

Branch says Clark must become the college the community wants

“Clark College must be the kind of college this community wants,” Clark College president **Wayne Branch** said today, reflecting on a resolution of “no confidence” adopted by the college faculty following three days of voting last week.

The no-confidence vote comes before the college’s five-member board of trustees is to review the first three years under Branch. That review, due to be presented to the trustees June 26, is being supported by a “360 degree” evaluation of Branch’s record by an outside firm.

Periodic reviews are pro forma for top Clark College administrators.

“Ultimately, this is the community’s college,” Branch concluded today

Go to [Clark College faculty holds no-confidence vote on Branch—Columbian, Howard Buck.](#)

Election day ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. tonight

Nearly 46 percent of the voters in the Battle Ground and Ridgefield School Districts and Fire District 1 had returned ballots this morning, the final day for ballots to be returned to ballot drop locations or to be postmarked to meet the today’s voting deadline.

Ballots may be dropped off before 8 p.m. at the County Elections office, 1408 Franklin Street, or the permanent drive-through ballot drop box on W 14th and Esther Streets. Additional drop-off locations are as follows: Battle Ground High School, 300 W Main Street; Fire District 1, 211 39th Street, Washougal; Glenwood Heights Primary School, 9716 NE 134th Street; Pleasant Valley School, 502 NW 199th Street; South Ridge Elementary School, 502 NW 199th Street, Ridgefield; Union Ridge Elementary School, 330 N 5th Street, Ridgefield; and the Yacolt Primary School, 406 W Yacolt Road, Yacolt.

At stake are nearly \$60 million in special levies in the Battle Ground School District, \$57 million in bonds in the Ridgefield School District, and a merger of Fire District 1 with Fire District 9.

In employment numbers game, jobs decline but so does unemployment

The number of employed people in Clark County declined from 191,700 in March to 191,500 in April, according to state Employment Security Department statistics published today. At the same time the number of unemployed persons recorded by the Employment Security Department for the same period in Clark County declined from 12,800 to 10,500.

The monthly report showing these figures, which are not adjusted for seasonal employment, can be found by going to [Employment Rates.](#)

According to the department, Clark County’s unadjusted unemployment rate dropped from 6.2 percent in March, and 6.1 percent in April 2005, to 5.2 percent last month.

“Statewide, economic expansion is nearing historic proportions,” according to **Karen Lee**, Employment Security commissioner. “Unemployment is hovering near all-time lows [up .1 percent to 4.7 percent], and we’ve had another month of widespread job growth. Construction is especially booming this year.”

Feel Good Naked author speaks at WIA luncheon

Laure Redmond, local author of *Feel Good Naked, 10-no diet secrets to a fabulous body*, is the featured speaker at the Women in Action Foundation’s 2006 luncheon, raffle and silent auction at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 17, in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay.

The annual **Mary Granger** Climate of Excellence Award will be presented during the luncheon. For reservations for the \$35 luncheon, call **Michele Larsen, 750-1622.**

News briefs

IduHair & Company Salon Retreat, 514 Main Street, customers raised \$1,000 for cancer research as a result of TEAM IDUHAIR’s five-mile walk Sunday during the Oregon American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

Calendar

The NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. this evening in the Clark County Public Works community room, 4700 NE 78th Street. Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, in conference room B in the Public Service Center. ✂ The Columbia River Crossing Project Task Force meets from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, in the southwest regional headquarters of the state Department of Transportation, 11018 NE 51st Circle. The task force is narrowing options for major changes in the I-5 Interstate Bridge. The public is welcome to attend and will have an opportunity to comment.

Tuesday on the air

Nez Perce Memorial Ceremony (4/22)—3:14 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—6 p.m. CVTV

Seattle Mariners at Oakland (live)—7 p.m. FSDick Pokornowski one of two-of-a-kind. ✂ **Jim Parsley** discovering Polish kinship. ✂ **Bob Schaefer** making the rounds. ✂ **Brenden Hyde** right on the mark. ✂ **Analese Forster** taking care of more details. ✂ **Celinda Rupber** doing high-five. ✂ **Tuesday**, mostly sunny, 84. **Wednesday**, partly sunny, 84. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 80.
N, KFX

Town Tabloids and the weather

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