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## Southwest Washington Health System biggest employer-largest medical service supplier

Clark County's largest employer—over 3,200 people and most of those positions way above family wage jobs on the pay scale—is neither a private nor publicly held company, nor a governmental agency.

It is the not-for-profit 501(c)3 Southwest Washington Health System, the governing organization of Southwest Washington Medical Center, and eight other medical-related organizations serving over a half-million people in southern Washington.

The most widely recognized is Southwest Washington Medical Center, a tertiary-level hospital, with complete services and centers of excellence for heart and vascular, brain and spine, bone and joint, women and children's and cancer care.

Recently we incorrectly reported the appointment of **Peter Bush** as vice president of physician services for the *medical center*. More precisely, Bush was appointed vice president of physician services for the *health system*. Thus this correction and amplification of the role Southwest Washington Health System plays in our community.

The medical center and the Southwest Washington Health System share the same governing board. Chaired by **Twyla Barnes**, superintendent of Education Service District 112, the board is comprised of the following: **David Nierenberg**, vice chairman, **Charlie Bishop**, treasurer, **Robert Rhodes**, secretary, **Judi Brenes**, **Brett Bryant**, **Tom Buckholder**, **Nicholas Carulli**, **Lee Kearney**, **Tom Kovaric**, **Ron Prill**, **George Shanno**, **Donald M. Thompson**, and **John D. White**.

**Joe Kortum** is better known as president/CEO of Southwest Washington Medical Center, but he is also president/CEO of Southwest Washington Medical System.

Also within the health system umbrella are the following: Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation, Southwest Physician Services, a medical services organization that provides a menu of services to physician practices; Southwest Washington Medical Group, a growing primary care and specialty physician group; Family Physicians Group, the largest primary care group in Clark County, providing family medicine along with obstetrical and gynecological care; Columbia United Providers, a community-based health plan for Medicaid patients, offering personal service and a wide choice of doctors in Clark County; Southwest Imaging Center, Fisher's Landing, a free-standing diagnostic imaging service; 50 percent of Southwest Washington Regional Surgery Center LLC, an ambulatory surgery facility located in the Physicians Pavilion; and Property & Building Company, LLC, managing the real estate of Southwest Washington Medical System.

## The Forum at the Library presents opinions on Aid-In Dying Initiative

Four panelists with differing views of Washington's Aid-In Dying Initiative will be present their opinions during a Forum at the Library presentation in late September.

The panelists are as follows: **Kevin Myles**, clinical manager of Hospice Southwest; **Ken Stephens**, vice president, Physicians for Compassionate Care Education Foundation; **George Eighmey**, Compassion and Choices, Oregon Chapter; and **Linda Olson**, Washington Death with Dignity Campaign.

The panel, moderated by Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey**, will discuss end of life issues, choices people will have if the initiative passes, and concerns about the initiative pass.

Forums at the Library are free and open to the public. This one is being held in the community room in



**Joe Kortum**, president /CEO of Southwest Washington Medical System and Southwest Washington Medical Center

Clark Public Utilities offices at 1200 Fort Vancouver Way, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25.

**Jerry Nutter named to Washington Policy Center**

**Jerry Nutter**, president and CEO of Nutter Corporation, has joined the board of directors of the Washington Policy Center. The Washington Policy Center 's mission is to promote free-market solutions through research and education.

Nutter will focus policy center ideas on southwest Washington. The Nutter Corporation is one of the largest employers in southwest Washington.

**Utility district commissioners give employees all the credit**

In an unusual piece of business this morning, Clark Public Utilities commissioners adopted a resolution giving their employees credit for outstanding performance and commitment to exceptional customer service.

The utility recently was ranked highest in the nation in customer satisfaction among electric utility districts of its size by a JD Power & Associates study.

This is the same JD Power organization that consistently ranks Lexus automobiles highest in the nation in reliability. Clark Public Utilities got a customer satisfaction rating in excess of 90 percent.

The resolution concluded:

“The commission hereby congratulates all of the employees of the district for their outstanding performance and ongoing commitment to exceptional customer service. Furthermore, staff is directed to recognize this dedication by celebrating these ongoing accomplishments through one or more employee appreciation events.”

**Calendar**

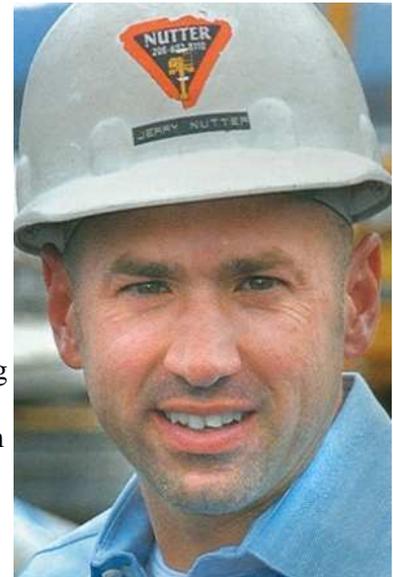
The C-TRAN board of directors meet at 5:15 p.m. this evening in C-TRAN offices at 2425 NE 65th Avenue. <> The concluding noon performance of the Law Office of Terry Lee Noon Concerts headlines the **Misty Mamas** at noon Wednesday, Aug. 13, in Esther Short Park. There is no charge for the concert and food vendors are on-hand. <> The Southwest Washington Blood Program is holding a blood drive from noon until 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, in St. Philip Church, 430 Bozarth Avenue, Woodland. Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, in conference room B in the Public Service Center. <> Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, in Port offices at 111 W. Division Street.

**Tuesday on the air**

- Primary Video Voters' Guide—4:35 p.m. CVTV
- City Minutes (8/10)—5:45 p.m. CVTV
- Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV**
- Fresno at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**
- Seattle Mariners at L.A. Angels (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX**

**Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Roxane Sutherland** cleared for competition. <> **Al Flory** calling for YWCA volunteers. <> **June Smith** after touring the west, heads for Watersmeet, Mich. <> **Chris Crowley** preserving dog House. <> **Kimber Webb** putting together yappy hours. <> **Tuesday**, mostly sunny, 60-82. **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 63-86. **Thursday**, hot and sunny, 66-95.



**Jerry Nutter**