When U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell visited our community last month she learned how Dakota Creek Industries’ (DCI) future investment plans relate directly to the continued health of the local economy.

In a brief visit that included detailed project presentations by DCI and the Port of Anacortes, Sen. Cantwell was greeted by an audience representing a cross section of business interests and public agencies.

In attendance for presentation of the Port and DCI’s Pier 1 project plans were a variety of community leaders including Anacortes Planner/Attorney Ian Munce; Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC) Executive Director Don Wick; Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Michael Broome and Immediate Past President Randy Burgess.

Broome noted the rich heritage of boat-building and related maritime commerce in our community. He described DCI as a “good corporate citizen” and noted that the company provides “important family-wage jobs.”

In response to the U.S. senator’s inquiry as to why clients choose DCI, company president (Continued on page two)

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (right) was joined by State Sen. Harriet Spanel, Swinomish Tribal representative Allen Rozema and Port Commissioner Steve Hopley during a Pier 1 project presentation by the Port and Dakota Creek Industries.

Teso Refinery to host Jan. 27 Business After-Hours / Board installation event

Teso Refinery on March’s Point will host a Thursday, January 27 “Business After Hours” event that also features the passing of the president’s gavel from Randy Burgess to Pam Allen.

The After Hours event, which is scheduled from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., will include acknowledgement of outgoing and incoming officers and board members. Tesoro will provide traditional hors d’oeuvres and refreshments at the Tesoro Employees Recreation Association (TERA) building near the shores of Fidalgo Bay.

In addition to officer changes that include new President Pam Allen of Anaco Bay Inn and Anaco Bay Inn and Treasurer Vince Oliver of Island Hospital, several new board members will be recognized. They include Robin Pestarino of AllData Shredding, Dave Storkson (Continued on page three)

January 7
“First Friday” monthly Gallery Art Walk

January 19
Waterfront Festival Meeting 8 a.m.

January 20
County Chamber Leaders’ Banquet

January 25
VIC meeting 9 a.m.

January 27
Business After Hours / Chamber Board Installation

January 28 - Feb. 19
Anacortes Community Theater presents “The Mousetrap” by Agatha Christie. All tickets $14, (360) 293-6829

819 Commercial Ave. Anacortes, WA 98221 Ph. (360) 293-7911 E-mail: info@anacortes.org Web site: www.anacortes.org
The President’s Message

Help us to foster a vibrant working community

Mission: “The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to improving the business and community life of Anacortes.”

It is an honor to serve as the new Anacortes Chamber of Commerce 2005 President. I am proud to represent a Chamber that understands that promoting and protecting your business interests is essential to its health and financial stability.

As a small town Chamber building on the extraordinary work of its previous Boards, we are fortunate to have a strong working relationship with our civic and community leaders who have encouraged our growth over the years. This working relationship, combined with our exceptional Anacortes citizenry and rooted deep with the spirit of volunteerism, continues to provide leadership for growth and inspiration for investment in our area.

The new Board of Directors will focus on improved communications by creating awareness around issues and events affecting the business community, and by developing a sound business plan that complements and enhances the long-term economic plans of our community partners, the City and the Port. We can accomplish this through active communication and fostering positive relationships to serve and enhance economic viability and superior quality of life. Members of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce benefit through this civic and community collaboration.

Your Chamber cares about your success, whether you are a home-based business or a large employer. Our goal is to serve your business needs and provide you with more tools and resources for your business, as well as several venues and programs at which to meet people.

I encourage you as members to get to know us through our program of Chamber venues. The Business After Hours, President’s Luncheon, Breakfast Networking, and Educational Seminars are just a few examples of how you can meet people in the community who might be future customers, vendors, mentors or friends.

Come meet and talk to us to help our Chamber foster a vibrant working community.

Sen. Cantwell hears Pier I improvement plans

(Continued from page one)

Dick Nelson said, “quality work.” He said the company’s Pier I project represents a desire to increase efficiency and capability. The project would give DCI additional space that would allow work on multiple large vessels. It would also increase flexibility for emergency repair work, including important work on state ferries.

