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### County sets hiring freeze

Clark County governmental offices, including most departments under separate elected county officials, have agreed to a hiring freeze over the next several months, county commissioner **Steve Stuart** said today during a Clark County Focus cablecast program to be aired later on CVTV.

The freeze does not apply to the county Sheriff's Office, according to Stuart.

"Tax revenues are down," said Stuart. "We had already eliminated some jobs in the county development offices as a result of decreasing income," he added.

The county Health Department announced yesterday that it is eliminating nearly 20 full-time jobs this year, and another 34 next year, in an effort to cope with income losses from state sources.

Stewart said today that the county is in the process of preparing its 2009-2011 budget that will reflect losses in revenues from local and state tax sources.

### Gregoire carrying Clark County

Four years ago when she was winning the statewide election for governor by fewer than 200 votes, Democrat **Chris Gregoire** lost the general election in Clark County to Republican **Dino Rossi** by 13,090 votes. It was 53 percent of the vote for Rossi, 45 percent for Gregoire.

Yesterday the initial vote count in Clark County gave Gregoire 47.49 percent of the vote compared to 45.19 to Rossi.

With about half of the county votes counted yesterday, Gregoire was leading Rossi 27,195 to 25,875.

### Voters good to incumbents

Early returns from Tuesday's primary election showed that Clark County voters clearly favored incumbents. Based on ballot returns from one out of four registered county voters:

Superior Court judges **Robert L. Harris** and **John Wulle** easily beat off challenges to win reelection to four-year terms, although Harris may not be eligible to serve beyond the first two years of his new term because of current age limitations.

Republican District 2 county commissioner **Marc Boldt** easily won nomination for a second term in office with nearly 50 percent of the total vote. He will face Democratic challenger Vancouver City Council member **Jeanne Harris**, who polled over 44 percent of the vote.

**Betty Sue Morris** early on announced her retirement from the board of county commissioners, so there was no incumbent to vote for, but seven candidates gave it a go. Leading the pack is Democrat **Pam Brokaw** with 39 percent of the vote. Her November opponent will be former Republican State Rep. **Tom Mielke**, who polled nearly 24 percent of the vote total. Republicans **Brad Lothspeich** and **Matt Swindell** came in third and fourth with 23 percent of the vote. Although she ran as an Independent, **Bridget Schwarz**, who got 5 percent of the vote, will not be on the November ballot because of the "Top two" nominating system approved by voters. Only two candidates may advance to the general election.

In the 49th District, Position 2, incumbent Democrat **Jim Moeller** easily won re-nomination with nearly 65 percent of the vote. He will face competition in November from Republican **Mike Bomar**, who won 35 percent of the vote.

In the 18th District, Position 1, Republican incumbent **Jamie Herrera** won 58 percent of the vote. Her challenger, Democrat **VaNessa Duplessie**, won 42 percent of the vote. Both advance to the general election.

In the 18th District, Position 2, incumbent Republican **Ed Orcutt** earned 61 percent of the vote. His Democrat challenger in November, **Jonathan Fant**, pulled 39 percent of the vote.

The notable exception to incumbent favoritism from voters was 17th District, Position 1, Republican State Rep. **Jim Dunn**. Dunn, who hardly campaigned and spent less than \$1,000 during the primary, was a distant third with less than 19 percent of the vote. Democrat **Tim Propst** (50 percent of the vote), and Republican **Joseph James**, 32 percent of the vote, will duke it out in the November general election.

17th District, Position 2, Democratic incumbent **Deb Wallace** polled over 60 percent of the vote, compared to her Republican rival **Micheline Doan**, who got 40 percent of the vote.

Republican senator **Joseph Zarelli** won re-nomination in the 18th District with 53 percent of the vote, compared to general election rival Democrat **Jon Haugen**, who got nearly 47 percent of the primary vote.

Voters in the 17th District gave incumbent Republican senator **Don Benton** nearly 53 percent of the vote, compared to 47 percent given to Democratic candidate **David Carrier**.

In the 15th district, Republican incumbent representatives **Bruce Chandler** and **Dan Newhouse** easily won the nomination with 62 and 64 percent of the vote. Democrat **John Gotts**, 38 percent, will face Chandler in November, and **Tao Berman**, 36 percent, will face Newhouse.

Because of the resignation earlier in the year of 49th District Democratic state representative **Bill Fromhold**, there was no incumbent in the Position 1 race, which was easily won by Democrat **Jim Jacks** with 60 percent of the vote. Republican **Debbie Peterson**, 26 percent of the vote, will be Jacks's Republican opponent in November.

### **What people eat reveals history and culture**

A Washington State University history professor tells a story of Washington state history and culture, based on what parents feed their children, in a free lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, in the Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main Street.

The lecture by **Candice Goucher** is sponsored by the university and the Center for Columbia River History and is part of the museum's Smithsonian Institution exhibit, "Key Ingredients: America by Food."

Other exhibits on display at the museum are "Boomer!" and "Woven History: Native American Basketry."

### **Calendar**

Clark County Conservation Voters are holding a post-primary election party from 5 to 7:30 p.m. this evening in the Salmon Creek brewpub, 108 W Evergreen Boulevard. Contributions of \$25 or more will be appreciated, according to the organization's chairman, **Randy Mueller**. For further information, call **921-9314**. <> The Southwest Washington Blood Program is holding a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, in St. John Medical Center, 1615 Delaware Street, Longview.

### **Wednesday on the air**

Clark County Board of Health (7/23)—4:45 p.m. CVTV

Regional Transportation Council (7/22)—5:15 p.m. CVTV

**Portland Beavers at Tucson (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**

Economics, Comedy and Climate Change (7/11)—8:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Business Journal Top Projects (7/24)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

C-TRAN Board (7/8)—10:30 p.m. CVTV

### **Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Jenny Shadley** setting up an informal shoot. <> **Marvin Case** closing in on three-out-of-five. <> **Jim Demmon** doing 60-minute drill. <> **Susan Wolff's** fans are calling. <> **Lee Stenseth** will take a bow. <> **Lisa Dow** will take a gavel. <> **Wednesday**, dark and rainy, 60-69. **Thursday**, more showers, 55-70. **Friday**, summer reigns again, 59-80.