

County clerk steps down

Commissioners name replacement



TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE -- Klickitat County Auditor Brenda Sorensen (left) swears in the county's new Clerk, Renea Campbell (right), as Campbell's predecessor, Sandra Olson, looks on.

Sverre Bakke

Renea Campbell of Goldendale is Klickitat County's newest Clerk.

Campbell, a native of Klickitat County who grew up in Glenwood, took over this week for longtime County Clerk Sandra Olson, whose resignation from office took effect Monday. She submitted her notice of retirement to the Board of County Commissioners on Jan. 25.

Klickitat County voters elected Olson, of Centerville, to her first of four 4-year terms in 1998. Olson had been employed in the Clerk's Office for many years before running for a seat left open by the retirement of Kay Cameron.

In her notice of retirement, Olson noted, "I have enjoyed my years as County Clerk and my experiences have been rewarding, challenging, positive and forever changing. The support from the Klickitat County community has been overwhelming and very much appreciated."

Campbell previously worked for the county for 24 years, attaining the position of East District Court administrator before her retirement in 2007 "to spend more time with my children." (In 18 of those years, Campbell also served as district court commissioner.)

"Now that my daughter is a teacher and my son is in the U.S. Navy, I wanted to get back into court work," Campbell said of her decision to make herself available for the appointment, and to run when the position comes up for election later this year. "I love to work with the public, and I love being able to serve those that live here."

County Commissioners appointed Campbell to succeed Olson on March 26 after interviewing three candidates on a list supplied by the Klickitat County Republican Central Committee. The other candidates were Sherrill Basse and Laura Bradley, both of Goldendale.

Campbell will serve until a special election to fill out the remaining year on an unexpired 4-year term is held later this year. The winner of that special election will be the incumbent in 2014, when the position comes up for election under its normal 4-year cycle.

The County Clerk serves as the administrative and financial officer for the Superior Court, responsible for court records and exhibits; collection of statutory fees, fines, trust funds, and support funds; jury management; and, is an authorized agent for accepting passport applications. The position currently pays an annual salary of \$55,180.