Nelson said his company employs an average of 175 people during the course of the year, with an annual payroll of approximately $9.2 million. He suggested the expansion project would create the potential for an average work force of about 300 employees. He also noted that the company has privately financed its expansion and improvement projects in the past.

DCI is the largest tenant at the Port of Anacortes. The Port is working in partnership with DCI, applying for economic development grants from the state and the federal government.

Among those present at the meeting was Lloyd Kay of the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Kay said that given ongoing federal budget deliberations, he was unable to speculate as to whether funds will be available for projects such as Dakota Creek Industries.’
Welcome New Members

Air Liquide
Supplies industrial and medical gases and services to most industries including steel, oil refineries and chemicals.
8581 South Texas Road
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-6171
Julie Blouin
www.airliquide.com

Membership Renewals

American Dream Real Estate Services, Inc.
Anacortes County Taxi
Anacortes Financial Associates
Anacortes Van / Triangle Taxi
Anne Martin McCool Studio/Gallery
Bayshore Office Products
Calico Cupboard Old Town Bakery
Cascade Job Corps
Charlies Restaurant
Earthbound Used Books
Fidalgo Bay Resort
Gateway Motel
How It Works
Jennings Chiropractic
Kenmore Air Express
Local Starz
Oasys Inc.
Randy’s Pier 61
Ship Harbor Yacht Charters
Skagit Valley College Small Business Resource Center
Transpac Marinas
Village Pizza

Skagit Chamber Leaders event to be held Jan. 20 at McIntyre Hall

Make your reservations now for one of the best county-wide networking and social events of the year.

The 2nd Annual Skagit County Chamber Leaders Installation Banquet is set for January 20, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. at McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon.

Board Chairs and Presidents from all seven Skagit County Chambers of Commerce will be in attendance to recognize new and continuing board members for their individual organizations. Chambers represented will be Anacortes, La Conner, Mount Vernon, Burlington, SedroWoolley, Concrete and North Cascades.

The event is produced by the Skagit County Chamber Executive Directors Association (SCCEDA) and presented by Puget Sound Energy. More than 150 people attended last year’s event and that number is expected to grow for the 2005 gathering.

Dinner, entertainment, networking, door prizes and installation ceremony are included in the $35 per person admission price. A no-host bar serving beer and wine will also be available.

Attendees must R.S.V.P. with payment to their Chamber of Commerce no later than close of business on Tuesday, January 18. But don’t wait until then to sign up or you might be left out in the cold!

Special thanks to Towner Press for creating and printing the invitations for this event.

Tesoro hosts After Hours event

(Continued from page one)

of San Juan Lanes & Stork’s Restaurant and Nate Scott of Windermere Real Estate - Anacortes.

Outgoing officers and board members will be acknowledged and the “Chamber Champion Award” for outstanding service to the Chamber will be announced.

If you are interested in providing a door prize for this event, call 293-7911 or bring a prize on the 27th. Those who plan to attend are asked to RSVP to the Chamber at 293-7911 to expedite catering plans.

To get to the Tesoro TERA Building, travel Highway 20 to the stoplight at Similk Beach Golf Course. Take a left onto March Point Road and continue to the end of the point, where you will see a bright neon “Tesoro” sign at the entrance to the refinery grounds. Continue toward the refinery until you see a neon reader board on the left. Proceed left to the TERA Building, which has a blue roof.

We look forward to seeing a record crowd for this 2005 kickoff event. Our thanks to Board member Dan Porter and Tesoro Refining and Marketing for making this facility available to us for the first big Chamber event of the year!

If you are reading this, so are other Chamber members. Wait! They could be reading about your business instead!

Call the Chamber today for advertising rates in The Anacortes Communicator, 293-7911.
State ferry director unveils plans at Chamber President’s Luncheon

Top state ferries officials brought reassurances last month that the Anacortes terminal and the international run to Sidney, B.C. remain high on their list of priorities at this time.

Armed with concept drawings and tentative terminal re-design plans, acting State Ferries Director Mike Anderson and Director of Terminals and Engineering Russ East described future plans that include both upland and in-water upgrades at the Ship Harbor terminal (see drawings below).

