



The board of Clark County Commissioners for 2005, from the left, Democrats Steve Stuart and Betty Sue Morris, and Republican Mark Boldt

The board of Clark County commissioners for 2005: Steve Stuart, Betty Sue Morris and Marc Boldt

The Clark County board of commissioners has shifted toward the center of the political spectrum for 2005, with the addition of a Republican, **Marc Boldt**, for the first time since **Mel Gordon**, was unseated by **Craig Pridemore** six years ago.

Democrat **Betty Sue Morris**, who was reelected in November, begins her fourth term on the board. Morris served in the state legislature, as did Boldt before he ran for the commissioner's office from district 2, representing east Clark County, succeeding Democrat **Judie Stanton**, who retired from public life after two terms as county commissioner and after having served as a Vancouver School District board member and a commissioner of Fire District 5.

Joining the two elected officials for the 2005 is Democrat **Steve Stuart**, who was appointed by Morris and Stanton to succeed Pridemore, who resigned after having beaten the 49th District Republican state senator **Don Carlson** in an extremely close general election contest.

The commissioner's job is the first public office held by Stuart, who has been active in environmental projects, including having been with 1000 Friends of Washington, executive director of Friends of Clark County, and founder and director of a wetlands conservancy organization, Urban Reserve. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon Law School.

Stuart's appointment is for one year only. He says he will run for the office this fall and, if he wins, will run again in 2006 for a full four-year term.

Morris today was reelected chair of the board and Boldt was elected vice chair.

Jon Clemens to headline *Columbian's* Economic Forecast Friday, Jan. 21

Jon Clemens, "among America's leading technology researchers," according to the co-sponsoring Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, is the keynote speaker at the 19th annual *Columbian* Economic Forecast at 7 a.m. Friday, Jan. 21, in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay. The event is also co-sponsored by the Columbia River Economic Development Council.

Clemens, says the chamber, "has spent more than 30 years working in high-tech research, first for RCA and Sarnoff Corp., and most recently as president of Sharp Laboratories of America in Camas. He retired from that position last fall to lead Sharp Technology Ventures, a new business-development unit of Sharp Labs. Clemens' primary work has been in consumer electronics, particularly multimedia. A physicist-electrical engineer by training, Clemens has several degrees, including a doctorate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

Panelists are **Michael Tompkins**, Georgia-Pacific Corp., **Joe Kortum**, Southwest Washington Medical Center, **Bob Bernardi**, Sharp Microelectronics of Americas, **Deborah Oester**, Bank of Clark County, **Eric Fuller**, Eric Fuller & Associates, **Dick Riley**, Riley & Marks, Inc., **John Crawford**, Hi-School Pharmacy, **Bart Phillips**, Columbia River Economic Development Council, **Scott Bailey**, state Department of Employment Security, **Terry Morlan**, Northwest Power Planning Council, and **Dean Lookingbill**, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council. Moderators are *Columbian* business editor, **Julie Anderson**, and business reporters **Gretchen Fehrenbacher** and **Jonathan Nelson**.

To register for the \$30 breakfast, call **694-2588** by January 19.

Utility District water customers likely to get small rate increase next month

Clark Public Utilities' 27,500 water customers can expect a slight increase in water rates, the first in three years, after commissioners decide how to apportion new rates at a final public hearing at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Commissioners today discussed how a variety of ways of assigning costs to customers would eliminate a \$600,000 annual shortfall, which this year was covered by a cushion the water system had built up.

Residential customers currently pay \$1.15 per 100 cubic feet of water, plus a basic monthly charge of \$4.20. Commissioners discussed an increase of the 100-cubic-foot charge to \$1.20 and an increase in the basic charge to \$6.

Unresolved today was whether and how to increase the fee charged for new connections to the water system. The current fee is just under \$1,200. It could increase to as much as \$1,800.

The utility's residential water rates, currently averaging \$18.50 a month, are a bargain compared to cities in Clark County, which range from an average of \$37.74 in Ridgefield to \$20.76 in Vancouver.

New state liquor store to open in Four Seasons Place, 2612 NE 114th Avenue

The Washington State Liquor Control Board has completed a lease for 5,813 square feet in four Seasons Place, 2612 NE 114th Avenue, for a new state liquor store, reports co-broker on the deal, **Byron Roselli**, Eric Fuller & Associates.

The store is expected to open in early March.

News briefs

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council meets at 4 p.m. today in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. ☛ Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5.

Tuesday headlines at home and from around the world:

[Vancouver city council talking \\$3.24 increase in sewer and garbage service--Columbian, Jeffrey Mize](#)

[Most money gives candidates the advantage--Columbian, Don Jenkins](#)

[City council approves 12 townhomes just east of Officers Row on Evergreen Boulevard between S and T streets--Columbian, Justin Carnici](#)

[Columbian forecast calls for snow--Columbian, Erik Robinson](#)

[Dreading higher fares many C-TRAN riders are bracing for service cuts as well as fee increases--Oregonian, Justin Much](#)

[C-TRAN seeking public comment on proposed fare increases-- Oregonian, Bill Stewart](#)

[High wind knock down trees, slam truckers--KGW-TV, Teresa Bell](#)

["Mystery voters" giving Rossi fresh hope--Seattle P-I, Chris McGann](#)

[Stocks tumble on inflation worries--USA TODAY, MarketWatch.com, Mark Cotton](#)

[Baghdad governor assassinated, five soldiers killed in three separate attacks--Washington Post, Karl Vick and Fred Barbash](#)

Tuesday on the air

Regional Salmon Recovery Plan—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Orange Bowl: Oklahoma vs. USC, 5 p.m. KATU

City Minutes—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus—6 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Planning Commission (12/14)—7 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: "East Meets West"—11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Tom Mears tells how he learned a burned-out light bulb is a sign of an out of control restaurant. ☛ **Don Propstra** reciting perfect ending. ☛ **Mark Matthias** following through with culinary perfection. ☛ **Bill Marshall**. truthful about the Liars' Club. ☛ **Rich Koplan** headed for the hill. ☛ **Tuesday**, sunshiny, but wind-chilly 38. **Wednesday**, clear but bone chilling, 37. **Thursday**, warming slightly, rain showers expected, 42.