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County unemployment rate rising

Clark County's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for May was 6.3 percent, up from 6.1 percent in April and up from 5 percent in May 2007, according to the state Department of Employment Security.

Statewide, the unemployment rate, based on seasonal adjustments, was also up, hitting 5.3 percent for the first time in 20 months.

It was not all bleak. The demand for professional services increased by 1,200 new jobs across the state. But the demand for jobs declined in areas of retail, education, health services and government.

Kim County remained the bright spot in the employment story for May, where seasonally unadjusted unemployment stood at 3.9 percent, but still, that was up from 3.1 percent in April.

County considering \$41 million in bonds to pay for I-5-fairgrounds exit improvements

Clark County commissioners are considering issuing \$41 million in county-backed bonds to pay for road improvements at the county fair, Battle Ground I-5 exit at NE 179th Street. No public vote is required for the bond issue since the bonds do not require new taxes.

The county funding would be combined with additional state financing at the interstate exchange.

Commissioners have called for a public hearing on the proposal at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 24.

City offering on-line permits

The City of Vancouver is now offering on-line building permits to licensed contractors, reports **Mike Merrill**, administration and policy manager in the city's Development and Review Services Department.. Permits are currently available to licensed electrical, mechanical and plumbing contractors.

Permit fees may be paid by credit card on-line, according to Merrill.

Anyone may go to the website to review the status of permits and private property. On-line permitting is expected to be expanded to private property owners in the future.

For further information, call Merrill at **487-7899**, or go to <http://www.cityofvancouver.us/default.asp?menuid=10460>.

High school vocalists selected for 4th of July competition

Ten high school vocalists have been selected for the Sing 4th singing competition that is part of the 4th of July entertainment at the parade grounds of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

Competition begins at 10 a.m. Friday, July 4. The grand prize is a \$500 scholarship.

The contestants are as follows: **Brittany Bonnin**, Battle Ground High School; **Mallory Ewart**, Hudson's Bay High School; **Moriah Hazan** and **Asia Smith**, Heritage High School; **Robert Head**, home schooler; **Megan Howard**, Ridgefield High School; **LaMonica Lucas**, Vancouver School of Arts & Academics; **Patrick Moynihan** and **Courtney Rice**, CAM High School; and **Steffany Whitmore-Kruk**, Mountain View High School.

Camas-Washougal outside concert at Marina Park is Sunday

The first of two free public concerts sponsored by the Port of Camas-Washougal in the riverfront Marina Park is 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 22.

The Camas High School jazz band opens the concert for headliner **5 Guys Named Moe**. Food and beer and wine vendors will be on hand.

County's annual recycled arts festival coming to Esther Short Park this month

Clark County's Recycled Arts Festival returns to Esther Short Park, Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29, with more than 50 vendors offering art created from recycled items.

Sponsored by the county solid waste program, the free program includes entertainment and arts and crafts activities. For further information, call **397-6118**, extension **4939**.

Calendar

The first of two scheduled Rural Lands Task Force meetings is at 6 p.m. this evening in Fire District 12, 911 N 65th Avenue. The task force is charged with helping county commissioners define the rural character of land for inclusion in the county's comprehensive plan. <> The Southwest Washington Blood Center is holding a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, near the cafeteria at Washington State University Vancouver.

Tuesday on the air

Bravo! Vancouver: Gospel Hummingbirds 4:30 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes (6/1)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Florida at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX

Portland Beavers at Fresno (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Vancouver Land Use Hearings (6/5)—7 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Planning Commission (6/10)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Law Enforcement Memorial Day (5/15)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Dorothy. Graham and **Bill Knight** bringing joy to Mudville. <> **Susan Holton** listing contestants. <>

Karen Liberty getting top billing. <> **Blake Sakamoto** arranging fireworks music. <> **Patrick Lamb**

taking on judging chores. <> **Tuesday**, partly cloudy, 50-67. **Wednesday**, partly cloudy, 49-69.

Thursday, partly cloudy, warmer, 53-77.