East thanked Anacortes City Attorney/Planner Ian Munce for his contributions to the state planning process, and Anderson assured him there are no plans to eliminate the international run from Anacortes to Sidney, B.C. (although ferry is temporarily taken out of service in winter months starting December 26).

Project elements include: improved lighting and landscaping, with a walking trail to the terminal; relocation of tie-ups to encourage eelgrass growth and accommodate larger vessels; conversion of a tie-up to allow fueling and maintenance of vessels without disrupting ferry operations; a reconfigured overhead walkway for passenger loading; rebuild and expansion of terminal building; improved traffic circulation; addition of a bus-loading area and passenger pickup/drop off area.

Anderson and East said they hope to break ground on a new terminal building in late 2006. Also on their wish list are two new ferries for the aging state fleet.

Downtown Doings

In the wake of former Destination Downtown Anacortes Director Nancy Jankelson’s resignation, a talent search is underway.

Nancy, who served in the new position this past year, has chosen to focus full-time on her management role at Penguin Coffee, but she will remain active in the Chamber of Commerce.

“We want to again extend our thanks to Nancy for the important contributions she made during her tenure with the Destination Downtown Anacortes organization,” said Chamber Director Michael Broome.

Those interested in applying for the director’s position are encouraged to submit a resume to the Chamber of Commerce business office at 819 Commercial Avenue, Suite F. Fax: (360) 293-1595 or e-mail mbroome@anacortes.org.

The job description calls for “excellent verbal and written communication skills; proficiency with MS Office; organization skills; ability to conceive and execute community events.”

Other elements of the job include the recruitment and leadership of volunteers; enlistment of members and sponsors; and the commitment to serving as “the face on the street” in the downtown business core.
Kenmore Air Express and the Port of Skagit County recently announced the November 29\textsuperscript{th} launch of a new commuter air service. Three convenient flights each day will transport passengers between Skagit Regional (Bayview) Airport and Seattle’s Boeing Field, with free continuing shuttle service directly to Sea-Tac Airport. Car rental is also available at the Boeing Field terminal.

Passengers utilizing Kenmore Air Express will complete the commute between Burlington and Seattle/Sea-Tac in less than 45 minutes. Kenmore Air Express will provide passengers with fast, easy and convenient non-stop service via an eight-passenger Cessna Caravan prop-jet.

Internet specials are available on www.KenmoreAir.com for fares ranging between $39 to $75 each way. The new service is designed to offer travelers a more convenient and time-saving alternative to the stress of traffic, high gas prices and the hassles with parking. The Port of Skagit County’s Skagit Regional Airport was selected as the second wheel-based commuter location for Kenmore Air Express because of high demand for the service communicated to the port by members of the community — and because of its proximity to the population centers of Skagit and Island counties.

General Manager of Kenmore Air, Todd Banks, stated, “We’re really excited to begin service to the Skagit Regional Airport as an integral part of the community. Travelers are going to enjoy the convenience of our fast, fun and affordable flights between Skagit Regional Airport and Boeing Field. Kenmore Air Express passengers will enjoy the same level of first-class customer service our seaplane airline is known for — the Kenmore Air experience.”

Founded in 1946, Kenmore Air is the largest seaplane operation in the United States. With almost 60 years of flying experience, Kenmore Air provides flight services to more than 75,000 passengers annually, logging well over 2 million air miles.

Daily sightseeing flights around Seattle and scheduled service to the San Juan Islands, Victoria, B.C. and more than 60 destinations throughout the Pacific Northwest are offered by Kenmore Air and its sister airline, Kenmore Air Express, the wheel-based airline now servicing 1,200 passengers per month to and from Port Angeles.

Would you like to be a featured business?

If you would like to be a featured business in this newsletter, please contact Sue Keller, Membership Services, by phone (293-7911), or e-mail your column to skeller@anacortes.org. Text submittals should be about 250 words accompanied by a photo or logo of your business.
Happy New Year to Our Visitor Information Center Volunteers!

