

# The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

## Clark County gains 1,300 jobs in February

Clark County's unadjusted unemployment rate dropped from 8.6 percent in January to 8.3 percent in February as 1,300 jobs were added during the month. State Department of Employment Security figures released today showed the county had 172,600 people with jobs in February.

Statewide unadjusted unemployment dropped to 6.8 percent in February, from 7.2 percent in January.

The unadjusted national unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in February, unchanged from January.

## Open house on Highway 502, I-5 interchange next week, state may begin buying land early

Although the next new major interstate freeway interchange in Clark County won't go out for bid for another two years, the state Department of Transportation may begin property acquisition for the Highway 502-I-5 interchange this summer.

State Highway 502, which is also NE 219th Street, currently ends at NE 10th Avenue. The extension of 502 would make a direct link between the freeway and Battle Ground's major east-west arterial street.

An open house that will provide a review of conceptual alternatives and designs for the \$34.7 million interchange, which is designed to improve freeway access to Battle Ground, is 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 25, in the Battle Ground High School Cafeteria, 300 W Main Street.

The interchange is one of the nickel projects funded by the 2003 state Legislature.

Highway officials say WDOT will begin property acquisition by talking with potential sellers of property that will be used for storm water storage, balancing the loss of wetlands and other uses independent of a final design.

Further information on the project can be found at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR502/Interchange/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR502/Interchange/).

## Jennifer Rhoads tapped by First Indy

Jennifer Rhoads has been named vice president and senior financial advisor for the First Independent Bank's Private Banking Division.

A Vancouver native, Rhoads, who is a Washington State University graduate, is president of the Hazel Dell Community Association, YWCA of Clark County committee chair, board member of the Washington State University Cougar Club, Junior Achievement classroom teacher, Vancouver Symphony committee member, volunteer art instructor at Felida Elementary School and classroom aide



Jennifer Rhoads

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TUESDAY

March 16, 2004

for religious education in St. Joseph Catholic Parish.

## ISCO picks Columbia Business Center; Eastridge Business Park signs 13 tenants

One of the nation's largest distributors and manufacturers of polyethylene pipe, ISCO Industries, has opened a regional distribution facility in Vancouver's Columbia Business Center, the region's largest industrial business center.

Bart Phillips, president of the Columbia River Economic Development Council, says ISCO's decision to locate in Vancouver confirms that Clark County is the site location for distribution and logistics in the Vancouver-Portland market.

Meanwhile, since the first of the year, EastRidge Business Park has completed lease transactions with 13 new and existing tenants for 28,756 square feet of space.

## Oops

For the sake of Tauf Charneski's domestic tranquility, the Insider offers the following correction: Insider staff writer Charneski admits misquoting his wife in his piece about bringing the library bond issue back to life in November. His wife did not use the term "dirty underwear." The term she used was "raggedy, worn out, ugly underwear."

## News briefs

The NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. tonight in the Clark County Public Works community center, 4700 NE 78th Street. ~~SES~~ Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17.

### Tuesday on the air

Celebrating Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards—3:30 p.m. CVTV  
Portland Blazers at Milwaukee (live)—5 p.m. FSN, KXL, KRMZ  
Integrity of Leaders in the Public Sector—5:30 p.m. CVTV  
Vancouver Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

### Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Alaska Air Group	23.07	-.53	Linear Technology	36.98	+.10
Alcoa	34.37	+.26	Microsoft	25.18	+.02
Amazon.com	42.13	+1.05	Nautilus	15.64	-.21
Bank of America	80.11	+.72	Nike	75.11	+.71
Bank of Clark County	20.00	unch	Nordstrom	37.48	+.01
Bemis	25.20	+.19	PepsiCo	51.17	-.18
Boeing	39.41	-.37	Precision Cast	42.88	+.18
Boise Cascade	31.02	+.06	RLRN	25.38	+.10
CenturyTel	28.93	+.31	Starbucks	37.38	+.36
Costco	37.04	-.38	TSM	10.22	-.03
Expeditors Intl.	36.29	+.54	Tektronix	28.68	-.07
Georgia Pacific	30.98	+.48	US Bancorp	27.90	+.25
HPQ	21.79	+.08	Wash. Mutual	43.75	+.61
Intel	27.16	+.06	W. Coast Bancorp	21.64	+.19
Kyocera	75.66	+1.75	Weyerhaeuser	62.38	+.74
DOW: 10,184.67		+81.78	NASDAQ: 1943.09		+3.89
			S&P: 1110.7		+6.21

### Town Tabloids and The Weather

Greg Flakus climbing aboard. <del>SES</del>	Acapulco	93/75
Marjorie Casswell joining a groundswell. <del>SES</del>	Athens	58/44
Jim Sanders deftly handling science. <del>SES</del>	Chicago	36/24
Madeline Turnock making inquiries. <del>SES</del>	Dallas	70/51
Flossie Wager making right moves. <del>SES</del>	Hong Kong	79/64
Jim Malinowski ahead of the curve. <del>SES</del>	Las Vegas	84/55
Tuesday, clouds mixed with sunshine, 62.	Los Angeles	79/56
Wednesday, mostly sunny, 65.	London	64/51
Thursday, clouding up, possible precipitation, 58.	New York	37/26
	Orlando	79/61
	Paris	64/52
	Phoenix	90/64
	Rome	65/52
	Seattle	54/43
	Sydney	80/57
	Tokyo	60/52
	Washington	39/32