

Rodeo Week upon us, mayor proclaims

In preparation for the Vancouver Rodeo, Friday, July 1, through Monday, July 4, Mayor **Royce Pollard** has proclaimed this week Rodeo Week.

The rodeo, in the Clark County Saddle Club, 10505 NE 117th Avenue, opens at 7 p.m. Friday with a bull bash. Rodeo events continue Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. and Monday at 1 p.m.

Tickets range from \$6 to \$25 and may be bought at the gate. For further information, call **896-6654**.

Hilton Vancouver Washington grand opening to benefit SWIFT

A "gala," black-tie grand opening of the Hilton Vancouver Washington and the Vancouver Convention Center, Saturday, Sept. 17, will benefit Southwest Washington Forward Thrust, according to grand opening sponsors.

Proceeds from the affair will also be used to underwrite a day-long party the next day in Esther Short Park.

The gala evening, which includes dinner and dancing, begins about 6:30 p.m. in the park, from where revelers will parade to the hotel.

For additional information on sponsoring tables or gala tickets, call **April Stevenson, (503) 504-9898**.

County growth continues

Clark Public Utilities added 423 new residential customers during May, utility finance director **Rick Dyer** reported to utility commissioners Tuesday. Through the end of the first five months of the year, the utility signed up 1,582 new residential customers, representing an annual rate of growth of 2.41 percent.

In comparison, the utility's residential customer base grew by 1,236 customers during the first five months of 2004.

Firstenburg Community Center pavers still available

One-foot-by-two-foot paving stones being placed on the outdoor terrace of the community room in the Firstenburg Community Center are still available to the public for \$100 each. The pavers will be inscribed at the donor's request. Proceeds from the sale of pavers will benefit community parks and recreation programs.

The Firstenburg Center, to open later this summer, is the first full-service center built by the City of Vancouver since the Marshall Center was built in the 1960s.

The 80,000-square-foot structure, serving east Vancouver at 700 NE 136th Avenue, cost over \$21 million, \$3 million of which was a donation from **Ed and Mary Firstenburg**, owners of First Independent Bank.

There will be no fees associated with the use of the senior lounge, teen lounge or game room. Memberships and drop-in fees apply to the use of the multi-purpose fitness facilities, however.

For further information on the Firstenburg Community Center, go to www.vanclarkparks-rec.org. For information on buying a paver or joining the fitness center, call project manager **Vicki Vanneman, 619-1113**.

Urologist George Dechet and medical center doing prostate repairs with laser

A new laser system under trial at Southwest Washington Medical Center is providing quick relief for those suffering from an enlarged prostate, according to medical center spokesperson **Ken Cole**.

George Dechet, a urologist at the Urology Clinic of Southwest Washington, is using a new photoselective vaporization system to vaporize and precisely remove enlarged prostate tissue, rather than use invasive surgery.

Patients experience symptom relief immediately or in a short time and very little inconvenience or down



Vancouver's Jessica Crouch is Queen of the Vancouver Rodeo, July 1-4 at the Clark County Saddle Club. She is a sophomore at West Texas A & M University.

time, according to Dechet.

While surgery is effective, in most cases it requires a hospital stay and up to six weeks of recuperation, according to Dechet. Patients undergoing the laser process are discharged from the hospital the same day.

Calendar

The organizational meeting of the Clark County Wetlands Work Group is at 4 p.m. today in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. ☞ Clark County Commissioners meet in an informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 29, in the Public Service Center.

Tuesday headlines from at home and around the world: [Kiewitt Pacific Co., smoothing out bumps on I-205--Columbian, Erin Middlewood](#)
[Body armor vests recalled--Oregonian, Wendy Owen](#)
[Babies getting jumpstart on literacy--Columbian, Tom Vogt](#)
[Users to pay more of court costs--Columbian, Stephanie Rice](#)
[Evergreen Schools to sell surplus property on 192nd Avenue--Columbian, Gretchen Fehrenbacher](#)
[Traffic report confirms: rush hours getting worse--Oregonian, Bill Stewart](#)
[Taliban claims responsibility for shooting down U.S. Chinook helicopter with 15 to 20 aboard in Afghanistan --USA TODAY, AP](#)
[HealthSouth's Richard Scrushy found innocent--USA TODAY, Greg Farrell](#)
[Stocks soar as oil plunges--USA TODAY, AP](#)

Tuesday on the air

Clark County Focus—3:30 p.m. CVTV
Clark County Close Up—4 p.m. CVTV
Clark County First Citizen Award Ceremony—4:30 p.m. CVTV
President George W. Bush (live)—5 p.m. all networks
Seattle Mariners at Oakland (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX
...**Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV**

Town Tabloids and the weather

Don Propstra taking in view from 6th floor. ☞ **Sheri Phares** earning Thursday send off. ☞ **Cheri Cole** getting funny bone repair Friday. ☞ **Jo Jones** connecting again. ☞ **Walt Evans** checking out wheat country. ☞ **Tuesday**, gray in the morning, clearing in the afternoon, 73. **Wednesday**, a really nice day, 82. **Thursday**, mostly sunny, 79.