

Clark College offering to help train non-English speaking employees



Lisa Pletcher new dean of Clark College Workforce Development and Continuing Education

“Quiero trabajar pero yo no hablo ingles.” Translation: “I want to work, but I don’t speak English.” Clark College is working with local businesses to provide training for the fastest growing workforce group in southwest Washington, men and women who don’t speak English as their native language

Says **Lisa Pletcher**, executive dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education at Clark College: “We are seeing increasing numbers of men and women who want to enter the workforce but don’t have the English skills they need. They speak Spanish, Russian, Croatian and Somali. We know that employers would like to hire these individuals but find that the training sessions in English as a second language can be expensive. We are offering partnerships with the business community to create high-quality training for local businesses in the most cost-effective way.”

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council and the Columbia River Economic Development Council are in partnership with Clark College in this effort. Businesses already in the loop are the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Tensolite and NW Packing.

Local business representatives are invited to join those already involved at a 9-to-11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 15, college-sponsored forum at the Murdoch Trust Building, 703 Broadway. Registration is required by Friday, Oct. 1.

During the session, employers will have the opportunity to describe the range of language and culture needs of their businesses, identify common issues and needs, discuss potential training strategies and discuss state-supported options for providing training at their companies.

There is no charge. For further information or to register, call **Kristin Kautz, 992-2521**.

Builders scheduling inspections by Internet

Last month approximately one in nine building inspection requests to the Clark County’s Community Development Department came from builders, developers or property owners who were using the Internet to access the county’s website, according to Community Development director **Rich Carson**.

During the first month that the new web-based system was in place, the department scheduled 1,115 requests for building inspections over the web, while 8,666 requests were made through the county’s voice recognition telephone system. “Moving nearly eight percent of inspection requests from the telephone to the web is a significant shift in the first month of operation and shows that our customers are receptive to web services,” Carson says.

According to Carlson, the only apparent difference between web and telephone scheduling is that more people wait until late in the evening to schedule inspections through the web. For more information, go to www.clark.wa.gov/commdev/building/inspection.html.

Women’s Political Caucus holding candidates reception

The Women’s Political Caucus of Clark County is holding a candidates reception and fundraiser from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in the English Estate Winery, 17806 SE 1st Street.

The Clark County organization is one of three chapters of the Women’s Political Caucus of Washington, an affiliate of the National Women’s Political Caucus.

According to the caucus’s website, www.wpcnet.org: “The Women’s Political Caucus is a multi-partisan grassroots membership organization dedicated to increasing the number of women in elected and appointed office at all levels of government. Our mission is to identify, mentor, educate and support women leaders in our community who demonstrate a commitment to reproductive freedom and women’s economic and social equality.”

All of the local and statewide candidates, which include men, endorsed by the organization are Democrats. In Clark County, candidates endorsed by the caucus are **Deb Wallace, Pam Brokaw, Dave Seabrook, Craig Pridmore, Bill Fromhold** and **Jim Moeller**, and county commissioner candidate **Jeanne Harris**.

For further information, call **256-7045**.

Voter registration deadlines loom

The deadline for mail-in voter registration for the Nov. 2 general election is Saturday, Oct. 2, according to Clark County Elections supervisor **Tim Likness**. Registration requests must be postmarked no later than Oct. 2.

Potential voters may register to vote in person by going to the Elections Department, 1408 Franklin Street, through Monday, Oct. 18. For further information on voter registration, call **397-2345**.

News brief

Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29.

Tuesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[President Bush heads into the first presidential debate with a solid lead over John F. Kerry, boosted by the perception that](#)

[he is a stronger leader with a clearer vision, despite deep concerns about Iraq and the pace of the economic recovery, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News Poll and interviews with voters in battleground states--Washington Post, **Dan Balz** and **Vanessa Williams**](#)

[Mt. St. Helens not only volcano worrying scientists--KATU \(video\)](#)

[Small explosion at St. Helens possible within days--Seattle P-I, **Peggy Andersen**](#)

[Coffee sales booming at Mt. St. Helens Silver Lake visitor center--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)

[Powerful earthquake hits central California, felt from San Francisco to Los Angeles; no immediate reports of injuries--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[City talks tough on fireworks offenders--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)

[Local firefighters resources stretched during busy Monday--Columbian, **John Branton**](#)

[Challenger Dave Seabrook brings up trust issue in bid to unseat Joe Zarelli--Columbian, **Don Jenkins**](#)

Tuesday on the air

49th District Senatorial Candidates Debate (8/24)—3:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up—6 p.m. CVTV

18th District Senate Candidates—6:30 p.m. CVTV

17th District State Representative Candidates (9/15)—7 p.m. CVTV

Seattle Mariners at Oakland—7 p.m. FSN, KFX

17th District State Representative Candidates—8:30 p.m. CVTV

18th District State Representative Candidates—9 p.m. CVTV

49th District State Representative Candidate—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Symphony Under the Stars—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Patrick White urging elders to vote “yes.” ☞ **Paul** and **Nadine Aldinger** in tune with southern Washington. ☞ **Brian Baird** demanding **Paul Wolfowitz**’s resignation. ☞ **Gary Locke** finding Chateau Ste. Michelle in Hanoi. ☞ **Judi DesRochers** helping parents with math. ☞ **Tuesday**, mostly sunny, 80. **Wednesday**, partly cloudy, should be dry, 70. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 76.