

Melching to head Community Foundation

Rick Melching, former board member and interim president since July of the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington, has been named president, chair of the board **Sue Keil** reports.

Melching is the retired superintendent of Evergreen Public Schools.

Keil said, "Rick's impressive credentials, strategic perspective and deep knowledge and passion for the communities we serve make him an excellent choice to lead the Community Foundation."

Melching retired from Evergreen Public Schools in 2005. Since then, he has been a consultant in executive coaching, board development, strategic planning and project management. He is a member of the board of directors of the Clark County Early Learning Fund, the Evergreen School District Foundation and Marathon Education Partners. Previously he served as chair of the Coalition of East Vancouver Communities. and on the boards of Columbia River Economic Development Council and the Children's Center, and was a member of the Vancouver Police Chief's Advisory Committee.

Founded in 1984, the Community Foundation channels gifts from individual and corporate donors to a variety of charitable organizations, locally and nationally. The foundation currently manages \$58 million in assets and has awarded \$78 million in grants to worthy causes in Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania Counties..



Rick Melching

County approves agreement with City of Vancouver

The board of Clark County commissioners has formally adopted an agreement for working with the City of Vancouver on growth planning issued. The City approved the same agreement Monday.

Commissioners **Steve Stuart** and **Mark Boldt** voted in favor of the agreement. Commissioner **Betty Sue Morris** cast a dissenting vote.

Under the agreement the county and city expect to become more collaborative on issues such as annexation and planning urban growth areas.

"This signals a stronger and renewed commitment to move forward in a cooperative spirit," Stuart said. He added that leaders from both the city and county spent many hours working with respective staffs to agree on how to proceed with planning in areas adjacent to Vancouver.

The complete text of the agreement is available at www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/review/index.html.

Dena Horton elected Democratic chair

Dena Horton, who has been active in community organizations, has been elected chair of the Clark County Democratic Party. She succeeds **Pam Brokaw**, who this week announced her candidacy for Clark County Commissioner, District 1.

Horton, a former member of Clark County Young Democrats and a member of U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird's** 3rd district staff following his first election, most recently was secretary for the Democratic Central Committee.

Michael Dalesandro has been elected secretary. Other elected officials are **Charlie Marshall**, vice chair; **Marsha Manning**, treasurer; **Jane Buchanan Banks**, state committeewoman; and **Norman Banks**, state committeeman.

Two informational sessions scheduled for Clark College's popular Running Start

With Clark College's Running Start program gaining in popularity among high school juniors and seniors, the college is offering two informational sessions in January, Tuesday, January 15, and Thursday, January 24. Both sessions begin at 7 p.m. in the Clark gymnasium in the O'Connell Sports Center.

Running Start allows eligible juniors and seniors to take classes to earn college credit while they fulfill their high school graduation requirements. Running Start students attend regular Clark College classes during the day or in the evening, along with regular college students.

Tuition for the program is covered by respective school districts.

For further information, call **992-2842**.

People

Helen Devery has been elected to the board of directors of the Columbia River Economic Development Council. Devery is planning manager for JD White, BERGER/ABAM Engineers Inc. Devery is a graduate of Glasgow University, Scotland, and holds a masters degree from Miami University, Ohio. She is a member of the American Planning Association and is secretary and executive board member of the Affordable Community Environments. She is also a member of the Clark County Community Pride Design Awards Committee and is a past member of the SWIFT executive board and the Downtown Vancouver Association.

News brief

The City of Vancouver is seeking applications for a vacancy on the city Parking Advisory Committee. The seven-member committee advises the city council on parking policy and implementation. Deadline to apply to the city manager's office is Thursday, Jan. 3. For further information, call **696-8121**.

Calendar

The Puget Sound Blood Center is holding a blood drawing between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, in Prudential Properties Northwest, in the Columbia Tech Center, 17700 SE Mill Plan Boulevard.

Wednesday on the air

Bravo! Vancouver: Messiah—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Washington Primaries and Caucuses (11/29)—7 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Focus (12/3)—9 p.m. CVTV
Festival of Trees Pops Concert—9:30 p.m. CVTV
Urban Forestry Commission (11/14)—10:45 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Ed and **Edri Geiger** smoozing with Costco hot dogs. <> **Ralph Stevens** handling cub details. <> **Mike Tuominen** returns from Boise Pole to reprise red-suit role. <> **Rebecca Olson**, **Victoria Racz** and **Maria Manzo** concretizing as *The Sirens*.<> **Wednesday**, fog, showers, clouds, 50. **Thursday**, cooler, partly cloudy, 42. **Friday**, partly cloudy, 42.