Among Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center (VIC) volunteers who gathered for a recent holiday celebration were (front, left to right) Lou Bergeson, Nancy Kurtz, Jack Barnard, Bev Pasqual; (back, left to right) Janet Weldon, Marilyn Bowles, Derry Bowles, Barbara Ritts, Janice MacPherson, Nancy Barnard, Betsy Rogers, Joanne and Mark Hansen.

Other VIC volunteers at the holiday party included (left to right) Wilma Cooper, Kay Dow, Rita King, Lee Dawes, Ann Giboney, Betty Dawes, Bob Jackson, Mary Jackson, Dale Dow, Beth Prins (VIC Manager). Seated is Olive Van Wagonen. Thanks to all, including those volunteers who were unable to attend our holiday gathering!

Chamber extends thanks to outgoing board members

Chamber Executive Director Michael Broome and Board members extend their thanks to outgoing board members Mike Keller and Steve Henery, both of whom have made valuable contributions to the organization in recent years.

Steve, a past president, served in leadership positions during a critical transitional period in the Chamber’s history.

Keller, who served on the Board for several years including a stint as President, served the past two years as Treasurer. He will continue to volunteer as Waterfront Festival chairman.

“Both of these gentlemen,” said Broome, “bring not only invaluable experience and ability, but a contagious sense of humor and an inspiring commitment to their community. I look forward to a continued working relationship with both of them.”

Santa on parade, island-style

Thanks to all, including this jet-ski Santa, who participated in the 2004 Anacortes Boat Parade on Fidalgo Bay December 18th. It was a wonderful event this year, featuring 16 beautifully decorated boats and a couple of jet-ski participants including this “thumbs-up” Santa. The Saturday night event unfolded under star-studded skies, Fidalgo Bay illuminated by the moon and an impressive array of Christmas lights that decorated vessels in the parade. Randy’s Pier 61, host to parade judges Robin and Tony Pesarino and Jan Hersey, was filled with diners taking advantage of prime parade seating. More than 200 people gathered at the Port of Anacortes’ Curtis Wharf, where parade participants slowed to acknowledge the spectators. Numerous parties were seen on both Guemes and Fidalgo shorelines. Winners in the parade decorations competition included U.S. Army Retired ST-893 in the Commercial division, Emerald Sea in the Power Vessels division and Day Dream in the Sailing Vessels division. All sales from Paraclete Charters were again donated to the Salvation Army Anacortes Corps.
Special thanks to... Mike and Mark Young and Dakota Barnes of City Tree Service for assisting with installation and decoration of the community Christmas tree. We are also grateful to students from the AHS Transition Program, who decorated the bottom two-thirds of the tree. Red Cross for serving coffee and hot chocolate on a cold and windy evening. The Anacortes Fire Department for bringing Santa to the ceremony. Clay Lenning for being a wonderful Santa. Judy Jewell, our Town Crier, and her group of fellow town criers, for their rousing introduction to the tree lighting ceremony. Randy Burgess for emceeing the evening’s activities. Tina Franulovich Martin and the Fidalgo School Choir. Ginger Orsini and the Mt. Erie Elementary School Choir. Carol Schaub and the Anacortes High School Choir and Benny Rawson and the AHS Brass Choir (band).

Our thanks go out to Richard Houghton and his crew from Magic Earth Landscaping. These talented folks presided over a “facelift” at the Commercial Avenue garden on 37th Street.

Special thanks also to Robin Pestarino, who hosted Ambassador’s Club volunteers for a holiday party at her home; and to P.W. Murphy’s restaurant, location of the holiday party for Visitor Information Center (VIC) volunteers.

Thanks to SeaBear for the Holiday Basket given in a drawing among shoppers from Ladies’ and Men’s Shopping Nights Out. Winner was Julie Reichardt.

To the following businesses for providing door prizes at the Chamber’s December Business After Hours held at Quality Log and Lindal Cedar Homes by Sevieri & Company (see photo): Scott Richards Insurance, Glass Illusions, Costco, Anacortes Cinema, Sevieri & Company, Biz Point Communications.

