

Despite soaring gas prices, utility expects to hold line on electric rates

While purchases of natural gas used to produce electricity at Clark Public Utilities' River Road Generating plant will climb to an estimated \$7.10 per million Btu in 2005, up from an average of \$4.80 during 2004, the utility does not expect to increase retail electric rates.

About half of the utility's electricity is produced by its gas-powered turbine plant.

General manager and CEO **Wayne Nelson** said this week, "Every possible effort would be made to avoid an increase in rates next year."

According to Nelson, the utility will use savings from the recent Bonneville Power Administration rate decrease and a financial surplus planned for this year to help offset the higher gas costs.

Nelson says he believes that the natural gas price spike is probably temporary.

Bigfoot subject of tonight's discussion by authors Molly Gloss and Robert Michael Pyle

Authors **Molly Gloss** (*The Jump-Off Creek*) and nature writer **Robert Michael Pyle** (*Wintergreen: Rambles in a Ravaged Land*) will discuss the legends and landscape of the Pacific Northwest at 7 p.m. tonight in the Student Services Building at Washington State University Vancouver.

WSU Vancouver professor of history and director of the Center for Columbia River History **Sue Armitage** will facilitate the discussion.

The Center for Columbia River History is a consortium of the Washington State Historical Society, Portland State University and WSU Vancouver.

There is no charge for the event.

Lewis & Clark Plaza opens doors with Jefferson peace medal replicas

A crowd of officials, guests and visitors were welcomed with Jefferson Peace Medals at a ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening downtown Vancouver's newest apartment building and "historic site."

Lewis & Clark Plaza, 621 Broadway, was officially opened by **Elie Kassab**, president of Prestige Development and developer of the 46-unit affordable senior housing project.

It is also a Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, featuring life-size bronze sculptures of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Sacagawea and a native American chief by Battle Ground artist **Jim Demetro**. Other artists contributing to the interpretive center are **Christina Demetro** and **Frank Haddadin**.

The foyer of the four-story building is given over to the story of the Lewis and Clark expedition. In addition to the statues, the story of the Corps of Discovery is told through art panels. The interpretive center will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Several Clark County schools have already booked class tours of the elegantly descriptive center.

The housing development is a partnership among Prestige Development, the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, Community Housing Solutions, PNC MultiFamily Capital, Guardian Management and Key Bank. Emmons Architects designed the downtown building, which was built by Seabold Construction.

Cancer Center volunteers sought

Southwest Washington medical Center is seeking volunteers to participate in teams at its Cancer Center. No previous experience is necessary, according to spokesperson **Karin Davidson**.

A training session will be at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the medical center. For further information, or to register, call Davidson at **514-3125**.

Capt. William Clark Park construction set to begin

A groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the Capt. William Clark Park is at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5, at Cottonwood Beach, Washougal. The park, a product of a cooperative effort among Clark County, Port of Camas/Washougal, and the Cities of Camas and Washougal, is to be completed by August 2005.

The park was designed with input from the public.

Clark Culinary Arts gets quid pro quo

The Clark College Culinary Arts program is hosting five interns from the Oregon Health Sciences University dietetic program this fall. The interns will be learning about volume feeding procedures and retail sales in the food industry.

In exchange, the OHSU students will make presentations to culinary arts students on topics of nutrition and careers in the health industry for nutrition.

News briefs

The Animal Protection & Control Advisory Board meets in regular session at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Hazel Dell Sewer District offices, 8000 NE 52nd Court. 🍷 A potluck retirement lunch celebrating **Mike Jendro**'s retirement after 31 years with Clark Public

Utilities is at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 29, in the community room of the utility operations Center.

Thursday headlines from at home and around the world:

[KOMO-Seattle P-I poll shows governor's race tightening as Rossi erodes Gregorie's lead--Seattle P-I, **Kerry Murakami**](#)
[State elections chief worries about election legal battles--Columbian, **Don Jenkins**](#)
[Sam Reed confident in state's voting system--Oregonian, **Foster Church**](#)
[Regulators approve average natural gas increase for residential users of about 20 percent--Columbian, **Gretchen Fehrenbacher**](#)
[Arsenic-free water won't come cheap to well owners--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)
[Dual-purpose plaza unveiled--Columbian, **Julia Anderson**](#)
[In our view: A bigger hospital--Columbian editorial](#)
[Security breach temporarily closes three concourses at PDX, airport traffic back to normal this afternoon--KATU](#)

Thursday on the air

Video Voters' Guide—5 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Mari Greves reciting the WBCs at the Free Clinic luncheon. 🍷 **Tom Ohling** prescribing endorphins. 🍷 **Kathy Davis** putting imposter on hold. 🍷 **Ed Lynch** out and about with nary a gimp. 🍷 **Bob Schwarz** putting exclamation point on third generation. 🍷 **Harold Abbe** extolled as sign-miester. 🍷 **Mike Heywood** dissecting tangled weave. 🍷 **Cliff Barbour** doing backup chores. 🍷 **Thursday**, mostly grey and drizzly, 56. **Friday**, gray, some showers, clearing in the afternoon, 60. **Saturday**, gray and rainy, 55.