

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Betty Sue Morris: Initiative 680 would deliver a stunning loss to Clark County

Tempering her abhorrence of its by stating, "If Initiative 680 gets enough signatures to reach the ballot and passes, we'll make the cuts required with dignity and discipline, and without complaint," Clark County commissioner **Betty Sue Morris** added, "but it will be a stunning loss."

Morse, chair of the board of county commissioners, told a packed State of the County address audience at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, this afternoon: "It's politically risky business for me to dwell on this topic because we try hard to focus only on the good stuff. But I am compelled by it anyway because elected officials have too long hesitated to tell the other side of the tax-cutting story, and with a new initiative waiting in the wings that would make an immediate 25 percent cut to our property tax streams, I don't believe we can hold our silence any longer."

Morris added sound effects from Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* with the blare of horns signaling that the wolf was about to take a 25-percent bite out of the county's general purpose budget.

The county would lose \$10.8 million the first year, and the total loss to all government in Clark County would be \$22 million.

"If Clark County closed and mothballed every park we own and operate, sliced social services, gutted a number of departments entirely and quit monitoring offenders on probation, we still wouldn't have cut enough to make it," Morris said, adding, "All these kinds of cuts would happen all across the state."

The state of the county over the past three years was anything but gloomy, according to Morris, who recited the growth of the community since she last made a state of the county address in 2001.

The county has remained fiscally stable despite tax cutting initiatives, Morris said. During those three years there have been 862 new businesses added, 5,571 new students entered schools, seven new schools were built, 8,910 new homes occupied, and 33,000 people became new residents in Clark County's 656 square miles.

2003, Morris said, was a year of record achievement for the county. Clark County formed its own Health Department. The county Juvenile Department was nationally recognized for its corrections program. The Juvenile Department has the lowest rate of detention in the state among counties the size of Clark. The Mental Health Specialty Court reduced adult crime rates of its clients and cut probation violations 56 percent, and reduced the number of jail bed days from 288 to 76.

Morris praised the Public Service Center completed in 2003 and the reconstruction that has begun in the courthouse.

With the help of the Felida Neighborhood Association, the county opened its first new community park in 25 years Felida Overall, Morris said, construction in the unincorporated area of the county was \$491 million, up 19 percent from 2002.

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FRIDAY

Jan. 30, 2004

Saturday last day to give storm debris free ride

The final day of free disposal of storm-related woody debris is Saturday, Jan. 31, according to **Anita Largent**, Clark County Solid Waste spokesperson.

There is no charge for dumping downed trees, limbs and branches at the following locations: West Van Material Recovery Facility, 6601 NW Lower River Road; H & H Wood Recyclers, 8401 NE 117th Avenue; McFarlane's Bark, 8806 NE 117th Avenue; Central Transfer and Recycling Center, 11034 NE 117th Avenue; and Triangle Resources, 612 SE Union Street, Camas.

People

Katlin Smith has been elected President of the Portland Metro Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. She is principal of Katlin Smith Communications, Vancouver. Elected to the board of directors of the chapter was **Chastell Ely**, also of Vancouver. Ely is a communications specialist with the Port of Vancouver.

News brief

Interstate 5 southbound between 99th Street and I-205 will be closed to traffic from 8 p.m. tonight to 1 p.m. tomorrow. Northbound Interstate 5 traffic between Highway 500 and I-205 will be closed from 10 p.m. tonight to 1 p.m. tomorrow. The temporary closures are the result of widening I-5 to three lanes north of 99th Street.

~~SES~~ The Clark County Public Facilities District meets at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, in sixth floor conference room in the Public Service Center.

Friday on the Air

State of the County Address—5:30 p.m. CVTV
Everett at the Portland Winter Hawks (live)—7 p.m. KUPL
Animal Control Hearings (1/15)—7 p.m. CVTV
Telecommunications Commission (1/21)—9 p.m. CVTV
Hilton Hotel Ground Breaking Ceremony—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Friday, Jan. 30, 2004

Alaska Air Group	27.80	-.82	Linear Technology	39.97	-.60
Alcoa	34.18	+.88	Microsoft	27.65	-.26
Amazon.com	50.40	+1.18	Nautilus	14.18	+.81
Bank of America	81.46	+.54	Nike	69.66	+1.13
Bank of Clark County	20.00	unch	Nordstrom	39.30	-.09
Bemis	48.47	+1.13	PepsiCo	47.26	+.24
Boeing	41.75	-.55	Precision Cast	46.79	+.09
Boise Cascade	32.45	+.08	RLRN	29.50	-1.50
CenturyTel	26.40	-1.60	Starbucks	36.61	+.13
Costco	36.94	+.04	TSM	11.18	+.22
Expeditors Intl.	37.41	-.58	Tektronix	31.07	+.86
Georgia Pacific	28.10	-.335	US Bancorp	28.27	-.07
HPQ	23.79	-.49	Wash. Mutual	44.30	+.70
Intel	30.52	-.37	W. Coast Bancorp	21.78	-.22
Kyocera	75.40	+.35	Weyerhaeuser	61.46	+1.30
					1.04

DOW: 10,477.99 -32.3 NASDAQ: 2066.45 -1.78 S&P: 1131.59 -2.52

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Craig Ritterrodt, Hank Schouten, Al Luher, Dave Slocum and Scott Cook , top Evergreen keglers. SES	Acapulco	82/66
Katrina Olsen's The Surf wins regional poetry prize. SES	Athens	51/32
Travis Chambers and Dan Evans attaining eagle rank. SES	Chicago	4/-5
John Fratt seeking good comments. SES	Dallas	45/25
Friday , blustery and wet, 48. Saturday , gray, possible showers, 46. Sunday , looks like more rain, 46.	Hong Kong	68/58
	Los Angeles	65/48
	London	45/42
	New Orleans	57/47
	New York	25/18
	Orlando	68/51
	Paris	37/32
	Phoenix	70/49
	Rome	43/33
	Seattle	45/36
	Sydney	84/60
	Tokyo	46/31
	Washington	30/18