Thanks also to Cory Hunter and Curt Oppel (see photo) of John L. Scott Real Estate for sponsoring the December President’s Luncheon. Thanks for door prizes at the luncheon go to Shelley McGuire, Bill Berry of KLKI, Randy Burgess of Ace Hardware and Molly McIntosh of Gracious Living Interior Design.

The Rockfish Grill entertainment calendar for the month of January, 2005:
1/1 - The Colonel and Goldtooth
1/5 - Jazz Invitational with Frankly Moanin’
1/7 - Gallery Walk with Annieville Blues and Special Guest
1/8 - The Stilly River Boys
1/12 - Rockfish Hootenanny with the Duntons
1/14 - Victor Noriega Quartet
1/15 - Becki Sue and Her Big Rockin’ Daddies
1/19 - Jacob Navarro and William Cook
1/22 - Dan Tyack’s Unsanctified Gospel Review
1/26 - Allen Lewis and Fidalgo Swing
1/27 - From Russia, Blues Cousins: 8 p.m. / $7 @ the door
1/29 - Steve Korn Trio with Joe Doria and Mark Taylor

Preview: 2/5 - Rod Cook and Toast, 3/3 - James Solberg
Music runs Wed 6-9 p.m., Fri/Sat 9 p.m.-Midnight or as noted. For more info see www.anacortesrockfish.com
Rockfish Grill and Anacortes Brewery, 320 Commercial Ave. (360) 588-1720

Sidedish opens January 26
Opening day for The Sidedish, a specialty food shop that is literally connected with The Dish, will be Wednesday, January 26. The new downtown shop will feature delicious inventory ranging from imported and domestic artisan cheeses to pastries and high end deli meats. Among local products will be mustards and sauces from Lopez Larry’s and compotes and sauces from Cornelia’s Garden. The shop will be a family affair with Dish owner Marianne Mach, her son Tyler and sister Sally Knutson. Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
Holiday lights garner recognition

Christmas 2004 was aglow with white lights thanks to the many businesses that participated in the White Light contest. The judges had a very hard time determining the winners, but were unanimous in their final decisions.

Winners of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce White Light Contest were:

**Large Business Division**
First Place: Fidalgo Country Inn
Second Place: Calico Cupboard
Old Town Bakery
Honorable Mention: Water’s Edge Health Club & Spa

**Small Business Division**
First Place: Boxes & Bears
Second Place: Donatello Flowers & Gifts
Honorable Mention: Ana-Cross Stitch
Honorable Mention: Buer’s Floral & Gifts

Best Floating White Lights: Island Adventures
Home for the Holiday Award: Daniel Rasmussen, DMD
Kudos to Tesoro and Shell refineries for maintaining the white light theme all year!

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**Anacortes Chamber of Commerce**
819 Commercial Ave., Suite F
Anacortes, WA 98221

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**VIC Statistics**
Thank You, Volunteers!
NOVEMBER 2004
Visitors 791 (662 - 2003)
Phone Calls 231 (238 - 2003)
Information Requests 22
(12 - 2003)
Relocation Requests 29 (28 -2003)
Web Sessions 13,288
(10,469 - 13,288)

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**Executive Board**

Executive Board

President
Pam Allen / Anaco Bay Inn
President-Elect
Bill Berry / KLKI AM 1340
Secretary
Jean Fantini / Donatello Flowers & Gifts
Treasurer
Vince Oliver / Island Hospital
Immediate Past President
Randy Burgess / Ace Hardware
Executive Director
Michael Broome

Board of Directors

Shane Aggergaard / Island Adventure Charters
Tom Wood / Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Dianna Chonka / Cap Sante Marine, Ltd.
Madeleine Roozen Cook / Peoples Bank
Mike King* / City of Anacortes
Robin Pestarino / AllData Shredding
Dan Porter / Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
Nate Scott / Windermere Real Estate / Anacortes
Dan Stahl* / Port of Anacortes
Dave Storkson / San Juan Lanes &
Stork’s Restaurant
Nels Strandberg / Strandberg Construction
Gene Tanaka / T Bailey, Inc.

* Ex-officio

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