

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

BPA rate makers signal not to expect October rate increase

An anticipated electric power wholesale rate increase of up to 15 percent, long signaled by Bonneville Power Administration, is off the table for now.

Instead, BPA is considering manipulating rates over the next two to three years in a way that the cost of power would go up five percent on average over that period.

During that time power rates would fluctuate, even decreasing in some half-yearly periods.

The good news is, likely, there will be no increase in the cost of power provided by Clark Public Utilities, according to CEO and general manager **Wayne Nelson**.

"Based on current information, we are confident we can avoid an increase in October," Nelson says.

Had BPA stuck with a 15 percent increase this October, a retail increase likely would have followed for Clark's customers.

Council pulls recommendation to help with Meier & Frank expansion costs

The Vancouver City Council last night pulled a staff recommendation to sign an agreement with Meier & Frank owner, May Company, that would give the retailer water and sewer line relocation assistance, worth \$100,000, for a proposed Meier & Frank expansion at Westfield Shoppingtown.

The council, which hadn't seen the proposal before last night's session, will take a closer look at the recommendation in a workshop session later this summer.

Employment improves in county, state

The 9.8 percent April unemployment rate in Clark County declined to 9 percent in May, according to the state Department of Employment Security.

The state unemployment numbers also decreased from 7.3 percent in April to 7.1 percent in May.

The national unemployment rate stood at 5.8 percent in May.

According to the department, Clark County gained 1,500 jobs during the month, to a total of 168,600. During the same period the labor force declined by 100 workers to 185,300.

Two big Backyard Concerts set for WSU Vancouver amphitheater this week

The Washington State University Vancouver outdoor amphitheater is the venue for two *Columbian* Backyard Concerts at 7 p.m. Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21.

Friday night, the big show is bluegrass instrumentalists **Misty River**.

Curtis Salgado, harmonica virtuoso and jazz, blues, soul and gospel legend, headlines the Saturday concert.

There is no charge for the concerts at the Salmon Creek campus, located at 14204 NE Salmon Creek Avenue.

La Center organizations get another \$20,000 from casinos

The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington

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awarded the second round of 2003 grants, totaling \$20,750, from the La Center Casinos Charitable Fund.

The La Center Community Library is receiving \$10,000, and the La Center Lions Club is getting \$6,000.

The charitable fund, supported by the Last Frontier, New Phoenix, Palace, and Double Down Casinos, has contributed over \$60,000 to La Center organizations in the past year.

Fire Fighters' local endorses Leavitt

The Fire Fighters Union, Vancouver Local 452 has endorsed the Vancouver City Council candidacy of **Tim Leavitt**, reports local president **Bill Garlington**.

A fund raiser for Leavitt, who was appointed to the city council in January, is at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, in Rose's Deli balcony at 8th and C Streets. Call **571-5718** for reservations.

People

Riley Crabtree's music composition, "Troll's Tea Party," has been chosen by the Young Composers Project at Portland State University for a performance by the professional musician ensemble **FearNoMusic**. Crabtree is a fifth-grade student at Image Elementary School.

News briefs

The Northeast Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, in the county Operations Division community center, 4700 NE 78th Street. ~~ESB~~

Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18. ~~ESB~~ The Responsible Growth Forum meets at 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, in the Heathman Lodge

Tuesday on the air

Bravo! Vancouver: Benny Rides Again—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Anaheim at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KOTK

Board of Clark County Commissioners (6/17)—7 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Alaska Air Group	20.80	+.25	Linear Technology	33.24	-.06
Alcoa	26.60	+.32	Microsoft	25.96	+.57
Amazon.com	35.84	unch	Nautilus	11.46	-.04
Bank of America	79.84	-.05	Nike	55.67	+.45
Bank of Clark County	15.60	unch	Nordstrom	19.64	+.67
Bemis	48.12	-.12	PepsiCo	44.88	-.62
Boeing	36.15	-.26	Precision Cast	31.15	+.58
Boise Cascade	24.96	-.05	RLRN	23.03	+.28
CenturyTel	34.33	-.15	Starbucks	24.45	-.31
Costco	35.80	+.13	TSM	10.60	+.44
Expeditors Intl.	33.55	-.55	Tektronix	22.29	+.15
Georgia Pacific	18.06	+.16	US Bancorp	24.93	+.03
HPQ	21.64	+.26	Wash. Mutual	43.89	-.01
Intel	21.45	-.42	W. Coast Bancorp	17.72	+.12
Kyocera	60.21	+.35	Weyerhaeuser	50.36	-.54

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Town Tabloids and The Weather

Mary Clark , celebrating with an all-star cast, takes limousine down memory lane. ESB	Acapulco	90/73
Linda Lawyer setting up memorable evening. ESB	Athens	87/68
Debbie Abraham, Flossy Wager and Joey Fuerstenberg getting special thank you. ESB	Chicago	80/60
Rhonda Carey predicting incredible golf scores. ESB	Dallas	85/68
Tuesday , one more great day, clear, 86.	Hong Kong	83/77
Wednesday , cloudy, cooler, possible light showers, 73.	Los Angeles	74/62
Thursday , cloudy but dry, 70.	London	77/56
	New Orleans	88/74
	New York	71/60
	Orlando	92/74
	Paris	76/53
	Phoenix	107/78
	Rome	90/69
	Seattle	78/54
	Sydney	65/43
	Tokyo	75/66
	Washington	70/61