

**BusinessFirst**  
Money Market Accounts



**2.12% APY\***  
for balances of \$100,000 - \$499,000



### **Economist glumly recites data**

Clark County nonfarm employment declined by 800 jobs in December, according to **Scott Bailey**, regional economist for the state Employment Security Department.

The county's jobless rate was estimated at 8.7 percent in December, more than three points higher than a year ago. About 19,520 Clark County residents were jobless and looking for work. The number of continued unemployment claimants rose by 42 percent over the month, and was 119 percent higher than a year ago, more than the state average of 95 percent.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the monthly loss was 300 jobs. The total of 136,000 jobs was 300 less than a year ago. According to Bailey, "this is the first over-the-year decline recorded in the current downturn; when data are revised for the third and fourth quarters, we will see if preliminary estimates were too optimistic."

Bailey says: The private sector has lost 800 jobs in the past twelve months; construction lost 700 jobs, and manufacturing lost 600 jobs, with all this continuing to drag the economy down; retail trade is off by 200 jobs; financial services employment is flat over the year, and professional and business services employment is now showing a year-over-year loss.

But, says Bailey, health care jobs continue to grow steadily, adding 200 jobs in December.

### **Shirley Gross named VSO development director**

**Shirley K. Gross** has been named development director for The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, reports symphony president **Celia Gesting**.

Most recently, Gross was with the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, where she has been development director since 2003. She is a former regional development manager for the Children's Home Society of Washington and development director of the Vancouver Children's Therapy Center. Gross has also worked for Legacy of Life and as an instructional assistant for children with special needs in the La Center School District. Gross is a graduate of the University of Illinois.

Gross succeeds **Don Riggs**, who will continue his association with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra as a volunteer.

### **Mount St. Helens Institute offers snow camping seminar**

The Mount St. Helens Institute is offering a multi-day class on snow camping for beginners. This two-part class includes classroom instruction on January 31 and overnight field instruction on March 7 and 8.

Open to people 14 and older, the class is designed to teach snow-camping techniques including snow cave construction, avalanche awareness and the tools necessary for cold-weather survival. **Henry Panter**, a self-taught mountaineer, is the instructor.

The fee for the two-day course, which includes classroom and field instruction, is \$100. For further information, call Mount St. Helens Institute executive director **Jeanne Bennett**, 891-5107.

### **Kathy Condon to address Business Success Association**

Vancouver's **Cathy Condon**, author, speaker and coach, is the speaker at the 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, meeting of the Business Success Association.

The \$10 per person luncheon, sponsored by the Business Success Association, is in the Hometown Buffett, 7809 NE Vancouver Plaza. For further information, call **Donna J. Owen**, 635-2933.

### **Medical center sets Cyberknife tours**

Thirty-minute tours of Southwest Washington Medical Center's Cyberknife are being scheduled for 3, 3:30



**Shirley Gross**

and 4 p.m. Monday, Jan 26. Tours begin at the medical center's Cancer Center on NE 87th Street.

Using this innovative, knifeless (non-invasive) technique, surgeons and radiation oncologists can pinpoint tumors and treat them precisely.

The tours include live demonstrations. For further information, call **514-2927**.

### **News brief**

Clark College is honoring the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. and the first families of Vancouver's African-American community with a program that begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23. The free, public-invited evening is in the Gaiser Student Center. The period between World War II and the present will be highlighted. Light refreshments will be served at the end of the program.

### **Calendar**

Columbia River Crossing planners are holding a public workshop at 6 p.m. this evening in the Clark County Elections Department, 1408 Franklin St. Under discussion is the number of traffic lanes the bridge should support, eight, ten or twelve. CRC planners will hold a second public workshop at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, in the Kaiser Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Ave., Portland.

### **Wednesday on the air**

Vancouver Symphony (1/18)—3:30 p.m. CVTV

Regional Economic Outlook (11/13)—4:01 p.m. CVTV

One Place Across Time (digital)—5 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Youth House Awards (1/8)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

**Cleveland at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. KGW-TV, KXTG**

49th District Town Hall (1/10)—7:30 p.m. CVTV

Port of Vancouver Commissioners (1/13)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus 12/21)—11:15 CVTV

### **Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Kristy Weaver** planning big Feb 6. <> **Juanita Rogers** and **Karen Keller** talking over old and new times. <> **Maceey Castle** properly answering questions. <> **Vinton Erickson** replaying Arnada days. <> **Randy Alexander** bragging up grandson **John Thomas Alexander**, seven pounds, 1 ounce, 19.5 inches tall. <> **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 29-45. **Thursday**, mostly cloudy, 38-53. **Friday**, mostly sunny, 34-51.