

Clark trustees meet today to decide fate of president

Following a 5 p.m. executive session, the Clark College board of trustees will meet in open session at about 6:30 p.m. and are expected to announce whether they will extend president **Wayne Branch**'s three-year contract, which expires in August.

Branch, whose dynamic style has been considered abrasive by some, initiated a string of changes in the 73-year-old institution—the third largest community college in the state—including co-admission agreements with four regional universities, the opening of a Clark College building on the Washington State University Vancouver campus, and sustained enrollment in an environment where other community colleges are experiencing a decline in enrollment.

Branch's style generated a 90 percent no-confidence vote from the faculty. The faculty union presented their findings to the five-member board of trustees in May.

Last week, the board held at least two closed-door meetings with Branch.

At stake is renewal of Branch's contract, which ends in August.

The College today issued the following notice: "In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Clark College announces that its board of trustees will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, July 19, 2006, at 5:30 p.m. in the Clark Baird Board Room [1800 McLoughlin Boulevard]. The Board will convene the meeting into executive session at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the evaluation of a public employee Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The board of trustees expects to return to an open board session for discussion and possible action regarding the president's contract at approximately 6:30 p.m."

JD White hires biology scientist



Jennifer Pickar, a biologist, has been hired as a member of the JD White Company's natural resources team.

For the past seven years Pickar has worked on wildlife, habitat and environmental management projects throughout the United States. She worked with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Metro Parks and Greenspaces. Most recently Pickar was with Kurhashi and Associates, Beaverton.

Pickar is a Willamette University graduate

East Precinct opens Saturday

A ribbon-cutting ceremony, along with other grand opening trappings, will signal the opening of the Vancouver Police Department's East Precinct and an adjoining neighborhood park at NE 155th Avenue and Mill Plain Boulevard at 1 p.m. Saturday July 22.

In addition to tours being offered, specialty police department units will be displayed.

The east Vancouver project is a partnership among three city departments, Police, Parks and Public Works. The site includes a 27,000 square foot police precinct facility, the first Vancouver facility specifically designed for use by the police department, and a two-acre neighborhood park. Approximately 8,500 square feet of the building will temporarily house Vancouver Construction Services until the police department grows into the space.

Jennifer Pickar

County chamber begins local business issues series

The Clark County Chamber of Commerce, presenting a series of monthly meetings on Clark County business issues, has scheduled **Janet Harte**, director of the WSU Small Business Development Center, and **Mike Bacon**, co-chairman of the Vancouver SCORE chapter, as speakers at its 7-to-9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, meeting in the Aero Club banquet room, 9901 NE 7th Avenue, Building C-200. The topic is "Coaching Small Business."

There is no charge for the series of meetings, which are open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Call 258-1181, or send an email to info@ClarkChamber.com for required pre-registration.

Calendar

Artists Equity Theatre's 2006 opening production, the one-man musical *Herringbone*, opens at 7:30 p.m. this evening in the Main Street Theatre, 606 Main Street. Tickets are \$10. For further information, call **695-3770**.

Wednesday headlines

[Hometown hero Greg Biffle gets 'honorary' traffic ticket as part of Camas's centennial celebration--Columbian, **Nick Dashed**](#)

[Skip Alison gets honor of taking down Evergreen Flying Service windsock--Columbian, **Thomas Ryll**](#)

[Former Ridgefield city manager appeals termination--Columbian, **Jose Paul Corona**](#)

[One on one with Legacy's Jonathan Avery--Columbian, **Julia Anderson**](#)

[OHSU tram to be strung up with temporary towers, Oregonian, **Ryan Frank**](#)

[Israeli jets pound southern Lebanon; troops clash with Hezbollah guerrillas--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Stocks soar 281 points after market detects moderation in Fed interest rate hike policy--USA TODAY, **Sue Kirchoff**](#)

[Dozens hurt after cruise ship rolls--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[As promised, Bush vetoes stem cell research bill--Washington Post, **Bill Brubaker**](#)

[20 Sunnis kidnapped; 60 Iraqi's killed--New York Times, **Damien Cave**](#)

Wednesday on the air

Brian Baird Town Hall Meeting (7/5)--6 p.m. CVTV

Evergreen Schools Annexation Meeting (7/12)--6:30 p.m. CVTV

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

Clark County Commissioners Workshop (7/18)--7:08 p.m. CVTV

Thompson Oxford House Dedication (6/27)--8:30 p.m. CVTV

Columbia River Crossing Task Force (7/12)--11:31 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Ray and **Irma Wallway** also joining the A-list. ✂ **Colin Dunn** right on schedule. ✂ **Bruce Hagensen** electioneering in hallowed halls. ✂ **Marge Martel** setting schedule. ✂ **Greg Shine** calls game on account of sun. ✂ **Betty Sue Morris** looking for barn. ✂ **Wednesday**, sunny, 85. **Thursday**, sunny, 89. **Friday**, sunny and hot, 99.