

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Snow good for pre-schoolers

Most of Clark County was blanketed by an early and unexpected snow storm this morning, closing some county schools early, slowing traffic and temporarily closing eastbound Highway 14 traffic east of Camas at midmorning.

Clark County road crews were busy in the morning clearing downed trees and plowing some roads.

Weather prophets, who missed this storm, predict only rain, except for "higher" elevations for the next two days.

NW Natural files for rate increase

NW Natural residential customers will see a 16 percent increase in their natural gas bills in the fall of 2004, if the state Utilities and Transportation Commission approves the company's request for rate increases.

Commercial rates would go up 14.1 percent, and industrial rates 11.6 percent, according to the request filed today.

County's Mental Health Court showing startling results

Clark County's two-year-old Mental Health Court, financed with a grant through the Mentally Ill Re-arrest Prevention Program, has had remarkable results according to a report on the program by Portland State University's Regional Research Institute for Human Services.

The grant is administered through the county Department of Community Services.

A PSU study tracked 119 participants in the Clark County program and found an 89 percent reduction in bookings after six months of following the Mental Health Court process. Probation violations have been cut by more than half.

According to the report, the court demonstrated success in reducing re-offenses, the number of crimes committed and probation violations.

Clark County District Court Judge **Randy Fritzler**, who holds mental health court, says: "We have established here in Clark County that a mental health court can safely and efficiently divert people with serious disabilities from the criminal justice system. The unique collaboration that has been established with the Department of Community Services is a breakthrough for the judicial branch of government."

Medical Center gets agreement that reinstates UMP medical plan members for local services

Southwest Washington Medical Center and the state Uniform Medical Plans have reached an agreement in contracting for 2004 that allows continued participation with UMP and its members.

About 1,100 Clark County governmental workers and government retirees are affected.

Last week, UMP members were informed by their medical plan officers that they would not be eligible for care at the Vancouver's medical center.

Continued negotiations between the medical center and UMP have changed this.

WEDNESDAY

Nov. 19, 2003

"We're pleased that UMP has continued to bargain in good faith with us and helped us come to this resolution," **Joe Kortum**, medical center CEO and president said today.

Kortum adds: "We believe the new agreement and rate structure worked out with UMP reflect reimbursements that are closer to the true cost of doing business. Appropriate reimbursement from all insurance companies avoids the need to subsidize one commercial plan against another and unduly burden our local business community with artificially high health insurance premiums."

County commissioners to begin deliberations on the comprehensive growth plan Tuesday

Although the Clark County Planning Commission is continuing deliberations on updating the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, county commissioners will begin their deliberations next Tuesday.

The planning commission meeting is at 5 p.m. today in the Public Service Center.

According to **Pat Lee**, spokesperson for the county Long Range Planning Division, proposed changes involve business and residential development primarily in the Vancouver, Battle Ground and Ridgefield Urban Growth areas. For further information, call **397-2375**, extension **4993**.

People

USA TODAY recently named **Rosemary Fryer**, Heritage High School language arts teacher, to its prestigious All-USA Teacher Team. Only 20 were selected.

Wednesday on the Air

Vancouver DRA-PDV Joint Meeting (11/13)—4 p.m. CVTV
Portland Winter Hawks at Red Deer (live)—6 p.m. KUPL
Miami at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL
Telecommunications Commission (11/5)—7 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Land Use Hearings (11/16)—9 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2003

Alaska Air Group	26.40	-10	Linear Technolog	41.46	+49
Alcoa	32.07	-18	Microsoft	25.35	+20
Amazon.com	49.53	+1.03	Nautilus	13.58	-09
Bank of America	74.37	+42	Nike	61.19	-64
Bank of Clark County	15.00	unch	Nordstrom	30.52	+66
Bemis	44.98	-08	PepsiCo	47.94	+74
Boeing	39.40	+57	Precision Cast	40.27	+25
Boise Cascade	27.74	-21	RLRN	22.67	+31
CenturyTel	31.90	-01	Starbucks	30.70	-27
Costco	33.82	+18	TSM	10.70	+02
Expeditors Intl.	37.70	+29	Tektronix	25.90	+09
Georgia Pacific	25.34	+36	US Bancorp	27.16	+12
HPO	22.21	+56	Wash. Mutual	45.86	+08
Intel	32.52	+68	W. Coast Bancorp	21.43	+43
Kyocera	58.85	-84	Weyerhaeuser	56.15	+08

DOW: 9690.46 +66.3 NASDAQ: 1899.65 +17.9.86 S&P: 1042.44 +8.29

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Harriet Wilson being encouraging as usual. ~~ZZZ~~ **Marvin Case** giving ivories a good tickle. ~~ZZZ~~ **Cindy and Don Church** making compelling presentation. ~~ZZZ~~ **Craig Walker's** invention triggered into action by early snow. ~~ZZZ~~ **Wednesday**, gets down to 32 degrees and snows, some accumulations, 44. **Thursday**, snow changes to rain, 45. **Friday**, precipitation continues, 44.

Acapulco	93/75
Athens	65/54
Chicago	54/37
Dallas	70/47
Hong Kong	81/73
Los Angeles	77/55
London	59/49
New Orleans	70/50
New York	59/48
Orlando	76/52
Paris	55/43
Phoenix	80/54
Rome	67/55
Seattle	47/38
Sydney	84/64
Tokyo	60/52
Washington	64/48