

The Seattle Medium

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a message from the people...to the people

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Celebration Marks Preservation Of Branch Villa/Leon Sullivan Care Center

Members of the Seattle Central Area community joined King County Executive Ron Sims in a celebration last week to mark the preservation of the Branch Villa Health Care Center. The Executive signed a deed to transfer ownership of the Branch Villa property to the non-profit organization, Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington, which has been renamed the Leon Sullivan Health Care Center.

"Today we celebrate the hard work and perseverance of a community organization and a dedicated non-profit to save a nursing home that is a vital part of the fabric of life in the Central District", said Executive Sims. "I am extremely pleased that I was able to help OIC acquire the Leon Sullivan Center and I welcome them to Seattle."

The Community Coalition and OIC approached Executive Sims in March 2003 to help with the sale and transfer of the Branch Villa property. The property was in foreclosure with HUD, and according to federal regulations, local governments are the only entities that can negotiate to purchase multi-family properties in foreclosure. The Executive joined other elected officials, including U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, State Representatives Sharon Tomiko-Santos and Eric Pettigrew, and State Senator Adam Kline in supporting the effort of the Community Coalition to Save Branch Villa.

"We are very impressed with the support we have received from Executive Sims, our State District



LEFT: King County Executive Ron Sims signs the deed to transfer ownership of the Branch Villa Property to OIC of Washington. TOP LEFT (L - R): Publisher/Broadcaster Chris H. Bennett, Nat Jackson, Harriett Walden, Ron Sims, and Henry Beauchamp, president of OIC of Washington are acknowledged for their efforts to help save Branch Villa. BOTTOM LEFT: Sims and Beauchamp embrace after Sims hands the deed to transfer the Branch Villa property over to Beauchamp, as Nat Jackson looks on. Staff Photos/Chris B. Bennett.



Representatives and Senator Cantwell," said Nat Jackson, co-chair of the Community Coalition to Save Branch Villa. "We would not be here today without the support and dedication of elected officials who responded to the community's request for help in accomplishing

this important goal."

Henry Beauchamp of OIC also thanked the Executive and the legislators for their assistance in saving this community resource. "This means that a long-running community institution can stay open and provide quality, specialized care

to those who need it, and it means that seniors who were moved out of the home when it was threatened with closure and have been longing to come back, are now able to return," said Beauchamp.

"I would like to commend King County Executive Ron Sims, the

King County Council and the Community for their hard work, and HUD for working through the numerous details of the agreement," said U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell. "The success today is about more than protecting a facility, it is about protecting the community's seniors.

This is the kind of service government should always strive to provide for communities."

A community celebration and open house at the Leon Sullivan Health Care Center is planned for Sunday, Sept. 28, 2003 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

The Medium's Political Endorsements

Next Tuesday, September 16, is Primary Election Day in the State of Washington. Many choices will be made, vote and the choice is yours. Don't vote and the choice belongs to others. The following is The Medium's recommendations for the 2003 Primary Election...

King County Assessor

Richard Pope

King County Council

District No. 2: Cynthia Sullivan

District No. 8: Dow Constantine

District No. 10: Larry Gossett

Court of Appeals

Divison No.1, Dist.No. 1, Pos. No. 3: Anne Ellington

Seattle City Council

Position No. 1: Jean Godden

Position No. 5: Tom Rasmussen

Position No. 7: David Della

Position No. 9: Angel Bolanos

Initiative No. 75: NO

Initiative No. 77: YES

Seattle Monorail

Position No. 8: Cindi Laws

Seattle School District

District No. 1: Theresa Cardamone

District No. 2: Darlene Flynn

District No. 3: Brita Butler-Wall

District No.6: Betty Hoagland

Mayor of Renton

Kathy Keolker-Wheeler

Community Forums On High School Graduation Requirements To Be Held In Seattle

Forums are scheduled for Thursday, September 18 to give community members the opportunity to give feedback on the final draft revisions to Seattle Public Schools graduation requirement policies. The draft reflects feedback received during the summer from more than 1,500 parents and community members. The final recommendation will be presented to the School Board for its consideration later this fall.

The new policy would increase the number of credits required to earn a diploma from the current 20 to 24, beginning with the class of 2010; give students the flexibility to graduate in three, four or five years;

and incorporate performance-based assessments that allow students to demonstrate what they know and are able to do. Credit requirements and other aspects of the new policy will be phased in over time. The class of 2008 - or those students entering eighth grade in fall 2003 - will be the first to graduate under the new policies.

Over the last two years, a team comprised of high school teachers and counselors has worked to revise the graduation requirements to ensure that graduates of Seattle Public Schools have the necessary skills to thrive in the 21st century. To develop the draft policy this group:

- *Reviewed research and data from leading educators around the nation.
- *Examined best practices from other school districts.
- *Asked community members about their ideas. In partnership with the Alliance for Education, Seattle Public Schools heard from more than 3,000 community members about their expectations for graduates.

The community forums are scheduled for 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 18 and will be held at five locations:

Ballard High School commons, 1418 NW 65th Street; Garfield High

School lunchroom, 400 23rd Avenue South; Ingraham High School cafeteria, 1819 North 135th; Rainier Beach High School lunchroom, 8815 Seward Park South; West Seattle High School lunchroom, 3000 California Avenue SW.

Additional information on high school graduation requirements, including the full draft policy, information on performance-based assessment, and a series of presentations made to the School Board and the community on this subject are available at <http://www.seattleschools.org>

Probe Of Tacoma Chief's Hiring Raises Questions

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) - An investigation into the hiring and career of former Tacoma Police Chief David Brame has raised questions of political favoritism, as well as concerns over the department's hiring and promotion process, newly released documents show.

A retired Tacoma deputy police chief also told investigators that he believes someone tampered with Brame's personnel records.

"The system was perverted," James Knutsen told the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, which began its investigation shortly after Brame fatally shot his wife and himself in April.

The interviews, which were not sworn statements, were obtained through public records requests by

The News-Tribune and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Knutsen told investigators he believed someone in the police department told Brame he had failed his first psychological test, then placed a second exam, which showed mixed results, in his file.

He said a third test should have been administered as a tiebreaker in determining Brame's eligibility.

Knutsen said an applicant could never ask that results of a second psychological exam be used instead of findings by the department's psychologist. And there were no documents from the personnel department, which would have handled Brame's appeal of his failed test.

The association conducted the bulk of its investigation in the weeks after the April 26 shootings. The

inquiry remains unfinished after it was put on hold in June at the request of the Washington State Patrol, which conducted a criminal investigation into Brame's career.

The patrol turned its findings over to the state Attorney General's Office on Thursday, and its investigators declined to discuss the case.

"We can't talk about the facts and circumstances of the investigation," Capt. Glenn Cramer said. "Wherever the evidence leads us. That's where we will go."

The FBI also is conducting an inquiry into the handling of Brame's career by Tacoma officials.

Among the findings by the police and sheriffs' association: • Police department leaders ignored negative psychological evaluations of police officer candidates.

• The process of choosing the new police chief in 2001 relied heavily on Brame's status as an internal candidate, though candidates from outside the department were deemed more qualified.

• Brame told city leaders of his fears that a 1988 date-rape allegation would derail his plans to become police chief, and about worries that he and his wife might divorce, undermining his reputation.

When Brame first applied to become a Tacoma patrol officer in 1981, two psychologists who examined him said they recommended he not be hired.

One of them, James Shaw, said he quit working with the Tacoma police department in 1998 because of differences with then-Chief Philip Arreola, and because the (Cont'd. On Page 2)