

Washington state and local taxes rated 29th lowest in the country

State of Washington state and local taxes were 29th lowest in the country during fiscal year 2004, according to figures just published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Mike Gowrylow, spokesman for the state Department of Revenue, says that state and local taxes were \$106.27 per \$1,000 personal income, compared to the U.S. average of \$110.43 per \$1,000. Washington rated 10th lowest in the 13 western states, he said.

Washington ranked 18th among the states in taxes per capita at \$3,452, only \$5 above the national average and the closest Washington has been to the national average since 1982.

Washington also ranked 28th nationally in property taxes.

“Sing 4th” annual competition opens 4th of July celebration

The third annual “Sing 4th” high school singing competition opens the Comcast Presents 4th of July at the Historic Reserve, at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 4, in the main stage on the Vancouver Barracks parade grounds.

Hosts are **Bruce Sussman**, KGW-TV weather man, and 13-year-old **Kyra Smith**, who has co-hosted the competition since it began in 2004.

Competing for scholarships and other prizes are the following: **Mary Rose Allred**, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, **Sara Currie**, Battle Ground High School, **Chelsea Jordan** and **Moriah Lemire**, both of Camas High School, **Tanner Kingston** and **Julie Rupert**, both of Mountain View High School, **Catherine Kohl**, Clark College Running Start, **Barbara Richardson**, Prairie High School, **Asia Smith**, Heritage High School, and **Larry Taylor**, Columbia River High School.

ID theft subject of free Greater Vancouver Chamber forum Friday

Linda Kasinger, a fraud and identity theft expert at US Bank, leads a seminar on fraud prevention presented by the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce from 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, June 23, in Chamber offices at 1101 Broadway.

The free seminar is open to nonmembers as well as members of the Vancouver chamber. Registration is required. For further information, call **694-2588**.

Clark County Chamber hosting 2006 legislative review Thursday

The Clark County Chamber of Commerce is presenting a 2006 legislative review at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 22, in the Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way.

Legislative presenters are state sens. **Craig Pridemore** (D-49th) and **Joseph Zarelli** (R-18th) and state reps. **Bruce Chandler** (R-15th), **Richard Curtis** (R-18th), **Jim Dunn**, (R-17th), **Bill Fromhold** (D-49th), **Ed Orcutt** (R-18th), and **Deb Wallace** (D-17th).

Moderators are Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey** and former state senator **Dean Sutherland**.

There is no charge for the event, and nonmembers as well as members are invited to attend. For further information, call **Marlene Berg**, **258-1181**.

News brief

Three neighborhood presentations by the Columbia River Crossing Project are being made this evening. The first is at 6:30 p.m. before the Rosemere Neighborhood Association, the other two at 7 p.m. at the Meadow Homes Neighborhood Association and the Hough Neighborhood Association.

Calendar

Former Vancouver mayor **Bruce Hagensen** kicks off his 2006 campaign for Clark County Commissioner, District 3, with a fund-raising rally from 5 to 7 p.m. this evening at Club Green Meadows, 7703 NE 72nd Avenue. Hagensen is running as a Republican for the seat held by incumbent **Steve Stuart**. Coffee, soft drinks, hors d'oeuvres will be served, and a no-host bar is available. For further information, call **254-5365**. ☞ The NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. this evening in the Clark County Public Works community room, 4700 NE 78th Street. ☞ Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 21, in conference room B in the Public Service center. ☞ Clark County commissioners will hear a re-

port from Clark County school districts, led by Evergreen Public Schools, regarding ways to mitigate the financial impact of growth on the school systems in the county, at 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, in the 6th floor hearing room in the Public Service Center.

Tuesday headlines

Tuesday on the air

[Heights United Methodist Church celebrating 100 years--Columbian, **Kelly Adams**](#)
[Hilton completes first year--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)
[Federal grant to help pay for arsenic-free water--Columbian, **Erik Robinson**](#)
[Proposed Kalama giant power plant has skeptics--Columbian, **Erik Robinson**](#)
[Wine bottle maker picks Kalama--Columbian, **Courtney Sherwood**](#)
[Bicyclist gives Vancouver bicycling award--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)
[Shonny Bria eying school job in Arizona--Columbian, **Howard Buck**](#)
[Bodies of captured American soldiers show signs of torture--New York Times, **Dexter Filkins**](#)
[Episcopalians reject ban on gay bishops--Washington Post, AP, **Rachel Zoll**](#)

Clark College Orchestra Spring Concert—3:30 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Close Up (6/4)—5:30 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—6 p.m. CVTV
CWS: Miami vs. Oregon State (live)—6 p.m. ESPN2, KUIK
Miami Heat at Dallas Mavericks (live)—6 p.m. KATU
Seattle Mariners at Los Angeles Dodgers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX

Town Tabloids and the Weather

David Ballew awarded Class H license. ☞ **Julie Dawson** showing off pictures. ☞ **Pat McGary** doing lawyer trick. ☞ **Jim Sanders** keeping burglars at bay. ☞ **Byron Hanke** almost, but not quite, admiring yellow tie. ☞ **Roy Koegen** bringing in quorum. ☞ **Tuesday**, clouds to filter most of the sun, 72. **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 75. **Thursday**, warmer and sunnier, 78.