Governor taps Royce Pollard as Clark College trustee

By KATHIE DURBIN
Columbia staff writer

Gov. Chris Gregoire has appointed former Vancouver Mayor or Royce Pollard to a seat on the five-member Clark College Board of Trustees — a post Pollard said he is pleased to accept.

"I think we are fortunate in this community to have what I consider to be the finest community college in America," Pollard said Thursday. "It's an economic development driver. It improves our workforce.

The former mayor said his relationship with the college goes back to the days when he served as Army commander of Vancouver Barracks. "I took a course in Washington state history" to gain background on the state, he said, "and so I could qualify to get a state teacher's license. I got an A-plus."

Pollard, 71, will finish the five-year term of John D. White, a development consultant who had to give up his position as trustee when he moved to Portland. His term will expire in 2011, at which time he will be eligible for appointment to a second and final term.

"I am pleased that Royce will be joining the Clark College Board of Trustees," Gregoire said in a statement. "His passion for the community and his commitment to both education and veterans' issues will serve the college well."

Clark College President Bob Knight, like Pollard a former Vancouver Barracks commander, said Pollard has long been an
Pollard:

From Page C1

advocate for the college.

"Royce knows the community well. We are a community college. What better person to help govern the college?" he said.

Pollard was instrumental in getting the new Japanese garden sited at Clark College and regularly attends State of the College addresses, he said.

One of the trustees' primary responsibilities is adopting a budget. Knight predicted that Pollard "will be a very effective advocate" for adequate state funding, but, he added, "I don’t think anyone will be able to avoid future cuts."

Pollard, who as mayor regularly traveled to Olympia to lobby for Vancouver's interests, said he believes the state should allocate its limited funds based on "how productive an agency is."

"I do know my goal would be that we not take a greater share of the pain than anyone else," he said.

Enrollment at Clark College has skyrocketed during the recession and now stands at 16,000, the equivalent of 11,000 full-time students. Knight said he expects enrollment growth to start leveling off in the coming academic year.

Pollard said he was informed of the vacancy and told the governor he would be interested in serving. Since being defeated for re-election in November, he said he has turned down "a couple of opportunities" for civic involvement, but he does serve on the Southwest Washington Red Cross board of directors and continues to chair the grant-making committee of the Washington Historical Society.

"I'm as busy as I want to be," he said.

District 6:

From Page C1

than this year, Green said.

The current EMS levy expires at the end of this year.

If approved, Proposition 1 will renew the EMS levy for another six years.

At 45 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value, the owner of a home worth $300,000 would pay $135 a year.

In an odd mix-up, officials recently learned that a number of area residents were under the impression that Fire District 6 was shutting down.

The confusion stemmed from news that the neighboring Vancouver Fire Department will close its Fire Station 6, in the Burton area, for budget-cutting reasons.

"We're not closing anything," Green said. "That's strictly the Vancouver Fire Department."

If voters decide against District 6's EMS levy renewal, Green, his senior staff and firefighter team leaders have recommended a contingency plan to cut 13 emergency responder

Bricks:

From Page C1

went up in the family's back yard. In it went a branch. Not long after, her father brought home a pet squirrel.

"He gave me my own squirrel," she said, smiling at the memory.

Today, the retired Vancouver School District fifth-grade teacher has four children, 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She loves taking them to Esther Short Park.

On Wednesday, she sat near where Bruce Fuerstenberg, certified memorialist and owner of Vancouver Granite Works, set about his work.

From her large black purse, she pulled out one of what turned out to be many photo books. In one shot, her father poses as a young man. A few flips of the page, and two of her grandchildren are playing in the fountains at the park.

"I oftentimes visit this park and think of my father and my mother," she said.

Johnson won't say just how old she is — age and weight, she quipped, are off-limits. But she did say that she purchased two bricks. One will have her parents' names, the other will have hers. Her grandchildren, she said, will be able to visit her in a park any time.

"My parents will be in that park forever," she said. "Like Dr. King said, 'Keep the dream alive.'"

'It was fun'

Back in the early 1940s, Audrey McNeel went by her middle name, "Rodgie."

Originally from Nebraska, she came to Southwest

Washington and couldn't find work as a schoolteacher, so she took a job at the Totem Pole Restaurant in the Hazel Dell area.

Then, as a newlywed, she and her husband, Frank, moved to Vancouver. She decided to find another job, and she ended up being among the first female servers

Mohegan:

From Page C1

Affairs spokeswoman, to ask if the agency has an idea on when it might issue the decision, was not returned Thursday.

Phil Harju, spokesman for the Cowlitz tribe, said...