

### **Interfaith town hall Saturday bringing diversity together**

Christians, Jews and members of the Islamic faith are being called together for a town hall meeting and open forum at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 5, in the Luekpe Senior Center, 1009 E McLoughlin Boulevard.

The title of the event sponsored by the Greater Vancouver Interfaith Association is "Diversity or Adversity: Can We Live Together in Peace as People of Different Faiths, or Do Our Religious Differences Keep Us and Our Children Apart?"

For further information, call **Shaaban Naim**, Islamic Society of Southwest Washington, **694-7799**, **Sue Meyer**, Congregation Kol Ami (Jewish), **574-5169**, **Joe M. Berger**, Community of Christ, **576-1157**, or **Rick Jaech**, Lutheran, **254-9243**.

Jaech and **Debbie Nelson** are moderators.

### **Public Power Council analyst says customers have stake in fish costs**

Citing the half-billion-dollar annual cost to electric energy users for fish recovery and restoration, Public Power Council senior policy analyst **Shane Scott** this week urged Clark Public Utilities and its owners to become more involved in salmon and fish recovery activities in the northwest.

Clark Public Utilities, a member of the power council, supports the organization's efforts to control costs of regional efforts to sustain fish, in particular salmon in the federal Columbia River System.

Scott said about one-fourth of the power bill paid by customers of electric utilities goes toward salmon recovery efforts.

The federal Columbia River System consists of 135 dams, according to Scott, but only 13 are federal dams.

"Ratepayers and customer-owners, along with the states of Washington and Oregon and the regional Indian tribes, are the stakeholders," Scott said. He added that decisions should not be left only to the regulators and Bonneville Power Administration.

### **Greg Kimsey calling for voting system advisory committee**

As the county begins a countdown to obtaining a new voting system, Clark County auditor **Gregg Kimsey** is calling for a nine-member Voting Systems Advisory Committee.

Kimsey and elections supervisor **Tim Likness** will be members, as will representatives of the two major political parties and the general public.

The committee's public meeting schedule will include meetings with voting systems vendors.

Persons wishing to represent their political party on the committee should inform their respective party leaders, Kimsey says. Others should submit a letter of interest to his office no later than 5 p.m. Friday, March 11. Kimsey can be reached at P.O. Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98666-5000, and by email at

[greg.kimsey@clark.wa.gov](mailto:greg.kimsey@clark.wa.gov).

### **Clark Public Utilities creates rate stabilization fund**

Clark Public Utilities' commissioners this week put \$5 million into a newly created rate stabilization fund, which they say will help the utility weather bumps in wholesale electric rates. It is the first time in history the utility has set aside money for a rainy day, or in this case, because of the lack of rainy days.

The extraordinarily dry winter has put the regional snow pack in jeopardy. Columbia River system dams are dependent on the snow pack to provide water for generation throughout the year. Many anticipate rate hikes from Bonneville Power Administration later in the year unless the region gets markedly greater precipitation.

### **News briefs**

Candidates for Evergreen Public Schools superintendent, **Steven Hull** and **Suzanne Cusick**, will be interviewed during a community forum beginning at 6 p.m. this evening in Cascade Middle School, 13900 NE 18th Street. ☎ The City/County Telecommunications Commission is accepting telephone calls during its 7 p.m. meeting this evening in City Hall as part of its annual review of Comcast Cable's performance. In addition to telephone comments, the commission will accept written comments about the cable television company's performance through Friday, March 25.

Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Blazers send coach Maurice Cheeks packing--KATU](#)

[State's jobless rate hits four-year low at 5.5 percent in January: national rate is 5.2 percent--Columbian, \*\*Jonathan Nelson\*\*](#)

[Salmon Creek HOV lane gets mixed reviews--Columbian, \*\*Erin Middlewood\*\*](#)

[By 6-1 vote, city council backs downtown Vancouver vision--Columbian, \*\*Jeffrey Mize\*\*](#)

[Columbian advisory council doing good work--Columbian, \*\*Tom Koeninger\*\*](#)

[Deb Wallace wants second look at C-TRAN cuts--Oregonian, \*\*Brian Turner\*\*](#)

[Bush orders Syria out of Lebanon--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Despite fuel problems, Fossett continues global flight--USA TODAY, AP](#)

### Wednesday on the air

City Minutes—4 p.m. CVTV

Encouraging Historic Preservation—4:30 p.m. CVTV

**Telecommunications Commission (live)**—7 p.m. CVTV

Clark College Jazz Festival: Vocal—9:30 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and the weather

**Cheri Cole** getting wine and song treatment. ☞ **Gregg Herrington** putting pencil to paper. ☞ **Ian Goodrich** reading old, old editorials. ☞ **Will Pollard** condensing and economizing report. ☞ **Bruce Gateley** showing off tee shirt. ☞ **Shirley Morgan** catching up on gossip. ☞ **Wednesday**, showery, 53. **Thursday**, mostly sunny, 59. **Friday**, possible showers, some sunbreaks, 56.