

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Cost of living, quality of life draw world leader in foot orthotics to Vancouver

Amfit, the industry leader in technology for fabrication of foot orthotics (insoles, medical and sports pads and shims) is relocating its headquarters and manufacturing operations to Vancouver from Santa Clara, Calif., reports **Arjen Sundman**, company president.

The company is moving into a 29,000 square-foot facility, where it will employ 50 people, according to Columbia River Economic Development Council's president **Bart Phillips**.

CREDC began working with Amfit in July 2002 when the company began analyzing potential locations. CREDC followed through with site location, tax and licensing information and permit assistance.

"The firm is an exact fit to the industries the CREDC targets for recruitment—high-tech, knowledge-based manufacturing," says Phillips.

Amfit narrowed its search to a little over a half dozen sites, including three in Nevada, several in Oregon, two in Washington and one in Tijuana.

"Vancouver is the best fit," says Sundman.

"Washington's tax environment, the region's cost of living, and quality of life issues were major factors in our decision to move to Vancouver. Having no personal or corporate income tax is a real plus. Workforce availability is good."

According to Sundman, another plus is that the region is home to many high-tech and footwear companies.

The company utilizes high technology and applies it to medical foot orthotics and to its CustomComfort™ insoles and sandals.

Amfit's two main businesses are design of production equipment for insoles and orthotics and manufacture of insoles and orthotics.

According to Sundman, it is a \$2.5 billion market.

Second half property tax bills already mailed

Clark County taxpayers should have received their second half tax statements by this week, reports Clark County assessor **Doug Lasher**.

If taxpayers who do not have their property taxes paid by mortgage companies have not received their bill, which is due Oct. 31, they should call the Treasurer's office at **397-6054**, Lasher says.

Senior citizens, who may qualify for Senior Citizens' Exemptions, should call **397-2391**.

20-foot-tall bronze tree sculpture on view at Vancouver Landing tomorrow afternoon

A 20-foot—tall bronze sculpture of a tree that grew near what is now Long Beach, Wash., and on which William Clark is said to have carved his name in 1805, will be on public view at the Vancouver Landing from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4.

The bronze tree to be installed north of Long Beach was created by **Stanley Wanlass** and is being barged down the Columbia River as a re-creation of that phase of the Lewis and Clark expedition nearly 200 years ago.

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THURSDAY

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Wanlass earlier created a statue of Lewis and Clark that stands in downtown Long Beach.

Vancouver Landing is at the west end of the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay.

Columbia Credit Union member's decision on bank issue to be decided November 3

For the past several weeks members of southern Washington's largest credit union, Columbia Credit Union, have been voting by mail on the question of whether the credit union should become a state-chartered bank.

The final date for casting ballots is Monday, Nov. 3, during a general meeting of the membership that begins at 10 a.m. in the Heathman Lodge.

The board of directors of the credit union, which has nearly 60,000 members, recommends voting for the conversion.

News briefs

The continued hearing by the Clark County Planning Commission on updates for the county 20-year Growth Management Plan is at 5 p.m. today in the county Elections and Auto Licensing building, 1408 Franklin Street. ~~SES~~ The Sifton Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. tonight in Fire Station 88, at the corner of Fourth Plain Boulevard and Ward Road. ~~SES~~ A public hearing before Clark County hearing examiner **Daniel Kerns** on the proposed Livingston Mountain Quarry is at 7 p.m. tonight in the Public Service Center. ~~SES~~ The YWCA of Clark County's 12th annual benefit auction is May 1 in the Oregon Convention Center. The goal is \$345,000.

Thursday on the air

CVTV 20th Anniversary Gala—3:30 p.m. CVTV
WWC Soccer: Germany vs. Russia (live)—4:25 p.m. ESPN2
Humane Society Annual Dinner—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV
WWC Soccer: China vs. Canada (live)—7:25 p.m.

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2003

Alaska Air Group	28.74	-.02	Linear Technology	37.90	+.85
Alcoa	27.13	+.44	Microsoft	28.50	-.02
Amazon.com	50.09	+.97	Nautilus	13.10	+.01
Bank of America	79.19	-.03	Nike	62.39	+.52
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	25.86	-.05
Bemis	44.94	-.06	PepsiCo	46.91	+.23
Boeing	35.33	-.01	Precision Cast	36.82	+.34
Boise Cascade	28.01	+.13	RLRN	24.60	+.60
CenturyTel	35.05	+.46	Starbucks	29.43	+.13
Costco	31.96	-.36	TSM	11.37	+.37
Expeditors Intl.	34.70	-.35	Tektronix	25.34	+.06
Georgia Pacific	24.78	-.17	US Bancorp	24.60	-.21
HPQ	19.52	-.08	Wash. Mutual	39.36	+.10
Intel	29.62	-.01	W. Coast Bancorp	20.94	+.46
Kyocera	61.19	-.36	Weyerhaeuser	59.30	-.14

DOW: 9487.8 +18.60 ~~SES~~ NASDAQ: 1836.22 +3.97 ~~SES~~ S&P: 1020.24 +2.02

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Lena Wittler getting good introduction. ~~SES~~ **Bob Harris** will be 366 days older on Friday. ~~SES~~ **Frank Schwarz** looking for 76 trombones. ~~SES~~ **Rich Riegel** casting net. ~~SES~~ **Amanda Olsen** on a roll. ~~SES~~ **Candi Ehrich** pushing right buttons. ~~SES~~ Thursday, unsettled, 68. Friday could be more sun and warmer, 72. Saturday, partly cloudy, partly sunny, 70.

Acapulco	91/77
Athens	77/63
Chicago	50/36
Dallas	73/56
Hong Kong	91/79
Los Angeles	76/61
London	64/50
New Orleans	76/62
New York	58/47
Orlando	82/66
Paris	66/49
Phoenix	99/74
Rome	81/64
Seattle	70/50
Sydney	74/46
Tokyo	75/57
Washington	62/44