

Huge majority boosts C-TRAN fortunes, massive grass-roots effort energizes voters

Voters within the new C-TRAN transit district have given the transit agency a resounding 68 percent approval vote as the result of nonpartisan grass-roots campaign that made Tuesday's primary election a rout in support of bus riders and drove the otherwise ho-hum election to a possible record of an over 40 percent voter turnout.

C-TRAN executive director Lynne Griffith, who fought in the trenches with an estimated 1,000 supporters, said last night she was "elated."

Instead of laying off more than 100 employees and slashing service next Monday, the transit agency will begin hiring 35 new coach operators to replace those terminated after C-TRAN had made earlier cutbacks to try to provide essential bus service.

Last year the agency placed a .3 percent sales tax issue before voters, but that measure failed miserably.

Political consultants, Kathy McDonald, KMAC & Associates, and Randy Mueller, took charge of the campaign last June, focusing their efforts on the users of the system, building a "Save C-TRAN" force that generated endorsements by both the Republican and the Democratic Party Committees in the county.

The successful vote will allow C-TRAN to implement its Service Preservation Plan, which includes sustaining current bus service levels while restoring service to the cities of Ridgefield, La Center, the town of Yacolt, and Washington State University-Vancouver.

"I want to thank the C-TRAN Board of Directors for supporting this organization and for their continued leadership in making a number of difficult choices over the past several years", said Griffith. My hat's off to a dynamic bipartisan campaign effort that mobilized over a 1,000 volunteers who worked very hard to ensure our success. I would be remiss not to mention C-TRAN riders and employees who have consistently supported this agency. C-TRAN has a lot of work ahead—we're anxious to get moving and deliver on all the service commitments we have made".

Medical Center gets high marks for patient satisfaction

Two of Southwest Washington Medical Center's patient care units, the inpatient rehabilitation unit, 4 West, and the general medical unit, 3 South, were given 5-star ratings by Professional Research Consultants, Inc., the independent research firm's highest patient satisfaction awards.

Overall, the medical center received 4 stars for being among the top 25 percent of hospitals. The awards were based on the number of "excellent" care ratings given by patients after they were discharged from hospitals.

"The awards are significant because the ratings are given by our patients, who are rating our quality of care service," said Dan Keteri, SWMC vice president, Patient Care Service. The research is conducted on an ongoing basis.

People

Addison Jacobs, public affairs director of the Port of Vancouver, has been reappointed by Gov. Christine Gregoire to another term on the board of trustees of Clark College. Her new term runs through September 2010.

Flu vaccine should be plentiful

The nation's supply of flu vaccine will be adequate to meet the demands of the coming flu season, according to Clark County health officer **Justin Denny**.

Denny says, however, the general public should wait until October 24 before getting flu shots. Prior to then, priority groups should get shots. Priority persons are as follows: Persons 65 and older, residents of long-term care facilities, persons with chronic health conditions, children 6 to 23 months, pregnant women, and health care workers.

News briefs

The Camas School District is seeking applicants to serve on its Citizen Advisory Committee, a group of volunteers who advise school administrators and board members on a variety of school-related issues. Completed applications are due Wednesday, Oct. 5. For further information, call **Sandra Straub, 817-4403**.

Calendar

All branches of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library System will be closed Thursday, Sept. 22, in order

that a new catalog system can be installed. Telephone information services will accept calls, however.

Wednesday headlines at home and abroad

[C-TRAN measure rolls--Columbian, **Thomas Ryll**](#)

[C-Tran service would have been cut Sunday if a sales tax increase had not passed--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)

[Pollard, Stuart make impressive showings in primary--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)

[Pollard and Stemper top race for mayor--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)

[Commissioners extend Salmon Creek moratorium--Columbian, **Erin Middlewood**](#)

[Community Service Center gets OK to expand services in downtown Woodland--Columbian, **Tom Vogt**](#)

[School boards show clear favorites--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)

[Vancouver steps out of the shadow--Columbian, **Tom Koeninger**](#)

[World rankings put University of Washington in the top 20--Seattle Times, **Nick Perry**](#)

[Crucial primary election appears to have gone well--Seattle Times, **Emily Heffter** and **Keith Ervin**](#)

Wednesday on the air

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

Primary Election Night (9/20)--4:30 p.m. CVTV

Telecommunications Commission (9/7)--7 p.m. CVTV

Animal Control Hearings (9/14)--9 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Kelly Cooke offering up kitchen table. ☞ **Pat Jollota** finishing another book. ☞ **Jim Demmon** wrapping up an evening quickly. ☞ **Candy Bennett** watching the store. ☞ **Patricia Rohrbach** directing *Dearly Departed*. ☞ **Dean Sutherland** rearranges 2010 choices. ☞ **Wednesday**, some clouds, but dry and mostly sunny, 72. **Thursday**, cooler, but mostly sunny, 67. **Friday**, mostly sunny, 72