

**Jessica Crouch named 2004 Fair Queen**

**Jessica Crouch**, Skyview High School senior, has been crowned queen of the 2004 Clark County Fair.

Crouch, who competes in equestrian events, is a member of the 4-H Thunderhooves and the state High School Rodeo Association.

Moreover, Crouch has been on the high school honor roll the past four years, is a member of the National Honor Society, is a Scholar Athlete and is the recipient of the Renaissance Award.



**Jessica Crouch**

Fair princesses are **Nikki Lamphear** and **Lindsey Rice**, both seniors at Character Academics Marketplace High School.

Queen Jessica and her court will represent the fair as youth ambassadors. The 2004 Clark County Fair is August 6 through 15.

**Kurt Creager to stay with the Vancouver Housing Authority**

The Vancouver Housing Authority has given its executive director **Kurt Creager** a new five-year contract, with an option for five additional years.

Creager had been a candidate to become the head of the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority.

Creager said today: "New Mexico offered a great opportunity. However, the Vancouver Housing Authority is motivated to continue on the path of innovation with the current team in place. In comparison, the Vancouver offer was much more competitive in both the long term and the short term."

Vancouver Mayor **Royce Pollard**, who appoints the members of the housing authority board, said today that the VHA is poised for change and a new expanded mission.

"Given Creager's decision, I'd like to see the VHA designated as a community renewal authority," the mayor said, adding, "I am pleased with the pace of revitalization downtown, and I would like to see similar reinvestment in the outlying business districts and neighborhoods."

**Natural gas increase for residential customers likely to be 6.5 percent**

Although NW Natural Gas Company filed for a nearly 15 percent increase in rates last November, the increase, expected to be effective July 1, is likely to be about 6.5 percent for residential customers.

According to the company, the increase would be about \$2.17 per month for an average residential customer.

The state Utilities and Transportation Commission,

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meeting June 10 in Olympia, is expected to adopt the 6.5 percent increase already agreed to by the commission staff, the Citizens Utility Alliance and Northwest Industrial Users.

The company requested the increase to cover costs of complying with new pipeline safety regulations, expanding underground storage, making service improvements, and meeting insurance and employee health benefits.

Natural gas rates based on the cost of natural gas are set annually in the fall.

**Local math and science teachers getting \$346,000 boost through WSU Vancouver**

Washington State University Vancouver has been awarded a \$346,000 grant from the state Superintendent of Public Instruction to help teachers within Education Service District 112 improve mathematical and scientific literacy for students in southern Washington school districts.

WSU Vancouver faculty members **David Slavit** and **Tamara Nelson** will be in charge of the program that will focus on enhancing teaching skills for teachers in grades 6 through 12.

**News briefs**

Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening in Port offices at 111 W Division Street. ~~SES~~ The Bi-State Coordination Committee meets at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, May 27, in the 6th floor training center in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. The agenda focuses on a future Interstate-5 crossing of the Columbia River.

**Wednesday on the air**  
Carter Review Committee (5/20)—3:30 p.m. CVTV  
**Seattle Mariners at Cleveland (live)—4 p.m. FSN, KFX**  
County Home Business Ordinance Hearing (5/24)—6 p.m. CVTV  
**Omaha at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**  
Vancouver Planning Commission (5/25)—10 p.m. CVTV

**Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, May 26, 2004**

Alaska Air Group	20.85	unch	Linear Technology	39.48	+1.12
Alcoa	31.00	-37	Microsoft	26.14	+0.04
Amazon.com	44.69	+1.07	Nautilus	15.42	+0.01
Bank of America	82.94	+50	Nike	70.89	+2.24
Bank of Clark County	20.00	unch	Nordstrom	40.19	+1.18
Bemis	27.30	+11	PepsiCo	53.30	-52
Boeing	44.76	+06	Precision Cast	44.35	+1.41
Boise Cascade	35.18	+44	RLRN	21.50	-02
CenturyTel	29.75	-41	Starbucks	39.67	+09
Costco	37.44	+10	TSM	9.84	+28
Expeditors Intl.	45.80	+18	Tektronix	31.21	+58
Georgia Pacific	35.45	+56	US Bancorp	28.08	+38
HPQ	21.25	+23	Wash. Mutual	44.25	+1.67
Intel	28.37	+27	W. Coast Bancorp	22.11	-77
Kyocera	81.90	+1.77	Weyerhaeuser	60.42	+37

**DOW: 10,117.62 -7.73 NASDAQ: 1976.15 +11.05 S&P: 1114.94 +1.89**

**Town Tabloids and The Weather**

<b>Bruce Gateley</b> has great juke box notion. <del>SES</del> <b>Larry Swatosh</b> is the first to say hello. <del>SES</del> <b>Will Pollard</b> sharing keys. <del>SES</del> <b>Darrell Brandenburg</b> reviewing Ogden Meadows site. <del>SES</del> <b>Gary Boggs</b> picking 49ers. <del>SES</del> <b>Wednesday</b> , more clouds, heavy afternoon showers, 63. <b>Thursday</b> , windy and cooler, possible precipitation, 61. <b>Friday</b> , a little sun may return, 64.	Acapulco 91/73 Athens 73/55 Chicago 68/52 Dallas 89/74 Hong Kong 85/76 Las Vegas 86/65 Los Angeles 71/56 London 62/46 New York 72/62 Orlando 92/71 Paris 67/46 Phoenix 92/68 Rome 73/50 Seattle 70/52 Sydney 67/40 Tokyo 75/61 Washington 85/66
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