

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

WEDNESDAY

April 23, 2003

Chamber participants in insurance program get \$300,001 bonanza

A small group of Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce members who participate in a risk-management group are sharing a \$300,001 insurance premium rebate from the state Department of Labor and Industries.

The rebate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, averages nearly \$12,000 for each of the 26 participants, according to the chamber's Retrospective Rating Manufacturing Group administrator **Scott Croucher**. The rebate represents a 63 percent reduction in workers' compensation premiums that the group paid to the state.

Croucher, a Vancouver risk-management consultant, teamed up with the chamber in 1998 to take advantage of a state law that allows manufacturers who belong to an organization, such as the chamber, to join in an incentive program rewarding employers who effectively minimize workers' compensation claims.

Only members of the local chamber are eligible to participate. According to Croucher, there are some 400 local manufacturers who are potential members of the group.

Croucher says the annual refunds are not always this large. In the first year the group saw a 16 percent refund of insurance premiums, and a 27 percent refund the second year. Last year, Croucher says, the group broke even.

For further information, call Croucher at **750-7822**.

Clark County development activity nearly as strong as the same time last year

Clark County development activity showed mixed results in the first quarter of 2003, reports **Richard Carson**, Department of Community Development director.

During the first three months of this year the county issued 1,455 building permits, of which 530 were for single family homes, compared to 1,539 total permits, of which 594 were for single family homes, in the first quarter of 2002.

The total value of residential construction for both periods was the same: \$73 million. The total value of commercial permits issued in the first quarter this year was \$13 million, based on 93 building permits, compared to \$20 million based on 107 building permits in the first quarter 2002.

The first-quarter figures this year reflect factors other than the economy, according to Carson. He said many developers submitted construction applications early in the first quarter a year ago to avoid fee increases. In 2003, fee increases were less of an issue, and the department was closed to permit applications for a week to accommodate the move of his department to the Public Service Building.

Federal funding for streets to be celebrated

U.S. Sen. **Patty Murray** (D-Wash.) will join local leaders and activists at a news conference at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, April 24, to celebrate nearly \$9 million in

federal funds earmarked for three community highway projects.

The news conference will be at the Fred Meyer parking lot at the corner of Mill Plain Boulevard and Chkalov Road, near where a Mill Plain-I-205 off ramp will be built, partially financed by a \$3 million federal allocation.

The transportation package for Clark County also includes \$3 for improvements for upgrading and expanding SW First and NW Lake Roads in Camas, and \$2.6 million for C-TRAN improvements.

Open house will show off city block grant projects

An open house from 5 to 7 p.m. today in Vancouver's Esther Short Building, 610 Esther Street, will showcase community development block grant-funded projects.

This year's 16 community block grants, ranging in size from \$10,000 to \$325,000, were financed through an appropriation of \$1.35 million.

The federally funded grants are administered by the city through recognized city neighborhood associations.

News briefs

The Port of Ridgefield meets in regular session at 6 p.m. today to discuss a joint facility with Fire District 5 and to consider updates in the port's comprehensive plan.

~~ZZZ~~ The Vancouver Parking Advisory Committee, meeting at 7:30 p.m. tonight in City Hall, will hold public hearings on two proposed ordinance changes affecting residential parking. For further information, call **735-8879**.

Wednesday electronic events

Pathways to Your Future—4 p.m. CVTV
Portland Trail Blazers at Dallas (live)—6:30 p.m. TNT, KXL
Cleveland at the Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KTOK
Telecommunications Commission (4/2)—7 p.m. CVTV
Nez Percé Memorial Ceremony—9 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Focus—11 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Close Up—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT Wednesday, April 23, 2003

Alaska Air Group	17.32	+ .83	Linear Technology	36.31	+ .43
Alcoa	22.71	+ .03	Microsoft	25.72	-.02
Amazon.com	25.43	-.15	Nautilus	12.62	-.31
Bank of America	74.55	+ .31	Nike	53.75	+ .60
Bank of Clark County	18.00	unch	Nordstrom	17.20	-.06
Bemis	44.49	-.19	PepsiCo	43.00	+ .70
Boeing	28.14	+ .34	Precision Cast	28.42	+1.29
Boise Cascade	23.48	-.05	RRLRN	18.00	-.04
CenturyTel	29.61	+ .91	Starbucks	24.58	-.54
Costco	33.84	+ .02	TSM	8.25	+ .07
Expeditors Intl.	35.82	+ .26	Tektronix	19.07	+ .22
Georgia Pacific	14.65	-.40	US Bancorp	22.86	+ .34
HPQ	16.07	+ .24	Wash. Mutual	39.04	+ .57
Intel	19.48	+ .48	W. Coast Bancorp	16.25	+ .01
Kyocera	49.20	-.51	Weyerhaeuser	52.69	+ .69

DOW: 8515.66 +30.67 NASDAQ: 1466.16 +14.8 S&P: 919.02 +7.65

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Bill Knight returning to scenes of former glory. ZZZ Mary Clark taking interstate holiday. ZZZ Bill MacMurchy demonstrating good eye for quality. ZZZ Lisa Bertrand making transaction look easy. ZZZ Jolene Jampsa following through nicely. ZZZ Wednesday , mostly drizzly, 60. Thursday , rain, 58. Friday , a few showers, scattered sunbreaks, 56.	Acapulco 94/70 Athens 62/48 Chicago 59/38 Dallas 72/60 Hong Kong 86/76 Los Angeles 68/54 London 63/46 New Orleans 76/67 New York 56/43 Orlando 83/58 Paris 64/47 Phoenix 76/56 Rome 64/46 Seattle 56/44 Sydney 72/54 Tokyo 62/52 Washington 60/40
--	---