

# The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

## Nancy Baker sworn in as Port of Vancouver's newest commissioner



Nancy Baker

Nancy Baker, who last year retired as assistant to the executive director of the Port of Vancouver, today was sworn in as its newest commissioner.

Baker, in her first try at an elective office, won a three-way race in the primary election last September and went on to defeat incumbent **Tom Bradley** in the general election.

Her former boss, Port Executive Director **Larry Paulson** was master of ceremonies as Baker took the oath of office in the port's commissioner's chambers from Clark County Auditor **Greg Kimsey**.

## Clark Public Utilities' commissioners endorse settlement of BPA lawsuit

Settlement of a long-simmering lawsuit among scores of electric utilities and Bonneville Power Administration was endorsed by Clark Public Utilities' commissioners today.

While settlement of the suit would not provide any rate reductions from Clark, it would roll back the most recent BPA wholesale rate increase and would mitigate future wholesale rates.

Numerous lawsuits were filed by 72 utilities, including Clark Public Utilities, after BPA entered into contracts that gave the region's investor-owned utilities power rather than a monetary subsidy called for under federal law, according to utility commission chair **Carol Curtis**.

The proposed settlement, which has been agreed to by the investor-owned utilities, recognized that BPA went too far in helping subsidize those utilities.

Curtis said the agreement is not perfect, but it would be a compromise among all parties.

Clark's general manager/CEO **Wayne Nelson**, who is also a lawyer, says that it's unlikely that anyone would get any more out of the suit than is agreed to at this point.

Clark's position is that settling the suit will bring stability to future rates and save more than \$200 million in costs.

Other public utilities have also jumped on the bandwagon to meet an early 2004 deadline for agreeing to drop the suit. But the largest PUD in the state, Snohomish County PUD, so far has argued it won't settle.

If just one PUD refuses to sign, the settlement will not occur.

## Still growing

Clark Public Utilities reported 340 new residential customers during November, bringing the total number of new residential customers to 3,572 for the year.

The growth rate, which the utility predicted would be 2 percent for 2003, thus far is 2.59 percent.

Clark now has approximately 165,000 electric customers.

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Net income for the utility for the first 11 months of 2003 is a minus \$561,000, compared to a budgeted \$5.6 million. The utility usually makes up for nearly year-long deficits in the final cold months of the year.

## Voter registration deadline for Ridgefield School election looms

Ridgefield voters who submit a mail-in request for voter registration for the Feb. 3 Ridgefield special election must do so by Saturday, Jan. 3. Voters also may register by going in person to the county Elections Department office, 1408 Franklin Street, but they must do so by Friday, Jan 16, and those may vote only by absentee ballot.

## Milford Westin takes oath for fifth term

**Milford Westin**, Port of Kalama commissioner for the past 26 years, was sworn in to begin his fifth term today.

Westin, a retired pharmacist, was first appointed to the commission in 1978. Before becoming a port commissioner, Westin had been a member of the Cowlitz County School Board and was a member of the Kalama Planning Commission.

## People

**Chris Pazen** and **Stan Hosman** yesterday were reappointed to the Vancouver Housing Authority Board. Their terms expire in 2006. ~~SES~~ **Kathy Seago** has been reappointed to the Vancouver Public Facilities District Board. Her term expires in 2007.

## News briefs

The *Insider*, in observance of Christmas, will not be published Christmas Eve day, Christmas Day or the day following Christmas. ~~SES~~ The Port of Ridgefield commissioners will not meet on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

### Tuesday on the Air

Dallas at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL, KRMZ

Clark County Commissioners: Comp Plan Update (12/9—9 p.m. CVTV)

### Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003

Alaska Air Group	27.54	+0.30	Linear Technology	41.50	+0.77
Alcoa	37.38	-0.34	Microsoft	27.15	-0.03
Amazon.com	52.48	+2.59	Nautilus	13.85	+0.08
Bank of America	79.31	+0.25	Nike	67.65	+0.35
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	33.30	+0.41
Bemis	48.91	+0.06	PepsiCo	46.48	-0.51
Boeing	41.94	+0.34	Precision Cast	45.60	+0.02
Boise Cascade	31.61	+0.03	RLRN	24.18	+0.75
CenturyTel	31.90	-0.15	Starbucks	32.08	+0.08
Costco	36.25	+0.41	TSM	9.95	-0.04
Expeditors Intl.	37.61	+0.01	Tektronix	31.64	+0.39
Georgia Pacific	29.75	+0.05	US Bancorp	29.24	+0.43
HPQ	22.66	+0.46	Wash. Mutual	39.50	+0.25
Intel	31.11	+0.69	W. Coast Bancorp	21.35	+0.04
Kyocera	66.56	+0.71	Weyerhaeuser	62.77	-0.24

DOW: 10,341.26 +3.26 NASDAQ: 1974.78 +18.98 S&P: 1096.02 +3.08

### Town Tabloids and The Weather

**Kate and Will Kellogg, Madeline and Natalie Bosch** birthday caroling for surprised **Fran Bosch** and guests. ~~SES~~ **Carol Curtis** conducting. ~~SES~~ **Chris Hermann** lending an air of authenticity. ~~SES~~ **Jim Sanders** is eye of storm. ~~SES~~ **Tuesday**, cloudy with possible showers, 52. **Wednesday**, cloudy a little rain, 50. **Thursday**, bad for sleds, good for new bikes, mostly sunny, 46.

Acapulco	90/73
Athens	58/45
Chicago	34/20
Dallas	56/34
Hong Kong	71/64
Los Angeles	65/50
London	48/43
New Orleans	68/46
New York	52/49
Orlando	76/58
Paris	34/33
Phoenix	70/50
Rome	40/23
Seattle	52/44
Sydney	79/56
Tokyo	54/41
Washington	58/46