

# VANCOUVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## NEWS SUBMISSIONS

The Vancouver Business Journal welcomes the submission of news tips, press releases, column ideas, letters to the editor and opinion pieces relevant to Southwest Washington business communities.

**NEWS TIPS, PRESS RELEASES:** Email your information news tips and story ideas to the editor.

**LETTERS:** Email letters to the editor. Letters should be no more than 150 words and should include your full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes. Your name and city of residence will be published with your letter. Anonymous letters or letters missing the information described will not be published. Letters are published based on their relevance to immediate news and then in the order received.

**OPINIONS:** Email longer opinion pieces to the editor. Opinions should be no more than 550 words and should include your full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes. Opinion writers may be asked to provide headshot photos to run with their submissions, as well as brief biographical information. Opinion pieces should argue for or against an issue rather than give advice.

**DEADLINES:** VBJ publishes every Friday. Submission deadlines are 10 days prior to the publication date. Publication of submissions depends upon available space and the discretion of the editor.

**CONTACT:**  
Attn: Managing Editor;  
360-448-6019; editorial@vbjusa.com.

The Vancouver Business Journal reserves the right to accept, reject and edit news and editorial submissions. Opinion pieces and letters are edited for style, grammar and length but not content.

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## News BRIEFS

### Port of Vancouver USA named 2010 Port of the Year

The Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) has named the Port of Vancouver USA the 2010 Port of the Year. The announcement was made last month at the association's annual meeting in Tacoma.

Each year, WPPA honors a WPPA member port for leadership and innovation in economic development efforts. The association's executive committee chooses the winning port from a pool of nominees.

According to the WPPA, the Port of Vancouver was honored for creating transportation connections including the June 2010 completion of a state-of-the-art unit train facility at the port's recently developed Terminal 5. The award also acknowledged the port's role as a sponsor port in the recently completed Lower Columbia Channel Deepening Project.

"The Port of Vancouver was presented this award because of their tremendous recent success in bringing jobs and investment to Clark County. They are a shining example of how to spur job-creation, and they have been recognized by their peers for their hard work," said WPPA Executive Director Eric Johnson.

### Evergreen Public Schools receives major energy grant

Evergreen Public Schools has received a nearly \$1.2 million energy grant from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Evergreen was one of 21 school districts from across the state to receive a grant in the third and final

round of the energy conservation grants, which totaled more than \$7.6 million.

"Evergreen will use this much-needed grant money for the replacement of heating, ventilation air-conditioning units, lighting upgrades and new digital controls," said Sue Steinbrenner, director of facilities for Evergreen Public Schools.

In order to qualify, districts had to conduct facility audits to identify projects that could demonstrate guaranteed

energy savings.

### NWABA open house and ribbon cutting

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes (NWABA) will conduct a grand opening celebration, ribbon cutting and open house at their new office on Wednesday, December 8th.

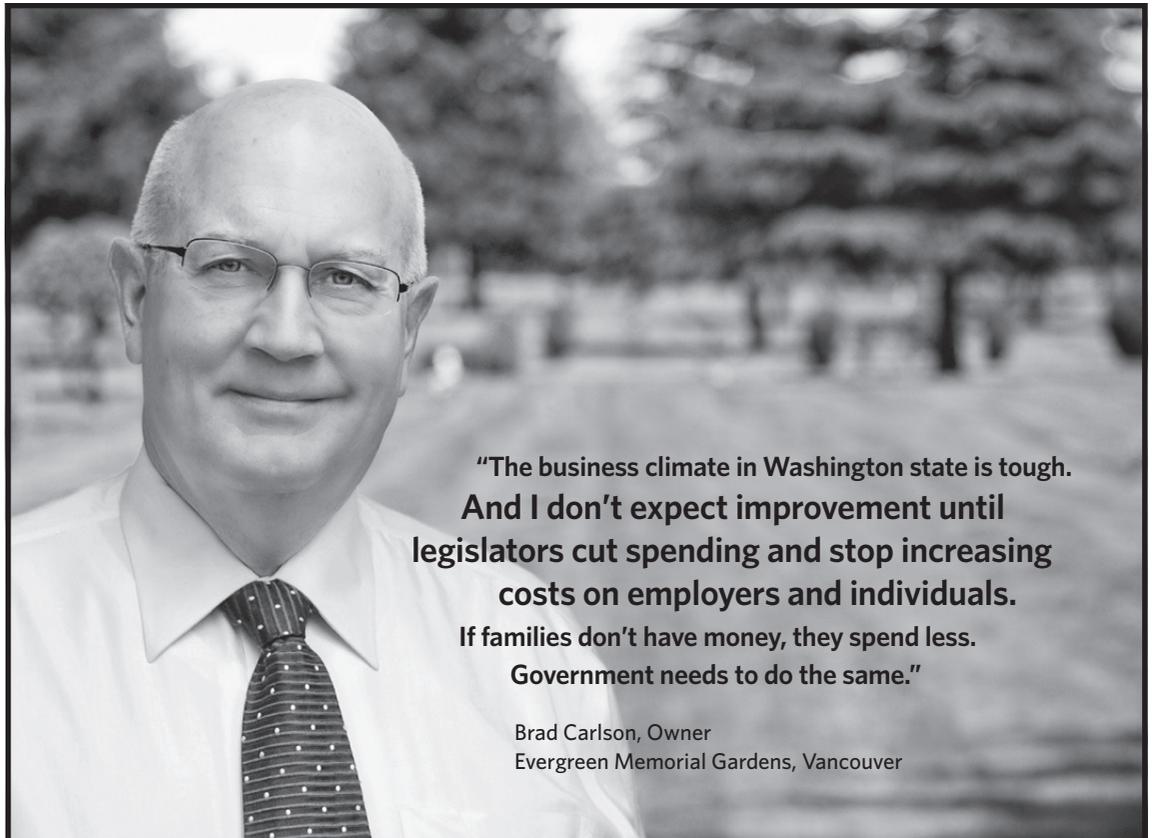
Beginning at 10:00 a.m., the celebration will provide guests the opportunity to meet NWABA staff,

tour the office and learn about the organization.

The NWABA was formed in 2007 by a group of visually-impaired athletes, citing a lack of sports opportunities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

The organization's new office is located at 500 West 8th Street, Suite 50, in Vancouver.

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**"The business climate in Washington state is tough. And I don't expect improvement until legislators cut spending and stop increasing costs on employers and individuals. If families don't have money, they spend less. Government needs to do the same."**

Brad Carlson, Owner  
Evergreen Memorial Gardens, Vancouver

## Our State's Business Climate is Tough. But you can do something about it.

Brad Carlson and thousands of business owners are doing everything they can to survive in this economy. They're cutting costs, finding ways to innovate and getting by with less.

But sometimes it feels like the cards are stacked against them.

Business taxes have jumped. And because policymakers have failed to make critical, systemic changes to get spending under control, we face a massive \$4.5 billion budget deficit.

Lawmakers will be looking for ways to bridge the gap, including raising costs on employers—again. And that will jeopardize jobs.

We can't control the ups and downs of the economy. But we can promote a more business-friendly climate in Washington state.

To help ensure your voice is heard in Olympia, visit [www.AWB.org](http://www.AWB.org) and click on "We Mean Business."



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