

First of two casino presentations tonight

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Department of Interior are holding two informational meetings on the process by which the Cowlitz Indian Tribe will be judged on its application for tribal land status to build and operate a casino and resort on 230 acres between Ridgefield and La Center on I-5.

The first public meeting is at 7:00 p.m. this evening in the Prairie High School's auditorium, 11500 N.E. 117th Avenue. The second is at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in the Fort Vancouver High School auditorium, 5700 E 18th Street.

Representatives from the Department of Interior, Department of Interior's Solicitor's Office, regional Bureau of Indian Affairs, and National Indian Gaming Commission's General Counsel's office will be present to explain their respective roles in the application process and to answer questions.

Representatives of the Cowlitz who favor the casino-resort project, and representatives of various factions in Clark County who are opposed to the project, are expected to begin arriving at the high school by 6 p.m.

Clark County to get 10 percent of state's "special" federal funds

Of \$42 million available to the State of Washington from the federal government for special transportation enhancement projects, Clark County is in line for \$4.5 million, reports county commissioner **Steve Stuart**.

Stuart is a newly appointed member of the Statewide Enhancement Advisory Committee that makes recommendations of how the federal money will be doled out.

The county will get \$1.47 for the statewide Lewis and Clark Confluence project. Most of this money will go to the Confluence Land Bridge in Vancouver. Another \$1.6 million is to be allocated specifically to the land bridge.

A Washougal downtown improvement project is slated to receive \$543,000. The Chelatchie Prairie Railroad/trail will receive \$450,000 to plan and construct the first phase of a trail from Battle Ground to Battle Ground Lake.

Southwest Washington Medical Center schedules dancing in Heathman Lodge

Southwest Washington Medical Center is joining in a national program promoting dancing and heart health, with a 10 a.m.-to-2 p.m. dance session Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Heathman Lodge.

The program is part of the 2006 Spirit of Women National Day of Dance. The free dance day is, according to SWMC spokesperson **Ken Cole**, "designed to prove that exercise can be both enjoyable and beneficial to the heart. It combines dancing with different forms of music, including jazz, tap, Hawaiian, Irish and Scottish."

Physicians from Cascade Heart and The Vancouver Clinic-Cardiology will answer heart-related questions. In addition to dancing, health screenings and educational demonstrations are to be offered. For further information, go to www.dayofdance.org.

News briefs

Bills for the first-half 2006 property taxes have been put in the mail, reports Clark County treasurer **Doug Lasher**. Lasher says that taxpayers who do not pay their taxes through their mortgage company and who do not get their tax statement by the end of this month, should call the Treasurer's office, **697-6054**.

Calendar

The Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership meets at 4 p.m. this afternoon in Port of Vancouver Administrative offices, 3103 NW Lower River Road. ⚡ An informational meeting about the prior learning assessment partnership of Clark College and Marylhurst University, leading to a bachelors degree, is at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Penguin Student Union, Room 258, on the Clark College campus. ⚡ An explanation of how special courts within the Clark County District Court system work is being offered at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the hearing room of the 6th floor of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. Presiding judge, **Darvin Zimmerman**, and judges **Vern Scheiber**, **Kenneth Eiesland** and **Rich Melnick** will make presentations. ⚡ A reception for retiring Clark County Public Information and Outreach director **Lianne Forney** is from 2:20 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in the sixth floor PIO office in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. ⚡ A reception for retiring Clark County Planning Commission members **Vaughn Lein** and **Carey Smith** is from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in the sixth floor hearing room in the Public Service Center.

Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world

[Evergreen names John Deeder interim superintendent--Columbian, **Howard Buck**](#)

[Evergreen school boss quits--Columbian, **Howard Buck**](#)

[Christensen abandons recycling project that would have benefited nonprofits, but agencies may profit anyway--Columbian, **Erik Robinson**](#)

[ACLU decries approval of library filters--Oregonian, **Holley Gilbert**](#)

[Federal agencies will offer information on how they will process casino application--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)

[Hilton Vancouver Washington making the grade--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)

[Frigid air could deliver winter cold spell--KATU](#)

[Five passengers treated after Alaska jet pressurization problem--Seattle Times, AP](#)

[Cheney: "You can't blame anyone else"--MSNBC, AP](#)

Wednesday on the air

GOP :Lincoln Day Dinner (2/10)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

Portland Blazers at New Orleans (live)—5 p.m. KXL, KMUZ

Home Is Where the Heart Is Breakfast (2/10)—6 p.m. CVTV

Tri City at Portland Winter Hawks (live)—7 p.m. KCMD

Telecommunications Commission (1/18)—7:30 p.m. CVTV

People's Court (2/1)—9 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Fire Department Graduation (2/1)—10 p.m. CVTV

How Does Annexation Promote Strong Communities? (2/7)—10:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Diane Quall practicing her ehs. ☞ **Jane Halcomb** taking turkey to turkey. ☞ **Bud Weis** practicing buenos noches. ☞ **Pam McDonald** getting results. ☞ **Marge Brown** promising more pictures. ☞ **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 47. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 43. **Friday**, freezy, possibly snowy,36.