Clark County Arts Commission. The 11-member commission will work to enhance and support the growth of the local economy through collaboration among patrons of the arts, artists, the business community, service groups and schools. Applications are due on April 5. Contact **Cara Cantonwine** at **360-487-8630**. <> Those interested in attending the Clark County Mural Society's "Art on the Block" on Thursday, April 8, at the Vancouver Marketplace are asked to RSVP by April 5 to **Lynn Krogseng**, **360-852-1165** or via e-mail at lynn@krogseng.com. <> Admission to the Marshall Lecture on Thursday, May 20, is free, but tickets are required and seating is limited. **Jonathan Jarvis**, the director of the National Park Service, is the speaker. The lecture begins at 11:30 a.m. at Hudson's Bay High School, 1206 East Reserve Street in Vancouver. Tickets can be printed from the Fort Vancouver Reserve Trust's Web site at www.fortvan.org. <> State transportation officials are reminding Washington drivers that April 1 is the deadline for removing studded snow tires. The fine for driving after April 1 with studded tires is \$124. The deadline is the same in Oregon.

Calendar

The grand opening and ribbon cutting for the Dream Big Community Center begins at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 26, at 500 West 8th Street, Suite 260, in Vancouver. The center is a nonprofit organization focused on youth development. More information is available at <http://www.dreambigcc.org>. <> The Vancouver Downtown Association invites volunteers to help with the beautification of downtown by planting 40 new street trees starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 27. Volunteers will meet at 819 Main Street. Breakfast provided by Chronis' Restaurant. Tools, gloves & training provided. Call **360-619-1108** or go to Vancouver-Clark Washington Parks & Recreation: Urban Forestry for more information. <> Project Homeless Connect will be offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, March 29, at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay's Centennial Center, 100 Columbia Street.

Thursday on the air

Clark County Board of Commissioners & the Rural Lands Task Force Joint Meeting (3-23) — 7 p.m.
CVTV 23

Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Happy Hearts: Integrative Primary and Behavioral Health Care for
Older Adults (2-16) —10 p.m. CVTV 23

Town Tabloids and the weather

Vancouver Pizza celebrated 10 years with Lawrence Welk alumni. <> **Tucker** opposing
McKenna's lawsuit. <> **Thursday**, rain/wind, 59-42. **Friday**, showers, 58-39. **Saturday**,
partly cloudy, 67-49.