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Clark Public Utilities approves power and conservation plans

The Clark Public Utilities board of commissioners has approved the broad outline of a plan that is expected to guide the way the utility meets Clark County's future power needs.

Under the plan, according to **Byron Hanke**, president of the utility commission, the utility will continue to buy as much power as possible from the Bonneville Power Administration. BPA's existing resources are currently the lowest cost power available. BPA power currently meets about 70 percent of local needs, with the balance produced at the utility's River Road Generating Plant, which will continue to operate. But, Hanke said, the percentage of power purchased from BPA is expected to fall in future years due to growing demand for electricity.

In addition, the utility will expand its energy conservation programs for residential and business customers in an effort to reduce demand for electricity. The utility has offered conservation programs for more than 30 years.

Beginning in 2012, the utility will be required to buy at least 3 percent of its total power supply from renewable resources, not including existing hydroelectric resources. That requirement, which will increase to 15 percent by 2020, was approved in 2006 by voters as Initiative 937. To meet this requirement, Hanke said the utility will pursue the best available resources. These will most likely be power from one or more of the many wind power projects under construction or planned in the Pacific Northwest.

The plan is somewhat tentative because the utility hasn't received new contracts for BPA power to replace the existing agreement that expires in 2011. Hanke said commissioners would consider modifying the plan, if necessary, once the new agreements are available.

Clark Public Utilities is a customer-owned public utility district that provides electric service to more than 181,000 customers throughout Clark County. The utility also provides water service to about 30,000 homes and businesses in the Hazel Dell, Salmon Creek, Lakeshore, Hockinson, Brush Prairie, La Center, Meadow Glade, Amboy and Yacolt areas.

WSP named best police agency in the nation

The International Association of Chiefs of Police has named the Washington State Patrol the best law enforcement agency in the nation for 2007, according to Gov. **Chris Gregoire**.

Last year WSP was named best state police agency of its size. Gregoire says, "Each of our families is safer because of the lifesaving work done by the men and women of the Washington State Patrol."

WSP chief **John R. Batiste** said there were 70 fewer highway deaths in 2007 than in 2006.

Equipment offers help for voters with disabilities from now to Aug. 19

With ballots due for the primary election by Tuesday, Aug. 19, the Clark County Elections Office remind's voters that equipment is currently available to assist those with disabilities.

The county's "accessible voting unit" is designed to make it easier for voters with impaired vision or limited mobility to vote privately and independently in the Elections Office during regular business hours now and during extended hours on August 19, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To use the accessible voting unit, voters or those assisting them should call the Elections Office, **397-2345**, or send an e-mail to elections@clark.wa.gov. Advance notice will help Elections ensure that equipment and staff are available when needed.

For further information on voting, call **397-2345** or Speech Relay, **(800) 833-6384**

Parts of NE 10th Avenue to close this weekend for paving at 502 interchange

Paving work on the Interstate 5, Highway 502 interchange, that will offer a direct connection between

Battle Ground and the interstate freeway, will close parts of NE 10th Avenue this weekend, according to state Highway Department officials.

The \$56 million interchange, begun in 2007, is expected to be fully operational in the summer of 2009. However, the overpass crossing I-5 could be open for traffic by the end of this year.

News brief

Clark County commissioners will fill an open position on the county Solid Waste Advisory Board with someone living in the southeastern part of the county, according to **Anita Largent**, spokesperson for the county Public Works Department. Southeast Clark County is defined as south of 179th Street and east of Highway 503. For further information, call Largent at **397-6118**, extension **4484**.

Calendar

Johnny Limbo and the Lug Nuts headline the 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, Riverview Six-to-Sunset Concert in Esther Short Park. There is no charge. Food vendors are in attendance. Beverage vendors include Carnelian Rose Tea.

Thursday on the air

Northwest Indian News—4 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Land Use Hearings (live)—6 p.m. CVTV

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

100th Army Reserve Anniversary (7/19)—11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Barbara Kerr melding schedules. <> **Chance McCulloch** building custom vehicles. <> **Walt Evans** may be in line for blue-jeans inspector's job. <> **Grant** and **Kate Jobe** entertaining. <> **Miriam Whiting** sending mail. <> **Abbi Russell** clear and incisive. <> **Thursday**, hot and sunny, 69-97. **Friday**, partly cloudy, 66-98. **Saturday**, sunny, 66-95.