

Unemployment figures hard to understand, but the chart for Clark County looks good

Possibly, likely and probably are operative adverbs in weather forecasting and in understanding employment statistics.

On the one hand, 16,000 striking Boeing workers were not considered unemployed by the State Employment Security Department. On the other hand, federal standards considered those striking Boeing workers as unemployed.

Thus the department concluded that the total number of nonfarm jobs dropped in September, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate improved, from 5.8 percent to 5.6 percent.

Clark County's unadjusted employment record improved in September, according to the department, registering 6.3 percent, compared to 7 percent a month earlier and 6.6 percent in September 2004. This compares to the state unemployment rate of 5.6 percent for September. The national unemployment rate for September was 5.1 percent.

While a local report on September is about two weeks away, the August chart prepared by the Department of Employment Security's Vancouver regional labor economist **Scott Bailey** shows a steady and improving employment rate over the past three years.

The opening of Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital was responsible for much of the 900 jobs increase in health care in August. The total increase in health care jobs from the first of the year was 1,100 in August. But there were other significant gains, too. By August, leisure and hospitality accounted for 12,800 jobs in August, up more than 400 from a year earlier. High-tech jobs were slightly lower in August this year than the year before.

According to Bailey, it is estimated that through August, employment in Clark County grew by 5,500 jobs, a 4.5 percent rate.

Community Pride Awards on tap for BIA dinner this evening

Six outstanding building projects in Clark County are being recognized this evening during the 10th annual Community Pride Design Awards dinner sponsored by the Building Industry Association of Clark County, which this year also includes awards to 12 local contractors for building excellence.

The \$30 dinner is at 6 p.m. in the Hilton Vancouver Washington.

Community Pride Design Award winners are as follows: Clark College Penguin Student Union Building, Clark County Fairgrounds Exhibition Center, Esther Short Commons, Farrell Building, Hilton Vancouver Washington and Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital.

For further information, call **694-0933**.

Vancouver chamber sets its Biggest ever trade show

The Tuesday, Oct. 25, Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Showcase Trade Show will be the biggest ever, according to the chamber's marketing director, **Rhonda Carey**.

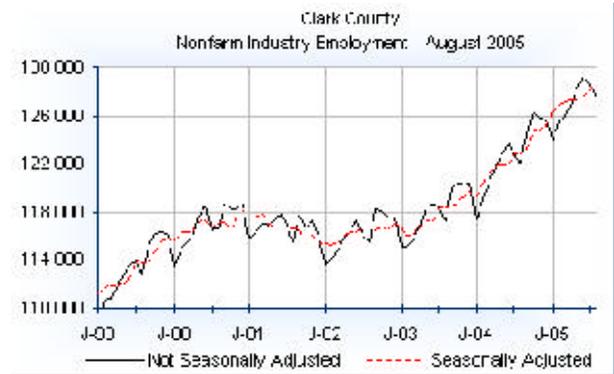
The 4:30-to-7 p.m. trade show, sponsored by La Center's New Phoenix Casino, is in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay. Admission for chamber members is \$10; for nonmembers, admission is \$15. To register for the trade show, call **694-2588**, or go to www.vancouverusa.com.

Washougal, again, site for Parade of Homes

As it has for the past three years, the Building Industry of Clark County has selected a Washougal site for its annual Parade of Homes.

Allegro Ridge is being developed by **Rick Grams** with Harbour Bay Homes Real Estate Services. Grams is the 2006 Parade of Homes committee chairman.

Ten homes will be shown from July 14 to 30. This year, the Parade of Homes was host to a record 23,167



Nearly 20,000 new jobs have been created in Clark County in the past six years.

visitors, who helped raise over \$16,000 for local charity groups.

News brief

The deadline for registering to vote in the Tuesday, Nov. 8, general election is 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24. Voter registrations are being conducted in the Clark County Elections Department, 1408 Franklin Street.

Calendar

The NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. this evening in the Hazel Dell Elementary School, 511 NE Anderson Road. ☞ Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, in conference room B in the Public Service Center.

Tuesday headlines at home and abroad

[The remarkable scrapbook about "Uncle Alex" Pearson, the aviator--Columbian, **Thomas Ryll**](#)

[Evergreen growth slows--Columbian, **Howard Buck**](#)

[Emergency kits can save lives--Columbian, **Tom Vogt**](#)

[Councilwoman takes on Jeff Guard for Washougal mayor job--Columbian, **Dean Baker**](#)

[Regulatory costs hit small businesses hardest--Columbian, **Don Brunell**](#)

[Jane Jacobsen says we will get the money to build the Confluence Project bridge over Highway 14--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)

[County commissioner candidates disagree on growth--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)

[Bush's tax advisory commission agreed today to recommend two alternative tax plans, both of which would limit or eliminate almost all tax deductions, including the ones for state and local income and property taxes--New York Times, **David Rosenbaum**](#)

Tuesday on the air

County commissioner candidates debate (10/13)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Staci Searls credit unioning. ☞ **Michael Bomar** maintaining Washougal links. ☞ **Todd Martin** doing something about the weather. ☞ **Jo Jones** pickin' cotton. ☞ **Paige Jobe** ecstatic. ☞ **Tuesday**, sun breaks, late light showers, 64. **Wednesday**, gray, some rain, 61. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, should be dry, 62.