

Identity Clark County opposes Cowlitz Casino

Identity Clark County, a 98-member nonprofit organization concerned with community and economic development issues, surveyed its membership recently and found that 71 percent of those responding strongly opposed the proposed Cowlitz Casino Resort near La Center, reports ICC executive director **Ginger Metcalf**.

Slightly less than one-third of the members participated in the survey.

Of those answering the survey, 16.1 percent indicated neutrality on the issue, 3.2 percent somewhat supported the idea and 9.7 percent strongly supported the casino resort proposal.

Slightly over half, 51.6 percent said that the casino would have a net negative effect on business in southwest Washington. Eighty percent said they believed the casino would have a net negative social effect on southwest Washington.

Following a review and evaluation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the project expected in the next two months, ICC's board of directors will consider taking a formal position on the issue, Metcalf said.

Rodney Strong, dancer, vintner, dies at 78

Rodney Strong, 1945 graduate of Vancouver High School, who became a ballet and Broadway dancer before founding Rodney Strong Vineyards in Sonoma County, California, died this week following a long illness.

Mr. Strong was born in Camas. Following graduation from the Vancouver high school, Mr. Strong studied at the American Ballet Theater in New York.

During the last four years of his dance career, Mr. Strong performed in Paris, where he said, "I developed a taste for wine." On his return to the United States, he and his late wife, Charlotte, settled in Tiburon, Calif., where they began bottling wine. The next step was Sonoma County and wine and vineyard holdings that generated a national reputation.

Vancouver police offering Internet safety presentations

The Vancouver Police Department is offering several opportunities to attend free *Netsmartz* presentations, designed to help protect youngsters from online predators. Taught by Vancouver Police staff, the programs offer parents information on the dangers of the internet.

Pre-registration is not required. The next presentation is at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 23, in Heritage High School. For further information, go to www.vanpolice.org.

People

Riyad Karmy-Jones has joined Southwest Washington Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, P.S. and will practice at the Heart and Vascular Center in the Physicians Pavilion on the Southwest Washington Medical Center campus. Karmy-Jones, who earned his medical degree from the University of Alberta, most recently served as an associate professor at the University of Washington and as chief of thoracic surgery at Harborview Medical Center. Karmy-Jones is certified by the American Board of Surgery, with added qualifications in critical care, cardiothoracic surgery, general surgery and cardio thoracic surgery.

News brief

Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey**'s re-election campaign is presenting its 6th annual Kimsey Pre-St. Paddy's Day celebration and fundraiser from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at Club Green Meadows, 7703 NE 72nd Avenue. Irish step dancers are in attendance. For further information, call **521-6684**. ♪ Students with disabilities are invited to apply to attend the 7th annual Youth Leadership Forum for High School Students with Disabilities, being held in August at Evergreen State College. Application deadline is Monday, May 15. For further information, call **Debbie Hines, (360) 438-3246**.

Calendar

The final workshop presentation of a series on Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Parks & Recreation and Open Space Plans is at 6:30 p.m. this evening in Battle Ground City Hall, 109 SW 1st Street. ♪ The Clark College Women's Chorale and vocal jazz ensembles perform at 7:30 p.m. this evening in the Decker Theatre in the Frost Arts Center at the Fort Vancouver Way campus. **April Brookins Duvic** conducts the chorale. **Janet Reiter** directs the jazz ensemble. There is no charge.

Thursday headlines from at home and around the world

[Dubai company gives up on U.S. port deal, will divest itself of all American interests--Washington Post, Jonathan Weisman and Daniel Deane](#)

[Legislature awards Vancouver funding aid--Columbian, Kathie Durbin](#)

[Salmon Creek businesses may squeeze past moratorium barrier--Columbian, Erik Robinson](#)

[Snow surprises Clark County--Columbian, Jose Paul Corona](#)

[La Center to wait on agreement with Cowlitz Tribe--Columbian, Jeffrey Mize](#)

[Dynamiters expected to implode Trojan Nuclear plant cooling tower in May--Columbian, Thomas Ryll](#)

[Construction underway at Big Al's \\$9 million bowling, sports complex--Columbian, Cami Joner](#)

[Motorists who drive solo won the battle against carpool lanes but may have lost the war--Oregonian, Bill Stewart](#)

[Microsoft's handheld computer, Origami, debuts--Seattle Times, Brier Dudley](#)

[Bill Gates still wealthiest, but 102 new billionaires join list--USA TODAY, AP](#)

Thursday on the air

Home is Where the Heart Is Annual Breakfast—3:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up (3/5)—5 p.m. CVTV

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

Dallas at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. KXL, KMUZ

Oregon vs. Washington (live)—8:30 p.m. FSN, KCMD

Town Tabloids and the weather

Troy Van Dinter coming up with correct spelling. ✂ **Kelly Sills** discovering munions. ✂ **Arlene Johnson** commemorated. ✂ **Steve Mitchell** okays rhododendrons. ✂ **Jane Elder Wulff** conducting Singalong. ✂ **Thursday**, scattered snow showers easing in the late afternoon, 42. **Friday**, possible snow or hail, gray and gnarly, 46. **Saturday**, sun samples returning, 51.