

Lisa Gibert named president of Clark College Foundation

Lisa Gibert, Clark College Foundation chief operating officer and acting president today was appointed the organization's new permanent president by the foundation board. Foundation board chair, **Patsy Eby**, said the board's action is effective immediately. Gibert replaces **Kimberley Pittman-Schulz** who resigned as president in December 2004.

"During the last two years, Gibert has been the anchor of the \$60 million foundation during a period of leadership transition. Her unique blend of skills in both management and finance will serve the Foundation, Clark College, and the community very well in our mission of providing a margin of excellence to Clark College and its students," said Eby.

Prior to her appointment as the foundation's chief operating officer in 2004, Gibert served for seven years as the foundation's director of finance and administration. In 2003 she also served as interim president for nine months.

Gibert was previously employed by Moss Adams LLP, the largest regional independent accounting firm on the west coast. She holds a masters degree in business administration from the University of California-Irvine and is an active member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Washington Society of CPAs, and the Vancouver Rotary Club.

La Center - Clark Public Utilities sound like willing buyer - seller

Although there is no formal offer on the table, the city of La Center and Clark Public Utilities likely will find a way for the city to reclaim its wastewater system that has been owned and operated by Clark Public Utilities for the past 13 years.

Regardless of who owns and operates the system, which has one of the lowest sewer rates in Clark County, rates are expected to increase beginning next month.

Clark Public Utilities' commissioners will discuss plans for a rate increase in the La Center Community Center, 1000 E 4th Street, at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24. The utility will hold a public hearing on a rate increase proposal the following day in Clark's Community Center, 1200 Fort Vancouver Way

La Center city officials have informally discussed acquisition of the system over the past several weeks.

Clark Public Utilities executive director and CEO **Wayne Nelson** says that the utility is open to transfer of the system's ownership to La Center.

There seems to be no controversy between the city and the utility over operations. Last year, Clark Public Utilities completed construction of a new wastewater treatment plant in La Center, bringing the value of the utility to \$6.4 million and a current debt of \$5.4 million.

Current residential sewer rates in La Center are \$26.89 a month. They could go as high as \$36 a month, according to one scenario being considered by Clark.

County employment up 8,300 for the year

Clark County gained 8,300 jobs during the past year, according to the state Employment Security Department. At the end of 2004 total employment in the county stood at 179,500 jobs, and the unemployment rate went down during the year from 8.7 percent in December 2003 to 6.9 percent last month.

Statewide, the job growth was the strongest in six years, with a gain of 60,000 jobs in the twelve-month period, according to Employment Security commissioner **Sylvia Mundy**.

It was the highest percentage increase since 1998, according to Mundy.

The unadjusted unemployment rates for December 2004 were 5.4 percent for the United States and 5.8 percent for the state.

County to get sixth District Court judge

Clark County commissioners, who will appoint a sixth District Court judge in May, today said that application forms will be available Monday, Jan. 31, in the commissioners' offices in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. Applications will not be mailed, according to county administrator **Bill Barron**.

The appointment will be for eight months. The position will be on the ballot this November.

According to Barron, the entire list of applicants will be forwarded to the Clark County Bar Association for a judicial preference poll to rank the candidates. The candidates will also be interviewed by a select committee consisting of Barron, retired Superior Court judges **James Ladley** and **John Skimas**, and past president of the bar association **Patricia Pabst**.

The committee will review the responses to the applications, the preferential poll and their interviews to select a list of three to five finalists, from which the county commissioners will select the new judge.

Reception for Don Carlson to be in Hamilton Hall

A reception honoring **Don Carlson** and his service as both state representative and state senator from the 49th District will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, in Hamilton Hall in the Red Cross Building in Vancouver Barracks.

Arch Miller, Port of Vancouver commissioner, will be the master of ceremonies. Former U.S. Sen. **Slade Gorton** will be in attendance.

For further information, call **Margie Ferris, 892-8607**.

People

Linda Loven, who has been with First Independent Bank since 2003, has been promoted to vice president and loan administration manager in the bank's Commercial Real Estate Department. Loven, a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University, has 22 years' experience in commercial real estate lending.

News brief

Joe Kortum, president and CEO of Southwest Washington Medical Center, presents, the lecture "Healthcare: The Next Decade in Clark County," at noon Wednesday, Jan. 19, Women In Action luncheon in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay. For further information, call **263-6389**.

Tuesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[City budgets being squeezed by state inattention--Columbian, Jeffrey Mize](#)
[Voters are easy on auditor who holds town hall meeting--Columbian, Jeffrey Mize](#)
[Art growing in downtown Vancouver--Oregonian, Dee Anne Finken](#)
[Yacolt looking at growth spurt--47 new houses--Oregonian, Foster Church](#)

Tuesday on the air

Greg Kimsey Election Town Hall Meeting—4:30 p.m. CVTV
County Environmental Ordinance Update—5:30 p.m. CVTV
City Minutes—6 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV
Portland Blazers at Sacramento (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL, KRMZ

Town Tabloids and the weather

Nancy Millar reporting in from Victoria. ☔ **Al Raines** selling collection of blue books. ☔ **Kristin Alexander**'s report right on schedule. ☔ **Dennis Grunes** being downright picky. ☔ **Bill Woodard** gathering the electorate. ☔ **Tuesday**, unseasonably warm, seasonably wet, 60. **Wednesday**, wet and wild, 55, **Thursday**, soggy and warm, 62.