A horse is a horse, of course, but a tax break?

By MICHAEL ANDERSEN
Columbian staff writer

Is a horse a form of agricultural tims? Or just a really big pet?

Saying horses might be more "farm than fun," the state of Washington is considering a proposal that would allow farmers to receive a property-tax break for owning them. But after holding two public meetings on the issue, the legislature is still grappling with the issue.

"It’s become more common for farmers to raise other people’s animals," said one farmer, who requested anonymity. "And it’s becoming more common for people to ride horses, which brings a lot of tax dollars to the state."

The debate should prompt the state to reassess its property-tax system, which is heavily weighted towards agriculture and real estate.

The agricultural community has been vocal in its support of the proposal, saying it would provide a needed boost to rural economies. But some critics argue that the tax break would be unfair to property owners who don’t raise livestock.

"In our case, we have a better solution," said one commentator. "We could tax livestock at a lower rate, which would benefit farmers and taxpayers alike."

In the meantime, lawmakers are considering a number of other proposals to address the issue, including a pilot program to test the effects of the tax break on local economies.

"We need to be careful not to overtax other property owners," said another lawmaker. "But we also need to support our farmers and their families."

The issue is expected to come up again in the next legislative session, with both sides of the debate promising to present new proposals and evidence to support their positions.

Vancouver's running short of operating funds

By JEFFREY MEHR
Columbian staff writer

Vancouver’s priorities for the 2020 legislative session can be summarized in a single word: Money.

With the city strapped for cash, both for pay-as-you-go day operations and for long-con tract projects, Vancouver’s council will go Olympia next month. He’ll be looking for help, both in state dollars coming here and additional options for the city to raise money locally, through taxes and fees.

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Vancouver is considering a series of small tax and fee increases as part of its budget for the 2020-21 biennium. As of press time Monday night, the city council had not taken a final vote on the proposed $415.5 million, two-year spending plan.

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For more information on these issues, visit the city’s website at www.vancouverwa.gov.

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Clark's international flair

Recruitment has raised number of foreign students at college

By HOWARD BUCK
Columbian staff writer

Yi Rao, a 20-year-old junior from China, is a new addition to the international student community at Clark College.

"I used to be a slender brush-paint Chinese sandalwood," said Yi, who is now studying computer science.

With skillful strokes, she drew "asian" (goodbye) and "xie xie" (thank you) — the latter drawn twice, just as pronounced.

But "Hello!" (Ni hao) might be the most pertinent phrase for Yi, a first-year Clark College student, and dozens more foreign students like her.

Clark is celebrating International Education Week with special activities on its main Vancouver campus through Friday.

While general enrollment has climbed about 6%, the 5,000-student school this fall, international student full-time equivalency has risen about 12%, officials say.

"We’ve been able to attract students from 22 countries," said Yi, who has studied in China, as well as other parts of the world.

If you want to be a doctor, America is the best choice, said Yi, who has studied in China, as well as other parts of the world.

Clark has a variety of international exchange programs and partnerships with universities around the world.

The college has received a number of awards and recognition for its international programs, including the 2019 International Conference on Global Education.

Clark International Students Enrolled Fall 2018:

Vietnam: 18
South Korea: 11
Japan: 11
Taiwan: 10
China: 6
India: 3
Russia: 2
Kenya: 2
Philippines: 2
Thailand: 1
Each from 10 other countries

INTERNATIONAL WEEK EVENTS

Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Pacific Student Lounge Room 102: Students of Color showcase, featuring Clark alumna Cami Lauer-Guzman.

Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Pacific Student Lounge Room 102: Students of Color showcase, featuring Clark alumna Cami Lauer-Guzman.

Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Pacific Student Lounge Room 102: Students of Color showcase, featuring Clark alumna Cami Lauer-Guzman.

Clark International Student lunch and mixer.

History Club highlights from summer 2018.

Peaches in Concert: Descendants of African American slaves in the United States.

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The world is a stage, and every act in it is a drama.

And if the drama is to be performed well, it needs a director.

Clark is seeking a creative director to lead its international programs.

The position, which is full-time and open to all qualified applicants, requires a minimum of five years of experience in international education.

