

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM INC

Form 8-K

January 30, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):

January 27, 2004

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

0-20288
(Commission File Number)

91-1422237
IRS Employer Identification No.

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1301 A Street

Tacoma, WA 98402

(Address of principal executive offices) (zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (253) 305-1900

Item 5. OTHER EVENTS

On January 27, 2004, we issued a press release announcing that Mark W. Nelson, Executive Vice President and Senior Credit Officer, has been named Chief Banking Officer for Columbia Bank. In this new position, Mr. Nelson will lead the bank's commercial and consumer lending and branch banking functions, as well as the Private Banking, Marketing, Cash Management, and International departments. A new Chief Credit Officer will be named at a later date.

A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

Item 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS

(a) Financial statements. not applicable

(b) Pro forma financial information. not applicable

(c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release dated January 27, 2004 announcing appointment of Mark W. Nelson as Chief Banking Officer

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: January 29, 2004

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.

By: /s/ Melanie J. Dressel

Melanie J. Dressel

Chief Executive Officer