

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Voter confusion over new primary system could reduce September primary turnout

It will be a whole new way of voting come Washington's September 14 primary election, whether at the polling places or at home with primary ballots

Gone is the state's blanket primary in which each voter received a single ballot with all candidates represented. Until this year primary voters could vote across party lines.

No more. Voters will receive as many as four ballots this year, one for nonpartisan races and one each for the recognized major parties in the state, Democratic, Republican and Libertarian.

Because it will be a new system, Clark County Auditor **Greg Kimsey** predicts that the voter turnout on September 14 will be closer to 25 percent than the usually expected 30 percent during a presidential election year.

Kimsey says the elections department will do its best to ensure that every voter's ballot is counted.

But there will be problems. The new law requires that voters be given all appropriate ballots.

Voters receiving absentee primary ballots which this year will be mailed out August 25, will receive all four ballots unless a particular political party opts out and decides to conduct the primary selection on by convention.

Voters at the polling places will also be given all appropriate ballots.

Regardless of where the voter votes, only two ballots will be accepted, one from a single political party, the other the nonpartisan ballot.

If absentee voters turn in more than one party ballot, then none of the voter's choices will count.

Voter options may be more clear in polling places. Kimsey says there will be two "hosts" at each polling place who will help voters understand the changes. At the polling place, voters will be given all appropriate ballots but will be allowed to turn in only one partisan ballot.

Since major political parties are leaning toward greater control over their nominating process, it's likely the current law, passed this year by the legislature, could be amended before the next primary election, according to Kimsey.

The state grange, which sponsored the blanket primary in use for the past 90 years, is expected to produce an initiative aimed at bringing back some form of a blanket primary system.

I-5 closure not expected to slow down weekend Home and Garden Idea Fair

Although the state Department of Transportation chose this weekend to close Interstate-5 for placement of girders on the 129th Street bridge, attendance at Clark Public Utilities' Home and Garden Idea Fair, which opens at 9 a.m. tomorrow at the Clark County Fairgrounds, isn't expected to suffer, according to utility spokesperson **Mick Shutt**.

Other routes to the fairgrounds are Highway 99 and I-205.

I-5 northbound traffic will be closed between Highway

THURSDAY

April 22, 2004

500 and NR 134th Street from 5 a.m. Saturday, April 24, until 5 a.m. Monday, April 26. Southbound I-5 will be closed between 2 a.m. Saturday, April 24, and 5 a.m. Monday, April 26.

The Home and Garden Idea Fair is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, April 23, and Saturday, April 24, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 25.

Admittance to the fair is free, but parking is \$3 per vehicle. Donations cash for Operation Warm Heart, which helps low-income utility customers pay electric bills, and canned goods, and will be accepted.

News briefs

The Columbia Land Trust dinner and auction is at 5:30 p.m. this evening in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay. **Rex Ziak**, Columbia River and Lewis and Clark historian, is the speaker. ~~ZZZ~~ The Clark County Animal Protection and Control Advisory Board meets at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Hazel Dell Sewer District offices, 8000 NE 52nd Court. ~~ZZZ~~ The Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association annual meeting is at 7 p.m. tonight in the Pleasant Valley Middle School library, 14320 E 50th Avenue. ~~ZZZ~~ Vancouver OnStage Productions presents Noel Coward's *Present Laughter* at 7:30 p.m. tonight, and Saturday, April 24, and Sunday, April 25, in the Columbia Arts Center, 400 W. Evergreen Boulevard. Matinees are at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

People

State Rep. **Bill Fromhold** (D-49th) today announced he is a candidate for election to a third term in the state House of Representatives. Fromhold is vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee and Higher Education Committees.

Thursday on the air

Not In My Back Yard—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Tucson at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD
Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT, Thursday, April 22, 2004

Alaska Air Group	26.71	+0.65	Linear Technology	37.93	-.05
Alcoa	33.11	+1.37	Microsoft	25.95	+0.50
Amazon.com	48.86	+3.14	Nautilus	17.00	unch
Bank of America	81.39	+0.81	Nike	75.67	+0.22
Bank of Clark County	20.00	unch	Nordstrom	38.32	+0.53
Bemis	28.15	+2.44	PepsiCo	54.89	+0.22
Boeing	42.27	+1.42	Precision Cast	45.85	+1.13
Boise Cascade	36.80	+1.51	RLRN	24.49	unch
CenturyTel	27.05	+0.30	Starbucks	39.06	+1.83
Costco	38.29	-0.20	TSM	10.81	+0.28
Expeditors Intl.	41.29	+0.39	Tektronix	31.89	+0.69
Georgia Pacific	37.04	+1.58	US Bancorp	26.24	+0.36
HPQ	21.81	+0.49	Wash. Mutual	40.25	+0.62
Intel	26.52	+0.25	W. Coast Bancorp	22.40	+0.35
Kyocera	86.50	+1.60	Weverhaeuser	67.80	+2.85
DOW: 10,461.2 +143.94 NASDAQ: 2032.91 +37.28 S&P: 1139.95 +15.86					

Town Tabloids and The Weather

David Beyer thus far not at all perturbed. ZZZ Schuyler Hoss in the lime light. ZZZ Jo Marie Hansen has Share tickets. ZZZ Bob and Jo Harris celebrating big—including leap days—16,071 tonight. ZZZ Thursday , warming, dry mottled skies, 66. Friday , sun trying hard to come out, but some showers expected, 62. Saturday , warming, mostly sunny, 68.	Acapulco 91/73 Athens 60/50 Chicago 56/42 Dallas 84/68 Hong Kong 93/75 Las Vegas 72/56 Los Angeles 72/54 London 62/46 New York 78/54 Orlando 86/65 Paris 57/39 Phoenix 83/60 Rome 70/53 Seattle 65/46 Sydney 78/59 Tokyo 81/64 Washington 81/60
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