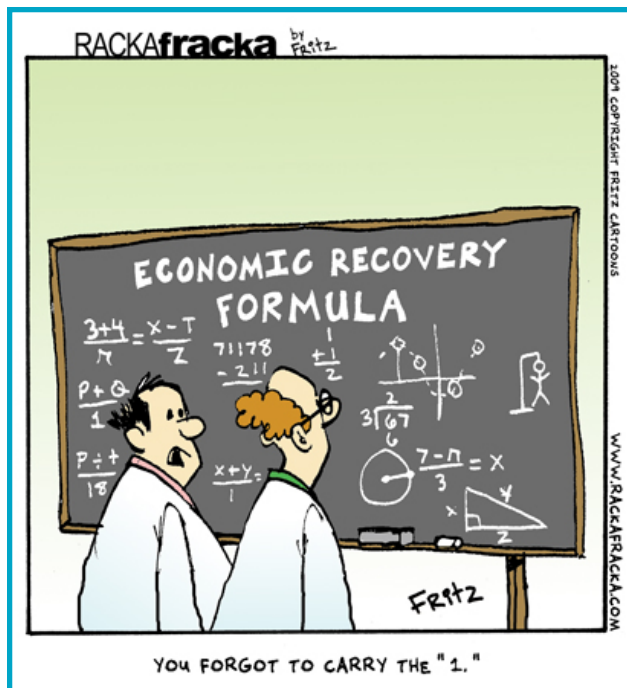


ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND A STRONGER ECONOMY

By Matt Matayoshi



As the nation recovers from a challenging recession companies across this country are quietly working to do things more efficiently and effectively. Mason County companies are no exception to this.

It is becoming a well known trend that companies are identifying means to do things better, faster, and more efficiently. Corporations are finding that those areas of business that they have dabbled in but were not core to their mission have been jettisoned to better enable them to focus on their core business.

Sims Vibration a manufacturer of vibration reduction equipment has made several actions in this direction. Sims a company that manufactures products that go into major national brand products such as Remington and Louisville Slugger thought they would take a slice out of the high end cheese market. Following the economic downturn Sims made a strategic decision to focus on their core mission and cut free from the cheese production business. Sims identified other ways that they could focus on the core business.

Not only has Sims refocused the organization they have also found ways to eliminate waste. Sims has identified their niche.

Sims has doubled their efforts to find focus on their core business which is research & development and innovation of products.

Steve Sims has no shortage of ideas and products to serve industries that are hungry for new technologies that improve their existing products.

You can find Sims technology in everything from baseball bats, golf clubs, rifle recoil pads, and their staple market of hunting bows.

Other industries that are effected by the economy is the forest products industry. In some cases our local forest products companies have benefitted from changes across the globe. Hard times have led to the closure of mills in Canada that compete directly with local mills. Another factor that has changed the dynamics of business is an earthquake in Chile which has disrupted the short term production of forest products coming out of that country.



Economic Development Council
of Mason County



LUNCHEONS

AUGUST 13, 2010

OCTOBER 08, 2010

DECEMBER 10, 2010

1	Little Creek Casino Hotel	720*	26	Our Community Credit Union	85
2	Shelton School District	641	27	Shelton Health & Rehab.	85
3	Washington Corrections Center	626	28	Welco - Skookum Lumber Co.	85*
4	Mason General Hospital	542	29	Peninsula Credit Union	84
5	Wal-Mart	365	30	Stretch Island Fruit	72
6	Mason County	360*	31	Manke Lumber Company	66
7	N. Mason School District	351	32	Catholic Community Services	65
8	Taylor Shellfish, Inc.	325	33	Sims Vibration Laboratory	65*
9	Squaxin Indian Tribe	260	34	QFC	60*
10	Olympic Panel Products	255	35	Washington DSHS	59*
11	Simpson Lumber Company	210	36	Hood Canal School District	54
12	Island Enterprises (inc. subsid)	156	37	Shelton Family Medicine	52*
13	Fir Lane Health & Rehab.	156*	38	Belco Forest Products	50
14	Mason County Forest Products	140	39	Techwood	49
15	Alderbrook Inn	125	40	Lumbermen's	45*
16	Safeway	121*	41	Brady Trucking	44
17	Mason County PUD No. 3	116	42	Gillis Auto Center	44
18	Fred Meyer Marketplace	115*	43	Olympic Fabrication	44
19	Skokomish Indian Tribe	113	44	Hiawatha Corporation	42*
20	Alpine Way Retirement	106	45	Grapeview School District	40*
21	City of Shelton	105	46	Mary M. Knight School	38*
22	Green Diamond Resource Co.	100	47	Shelton Post Office	38*
23	Pioneer School District	98	48	Olympia Oyster Co.	33
24	Exceptional Foresters, Inc.	92	49	Hood Canal Communications	30
25	Manson Transit	87	50	Prov. Sound HomeCare & Hospice	30*

* DENOTES A 2009 NUMBER

TOP 50 MASON COUNTY EMPLOYERS