

Evergreen Public Schools search for superintendent recommences

Evergreen Public Schools is asking search consultants to continue recruiting efforts to find a replacement for superintendent **Rick Melching**, who is retiring June 30.

An elaborate search for an Evergreen Public Schools superintendent unraveled this week when a finalist from a short list of five candidates discovered the district could not match his existing compensation package. All five candidates had been presented to the public during interviews last week.

School board president Joan Skelton said today: "The superintendency in a school district our size is a very challenging job and there are fewer and fewer people who are qualified and willing to do it. Furthermore, the competition is stiff among school districts pursuing the best applicants. We have to be willing to offer a competitive salary and benefits package."

Skelton added, "We will review the applications of any new candidates who may apply as well as those who are recruited." She said the district expects to make a selection in early May.

Local law enforcement not soliciting funds by telephone

Neither the Vancouver Police Department nor the Clark County Sheriff's Office is soliciting donations by telephone, reports **Kim Kapp**, Vancouver Police public information coordinator.

According to Kapp, at least one person has received a telephone call soliciting funds for the K9 Unit. The person did not donate to the caller, but instead called the county sheriff's office.

The Vancouver Police Department does not conduct fundraising by telephone for any programs. Those wishing to make donations may do so through the Vancouver Police Public Safety Fund, managed by the Community Foundation, and those who desire to contribute to the Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit may call **Chick Atkins** at **397-2112**.

Ridgefield Heritage Celebration has Lewis and Clark theme

Ridgefield's annual Heritage Celebration begins with a free concert of fiddle tunes from the Lewis and Clark era at 6 p.m. Friday, March 18, in the Old Liberty Theater and continues Saturday, March 19, with dawn to dusk previews of the Cathlapotle plankhouse site.

Downtown entertainment is nearly nonstop Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Clark County Spinners will demonstrate spinning and weaving, fire engines, new and old, will be displayed, and at 1:30 p.m. in the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 Main Avenue, old timers will share experiences of early Ridgefield.

Other activities are in the Pickled Heron Gallery, 418 Pioneer Street, the Off Broadway Dance Academy, 118 B. 3rd Avenue, Lily Wiggans Mercantile & Antiques, 108 N. Main Avenue, Sportsman's Pub, 121 Main Avenue, Seasons Coffee Shop, 113 N. Main Avenue, Zebrun's Deli & Eatery, and Ridgefield Florist, both at 320 Pioneer Street, Four Winds Trading Company, 327 Pioneer Street, and Ridgefield Hardware, the oldest continuously operating hardware store in the northwest, 104 Main Avenue.

The Cathlapotle plankhouse, nearly complete, is one of Clark County's premier Lewis and Clark Bicentennial projects. It is a recreated plankhouse of the kind seen by Lewis and Clark in 1805-06 and in which native Americans lived continuously for centuries. It is north of town in the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

News briefs

SPLASH! celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Water Resources Education Center is 5 to 8 p.m. today. Viands, potables and music are promised. Shuttles between Columbia Way parking lots and the center are free. 🗑️ Clark College Women's Choral and Vocal Jazz Ensemble's present a free concert at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Decker Theatre on the College campus. Donations for the school's music scholarship fund will be accepted at the door.

[Thursday headlines from at home and around the world:](#)

[Gregoire declares statewide drought emergency--Seattle Times, Hal Bernton](#)

[Battle Ground School District celebrates bond issue success-Oregonian, Holley Gilbert](#)

[Republicans say 33 felons voted in Clark County during November gubernatorial election--Columbian, Jeffrey](#)

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[Friends of the Arts has plans for using 101-year-old Vancouver Barracks building for art shows--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)

[Deputies do good deeds--Columbian, **John Branton**](#)

[Work begins at Plexsys Camas site--Columbian, **Gretchen Fehrenbacher**](#)

[Rich Carson explains how Clark County website can make life more simple--Columbian](#)

[Texas Pacific Group's bid for PGE denied--KATU, AP, **William McCall**](#)

Thursday on the air

Clark County Focus—5 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up—5:30 p.m.

City Minutes—6 p.m. CVTV

Washington vs. Arizona State (live)—6:15 p.m. FSN

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Stanford vs. Washington State (live)—8:45 p.m. FSN

Town Tabloids and the weather

Barbara Friedland baking, and sharing, birthday cake. 🗳️ **Sam Jones** speaking in big huge terms. 🗳️ **Bill Marshall** turning page on \$8 potatoes. 🗳️ **Dan Marsh** retaining political optimism. 🗳️ **Bruce Cross** running into more friends. 🗳️ **Thursday**, warming again, mostly sunny, 70. **Friday**, good chance of more sunshine, 72. **Saturday**, sunshine continues, 69.



Clark College Running Start and Washougal High School student Rosalyn Hart yesterday was presented the 2005 General George C. Marshall Youth Leadership Award by Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard. Linda Calvert who nominated Hart, is in the center.