

Oregon natural gas customers hit with rate increase; Clark County not far behind

Oregon NW Natural gas customers will see rate increases of 18 percent for residential customers and 20 percent for commercial customers, the Oregon Public Utility Commission agreed Tuesday.

NW Natural last Friday filed for a 20 percent residential natural gas rate hike with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. If approved, the new rate would become effective Nov. 1.

The increase for the average residential customer, who uses about 65 therms a month, would add \$12.51 to an average monthly bill of \$62.96.

Soaring wholesale rates for natural gas, reflecting a balance between supply and demand, is the root cause for NW Natural's requests for rate increases, according to **Randy Friedman**, NW Natural's gas supply manager. Some of the higher cost is for construction of a new transmission line and a new temporary adjustment charge.

Friedman adds: "The gas price outlook may be improving. Many industry experts believe that as new supplies, such as liquefied natural gas from other countries enter the American market, wholesale gas prices will stabilize and possibly decrease."

Camas Youth Advisory Council showcasing political candidates

A candidates forum for all 18th District state legislative candidates, sponsored by the Camas Youth Advisory Council, is at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11, in the new Camas High School Auditorium, 26900 SE 15th Street.

The youth advisory council is a group of ten Camas High School students who advise the City of Camas and the Camas School Board on youth-related issues.

The focus of the forum is youth-oriented issues. Candidates invited to attend are Republicans Sen. **Joe Zarelli**, Rep. **Ed Orcutt**, and **Richard Curtis**, and Democrats **Dave Seabrook**, **Pam Brokaw** and **Brian Beecher**.

For further information, call **Sarah Mills, 834-0860**.

Ghost Stories on Officers Row a mix of mystery and history

Ghost Stories on Officers Row, an October tradition that closes Officers Row to all but performers and the audience, offers story telling, music and dance performances with a historic flair between 5 and 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.

The evening begins with a parade of characters from the east end of Officers Row to the reviewing stand at the traffic circle on the west end of Officers Row.

The annual family-oriented event offers entertainment on porches, in parlors and on the grounds of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve along Evergreen Boulevard and Officers Row. Vendors will be in attendance offering entrees, snacks, desserts and hot and cold beverages.

General admission is \$5; children 3 to 12, and citizens 55 and older, \$3. Advance tickets go on sale Monday, Oct. 4, in the Marshall House, 1301 Officers Row.

NE 20th Avenue to open Friday

NE 20th Avenue, closed for nearly half a year as part of the reconstruction of Highway 99 and NE 20th Avenue realignment near NE 134th Street in Salmon Creek, is expected to open Friday, Oct. 1.

The new section of NE 20th Avenue is between NE 129th and 134th Streets. Lane restrictions will be in place on the NE 20th Avenue bridge until completion of the realignment project next spring.

Red Cross offering 41 blood drawings in October

Forty-one Clark County blood drawings are being sponsored by the Southwest Washington Chapter of the American Red Cross during October.

Fifteen of those blood drawings are in the Red Cross Donor Center, 6300 NE St James Boulevard. Regularly scheduled drawings there are 1 to 7:30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, and 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday.

Blood donors must be at least 16 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. For further information, call **695-8522**.

Riverview Elementary inviting parents to Celebration of Math night this evening

To introduce the Evergreen Schools' district-wide math program, "Growing with Mathematics," all Riverview Elementary School students and their parents have been invited to a Celebrate Math Night at 6 p.m. this evening.

Teacher teams from each grade level have organized family-oriented math activities and games. For further information, call **Judi DesRochers, 604-6625**.

News briefs

A ribbon-cutting ceremony opening the new City University campus at 12500 SE 2nd Circle, suite 200, is at 4:30 p.m. today. 📍 A fundraiser for the **Don Carlson** Republican 49th District Senatorial reelection campaign is at 5:30 p.m. today in the Hostess House, 10017 NE 6th Avenue. 📍 The Portland International Airport Noise Compatibility Study Advisory Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. today in the first floor Commission Room in the Port of Portland Administration Building, 121 NW Everett Street. 📍 A special meeting of the

Vancouver Parking Advisory Committee, studying parking rates, is at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Marshall Conference Room in the Esther Short Building, 610 Esther Street.

Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Mount St. Helens VolcanoCam \[updates every five minutes\]--USDA Forest Service, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument](#)

[Live camera at Mt. St. Helens--KGW-T \(video\)](#)

[Earthquakes ramping up, "increasing likelihood of a Mt. St. Helens eruption," but not a repeat of the big 1980 blast--KATU](#)

[Cowlitz's Mary Kiona 's image may rub off on Tribal effort to create casino--Columbian, **Tom Koeninger**](#)

[Hockinson students advancing--Columbian, **Amy McFall Prince**](#)

[County OKs \\$60 million in bond sales to reduce debt costs, finance health center and fairgrounds exhibition hall--Columbian, **Erin Middlewood**](#)

[The Hoop health club to close Oct. 15--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)

[A study by a Seattle-based environmental group found traces of a toxic flame retardant in the breast milk of 40 women tested in the Northwest--Seattle Times, AP](#)

[SpaceShipOne reaches unofficial altitude requirement after scary ride--USA TODAY, AP. **John Antczak**](#)

[Expos going to D.C. in time for 2005 opening game--Washington Post, **Thomas Heath** and **Lori Monrgomery**](#)

Wednesday on the air

Homicide Victims Day of Remembrance—6 p.m. CVTV

Seattle Mariners at Oakland—7 p.m. FSN, KFXN

Telecommunications Commission (9/1)—7 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (9/23)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Santa Claus changing into his **Cliff Barbour** suit. 🗝️ **Betsy Williams** smoothing processes. 🗝️ **Colleen Kahawara** flipping switches. 🗝️ **Micah West** thinking ahead. 🗝️ **Larry Swatosh** looking for gingerbread house builders. 🗝️ **Darrell Brandenburg** recalling presidential campaign. 🗝️ **Scott Harris** planning on a grand crowd. 🗝️ **Brian Riverman** making cover in living color. 🗝️ **Wednesday**, partly cloudy, should be dry, 70. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 72. **Friday**, sunny, 75.