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Marine accused in disappearance hoax arrested

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — A Marine accu-
se of taking his own disappearance to avoid
returning to his unit was arrested Sunday in Por-
to Angeles and his father was arrested for in-
vestigation of aiding and abet-
ting.

Acting on a tip from the Boulder County
Sheriff’s Office in Colorado, Port Angeles
police arrested 25-year-old Lance Hering at
the Port Angeles airport.

His father, Lloyd Hering, also was ar-
rested.

Lance Hering, a lance corporal and Iraq
War vet, was on leave from Camp Pend-
leton, Calif., when he disappeared in 2005.

At the time, Hering’s friend Steve Powers
told authorities Hering was hurt in a rock-
climbing accident near Boulder and wan-
ted help with medical care or other help.

That prompted a five-day search that cost
$33,000 and also involved hundreds of
volunteers in Eldorado Canyon State Park.

Powers later admitted the report was a
hoax, and investigators found surveillance
tape showing Hering getting a taxi in Den-
ver. Powers later pleaded guilty to false re-
porting.

International:

From Page C1

sccessful home-stay visit in New
York state and sightseeing
trip across the U.S.

“After that, I love America,”
Yi said. “I get a (physician’s)
license in America, it’s very
easy to go back to China or to
Europe,” said Yi.

First up is a term of English
language study and learning the
local culture, not to mention Pa-
nicost Coast weather and cuisine
(for reasons foreign students
think is hot enough). Next quarter
will include biology classes, Yi
said.

It was a two-day encounter, said
Chandler Rolly, Clark’s interna-
tional recruitment manager.

“The more international
students you have on campus, the
more students and teach-

ers have exposure to global
issues,” Rolly said. “They’re better
able to understand different ac-
cultures and cultures, which does
take effort but it’s in my
opinion, they’re foreign students also bring in
money for Clark. They pay $2,852.20 per
hour, triple the in-state tuition rate of $2,523.15, which helps the
school.

Besides cost, it’s not easy for
international students to earn U.S. visas, though there
have been recent relief, they
say.

Make no mistake: Those who
arrive on Clark’s high achev-
ors, with solid home support and high
motivation.

Rogers, 15, also hopes to be a
surgeon so he can practice cardiology in his
Mexican hometown of Saltillo in Coahuila state, south of
Texas.

Another option for Rogers was
to attend and live in Vancouver and helped steer him there.

Horses:

From Page C1

Horses. Boarders and the Wash-
ington Farm Bureau is saying raising
horses is just as difficult as any livestock
operation.

You have to have acreage,” said Tammy Miller, who
raised beef cattle and horses near
the farmland with her husband. “You have
to have grass, you have to have a
way to deal with the compost.”

The average cost for a horse
at a boarding facility for a
year would be about
$1,000 a year. They
usually cost $417 in taxes on their
five acres, the county’s Web site
said.

The 5.3-acre parcel next
door pays $4,979, but the
larger taxers’ subsi-
dy of businesses such as horn "a
small price to pay for good food,
horseback riding is a good place to go.

Jim Natale, who lives next
to a horse farm, said he’s having
problems with a horse, which
he’s going to board a horse in a stable.
He’ll probably open up my
next stall,” Natale said.

Horses vs. houses
Sherry Daubert, who oversees
the farming bond program for the
Clark County Fair, said she
personally thinks that
activities are part of agriculture,
but no longer.

“They’re not used in the same way they used to be,” she
said. “No one’s plowing.

“Horses are pets,” she said.
“Living in your yard, you don’t
speak to the office, and we enforce
as many rules as we can.”

Dubert said, County Assess-
or Linda Franklin, said she’s not
sure whether a horse should be
enough to turn land into farmland.

“It might be a good idea to have
living things on it, and you keep it available for use as
some kind of agricultural activity in the future,” she
said. “On the other hand, if it’s not, the original intent is
not to just preserve it as open space... but to preserve farmland.”

Michael Anderson 360-
264-1100
michael@stepheranderson.
columbus.com

PUBLIC HEARING

November 18, 5:30 pm
Clark County Public Safety Center
Room 608 (6th fl.)
1300 Franklin St, Vancouver

Anyone interested in providing input on the
proposed plan may email their comments to:

C-TRAN Public Testimony
PD Box 2529, Vancouver, WA 98660
All comments must be received by noon
Tuesday, November 18

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