Wells Fargo to lease fifth floor
Vancouvercenter office space

Wells Fargo is leasing 7,600 square feet of office space on the fifth floor of the north tower of the Vancouvercenter for its private client services staff, it was announced today.

"Clark County is one of the fastest growing areas in the northwest, and Vancouver is well on its way to an urban renaissance," said **Renee Newman**, manager of Wells Fargo's Private Client Services. "The Vancouvercenter space will enable us to expand our staff to meet the needs of our growing client base in Clark County."

Wells Fargo was represented by **Jack Gallagher** of NAI Norris, Beggs and Simpson's Portland office, and the Vancouvercenter, Vancouver's largest downtown mixed-use development, was represented by NAI Norris, Beggs and Simpson's **Tamara Fuller** and **Kirk Robertson**, of the firm's Vancouver office.

Clark Public Utilities commissioners' expected
rate increase not likely to affect residential users

To make up for an anticipated $16 million shortfall over the next 12 months, Clark Public Utilities' commissioners are expected to call for rate increases averaging 5.1 percent at their regularly scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 13, meeting.

A staff-recommended increase of 7.4 percent in residential retail electric rates would be covered by an expected rebate from Bonneville Power Administration's Residential Exchange program.

No so for commercial and industrial power users, however, who would face an average 2.1 percent increase in power rates, effective October 1.

Soaring natural gas prices were cited as the main reason for the predicted shortfall.

The utility has a $5 million rainy day fund set aside to mitigate rate increases, but commissioners indicated they would not touch that now.

Amid prediction of 25 percent voter
turnout, 6,000 ballots returned today

While there is nothing ho-hum about this September's primary election to candidates in contested races and backers of C-TRAN's request for a .2 percent sales tax adjustment to provide inter-city bus service and prevent deep cuts in other services, no more than one in four Clark County voters is expected to return election ballots sent to 174,000 registered voters.

Tuesday, 6,000 ballots had already been returned, according to county Elections Department supervisor **Tim Likness**.

Likness says that more voters will vote early rather than late—deadline is for ballots to be post marked is Tuesday, Sept. 20—because there are so few issues or contests to review.

In the City of Vancouver there are two primary runoffs. Mayor **Royce Pollard**, is challenged by **Charles P. Stemper** and **David E. Kallstrom**. Councilwoman **Jeanne Stewart**, completing a four-year term is challenged by **Mike Heywood** and **Eric Olmsted**.

Vancouver School District voters have a choice of three Position 4 candidates, of whom two will be selected to appear on the November general election ballot. They are **Edri Geiger**, **Roger K. Smith** and **Mark F. Stoker**.

Camas School District voters will decide which two of three candidates for school board position will go on to the general election, incumbent **Doug Quinn, Donna Roberge** or **John Svilarich**.

The unexpired two-year term of mayor of Yacolt is being contested by three candidates, **Pilar "Kit" Raanes**, **Thom Holyk** and **Joe Warren**.

The C-TRAN measure is likely to attract the most attention, according to Likness. The measure has secured widespread bipartisan support, with both Republican and Democratic county committees endorsing the measure and Democrats and Republicans both working on committees favoring passage of the sales tax increase.

C-TRAN, which from its inception until 2000 relied on motor vehicle excise tax revenue to cover most of its operating budget, continued to maintain service through this year from reserves, but can no longer depend on reserves. Transit services face a crippling 50 percent cut in services if the measure fails.

Calendar

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council meets at 4 p.m. today in the 6th floor training

room in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. ✍ Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Tuesday Headlines at home and abroad

First of 2,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees coming to Washington State arriving at McCord Air Force Base Thursday--Seattle Times, **Lisa Chiu**

Iraqi charter update fails as fighting continues in Iraq, one U.S. soldier killed--Reuters

Maya Lin headlines local Confluence Project activities November 16--Columbian **Dean Baker**

More than 1,300 join hands across the Interstate Bridge in celebration of recovery from addiction--Columbian **Justin Carnici**

Free presentation of "Discovering the Rivers of Lewis and Clark" opens Friday in Water Resources Education Center--Columbian, **Dean Baker**

President Bush and Congressional leaders vowed today to find out what went wrong in the federal response to Hurricane Katrina--New York Times, **David Stout** and **Clyde Haberman**

Robert's confirmation hearings to begin next Monday--Washington Post, **Fred Barbash**

Tuesday on the air

...Clark County Close Up (9/4)—4:30 p.m. CVTV
  Clark County Focus (7/29)—5 p.m. CVTV
  City Minutes (8/28)—5:30 p.m. CVTV
  Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: Under the Stars—6:30 p.m. CVTV
  Seattle Mariners at Oakland A's (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFXX
  Veterans Reconciliation and Honoring Ceremony (8/17)—8:30 p.m. CVTV
  City Council Workshop (8/22)—10:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Tom Frick taking care of **Theresa**'s license tabs. ✍ **Curt Warner**, **John McKibbin**, **Wayne Branch**, **Roger Qualman**, **Bruce Paris**, **Candy Bennett**, and **Sue Fratt** all making roto gravure appearance. ✍ **Emanuel Tanne** does, too. ✍ **Tuesday**, sunny after morning clouds, 81. **Wednesday**, sunny and blue, 85. **Thursday**, continued sunshine, 84.