

## **Vancouver chamber board votes business park over Indian casino**

A business park on 152 acres near La Center on I-5 is preferable to a casino, the board of directors of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce declared today to **John McKibbin**, president of the chamber. He said the vote was unanimous.

A chamber task force reviewed the Bureau of Indian Affairs Draft Environmental Impact Statement addressing the proposed Cowlitz Indian casino and resort near La Center. Of six alternatives in the DEIS the task force selected Alternative D, which describes a possible business park.

"The business park is a great option where business is concerned," McKibbin said, adding, "the findings in the DEIS show that, compared to a casino, the business park alternative would have significantly less negative impact on the environment, local businesses, property values and traffic flows. Additionally, the business park alternative would create thousands of high-wage jobs."

A business park, McKibbin said, would create employment for 2,991 employees with an average wage of \$49,000. The DEIS suggests that a casino would provide employment for 3,151 persons at an average wage of \$28,000.

McKibbin said a business park would support long-term economic development efforts and infrastructure enhancements suitable for the area. The addition of a business park would not negatively affect existing businesses but would serve as an anchor to the Discover Corridor already planned for the surrounding property.

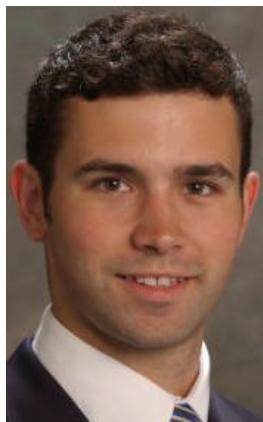
The Cowlitz Indian Tribe proposes to build a half-billion-dollar casino and resort on the property that would also serve as a tribal headquarters and would provide for additional commercial activities.

The DEIS is the subject of two evenings of public hearings being conducted by the BIA at Skyview High School, 1300 NW 139th Street, beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, June 14 and 15.

## **Bank of Clark County hires two**



**Amaya Urzaa**



**Justus Polling**

The bank of Clark County has hired **Amaya Urzaa** as an assistant vice president and commercial lending officer in the commercial and industrial lending department. Also hired is **Justus Polling** as an assistant loan officer in the commercial and industrial lending department.

Urzaa, a Portland State University graduate, has ten years' experience in banking. She is a volunteer with the YWCA domestic violence shelter and the Yolanda House, and participates with Junior Achievement.

Polling, a graduate of Oregon State University, is a member of Young Professionals of Portland and the United Way.

## **County commissioners carving out new Planning Department**

Clark County will create a new Planning Department from the Community Development Department, county commission chairman **Marc Boldt** announced today.

The new department will be headed by **Marty Snell**, who currently is the Long Range Planning Division manager. **Richard Carson**, the director of the Community Development Department, will continue to manage the ongoing implementation and application of county policy pertaining to development, construction and safety of specific sites for residential commercial and industrial uses, according to Boldt.

The new department's primary focus will be developing, maintaining and updating the comprehensive growth management plan, Boldt said. Establishing a distinct department will allow a more focused approach to planning, zoning and related efforts, he added.

## **Job figures hard to figure out**

The State Department of Employment Security headlined its report on May employment as follows: "Washington's economy enjoys 34th month of solid growth."

Now read this from the report:

"May marked the 34th consecutive month of job growth in Washington, with employers adding 2,100 non-

farm jobs.

“At the same time the number of people who are employed decreased for the first time in five months.

“The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose four-tenths of a percentage point to 5.1 percent in May. While the number of filled and available jobs grew, the number of people who were employed dropped by 21,200.”

The Employment Security Department’s report for May showed Clark County had a reduction of 3,000 employed workers during the month. In May 2006, the report shows 188,000 employed. In April 2006, the county had 191,000 employed workers. In May 2005, the number of employed workers was 188,300.

**News brief**

**Greg Flakus**, owner of Vancouver’s GF Strategies, one of the nation’s leading food and beverage service consulting companies, has been hired by the City of Flint, Mich., to assess the food, beverage and sales operations for the Genesee County Living History Museum in Crossroads Village.

**Calendar**

The campaign kickoff for Democratic 49th District state representatives **Bill Fromhold** and **Jim Moeller** is 5 to 7 p.m. today in My Friends and I Restaurant, 1010 Broadway. ☞ The C-TRAN board of directors meet in regular session at 5:15 p.m. today in administration offices at 2425 E 65th Avenue. The board will hear a 60-minute report from the Columbia River Crossing project. ☞ Republican Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey**’s re-election campaign kickoff is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. today in the Columbia Arts Center, 400 W. Evergreen Boulevard. ☞ Clark County commissioners will meet in an informal session at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 14, in conference room B in the Public Service Center. ☞ The Celebrate Freedom Flag Day celebration is at 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, in Vancouver Barracks at the parade grounds across from the Restaurant at the Historic Reserve, 1101 Officers Row. ☞ The Columbia River Crossing Task Force meets at 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, at 1434 N. Vancouver Avenue, Portland.

**Today’s headline stories**

[President Bush makes surprise visit to Baghdad; conferring new Iraqi president Nouri al-Maliki--Washington Post, \*\*Michael Abramowitz\*\*](#)

[Vancouver city council turns down latest proposal to increase business license fees--Columbian, \*\*Jeffrey Mize\*\*](#)

[Vancouver vet to be honored at Flag Day observance--Columbian](#)

[Clark College trustees won't complete evaluation of president in June--Columbian, \*\*Howard Buck\*\*](#)

[Report shows Ridgefield police force in turmoil--Columbian, \*\*Stephanie Rice\*\*](#)

[Family, friends remember funny caring Andrew Brinkley--Columbian, \*\*Kelly Adams\*\*](#)

[Murdock foundation donates more than \\$240,000 for engineering and computer labs at Washington State University Vancouver--Columbian](#)

[OHSU tram tower suddenly materializes--KATU](#)

[King County judge strikes down Eyman's 2001 property tax initiative--Seattle Times, AP,](#)

[Gene Johnson](#)

[Property tax limits struck down--Seattle P-I, \*\*Chris McGann\*\*](#)

[State employment dropped in May--Seattle P-I, \*\*Dan Richman\*\*](#)

[Stock fall continues--USA TODAY, AP](#)

**Tuesday on the air**

Clark County Focus (5/25)—4 p.m. CVTV

Clark College Orchestra Spring Concert—4:30 p.m. CVTV

**Seattle Mariners at the Athletics (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFX**

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

**Vancouver Planning Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV**

## Town Tabloids and the Weather

**Gregg Herrington** drumming up scholarship support. ✂ **Glenn Lamb** and **Carl Landerholm** glad handing. ✂ **Chuck Dryke** bowing heads. ✂ **John Allen** stopping in to say hello. ✂ **Dean Sutherland** awash in new technology. ✂ **Tuesday**, mostly gray, chance of rain showers, 68. **Wednesday**, partly cloudy but dry, 68. **Thursday**, clouds to be pierced by sun, 70.