County to host state GOP convene

2010 event expected to generate $1 million in local business

By KATHY DUBIN
Columbian Staff Writer

Clark County will host the Washington State Republican Party next year in an event expected to draw up to 1,200 delegates and alternates and be the largest convention ever held in Vancouver.

"We are thrilled," Clark County GOP Chairman Ryan Hart said Tuesday in announcing the party's decision. "This is really big, not just for the local Republican Party, but for all of Clark County.

"The convention is scheduled for June 30-July 1 and will be head-quartered at the Hilton Vancouver Washington and Vancouver Convention Center.

Hotels across the city will provide rooms for delegates and possibly venues for social events. The convention is expected to generate at least $1 million in local business.

"Clark County has become a very strategic area for the Republican Party and makes a pretty attractive destination," Hart said.

Statewide, voters next year will elect a U.S. senator, nine U.S. representatives, three state Supreme Court justices and one state court of appeals judge.

In Clark County, voters will choose six district court justices, eight state representatives, one state senator, one county commissioner, a county auditor, a prosecuting attorney and all but the partisan offices in the county, as well as local school board directors, city council members and other local elected political party officials.

Columbia Basin

Student spike

Clark College enrollment in 2008: Summer 2008 registration: 
Early fall 2008 registration: 
Running Start, fall 2008: 

Clark College student ambassador, Anne Baghda, left, leads a campus tour for prospective students on Tuesday. Registration for summer and autumn terms has soared, and Clark has added dozens more class sections and instructors. The building in the background is Scarpelli Hall.

New teachers, class sections added to meet demand

By HOWARD RUCK
Columbian staff writer

A campus tour for incoming Clark College students on Tuesday settled Lori Benten's mind.

She joined four other newcomers for an hourlong orientation. Middle-aged career changers, laid-off victims, a couple of young guys fresh out of high school.

"I was kind of deciding whether to do this, today," said Benten, 44, of Washougal. The long-time hairdresser, who lost her job because she couldn't keep up with the high cost of living, said the college is the place to gain the skills.

She'll have plenty of company during Clark's summer term that begins Monday, and again this fall term.

"We're just seeing a dramatic increase. It's just humongous. It's probably the highest we've ever had," Alex Montoya, Clark College dean of enrollment services.

Enrollment at the Vancouver college is soaring to unmatchable heights, driven by Clark County's unemployment rate and high school students eager to rack up college credits.

Through last Friday, summer enrollment is up nearly 37 percent from one year ago.

And early fall enrollment, calculated daily, is 37 percent to 38 percent above the June 2008 pace. That owes entirely to continuing students — new registrations for autumn term don't start until August.

"We're just seeing a dramatic increase. It's just humongous," said Montoya, dean of enrollment services. "It's probably the highest we've ever had. I'm not sure when it's going to peak," he said.

That likely won't come until Clark County's unemployment rate flattens. But at around 13 percent, the jobless rate is pushing even more adults to pursue college credits or job training to rebuild their Obama ‘appalled and outraged’ by Iran’s violence against protesters

President Barack Obama says he’s ‘appalled and outraged’ by Iran’s violence against protesters.

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Obama, who has been accused by some Republicans of being too timid in his response to events in Iran, declared himself “appalled and outraged” by the deaths and inhumanities involved.

He said there could be consequences if leaders don’t ease off.

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Clack College: From Page A1

careers.
So it is for Beatrice, following 25 licensed years in hair care.
"I've pretty much done every-thing you could do in the business, said Beatrice, who even ran her own shop, "But, I really it's a dead-end." She's taking a hard look at nursing work, she said.

Joining her Tuesday were two former Hewlett-Packard printer plant employees, now jobless.
"Going back to school is exciting," said Sandy Pettis, 59, who is pondering medical bill- ing and collections for a state work, Bemidji State, 55, is poised to study baking in Clark's culinary arts program.
"I want to have some fun," Lien said.

Increased options
Soon, it might not be so fun bustling for campus parking.
The new Clark Center at Columbia Tech Center, which should serve about half the school's equivalent students (those taking 15 or more credits) in east Vancouver, will help. So will online courses and Clark's new rounding system (see story above), including a compressed "A.A. degree in two years (a week) plan.

To meet the stampede, Clark already has hired more than 60 new part-time, adjunct instructo rs and added class sections at a frenetic pace.

There will be 21 new class sections for the four-week summer session, and 110 more sections for the fall term. Business tech- nology courses lead the summer push, while new sections for social services or fine arts course are due in autumn.

Obama: From Page A1

Iran's leaders over its suspected nuclear weapons program.
"We don't know yet how this is going to play out," the president said. "It is not too late for the Iranian government to recognize that there is a peace- ful path that will lead to stability and legitimacy and prosperity for the Iranian people. We hope it takes it." He added that the United Nations Security Council has condemned the efforts by Iran's rulers to crush dissent in the wake of June 12 presidential elections. The caging of the nuclear weapons program could be a turning point in the nuclear talks, he said.

AAA PROUDLY HONORS School Safety Patrol With a AAA Lifesaving Medal!

Sierra Clark

Minnehaha Elementary

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AAA CONGRATULATES School Safety Patrol

by MARY CLARE JASON and DINNA CAPPELLO Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Key Demo- crats reached a deal Tuesday that its supporters hope will lead to House passage of the biggest environmental bill in decades, one aimed at reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that scientists blame for global warming emit- ted from power plants, factories and automobiles.

Farm-state Democrats were blamed for global warming emit- ted from power plants, factories and automobiles.

Climate bill heads to House floor after farm-state compromise

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