

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Health Director Kay Koontz retiring after 23 years

Kay Koontz, director of the Clark County Health Department, is retiring next July after having served in public health in southwest Washington for the past 23 years.

Koontz was director of the Southwest Washington Health District when, in January 2003, it became part of county government as the Clark County Health Department.

"Kay has been a champion of public health issues in our community for many years," said **Bill Barron**, Clark County administrator. "She has been a leader on a wide range of public health concerns and she played a key role in making the transition of public health services to Clark County successful."

Koontz began her career as a public health nurse. She has served as chair of the Public Health Nursing Directors and as chair of the state Association of Local Public Health Officials. Currently she is chair of Community Choices 2010's Healthier Communities Project.

Holder of a masters degree in public administration, Koontz is an alumna of both the Public Health Leadership Institute of UCLA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I've been blessed in every aspect of my work here, and I'm grateful for all the opportunities I have had," Koontz said today.

Karen Steingart leaving Vancouver to work to eliminate polio in the Philippines

Karen Steingart, Clark County health officer for the past 15 years, is taking an unpaid leave of absence from the county health department, beginning Jan. 15, to accept a temporary position with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A medical doctor, Steingart will train with the CDC and then join a Stop the Transmission of Polio team in the Philippines.

The largest public health initiative in history, the global polio eradication initiative is sponsored by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, CDC and UNICEF. The goal is to eradicate polio worldwide by 2005.

Clark Public Utilities' commissioners approve 2004 budgets

Clark Public Utilities' commissioners Tuesday approved budgets for the Electric, Generating, Water and Wastewater systems for 2004.

Electric rates will not increase in 2004, according to Commissioner **Carol Curtis**. "These budgets allow us to continue providing customers with outstanding service and high reliability at a reasonable price."

The number of electric system customers served is expected to grow 2 percent, compared to an estimate of 3 percent in the 2003 budget.

Total electric system sales are expected to be about \$293 million, up about 4.3 percent. Residential sales are

TUESDAY

Dec. 9, 2003

expected to be about 60 percent of the total, with general service 28 percent and large power 11 percent.

The single largest part of the budget—68 percent—is the cost of power sold to customers. In 2004 power costs are expected to be about \$203.6 million, down slightly from \$205.6 in 2003.

Electric system construction spending for the year is expected to increase to about \$20.5 million, up \$2 million from this year. Key elements include construction of a new substation to serve the Ridgefield and La Center areas.

The utility employs 350 persons, 319 of whom work in the electric system. According to Curtis, Clark continues to be the most efficient public utility district in the state, with one employee to every 534 customers. The average in the state is one employee to every 250 customers.

Annual Legislative Outlook Breakfast Friday

Sponsored by the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, Identity Clark County and the Columbia River Economic Development Council, the annual Legislative Outlook Breakfast is 7 to 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay.

Most of the southwest Washington legislative delegation will be attending.

The breakfast is \$30. For reservations, call **694-2588**.

News briefs

Clark County commissioners continue their hearing on updating the county's 20-year Comprehensive Growth Plan in a public hearing that begins at 6:30 p.m. today in the Public Service Center. ~~See~~ Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Tuesday on the Air

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: Spirit of America—5:00 p.m. CVTV
Portland Trail Blazers at Houston (live)—5:30 P.M. FSN, KXL, KKG
County Commissioners: GMA Update (live)—6:30 p.m. CVTV
How to Enjoy the Holidays—11:00 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2003

Alaska Air Group	25.50	-.13	Linear Technolog	39.80	-1.16
Alcoa	34.96	-.56	Microsoft	26.38	+1.14
Amazon.com	49.34	-1.74	Nautilus	13.01	-.20
Bank of America	75.41	-.59	Nike	64.89	-.69
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	33.95	-.01
Bemis	48.87	+0.67	PepsiCo	47.40	-.86
Boeing	38.58	-.54	Precision Cast	45.25	-.65
Boise Cascade	30.67	-.14	RLRN	24.15	+1.16
CenturyTel	30.17	-.75	Starbucks	31.66	-.66
Costco	36.00	-.14	TSM	10.12	-.44
Expeditors Intl.	37.75	-.50	Tektronix	26.61	-.41
Georgia Pacific	28.88	-.17	US Bancorp	27.85	-.30
HPO	21.96	-.52	Wash. Mutual	39.97	-3.88
Intel	30.25	-1.39	W. Coast Bancorp	21.05	-.16
Kyocera	62.70	-.56	Weyerhaeuser	60.22	-.05
DOW: 9923.42 -41.85 NASDAQ: 1908.32 -40.53 S&P: 1060.18 -9.12					

Town Tabloids and The Weather

David Beecher promoting glass act.	Acapulco	91/73
See David Gibson helping Roots grow.	Athens	50/40
See Mick Shutt putting speedy paint on hull.	Chicago	46/41
See Jim Malinowski and Jeff Miller providing public comment.	Dallas	60/34
Tuesday , mostly cloudy, possible showers, 46. Wednesday , another dreary day with a few showers, 46. Thursday , mostly gray, possible shower or two, some sun, 48.	Hong Kong	71/64
	Los Angeles	73/49
	London	49/40
	New Orleans	77/48
	New York	38/34
	Orlando	76/59
	Paris	43/34
	Phoenix	66/43
	Rome	47/38
	Seattle	46/36
	Sydney	82/61
	Tokyo	46/31
	Washington	46/36