

Gubernatorial candidates exchange views at Vancouver forum



Dino Rossi



Christine Gregoire

Dino Rossi, Republican candidate for Washington State governor, told the audience at a Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce luncheon today that Mount St. Helens, erupting during the forum, could predict the outcome of the gubernatorial race.

"The last time the mountain blew, a Republican was elected governor," Rossi quipped.

More than 300 people attended the joint appearance of Rossi and Attorney General **Christine Gregoire** held by the Chamber at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay. The candidates each answered 10 questions presented by moderator **Beth Quartarolo** of Hewlett Packard. The forum will be aired on CVTV, Channel 23, and TV Washington.

The candidates shared their views on a variety of issues, from health care to education, to what they will do to fund transportation.

On education, Rossi said he is in favor of "achievement and accountability before dollars." Gregoire said her top education priority is to stop the dropout rate.

On how to make Washington more competitive, Gregoire said she favors revising the Business & Occupation tax structure to allow small business "to grow and expand...Every region has an economic engine. We need to find it in every region," Gregoire said.

Rossi offered a different solution. "The only thing in our way is us. We're the fifth most regulated state in the nation," he said. "I'm running for governor because this state can do better," said Rossi. He said his opponent has only two connections to the business community: lawsuits and government regulation.

Gregoire countered, saying she supports a platform of working with government to "break down barriers and provide incentives." She said she is in favor of investing in "life sciences and stem cell research" and development of alternative energy. "Washington will lead the nation," she said.

Leadership Clark County class of 2005 selected

Twenty-three applicants have been accepted for the Leadership Clark County class of 2005, reports LCC board chair **Gail Spolar**.

Leadership Clark County is in its 12th year, having graduated 310 participants in the nearly year-long session of classes designed to enhance leadership skills.

Attending classes that begin this month are **Courtney Barker**, Corwin Beverages; **Shauna Care**, Clark County YMCA; **Todd Coleman**, Port of Vancouver; **Sharon Crouch**, Clark Public Utilities; **Amber Curtin**, Columbia Credit Union; **James Demmon**, City of Vancouver; **Doug Dray**, Key Bank; **Peter DuBois**, Clark County Public Works; **Vanessa Duplessie**, Balanced Just Write; **Rita Halleck**, ESD 112; **Kim Hash**, Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust; **Jeff Kassel**, New Phoenix/Last Frontier Casino; **Sharon Lien**, First Independent Bank; **Betty Montgomery** and **Paula Muller**, both Hewlett Packard; **Debbie Nelson**, City of Vancouver; **Tabitha Reeder**, The JD White Company; **Peggy Sandberg**, ESD 112; **Nicolle Sicillia**, Minister and Glaeser Surveying; **Cathy Sork**, Vancouver School District; **Scott Sturgeon**, Hewlett Packard; **Troy Thomas**, Electric Lightwave; and **Karen Varkados**, iQ Credit Union.

Campaign to replace 8-track tape player in Clark College chime tower underway

With nearly half of the \$10,000 needed to replace the aging 8-track tape player in Clark College's landmark chime tower already in hand, the college alumni association is taking its fund-raising efforts public at a 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4, kickoff at the chime tower near the center of the campus at 1800 E McLoughlin Boulevard.

The brick and mortar chime tower was built 40 years ago after the alumni association raised \$10,000 and installed a state-of-the-art 8-track tape system to peal out a few tunes.

Plans call for a compact disc system capable of producing an infinite variety of music, and the addition of a digital clock, according to **Chuck Clemans**, Chime Tower Campaign Committee chair.

Alumni, students, faculty and administrators will be on hand at the ceremony to accept donations from \$10 and up, just as they did 40 years ago, Clemans says. Donations may also be sent to the Clark College Alumni Association, MS-39, 1800 E McLoughlin Boulevard, 98663.

Fire station expected to draw thousands for open house

Last year, over 4,000 people attended Vancouver's annual Fire Department Headquarters' open house. The extremely kid-popular event is repeated from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, at the main fire station, 7110 NE 63rd Street.

Firefighting and rescue operations are featured. Family attractions include a Teddy Bear clinic for kids focusing on Emergency Medical Services, provided by fire department staff, and kids photos with VFD Dalmatian dogs on antique fire apparatus. Bicycle helmet fittings will be provided by Southwest Washington Medical Center, and car seat safety information will be given by the Vancouver Police Department.

People

While college president **Wayne Branch**, along with representatives of the student body and alumni, looked on, a handful of Clark College alumni from the 1930s entertained themselves with eminences at a small luncheon in their honor earlier this week on the college campus. Early graduates attending were **Dollie Johnson Beers**, class of 1937, **William Farr**, class of 1937, **Lee Jenny**, class of 1935, and **Bud** and **Jeanette Schwarz**, both class of 1937, who first met at the college. The college opened in 1933, but by the time World War II interrupted college attendance fewer than 100 persons had graduated.

News briefs

A farewell party for **John Magnano**, retiring executive director of Columbia River Mental Health Services, begins at 5:30 p.m. today in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay. 📺 A workshop, "Naturally Beautiful Backyards," is being presented by the NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association, the WSU Extension Service and Clark County Solid Waste staff from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, in the county operations Center, 4700 NE 78th Street. The workshop is free.

Friday headlines from at home and around the world:

Friday on the air

City Minutes—4:30 p.m. CVTV

49th District Senatorial Debate (9/30)—5 p.m. CVTV

Season Opener: Portland Winter Hawks at Kamloops (live)—6 p.m. KUPL

Texas at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFXS

Animal Control Hearings (9/9)—7 p.m. CVTV

Telecommunications Commission (9/1)—9 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (9/23)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Gayle Willinger making a virtue of patience. 📺 **Arlene Johnson** reporting on menu lacking in dog or horse meat. 📺 **Timi Jo Thacker** having top floor advantage. 📺 **Dena Horton** looking for dollars for scholars. 📺 **Sara Lowe** and **Pete Shrater** team up on news story. 📺 **Ray Bachman** expanding his territory. 📺 **Friday**, warmer and sunny, 78. **Saturday**, still sunny, water the lawn, 78. **Sunday**, summer weather still with us, 81.