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Medical center celebrating 150 years of health care in southern Washington

Southwest Washington Medical Center traces local health care back 150 years to June 7, 1858, when Mother Joseph, using a small cabin that served as a laundry and bakery near Fort Vancouver, cared for a young man suffering from tuberculosis.

The 24- by 16-foot cabin contained four cots and became the first permanent hospital in the Northwest Territories.

Southwest Washington Medical Center continues Mother Joseph's tradition of caring for the community through numerous mission programs and services. In 2007, the medical center contributed more than \$61 million in community benefits through charity care, health education, medical training and a variety of outreach programs.

Mother Joseph's St. Joseph Hospital continued to care for regional patients through the 1960s when St. Joseph Community Hospital, predecessor of Southwest Washington Medical Center, took over hospital care from the Catholic order of Sisters of Charity of Providence. The order continues to operate St. Vincent and Providence Hospitals in Portland.

Southwest ranks among the nation's elite hospitals, according to the medical center's president and CEO, **Joe Kortum**. The medical center is a six-time winner of a national Top 100 Hospitals award.

As one of the region's top trauma centers, the medical center provided emergency or urgent care to 105,000 patients last year. Over 25,000 persons were admitted to the hospital for treatment, and over 4,000 newborns were welcomed into the community.

With 3,300 employees, including a medical staff of 545, Southwest Washington Medical Center is the top employer in the region.

A week of celebration begins Saturday, June 7.

Candidates slowly, quietly filing for fall elections

Filing for public offices in Washington for the fall elections began slowly Monday with no surprises. Filing continues through 5 p.m. Friday, June 6.

So far, three of an expected crowd of at least a half dozen have filed for Democrat **Betty Sue Morris**'s job as Clark County commissioner, District 1. They are Democrat **Pam Brokaw**, former Republican 17th District state representative **Tom Mielke**, and former Fire District 6 chief, Republican **Brad Lothspeich**.

Republican **Don Benton** has filed for re-election as state senator, 17th District. Republican **Joseph James** has filed for state representative, 17th District, Position 1, currently held by Republican **Jim Dunn**. Incumbent Democrat **Deb Wallace** has filed for re-election to her 17th District, Position 2 job. Republican **Micheline Doan** has also filed for Wallace's position.

In the 18th legislative District, Republican incumbent **Joe Zarelli** has filed for re-election as state senator. Democrat **Jon Haugen** has also filed for 18th District state senator. Democrat **VaNessa Duplessie** has filed for representative, District 1, a post held by Republican **Jaime Herrera**.

Democrat **Jim Jacks**, former aide to Gov. **Chris Gregoire**, has filed for 49th District state representative, Position 1.

Clark Public Utilities commissioner **Byron Hanke** has filed to retain his nonpartisan position on the utility board.

U.S. Rep. Democrat **Brian Baird** filed for re-election to office and is joined on the Democratic side by **Cheryl Christ**.

The state's primary election, Tuesday, Sept. 9, is a departure from past primaries in that the top two vote getters will advance to the Tuesday, Nov. 11, general election, regardless of political party. Thus, two persons of

the same party could face a run-off in the general election.

Vicki Grigsby named vice president and team leader at First Independent

Vicki Grigsby has joined First Independent as a vice president and team leader for one of two regional centers, reports **Jeanne Firstenburg**, First Independent chief operating officer.

Grigsby will oversee nine banking centers in First Independent's south region. The centers are Downtown, International, Heights, Cascade Park, Cascade Station, Fisher's Landing, Camas/Washougal, Stevenson and Bingen.

A Camas resident since 2001, Grigsby has 23 years' experience in retail banking management. She is a graduate of the Western Banking School.

News brief

Bonneville Power Administration administrator **Steve Wright** will address quarterly meeting of the Columbia River Economic Development Council at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington.

Calendar

The Southwest Washington Metropolitan Transportation Council meets at 4 p.m. today in the training room in the Public Service Center. <> Clark County's newly created Rural Lands Task Force is holding its first meeting at 6 p.m. this evening in the Dollars Corner Fire Station, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue.



Vicki Grigsby

Tuesday on the air

- Clark County Focus (5/1)—4:28 p.m. CVTV
- Winning Ways to Run for Office (5/29)—5 p.m. CVTV
- Los Angeles at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX**
- County Youth Achievement Awards (6/1)—7 p.m. CVTV
- Clark County Land Use Hearings (5/20)—9 p.m. CVTV
- Columbia River Crossing Open House (5/28)—9:45 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Walt Evans revisiting and sharing childhood. <> **Carol Curtis** declares if you're not a loser when you leave the table you're a winner. <> **Patrick McGary** making new rules.<> **Linda Roberts** getting attention. <> **Phyllis Hess** right on time. <> **Vick Townsend** hale, hearty and ready for a haircut.<> **Pat Mobley** taking care of chores. <> **Tuesday**, showers and sunbreaks, 49-60. **Wednesday**, a few showers, 47-61. **Thursday**, a few more showers, 50-61.