

**Rick Van Hoose promoted
at Columbia Credit Union**



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Rick Van Hoose, has been promoted to department vice president of wealth management and trust services at Columbia Credit Union. He has over 30 years' experience in local trust and financial investment services.

Van Hoose is a certified financial trust financial advisor. He was graduated from Whitman College and is a graduate of the Trust Division of the Pacific Coast Banking School.

Van Hoose is a past president of the Estate Planning Council of Southwest Washington and a past president of the Greater Clark County Rotary Club.

**Six statewide measures
on November ballot**

Led by Initiative 912, there are six statewide measures on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. I-912 has the greatest significance and greatest consequence.

This year the state legislature approved a gasoline tax increase to jump-start the state's highway transportation. The total gasoline tax is 9.5 cents per gallon, phased in as 3 cents this year and in 2006, 2 cents in 2007, and 1.5 cents in 2008.

Over 16 years the tax would pump almost \$5.5 billion into transportation improvements. Clark County would be the beneficiary of nearly a quarter of a billion of that amount.

Proponents of I-912 wryly state the following in the state Voters Pamphlet being received today: "If you think you're getting good value for your money in Olympia, then by all means support the recent gas tax increase." They also add: "Our gas taxes keep climbing, while our roads get more congested."

Their argument is about taxes and not about highway improvements. "The message is clear; not another penny in higher taxes until we get reduced congestion and better value for our money."

Nonetheless, proponents collected 400,000 signatures in just 32 days to get the measure on the ballot.

Measure 901 would amend the state Clean Indoor Act by banning smoking in public buildings, including within 25 feet of windows and doors of public buildings. The smoking ban would affect all bars, taverns, restaurants and casinos. Opponents of the measure point out, however, the ban would have no effect on Indian casinos.

Voters will also decide: whether the state auditor would do performance audits on all state and local governments and pay for it with sales tax funding (Initiative 900), whether to restrict the amount of damages from personal injury and death claims from health care services (Initiative 330), whether to further regulate the medical community and medical insurers (Initiative 331), and whether to approve a constitutional amendment offered by the state senate last year that would add membership to the state Commission on Judicial Conduct.

There are two locally ballot measures on the general election ballot. The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District proposes a Vancouver Library Capital Facility Area and a \$44 million bond issue to improve and expand crowded Vancouver libraries. The Ridgefield School District proposes a \$56 million bond issue to its voters to build a new high school and improve four other schools. The district has not built a new school in 33 years.

**Sewer system transfer
expected to be smooth**

The La Center city council this week approved a resolution that will allow it to reacquire its waste water system, which has been operated by Clark Public Utilities since 1992.

Clark Public Utilities' CEO/General Manager **Wayne Nelson** says he expects the transfer to go smoothly and to be completed within six months.

Clark, however, will continue to provide the La Center with water service.

The waste water system includes a state-of-the-art waste water treatment facility completed last year.

La Center will assume all current system debt obligations, including outstanding revenue bonds and loans from the state public works trust fund.

Clark Public Utilities serves more than 170,000 electric customers and 28,000 water customers.

Calendar

A farewell reception for **Mark Bowyer**, who is leaving for Traverse City, Mich., after 16 years with CVTV,

is 2 to 4 p.m. this afternoon in City Hall. ✂ **Michael McCabe**, acoustical guitarist, is performing at 7 p.m. this evening in Borders Books Music Movies and Café, 811 SE 160th Avenue. There is no charge. ✂ Southwest Washington Forward Thrust annual art auction is at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, in the Heathman Lodge.

Friday headlines at home and abroad

[County median home selling prices soaring--Columbian, **Julia Anderson**](#)

[Four Clark County Marine veterans of Iraq being welcomed home at Elks Lodge Saturday--Columbian, **Dean Baker**](#)

[First time candidate takes aim at top city job--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)

[Statewide smoking ban easily could pass on Nov. 8--Seattle P-I, **Angela Galloway**](#)

[Fine print prevents crash victim from auto insurance benefit--Seattle Times, **Danny Westneat**](#)

[Private militia group patrolling Canadian border near Bellingham getting heat--Times, **Lornet Turnbull**](#)

[Bush panel targets mortgage deduction but notion lands with thud--Seattle P-I, **Deborah Bach and**](#)

[Charles Pope](#)

[Port of Vancouver commissioner candidates talk to the Vancouver Business Journal's reporter **Shane Cleveland**](#)

Friday on the air

City Minutes (10/9)—4 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up (10/2)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Texas-El Paso at Tulane (live)—5 p.m. ESPN

General Election Candidates Forum (10/11)—5:01 p.m. CVTV

Animal Control Hearings (10/12)—7 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Planning Commission (10/13)—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Lonnie Chandler getting speaking gig. ✂ **Harry Hendricks** unpacking compass and flares. ✂ **Jim Shinn** keeps promising lunch. ✂ **Mark Bowyer** enduring premature email address loss. ✂ **Erin Middlewood** mellowing out. ✂ **Barbara Howard** taking on promotional chores. ✂ **Friday**, mostly sunny, warmer, 78. **Saturday**, clouds and showers return, 61. **Sunday**, mostly cloudy, 61.