

County auditor Greg Kimsey reluctantly concludes all elections should be by mail

Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey** is asking the county commissioners to approve a resolution calling for all elections in Clark County to be conducted entirely with mail ballots.

Kimsey says, "It is with regret that I have reached this conclusion. I am concerned that eliminating polling places will trivialize elections over the long term, resulting in reduced voter participation."

Kimsey also says, it is important that citizens' confidence in our voting system be restored. Mail ballots will reduce the complexity of elections administration and will minimize the likelihood of mistakes.

The auditor states: "As county auditor, my most important responsibility is to ensure that citizens have the highest level of confidence in the integrity of our election process. For the most part, the 2004 general election here in Clark County went well, but mistakes elsewhere have resulted in a significant reduction in citizens' confidence in the election process.

"Accordingly, and in response to a new state law permitting counties to go to all-mail ballot elections, I have asked the board of Clark County commissioners to approve a resolution calling for this change."

Kimsey says the vast majority of Clark County voters have already decided they prefer to receive their ballot through the mail, and this number continues to increase. In fact," he says, "if we were to put this question to a vote, it is likely that all-mail balloting would be approved by a very large majority."

The change is not being requested to save money or as an attempt to increase voter turnout, according to Kimsey. He says that, while vote-by-mail elections do cost about 10 percent less, he has never considered this a compelling reason not to use polling places.

Kimsey adds that, even though he is requesting all-mail elections, he would establish one central polling place in the county Elections Office for voters who want to cast their ballot at a polling place. Nevertheless, ballots would be mailed to every registered voter in each election.

Kimsey says he will hold three town hall meetings to give citizens a chance to be heard on the proposal. The meetings are scheduled for the following times: 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 16, in the public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, in the Rose Besserman Room at the Fisher's Landing Transit Center; and 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19, in the Fire District 11 station at 21609 NE 72nd Avenue in Dollars Corner.

Bill Wilkerson to keynote

Sammy Awards ceremony

Bill Wilkerson, executive director of the Washington Forest Protection Association, will be the keynote speaker for the annual Sammy Awards ceremony honoring local individuals and organizations who have been outstanding contributors to salmon recovery in Clark County.

The awards ceremony is at 3 p.m. Thursday, May 12, in the Water Resources Education Center.

Suggested reservations for the ceremony can be had by calling **397-2022**, extension **3**.

Ghanaian concert pianist featured

in "Out of Africa" Bravo! Concert

Ghanaian concert pianist **William Chapman Nyaho** is the featured performer in Bravo! Vancouver's 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15, concert "Out of Africa," being presented in St. Joseph Catholic Church, 400 S Andresen Road.

The 60-voice Bravo! Chorale will present a dozen traditional Negro spirituals in the second half of the concert.

Nyaho will perform a wide range of piano music by African composers. Nyaho is a graduate of Oxford University. He earned a doctorate in musical arts from the University of Texas.

The Vancouver Chapter of the NAACP is a partner with Bravo! for this concert and is selling special tickets as a fundraiser for NAACP programs. NAACP tickets can be obtained by calling **896-9649**. Reserved \$15 seats can be requested by going to www.bravoconcerts.com.

People

Four members of the Clark County Sheriff's Department have returned from recently completed military service. They are custodial officers **Andrew Hackett**, **Robert Hanks** and **Randall Tanger**, and deputy sheriff **Scott Holmes**.

News briefs

The C-TRAN board of directors meets at 5:15 p.m. today in C-TRAN executive offices, 2425 NE 65th Avenue. ☞ Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 11.

Tuesday headlines from at home and around the world:

["Intergovernmental Roundtable" created to seek broad information about proposed Cowlitz Casino Resort continues to meet--Columbian, Margaret Ellis](#)

[Vancouver-Portland traffic said to be 9th worst in the U.S.--Columbian](#)

[Library bond issue request for new Vancouver community library will be on Nov. 8 ballot--Columbian,](#)

[Tom Vogt](#)

[Vancouver council hears progress on land bridge between Fort Vancouver across Highway 14 to Old Apple Tree Park, opening access to Columbia River sites--Columbian, Dean Baker](#)

[Vancouver school board faces turning point as Sam Gunn decides not to seek reelection--Columbian,](#)

[Amy McFall Prince](#)

[Vancouver group considering co-op food store--Columbian, Jonathan Nelson](#)

[Hilton Vancouver opening inching closer--Oregonian, Allan Brettman](#)

[Hundreds of U.S. troops fighting Iraq rebels near Syrian border--USA TODAY, AP](#)

Tuesday on the air

City Minutes— 4 p.m. CVTV

Seattle Mariners at Yankees (live)—4 p.m. FSN, KFX

Community Foundation Annual Luncheon—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Portland Beavers at Albuquerque (live)—6 p.m. KKAD

Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Cheri Grove back in sync. ☞ Michelle Allan graduating with honors. ☞ Jocie Braaksma sending out lunch and dinner invitations. ☞ Nanette White boosting circulation. ☞ Joel Carey joining the board. ☞ Tuesday, looks like a lotta rain, 57. Wednesday, some light rain, clouds, then a few faint rays, 67. Thursday, partly cloudy, warmer, 72.