

## **Draft EIS favors Cowlitz casino resort proposal**

Published in the Federal Register yesterday, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and paid for by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe lists the tribal proposal to build a nearly 1.2 million-square foot gambling, entertainment and hotel complex with a recreational vehicle park, tribal facilities, including a cultural center and elder housing, on nearly 152 acres near La Center, as the preferred alternative.

“We are pleased with the quality of the report and remain steadfast in our commitment to mitigate the effects of our project on the land and to our neighbors, including our long-time commitment to improve roads and the I-5 interchange to accommodate traffic,” according to a statement released by the tribe.

The Cowlitz Tribe has asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs to acquire the La Center property to hold it in trust for the tribe; has asked the Secretary of the Interior to issue a reservation proclamation; and has asked the National Indian Gaming Commission to approve a gaming development and management contract.

According to the DEIS, executive summary:

“The purpose and the need for taking the property into Federal trust, issuing of a reservation proclamation, and approving the gaming development and management contract is to advance the BIA’s ‘Self Determination’ policy of promoting the tribe’s self-governance capacity. The proposed action will facilitate the establishment of a land base for the tribe that will be developed to improve the long-term economic vitality and self-governance of the tribe and its members through the creation of a stable, sustainable source of employment and revenue. Revenues generated from the proposed economic development will be used to support a variety of fundamental tribal governmental, administrative, operational, social and educational programs to benefit tribal members, including the building of governmental offices, a cultural center and tribal elder housing.”

The DEIS is subject to 90-day comment period, during which written comments may be mailed or taken to the Northwest Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Portland.

Additionally, there will be two public hearings, scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, June 14 and 15, in the Skyview High School auditorium.

The BIA serves as the lead agency for the EIS process, with the National Indian Gaming Commission serving as a cooperating agency. Additional cooperating agencies include the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Washington Department of Transportation, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Clark County, the Clark County Sheriff’s Office, Cowlitz County, and the cities of La Center, Vancouver, Ridgefield, Woodland and Battle Ground, and the Port of Ridgefield.

The text of the DEIS may be found by going to [www.cowlitz.org](http://www.cowlitz.org), or <http://analyticalcorp.com>.

## **Bank of Clark County promotes Dominique Merriweather to VP in commercial lending**



**Dominique Merriweather**

**Dominique Merriweather** has been promoted to vice president and commercial lending officer in the commercial lending division of the Bank of Clark County.

Merriweather, who had been a commercial loan officer at the bank, is a graduate of the Western School of Commercial Lending and Concordia University, Portland.

A resident of Clark County, Merriweather is a board member of the Clark County Family YMCA and Intercity Sports Ministries. He is also an assistant track and field coach at Benson High School.

### **Calendar**

The final open house in a current series being presented by the Columbia River Crossing Project begins at 4:30 p.m. today in the Red Lion Inn Jantzen Beach, 909 N Hayden Island Drive. ✎ A reception for **Lynne Griffith**, C-TRAN executive director/CEO, who is leaving to become executive director of Tacoma Transit, is from 5 to 7 p.m. in C-TRAN offices, 2425 NE 65th Avenue. ✎ Clark County commissioner **Steve Stuart** is holding a town hall discussion about local environmental issues at 5:30 p.m. today in the sixth-floor training room in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. ✎ Auditor **Greg Kimsey** is presenting the first in a series of town hall meetings to provide the public with information about the county’s new voting system and other

Clark County Auditor's office activities at 7 p.m. this evening in the county Elections office, 1408 Franklin Street. ☞ A free program providing information on children's media is being offered at 7 p.m. this evening in the Three Creek Community Library, 800 C NE Tenney Road. **Jane Lanigan**, Washington State University Vancouver instructor will lead the discussion. ☞ The second in a series of Internet safety classes, designed to help parents protect children from on-line predators, is at 7 p.m. this evening in Hockinson High School, The classes are sponsored b Evergreen Public Schools.

**Thursday headlines from at home and around the world**

[Casino study released--Columbian, \*\*Jeffrey Mize\*\*](#)

[Public weighs ideas for I-5 Bridge--Columbian, \*\*Thomas Ryll\*\*](#)

[Ashcroft recalls new resolve after 9/11--Oregonian, \*\*Allan Brettman\*\*](#)

[New Edge to sharpen EarthLink--Columbian, \*\*Courtney Sherwood\*\*](#)

[Costco to join Ikea across the river at Cascade Station--Oregonian, \*\*Laura Gunderson and Alex Pulaski\*\*](#)

[Monroe home-painting contractor fires 17 Latino workers who left job to attend rally Tuesday--Seattle Times, \*\*Sanjay Bhatt\*\*](#)

[U.S. Canada crack human smuggling ring, indict 14, Seattle Times, \*\*Brian Alexander\*\*](#)

[Mortgage rates highest since 2002--Seattle P-I, \*\*Jeannine Aversa\*\*](#)

[Retired generals fault Rumsfeld--\*\*Thomas E. Ricks\*\*](#)

[Executive Summary Cowlitz Casino Resort DEIS](#)

**Thursday on the air**

**Seattle Mariners at Cleveland (live)—4 p.m. FSN, KFX**

Clark County Trail and Bikeway System—4:06 p.m. CVTV

Felida Community Park Picnic—4:42 CVTV

City Minutes (4/2)—5:08 p.m. CVTV

**Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—5:55 CVTV**

**Colorado Springs at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**

**Vancouver at Portland Winter Hawks (live)—7 p.m. KCMD**

**Town Tabloids and the weather**

**Brian Scott** coining cyber phrases. ☞ **Alex Meinig** meticulous as ever. ☞ **Carol Lindstrom** adding ments to measures. ☞ **Mike Westby** expanding circle. ☞ **Terrie Pace** facilitating. ☞ **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 59. **Friday**, likely rainy day, 54. **Saturday**, showers likely, 53.