

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Clark County employment jumps, 7,100 new jobs added in October

Although the labor force was increasing by 4,600 persons in October, 7,100 more people were employed in Clark County than during September.

As a consequence, October non-adjusted unemployment declined a full percentage point to 7.9 percent from the figure given by the state Department of Employment Security for September.

While the October 2003 news was good, there were fewer jobs, by 1,200, in Clark County than there were a year ago at the same time

And, Clark County is, far behind the rest of the state and the nation in the percentage of employment. The state's non-adjusted rate for October dropped to 6.6 percent and the national rate declined to 5.6 percent.

"Washington's good news on the employment front reflects good news at the national level," reports **Sylvia Mundy**, state Employment Security director.

Clark Public Utilities' preliminary 2004 budget shows \$10 million surplus

Clark Public Utilities' commissioners today got their first look at the utility's 2004 budget, which projects a \$10.5 million surplus.

Circumstances beyond the utility's control—Bonneville Power Administration rates—could alter that, but the budget based on projected revenues of \$306.5 million, is based on what utility staff consider the worst case.

Wayne Nelson, Clark's CEO/general manager, says there will not be an increase in electric rates next year.

Utility staff predict a two percent increase in the number of residential electric customers, from 168,100 this year to 171,600 next year.

Employment at the utility is expected to increase by nine people to 350. The utility's employment efficiency rate, already near the top in the region, continues to increase to the point that Clark would employ one person for each 543 customers.

Clark's operating and maintenance costs per customer are the lowest among public utility districts in Washington.

The utility will hold a public meeting to review the budget on Tuesday, Nov. 25, and a final hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Separate budgets for Clark's water and waste water utilities and its River Road Generating plant will also be considered then.

Bravo! Vancouver season begins with traditional Handel's Messiah

Bravo! Vancouver, southern Washington's eclectic orchestral and chorale musicians, opens its tenth season, as always, with George Frederic Handel's *Messiah*, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7th, in St. Joseph Church, 400 S Andresen Road.

Six concerts are being offered during the 2003-2004 season. Reserved seating tickets are \$60 and \$70 for the series. Tickets at the door are \$14 and \$15.

Other concerts are as follows: "Romance of Brahms," a

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(360) 696-1077 Fax 694-9886 E-mail: tony@dailyinsider.info, \$245 a year

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chamber orchestral work, Sunday, Jan. 25; "A Choral Kaleidoscope," Sunday, Feb. 22; Mozart's *Requiem*, Sunday, April 4; "A Night at the Opera," Sunday, May 16; and "Classical Jazz," 7 p.m. Saturday, June 19.

Michael Kissinger, producer and director of the Vancouver Jazz Festival, is Bravo! Vancouver's artistic director and his wife, **Maria Manzo**, is the music director.

For further information, call Manzo at **906-0441**.

Victims of crimes to be discussed at mental health services forum today

As part of an ongoing series of community awareness presentations, a discussion called "Hope of Healing" will be presented by Victims of Crime Act team of the Columbia River Mental Health Services at 5:30 p.m. today.

Focus will be on being supportive of child victims and their families, according to CRMHS community relations director **Margie Wilson**.

The free presentation, at the Jim Parsley Center, 2901 Falk Road, is aimed at parents, caregivers, teachers and professionals, and is also open to the public. For further information, call **Jeanette James, 933-3072**.

News briefs

The NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. tonight in the community center of the Clark County Public Works building, 4700 NE 78th Street. ~~ESSE~~ The Enterprise/Paradise Point Neighborhood Association annual meeting is at 7 p.m. tonight in the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 N Main Avenue, Ridgefield. ~~ESSE~~ Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19.

Tuesday on the Air

Conversation with Marsha Evans, Marshall Lecturer—3:30 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Planning Commission (11/17)—4:00 p.m. CVTV
Architecture Washington Style—9:00 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Focus—11 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2003

Alaska Air Group	26.50	-40	Linear Technology	40.97	-1.05
Alcoa	32.25	-34	Microsoft	25.15	unch
Amazon.com	48.50	-1.86	Nautilus	13.67	-45
Bank of America	73.95	-62	Nike	61.83	+03
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	29.86	-08
Bemis	45.06	-47	PepsiCo	47.20	-47
Boeing	38.83	-91	Precision Cast	40.02	-66
Boise Cascade	27.95	-46	RLRN	22.26	-58
CenturyTel	31.91	-82	Starbucks	30.97	-74
Costco	33.64	-25	TSM	10.68	+03
Expeditors Intl.	37.41	-96	Tektronix	25.81	+27
Georgia Pacific	25.11	-39	US Bancorp	27.04	-35
HPO	21.65	-35	Wash. Mutual	45.78	-75
Intel	31.84	-39	W. Coast Bancorp	21.00	+05
Kyocera	59.69	+1.57	Weyerhaeuser	56.07	-68

DOW: 9624.16 -86.67 NASDAQ: 1881.75 -27.86 S&P: 1034.15 -9.48

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Jim Sanders dryly predicting normal weather for 2004. ~~ESSE~~ **Ruth Waite** setting dials right the first time. ~~ESSE~~ **Eleanor Van de Water** offering personal tour. ~~ESSE~~ **Betty Sue Morris** giving Public Service Center high marks. ~~ESSE~~ **Tuesday**, continued cloudy, showers, 58. **Wednesday**, cloudy, but some faint sunbreaks, 54. **Thursday**, gray day, but likely dry, 46.

Acapulco	93/77
Athens	67/55
Chicago	58/38
Dallas	66/44
Hong Kong	79/70
Los Angeles	75/53
London	59/53
New Orleans	78/55
New York	56/51
Orlando	84/68
Paris	52/43
Phoenix	74/52
Rome	67/56
Seattle	54/46
Sydney	77/58
Tokyo	58/46
Washington	58/52