

Wayne Branch and Clark College going separate ways

The five-member Clark College board of trustees, acting largely on the basis of a 97 percent no-confidence vote by the community college faculty in May, announced yesterday the following: "The Clark College board of trustees has decided to activate the termination clause for convenience under the employee contract with Dr. Branch.

"Dr. Branch took the challenge to meet our expectations, and his accomplishments have been significant in the three years he served as president. We sincerely thank Dr. Branch for his contributions to the college and community."

Currently Clark College's vice president of administrative services, **Robert Knight**, is serving as the lead administrator at the college, according to **Kim Peery** chairman of the college board of trustees. Knight, who was hired by Branch, is a former Vancouver Barracks commander.

Branch is the second Clark College president whose contract was terminated in four years. Former president **Tana Hassart**, Branch's predecessor, also felt the enmity of the faculty.

Branch, who gets at least a year's severance pay, and who began a vacation today, said, "I have no regrets about coming to Vancouver. I have made many wonderful friends here."

Vancouver Lake reopened for water activities

Vancouver Lake has been reopened for swimming, wading, and wind-surfing. The lake was closed last Friday by Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation and Clark County Public Health when regular water testing detected E. coli above acceptable levels.

"We've tested the water twice this week, and results from both tests indicate that E.coli levels are now within the range that's considered safe for swimming and other water activities. We're happy that the lake is available to recreationists in time for the expected hot weather this weekend," reported Clark County Health officer **Alan Melnick**.

Pick-a-party ballot prevails in primary

By state law, primary election voters must pick their party to vote for partisan candidates, reports Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey**. The official primary election is Tuesday, Sept. 19, but mail-in ballots will be sent to all registered county voters on Friday, Sept. 1.

Candidates may file for political office Monday, July 24, through Friday, July 28.

Primary election voters, in addition to selecting either a Republican or a Democratic ballot for partisan candidates, will also receive a nonpartisan ballot that will contain judicial offices and local ballot measures. Kimsey points out that no record is kept of which ballots voters choose.

The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 7. Voters then may select candidates of their choice without regard to the candidate's political party.

Meanwhile, all registered voters have been mailed voter identification cards with updated voter information. By mailing cards to all registered voters, the Elections Department will be able to cull invalid voters.

County has plenty of electricity to keep cool

Although power, driven by air conditioner use is expected this weekend to reach a summertime peak, Clark Public Utilities will have no problem in meeting the demand, according to utility president/CEO **Wayne Nelson**.

Annual peak power use usually comes in the winter when usage can hit over 1,000 megawatts on a severely cold day. The electric system set summer record power use of 735 megawatts on June 24 this year.

Utility crews have been performing maintenance work and testing equipment to ensure reliable service this weekend, power officials said,

Tips for keeping cool without air conditioning include keeping doors and windows closed and shaded during the heat of the day, creating cross ventilation in the morning and evening by opening windows on the high and low sides of the house, and using the barbecue instead of the indoor range or oven.

Calendar

Dirty Martini headlines the free Six-to-Sunset Concert in Esther Short Park this evening. There is no charge for the concert, sponsored by Riverview Community Bank. Food, and non-alcoholic beverage vendors will be on hand. ☞ Because of dirty air, C-TRAN is offering free bus service tomorrow through Sunday.

Thursday headlines

[U.S. at odds with allies on Mideast conflict--Washington Post, Robin Wright and Colum Lynch](#)

[Israel hints at full invasion--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Beirut's suburbs trashed--Washington Post, Edward Cody, John Ward Anderson and Debbi Wilgoren](#)

[Clark College trustees, president part company--Columbian, Howard Buck](#)

[Clark College decides to dismiss president--Oregonian, Holley Gilbert](#)

[Barbara Johnson named judge of the year by state Trial Lawyers Association--Columbian, Stephanie Rice](#)

[County commissioners want proposed \\$52 million fair improvements to have barnyard vibes--Oregonian, Bill Stewart](#)

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington merge with big brother--Columbian, Kelly Adams](#)

[SpringHill Suites hotel breaks ground in Columbia Tech Center--Columbian, Jonathan Nelson](#)

[Microsoft beats first quarter estimates--Seattle P-I, Todd Bishop](#)

[Portrait of a blogger: under 30 and sociable--Washington Post, Kim Hart](#)

Thursday on the air

Clark County Close Up (7/2)—4:43 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes (7/2)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—6:25 p.m. CVTV

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

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Nancy Millar moving up to Cedar Hill Cross Road. ☞ **Kimberly Blue** saying: "Arr mateys!" ☞ **Gene Wigglesworth** zeroing on another art show. ☞ **Merry Cromack** working on big Sunday. ☞ **Brian Baird** gives veto override a valiant try. ☞ **Thursday**, sunny, 89. **Friday**, sunny and hot, 99. **Saturday**, a tad cooler, 98.