

Betty Sue Morris aims to answer “big picture” questions

Betty Sue Morris, chair of the Clark County board of commissioners, is seeking “big picture” questions from constituents, the answers to which will be delivered during her State of the County Address, at 11:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4, in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay.

Morris says she will share her perspectives of the past year and discuss challenges that lie ahead for county government in 2005 and, in addition, will answer questions of general interest to the public that are sent to her office by Wednesday, Jan. 26.

“We want to make sure that issues of primary interest to county citizens are included in our outlook for the coming year,” Morris says. Questions may be mailed, called in, mailed to the county Public Information and Outreach Office, or e-mailed to pio@clark.wa.gov.

Business owners can get dose of net worth improvement for \$15

A half-day seminar being presented at 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4, by Washington State University’s Small Business Development Center zeroes in on getting business owners to leave daily distractions behind and focus their efforts on building the net worth of their business, reports center spokesperson **Jan Harte**.

Presenters are **John Mitchell**, US Bancorp, **Craig Byrd**, Byrd Financial Group, Portland, **Steve LaCesa**, Oak Tree Insurance, Lake Oswego, and Harte. The seminar, titled “Grow and Thrive in 2005,” is sponsored by Byrd Financial Group and the *Vancouver Business Journal*.

The \$15 registration fee includes a catered lunch. The seminar is in the newly restored E. B. Hamilton Hall of the historic Red Cross Building at 605 Barnes Road in Vancouver Barracks. For further information and registration by February 1, call Clark College, **992-2939**, and ask for course number G065.

Lecture Friday opens historical museum northwest treaty exhibit

A lecture by **Robert Miller**, associate professor, Lewis & Clark Law School, and chief justice, Court of Appeals, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, opens a two-and-a-half-month-long exhibit of art and artifacts of Indian treaties of 1854-56 at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, in the Clark County Historical Museum, 1151 Main Street.

During a 13-month period beginning in 1954, Oregon territorial governor Isaac Stevens held 11 treaty councils with northwest Indians. Thousands of native people ceded their traditional homelands. Miller will discuss how these negotiated treaties impact the region today.

The lecture is \$5 for museum members; \$10 for nonmembers. The exhibit opens at 6 p.m. and continues Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Thursday, March 31.

For further information, call **993-5679**.

Port of Ridgefield Taxes go down

The public property tax levy within the Port of Ridgefield will be reduced slightly this year from the rate levied in 2004, reports **Brent Grening**, executive director of the port district of 11,000 residents, covering 57 square miles from Ridgefield on Lake River to east of I-5.

The property tax levy will drop a little over 7 percent, from 28 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation to 26 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

About 5 percent of the port’s \$6 million annual budget is generated by property taxes. About \$5 million is derived from grants and loans from the state Department of Ecology.

The port established fees for its new boat launch and kayak facility on Lake River, according to Grening. Day use is \$6. An annual boat launch pass has been raised from \$35 to \$40. Annual passes for kayak launchers are available for \$20.

New Evergreen Public Schools high school boundaries subject of public discussion

The first of four public meetings being conducted by Evergreen Public Schools, to realign school boundaries necessitated by a new high school to be completed in 2007, is at 7 p.m. this evening in Evergreen High School, 14300 NE 18th Street.

Additional meetings will be held later this month. A map detailing a boundary change option can be seen by going to www.egreen.wednet.edu.

People

Bruce Wiseman has been elected chair of the three-member board of commissioners of the Port of Ridgefield. **Joe Melroy** was elected treasurer, and **Roy Randel**, secretary. Randall is also a member of the board of the Washington Public Ports Association.

News brief

Evergreen High School’s sixth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assembly, which is open to the public, is at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 14, in the school auditorium, 7825 NE 130th Avenue.

Thursday headlines at home and from around the world:

[La Center eyes its own sewer plant--Columbian, Margaret Ellis](#)

[Ron Keil planning remodel of Fourth Plain Center on Andresen Road--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)
[Sea-Tac ahead of PDX when it comes to tracking noisy flights--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)
[Republican election challenge postponed to January 20;state must refund Democrats for cost of hand recount--KATU, KOMO](#)
[Watch the bumper cars in the snow in Denver \(video\)--KATU](#)
[Yesterday's I-205 crash took life of skater Angela Nikodinov's mother--KGW-TV](#)

Thursday on the air

Regional Salmon Recovery Plan—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Pearl Harbor Day Observance—5:30 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV
Oregon State at Washington State (live)—7:30 p.m. FSN, KEX

Town Tabloids and the weather

.**Kelly Sills** running tight ship. ☼ **Greg Shine** reporting steady increase in numbers. ☼ **Jeanne Firstenburg** trying to make unrefusable offer. ☼ **Lee Davis** getting “good job” for chauffeur duties. ☼ **Brett Bryant** making bigger waves. ☼ **Thursday**, possible cool showers, 40. **Friday**, still cool, mostly sunny, chance of snow flurries late, 39. **Saturday**, overcast, possible show flurries, 39.