

Electric utility signs up nearly 1,000 new customers in July

In one of the biggest one-month surges in history, Clark Public Utilities in July signed up 985 new residential customers.

The single-month record boosted the 2004 total of new residential customers to 2,521, for an annual rate of growth of 2.81 percent. Until July the utility was averaging about 260 new residential customers a month.

For the first month in 2004, residential electric sales were above projections. During July, residential customers used an average of 964 kilowatt hours of electricity and paid \$76.63 for the power.

Hang on to punching tools, chads are still with us

Notwithstanding artwork in the information supplied by state secretary of state **Sam Reed**, Clark County ballots, although in color, are the same old punch card devices Clark County voters are used to.

The real difference in ballots, is that voters must choose and vote only one color—green for Republicans, blue for Libertarians, and red for Democrats. In addition, white ballots are for nonpartisan candidates and issues. All voters get to use the white ballots.

Absentee voters will get one each of all colored ballots, but must vote only one and toss the other two in order for their votes to count. Absentee ballots are in the mail now for the Tuesday, Sept. 14, primary election.

Microsoft beaming free programs to WSU Vancouver students

Through the Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance program, Washington State University students on all campuses may download free Microsoft software programs.

WSU is the first university west of the Mississippi where the MSDNAA program is available to all students in every field of study. The exceptions are the Microsoft Office Suite of programs, which includes Word, Access, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. Microsoft's operating program Windows XP Professional is downloadable though the program, however.

WSU-Vancouver students began returning to fall classes yesterday.

Northwest Cancer Specialists opening second office in October

Northwest Cancer Specialists, a subsidiary of US Oncology, is opening a second cancer treatment office in Clark County in the Gateway Medical Center, in Salmon Creek at 2501 NE 134th Street. The new office will be staffed by two medical oncologists when it opens in October.

Northwest Cancer Specialists main cancer center, at 201 SE 136th Avenue in east Vancouver, is staffed by four medical oncologists and two radiation oncologists and two gynecological oncologists.

People

Leann Johnson has been appointed to the state Arts Commission by Gov. **Gary Locke**. Johnson, manager of cultural services for the City of Vancouver, will serve a term that ends in July 2007. 🇺🇸 U.S. Sen. **Patty Murray** (D-Wash.) today was appointed to a bipartisan Senate working group that will examine how best to implement the 9/11 Commission's recommendations dealing with reform of the Senate's oversight of intelligence and homeland security. The appointment was made by Senate majority leader **Bill Frist** (R-Tenn.) and Senate Democratic leader **Tom Daschle** (D-S.D.).

Labor Day's Taste of Vancouver bringing Quarterflash Michael Allen Harrison, Linda Hornbuckle, Pink Martini

K. C. Fuller' all-star lineup for the 5th annual Fred Meyer Taste of Vancouver, promises a musical four-day Labor Day weekend at Esther Short Park, Friday, Sept. 3, through Monday, Sept. 6.

Some of the acts are **Quarterflash**, **Michael Allen Harrison**, **Linda Hornbuckle**, **Pink Martini**, **The Crazy 8's**, **The Retros**, **Curtis Salgado**, and **Pepe & The Bottle Blonds**.

Admission is \$5 Friday and \$10 on each of the days following. For further information, go to www.thetasteofvancouver.com.

News briefs

The Clark County Long Range Planning Division is presenting the details of the county's new Home Business Ordinance at 5 p.m. today in the Dollars Corner Fire Station, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue. 🇺🇸 The League of Women Voters of Clark County primary election forum for county commissioner and 17th Legislative District candidates is at 7 p.m. tonight in the Rose Besserman room at the C-TRAN Fisher's Landing Transit Center. 🇺🇸 Founder's Day, honoring the founding of the U.S. Park Service, is celebrated with free admission to Fort Vancouver, 1115 E 5th Street, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 🇺🇸 The final free family movie this summer, sponsored by First Independent Bank, in the Regal Cinema 99 in Hazel Dell is *Spy Kids 3D: Game Over*, at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25. Children and parents of all ages are admitted free. 🇺🇸 Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25.

Others' headlines

[Clark College finds \\$17 million--Columbian, **Don Jenkins**](#)

[Clark College's president Wayne Branch "looks for money," finds finds \\$22 million--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)

[Vancouver go tighten up fireworks laws but permit fireworks sales--Columbian, **Justin Carinci**](#)

[Vancouver School District board reduces spending by \\$2.6 million, adopts budget--Columbian, **Amy McFall Prince**](#)

[Health officials reopen Kline Pond after temporary weekend closure--Columbian, **Erik Robinson**](#)

[Republicans trying to get 3rd District away from Brian Baird--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)

[Thunder Success Academy gives freshmen a boost at Mountain View High School--Oregonian, **Jason Begay**](#)

[Top Pentagon officials blamed for Abu Ghraib prison abuse--USA TODAY, **Dave Moniz**](#)

[Two Russian airliners crash almost simultaneously in separate accidents south of Moscow--Washington Post., AP, **Steve**](#)

[Gutterman](#)

Tuesday on the air

Clark County Focus—5 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up—5:30 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes—6 p.m. CVTV

Fruit Valley Landfill Hearing (8/10)—7 p.m. CVTV

Tampa Bay at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KKAD

Tacoma at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Town tabloids and the weather

Greg Kimsey helping make explanations simple. 🙌🙌 **Byron Hanke** had point taken well. 🙌🙌 **Jim Sanders** making perfectly good sense. 🙌🙌 **Toni Gress** catching up on Clark County. 🙌🙌 **John Idsinga** planning for big crowd. 🙌🙌 **Tuesday**, cloudy and rainy, 68. **Wednesday**, clouds and light showers, 68. **Thursday**, rain letting up, sunbreaks, 72.