

Who are the people on Columbia County's unemployment roles?

From page 15
 Columbia County in 2008, approximately 70 per cent were male while 30 percent were female.

The greatest number of Columbia County's 2008 unemployment insurance (UI) claimants were 40 to 49 years old, with 855 recipients and 27 percent of the total. Those 50 to 59 years-old made up the second largest grouping of UI recipients with 22 percent, followed by those 30 to 39 years old with 22 percent.

Those with a high school diploma or less made up nearly three-fourths of all unemployment insurance claimants in

Columbia County in 2008 with 2,248 individuals. Individuals with an associate's degree had the second largest number of claimants with 314, followed by those with post-secondary coursework and no degree with 238 claimants. Claimants with a bachelor's degree or more were about seven percent of the total with 211 claimants, and those with a vocational certification had the smallest number of claimants with 93.

The industries with the greatest number of Columbia County unemployment claimants in 2008 were manufacturing and construction, each with around 700 claimants. Transportation and warehousing had

the third largest number of Columbia County claimants with 235, followed by administration, support and waste management with 227, and retail trade with 195. Not all of those who claim unemployment benefits worked in Columbia County. Many Columbia County residents travel outside the area for work and claimant numbers are reflective of benefits paid to residents of Columbia County, not necessarily those working in the county.

The occupational groups most common among Columbia County's unemployed in 2008 are strongly correlated

with the most common industries of the unemployed. Construction and extraction jobs top the list of the unemployed with 685 claimants in those occupations. Transportation and material moving and production jobs were second and third most common among Columbia County claimants, with 468 and 426 respectively. Office and administrative support workers made up another nine per cent of claimants followed by installation, maintenance, and repair workers, with 205 claimants.

There were 152 Vietnam-era veterans and 246 other veterans who claimed unemployment benefits in Columbia County in 2008. The percentage of Columbia County unemployment claimants who were veterans was slightly higher than neighboring counties. In Clatsop County, 10.8 percent of unemployment claimants were veterans, Tillamook County had 10.6 percent, Washington County had 9.9 percent, and Multnomah County had 8.2 percent.

With so many available workers, it's a great time to hire and WorkSource Oregon can help.

As of March 3, there were 3,470 registered job seekers living in Columbia County. These are all looking for work and actively utilizing WorkSource Oregon services to find a job. Nearly 60 percent of those potential applicants are claiming unemployment benefits; nearly 20 percent are currently working and looking for a better job. If you have a job opening and need skilled workers, let the WorkSource Oregon partners help.

The annual Columbia County Job Fair – scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Buccini Hall in St. Helens – is a great opportunity to recruit. Call 503-397-4995 to register for a booth at the Career Fair or to get personalized recruitment services from a WorkSource Oregon account representative.

Workforce training grants are available to businesses to upgrade the skills of current workers. Local businesses like Composites Universal, Pacific Stainless, Armstrong World Industries, and MetalCraft Machine have utilized these funds

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47J Board awards architectural contract for schools

From page 1
 stuck here (current site), in Scappoose or Banks." To the question, "Can we build schools without a bond?" County Commissioner and Vernonia citizen, Tony Hyde, responded, "No," without elaboration.

When the time for a vote came, a motion was made to select the Boot Site. The motion passed with board member Ernie Smith casting the lone vote against the site. Language in the motion made it clear that the Boot Site is "the first choice for a location for new schools." If that site does not ultimately work out, for any reason, the board made it clear that they will look at all the possible sites again.

The board awarded a contract to BOORA Architects for architectural services for the

new schools, based on a recommendation from the committee that reviewed the architectural firms who applied. BOORA Architects will prepare a comprehensive program document defining the needs and objectives of the proposed replacement K-12 school facility, including schedules and budgets.

In other business, the board:

- heard that Tom Ramsey was hired as the new Maintenance Supervisor, to replace

John Lewis who is retiring in April;

- adopted the 2009-10 school calendar;

- adopted the budget calendar for meetings, appointed Penny Johnson to the Budget Committee, and announced that there are still openings on the committee for interested community members.

Spring Break is March 23-27. The next meeting of the board will be April 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office.

Council okays hiring Financial Manager

From page 4
 After an executive session held for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee, council returned to the regular meeting and unanimously approved the hiring

of Susan Spicer Pond as Finance/Human Resources Manager. Pond has been handling the city's finances as a contract employee for the past few months and recently helped the city change over to new financial software.

In other business, council:

- heard an update from Ben Fousek, the KLS Surveying employee working with the city to set up a GIS system. Maps are starting to be put online from this project.

- heard an update on Columbia County Flood Unmet Needs projects from Jim Tierney.

- approved the budget calendar and were given an

overview of the 2009 budget process by Johnson.

- approved the expenditure of \$150 in awards for an "If I were Mayor" contest for grades 4-12 as requested by Mayor Harrison.

- heard that OECD (Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) has awarded a \$500,000 grant for flood buyout program funds.

- heard that Interim Police Chief Mike Kay successfully completed the F.B.I.'s Northwest Command College.

The next council meeting will be held April 6, at City Hall, starting at 7:00 p.m.

WEATHER REPORT

FEBRUARY 2009

DATE	TEMPERATURE		PRECIP. AMT.
	HI	LO	
1	45	27	--
2	56	25	--
3	62	23	--
4	65	24	--
5	49	28	.49
6	45	31	.09
7	50	28	--
8	43	27	.04
9	37	24	.11
10	36	25	.15
11	47	27	--
12	39	26	.07
13	40	30	.03
14	44	27	T
15	47	26	--
16	52	28	T
17	49	29	T
18	54	28	--
19	55	25	--
20	60	25	--
21	57	38	.08
22	54	38	.02
23	49	35	.60
24	53	40	.12
25	47	32	.67
26	43	25	--
27	44	27	--
28	53	27	.04

Temperature and precipitation amounts are from the official U.S. weather station at the Vernonia water plant. Measurable precipitation in February totalled 2.51 inches.



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