

Hearing on business license surcharge postponed

A public hearing on Vancouver's proposed business license surcharge, scheduled for Monday, Feb. 27, has been postponed. The city council has asked for more time to review and analyze the impacts of the proposed ordinance which would establish a business license surcharge that would be paid in addition to the current applicable business license fees.

Surcharge revenues would be used for new capacity transportation projects. The public hearing will be re-scheduled within the next 30 to 60 days, city officials said.

CREDC clients average wage base is over \$52,000 a year

The Columbia River Economic Development Council's past clients provide over 10,000 family wage jobs paying over \$539 million in annual wages, CREDC president **Bart Phillips** reported today.

"What is most striking," Phillips said, "is that the average annual wage paid by our clients is over \$52,000, well above the \$35,000 countywide average wage."

Phillips added: "With our clients in primary industry sectors, selling goods and services outside the region, the overall direct and induced wage impact exceeds \$882 million. Our clients are making a huge difference in the economy and quality of life of Clark County citizens."

"CREDC clients are industrial companies that CREDC has recruited to the county or helped stay in the county. A recent survey showed that 65 percent of those clients remain in business in the county today."

Results of an economic impact analysis conducted by CREDC can be found by going to www.credc.org.

CREDC was founded in 1982 as a private nonprofit corporation supported by private business and local government in Clark County.

Black college presidents to discuss their passion for excellence in education

Clark College president, **R. Wayne Branch**, and Portland Community College Cascade Campus president, **Algie Gatewood** will discuss "Increasing Our Passion for Excellence in Education" as part of the local celebration of Black History Month, at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, in the Community AME Zion Church, 3605 E 13th Street.

Gail Thomas, president of the lay council of the church, will facilitate an open forum panel. The afternoon concludes with a soul food reception.

There is no charge for the presentation. For further information, call **693-4566**.

Telecommunications Commission doing annual Comcast Cable review

The City/County Telecommunications Commission is conducting its annual review of Comcast Cable's performance at a 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, meeting in City Hall. The meeting will be cablecast live, and call-in comments and questions will be accepted between 7:20 and 8 p.m., reports commission chairman **Fred Bate-man**.

Written testimony will also be accepted and may be mailed to the City/County Cable Television Office, P.O. Box 1996, Vancouver, WA 98668-1995, or emailed to tracielooney@ci.vancouver.wa.us.

Comcast was granted a 15-year franchise in 1997 to provide cable television services in Vancouver and Clark County.

People

Clark County employees' Personal Best Awards, based on nominations by fellow employees for exceptional service to the county, have been presented to the following: Above and Beyond the Call of Duty, **Ken Lader**, Public Works; Customer Service, **Sandi Hill**, Clerks Office; Innovation, **Arian McMullen**, Juvenile Court; Leadership and Management, **Nancy Campbell**, Clark's Office; Quality, **Mary Liddle**, Community Development, and **Bob Patterson**, Community Services; Working Relations, **Tami Lieser**, Sheriff's Office; Multiple Achievement, **Tina Ferguson**, Public Works. In addition, a team award was presented to the Community Wrap-Around Team, a multi-agency group that serves county families in need of assistance. The team members are as follows: **Reuel Emery**, **Geoff Knapp**, **Mike McMahon**, **Bob Patterson**, **Vern Perry**, **Kevin Pridemore**, **Tom Scott**, **Paul Selle**, **Kim Shiner**, and **Melissa Sutton**. Receiving Once-in-a-Lifetime special awards were

Mike Piper, director, Community Services Department, and **Doug Johnston**, director, General Services Department.

Calendar

An open house presenting alternatives in forming revisions in the County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan is 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. this evening in the Fire District 11 training room, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue, Battle Ground. ☞ Tips on how to do business with Fortune 500 companies are being offered by Nike global procurement manager **Sherrie Moomey** during the 5:30 p.m. Black Entrepreneurs of Clark County round table in the Community Room of the Vancouver Community Library, 1007 E Mill Plain Boulevard. There is no charge for the round table discussion. ☞ The Animal Protection & Control Advisory Board meets at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the 6th floor training room in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street.

Thursday headlines from at home and around the world

[Federal budget cuts hurt meth battle-Cantwell and Baird say--Columbian, **Kelly Adams**](#)

[Politicos join against meth cuts--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)

[Fish, irrigation divert Columbia River's hydroelectric potential--Columbian, **Erik Robinson**](#)

[Firstenburg Center, 'an amazing' place--Columbian, **Jose Paul Corona**](#)

[Area inflation rate stays moderate--Columbian, **Julia Anderson**](#)

[USA's figure skater Sasha Cohen settles for silver--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Battles between Shiite and Sunni Muslims rage across Iraq; violence after mosque attack kills 111--USA TODAY, **Bill Nichols** and **Steve Komarow**](#)

[Sectarian fury turns violent in wake of Iraq shrine blast; seven American soldiers die--New York Times, **Edward Wong**](#)

[Wal-Mart caving on demands for more employee health insurance--New York Times, **Michael Barbaro**](#)

Thursday on the air

Cal at WSU (live)—5 p.m. FSN

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

Montana State at Portland State (live)—7 p.m. KPOJ

Stanford at Washington (live)—7:30 p.m. FSN

Oregon at USC (live)—7:30 p.m. KXL

Oregon State at UCLA (live)—7:30 p.m. KEX

Town Tabloids and the weather

Susan Wolff making the A list. ☞ **Kathy McDonald** making a good point. ☞ **Lee Stenseth** scheduling repairs ☞ **Joe O'Shea** toning up. ☞ **Becky Pettigrew** sharing details. ☞ **Diana Hilsenteger** helping care for the rich and famous. **Thursday**, additional showers, 47. **Friday**, mostly cloudy, 45. **Saturday**, possible sunbreaks, 49.