

BRIEFS  
**LOCAL**

**Heartland releases year-end numbers**

Heartland Bancshares recorded a better-than-\$1 million income for 2005. Heartland recorded net income of \$1.27 million for the year ending Dec. 31, an increase of 4.41 percent over 2004. The company also had a net income of \$363,000 for the fourth quarter, an increase of 55.82 percent over the fourth quarter 2004. Total assets grew \$11 million to \$197 million at Dec. 31 from \$186 million at Dec. 31, 2004, including loan growth to \$125 million and deposit growth to \$162 million. Also, **Robert Richardson** and **Steven Reed** recently were hired to the board of directors at Heartland and the company's subsidiary Heartland Community Bank. Information: 738-3915

**Company celebrates 20 years in business**

Mark IV Environmental Systems Inc. in Greenwood is hosting an open house. Owners **Bonnie and Mark Stansbury** are celebrating 20 years in business. They service all types of heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment and also have a division that distributes ice cream and frozen-beverage equipment, ice machines and fryers. The open house will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at 1012 N. Bluff Road, Suite A. All of Mark IV's equipment will be either running or on display. Information: 889-3744

**Financial adviser receives honor award**

A Greenwood financial adviser for Waddell & Reed received the company's honor award. **Janette Koon**, the senior financial adviser at the firm at 399 N. Madison Ave., Suite 101, will be presented the award in June. Koon has worked in the industry for more than 20 years. She joined Waddell & Reed in 1993 and has a bachelor's degree from the University of Indianapolis. Information: 887-1764

**Southside man named account executive**

A southside resident was named key account executive for Seyfert Foods in Indianapolis. **Joe Mulinaro** has worked for 20 years in the snack-food business as a zone manager with Mike-Sell's Potato Chip Co. He and his wife have six children and nine grandchildren.

**Jobless rate drops to 4.7%, lowest level since mid-2001**

By JEANNINE AVERSA  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON**

The nation's unemployment rate dropped to a 4½-year low as businesses cranked up hiring in January, an encouraging sign that the economy started the year on the right foot. The latest jobs picture, provided by the Labor Department on Friday, suggested that companies are feeling better about the economy's prospects as well as their own and thus are more inclined to hire. Good weather in parts of the country also helped, especially for construction work. The unemployment rate dropped from 4.9 percent to 4.7 percent, the lowest since July 2001. For blacks, the rate fell to 8.9


**"There's no question we're getting back to better days for job creation."**

Ken Mayland  
Economist at  
ClearView Economics

percent, the best since September 2001. The unemployment rate for Hispanics dipped to a five-month low of 5.8 percent. "The economy fired on all cylinders in January," said economist Sung Won Sohn, president of Hanmi Bank. Payrolls grew by 193,000 in January, up from 140,000 in December. Job growth for December as well as for each of the months going back to August


turned out to be stronger than the government previously reported. Employment gains were fairly widespread last month. Construction, manufacturing, health care, financial activities and other industries boosted payrolls. That blunted job losses in other areas including retailing, government and broadcasting. "There's no question we're getting back to better days for job creation," said Ken Mayland, economist at ClearView Economics. "There's been a sense of unease in the American workplace and this should help relieve that."

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