

State's average annual wage increases to \$40,385

The annual average wage in Washington has increased by 3.5 percent, to \$40,385, for 2005, according to the state Employment Security Department.

With the increase comes an increase in the minimum weekly unemployment benefit, which is calculated at 15 percent of the average weekly wage. The minimum rate will go up to \$116, from \$112, starting July 1. The maximum weekly benefit has been capped by the legislature at \$496 a week.

The average wage is also used to compute employer taxes. Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, employers will pay unemployment taxes on the first 31,400 paid to each employee.

Clark College vocal groups preview Mexican tour

The Clark College Women's Choral Ensemble, under the direction of **April Brookins Duvic**, and the Clark College Vocal Jazz Ensemble, which is directed by **Janet Reiter**, will present selections from the program they have prepared for a forthcoming joint tour of Mexico in a concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8, in the Decker Theatre on the college campus.

While there is no admission charge for the concert, donations for the ensembles will be accepted at the door. For further information, call **992-2245**.

Grad students to present first Fort Vancouver public history field school

Graduate students enrolled in the first Public History Field School at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site will present public programs as part of the park's annual Brigade Encampment, Saturday, June 17.

"These programs represent the equivalent of the students' final exam," says **Greg Shine**, chief ranger & historian. The public programs are the result of 11 weeks of studies at the historic site.

The programs begin at 1 p.m. and are held every half-hour until 3 p.m. on the grounds of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site or just to the north of the reconstructed fort. Call **360-816-6200** for further information. The schedule is as follows:

?? 1 p.m. "The Fur Trader Diet."

?? 1:30 p.m. "The Voyageur at Portage: Overland and Overburdened."

?? 2 p.m. "Beavers: They're More Than Just Fur!" (a program for children & families)

?? 3 p.m. "The Fur Store: Preparing the Furs for Shipment."

?? 3:30 p.m. "The Role of the Hudson's Bay Company fur brigades in Hudson's Bay Company-Indian Relations."

Calendar

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council meets in regular session at 4 p.m. today in the 6th floor training room in the Public Service Center. ☞ The City of Vancouver will host a community open house to share information on the Main Street Improvement Project, 4 to 7 p.m. today, in the Vancouver Marketplace, 210 W Evergreen Blvd. ☞ The re-election campaign kickoff for Democrat Clark County Treasurer **Doug Lasher** is from 5 to 7 p.m. this evening at 5401 SE Scenic Lane, Unit 205. Special Guest will be Washington State Treasurer **Mike Murphy**. ☞ **Gert "Ma" Boyle** keynotes the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce's 3rd annual Excellence in Enterprise luncheon at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, June 7, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington. Admission is \$35. Boyle will be accompanied by **Kerry Tymchuck**, co-author of her book, *One Tough Mother: Success in Life, Business and Apple Pies*. Call the chamber's event line, **694-2588** for further information or go to www.vancouverusa.com to register online. ☞ Former State Rep. **Val Ogden** will be honored as Clark County's First Citizen in a ceremony that begins at 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, in the Hilton Vancouver, Washington. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts are offered. A no-host bar is available. For reservations for the \$35 event, call **694-2588**.

Today's headline stories

[City business tax proposal would nearly triple small business tax for one-person companies doing more than \\$12,000 gross income a year--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)
[Medford historian compiles new work on Pearson Field, "Pearson Field, Pioneering Aviation in Vancouver and Portland--Columbian, **Dean Baker**](#)
[Sharon Long, former Evergreen School board member will run as a Republican against 49th District state representative incumbent Democrat Jim Moeller--Columbian, **Kathie Durbin**](#)
[Retired airline pilot working to get 8,440 signatures to qualify to run as a Republican against incumbent Democrat Brian Baird for the 3rd District Congressional seat--Columbian, **Kathie Durbin**](#)
[Burnt lumber removed from ship--Columbian](#)
[Two La Center city council members working with city's card rooms to oppose Cowlitz Tribe's proposed casino--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)
[Email exchanges among La Center city council members about proposed tribal casino reflects tension, and Cowlitz Tribe raises questions--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)
[Commercial investments slowing--Columbian, **Cami Joner**](#)
[Nike claims 'smoking gun' in fight to keep from being annexed to Beaverton--Oregonian, **David R. Anderson**](#)
[Incentive package including U.S. giving Iran Nuke technology offered--USA TODAY, AP](#)
[Stocks slide further after Monday's sell-off--New York Times, **John Holusha**](#)

Tuesday on the air

Stigma and Mental Health (5/31)—3:30 p.m. CVTV
Community Foundation Luncheon (5/4)—5 p.m. CVTV
Spring Fest 6/03—6 p.m. CVTV
CREDC: Why \$70 a Barrel Oil May Be Good For You (5/25)—7 p.m. CVTV
Minnesota at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX
Portland Beavers at Tucson (live)—7 p.m. KKAD
Employment, Mental Health & Wellness (5/19)—8:30 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Focus (5/25)—10 p.m. CVTV
Bravo! Vancouver: Happy Birthday Amadeus—10:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Todd Yapple proving to be prodigious quaffer. ☞ **Leslie Draper** ordering Sears & Roebuck gazebo prints. ☞ **Billy** and **Nicole Reid's** guests arriving safely at home. ☞ **Ron Arp** making it all happen. ☞ **Walter Evans** sorting out the family tree. ☞ **Lynn Degerstedt** reporting on yesteryear. ☞ **Tuesday**, partly sunny and warm, 73. **Wednesday**, mixed bag of sun and clouds, 75. **Thursday**, chance of showers, cooler, 70.