

La Center gambling interests supported Mielke campaign

Card room operators in La Center last year contributed \$8,546, in cash or in-kind, to the unsuccessful Republican candidate for Clark County Commissioner, District 3, **Tom Mielke**.

Mielke, a former state legislator, lost a close and contentious race to Democrat **Steve Stuart**, who had been appointed to the board of commissioners a year earlier.

According to records on file with the state Public Disclosure Commission, Mielke received a total of \$3,000 from M. T. & M. Gaming, 105 W 4th Street, La Center. Dragonslayer Inc. contributed \$3,100 to the campaign. Dragon Slayer's address is listed as 225 W 4th Street, the same address as the New Phoenix and Last Frontier

Mielke reported on Sept. 22, 2005, that New Phoenix Food Service 105 W 4th Street, La Center, made an in-kind catering contribution valued at \$2,396.

Mielke raised slightly more money than did Stuart in a race that turned out to be the most expensive county commissioner contest in history. Mielke reported that he raised \$204,442.63. Stuart's report showed he raised \$202,087.21.

"During the campaign, Mielke said he was opposed to gambling and to the Cowlitz Tribe's project," *The Columbian* reported in a front-page story this morning. "The former state legislator predicted the casino would 'destroy all of the small communities around it.'"

The Columbian story reported that the Progressive Majority, a Washington, D.C., political action committee, spent an unsolicited \$86,562.56 in the form of mailing pieces to help Stuart win the election. *The Columbian* story also asserted that **David Barnett**, leader of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's drive to get federal approval to build and operate a casino and resort at the I-5 La Center interchange, had contributed \$100,000 to the Progressive Majority last year.

The *Columbian*'s story can be found by going to <http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/02222006news954.cfm>.

Violinist Elaine Skorodin headlines Vancouver Symphony performances

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra features **Elaine Skorodin**, in a performance of Beethoven's *Violin Concerto*, during two concerts separated by a gala fundraiser this weekend.

Because of the gala event at the Hilton Vancouver Washington Saturday evening, the first of a pair will be at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24. The second concert will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26. Both concerts are to be performed in the concert hall of Skyview High School, 1300 NW 139th Street.

Skorodin is a major prize winner of the Paganini International violin competition and has performed with major orchestras worldwide.

Also on the concert bill is Schumann's symphonic fantasy, *Symphony #4*.

Reserved seating is \$35, general admission is \$25, and students are admitted for \$5.

Insider readers may win pairs of free tickets for either concert by correctly giving the title of the hour-long musical talk that precedes most concerts. Answers should be emailed to thevso@vancouverSymphony.org.

Clark students go to Olympia asking legislators to help students with disabilities

Clark College students and brass went to Olympia today to press legislators for additional support for the state Educational Opportunity Grant Program to help accommodate students with disabilities.

The issue is of particular importance in Vancouver, reports Clark President **Wayne Branch**, who accompanied the students. Branch says Clark College is the next step on the educational path for many students completing studies at Vancouver's state schools for the deaf and the blind.

Students pressing the proposal were **Mariah Acton, Christina Baghdanov, Lukas Bardue, Benjamin Hayford, Mark Lewis, Amanda Mayoral, Nicole Laura Porter** and **Justin Taylor**.

Calendar

A campaign kickoff and fundraiser for Democratic candidate for the Clark County Clerk's office, **MarCine Miles**, is at 5 p.m. this afternoon at the home of **Kelly Puntaney** and **Mike Shepherd**, 5401 Scenic Lane, Unit 205. ☞ The Columbia River Economic Development Council quarterly investment luncheon is at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23, in the Heathman Lodge.

Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world

[Vancouver-based LogiTel prepares new launch, significant growth--Vancouver Business Journal,](#)

[Jodie Gilmore](#)

[Wal-Mart forum brings out the opposition--Columbian, Jonathan Nelson](#)

[Groundbreaking for Columbian's \\$30 million building at Esther Short Park is March 6--Columbian,](#)

[Julia Anderson](#)

[U.S. 25th in the nation in K-12 education outcomes, comptroller says--Columbian, Tom Koeninger](#)

[Some of Cowlitz Tribal leader's political action contributions wind up in county commissioners' race--](#)

[Columbian, Jeffrey Mize and Kathie Durbin](#)

[Senate passes LIFT bill which could help Vancouver projects--Columbian, Kathie Durbin](#)

[Portland may turn to cell phone tax to help beleaguered schools--Oregonian, Anna Griffin and](#)

[Ryan Frank](#)

[Landing at Evergreen, site of former airport may be expanding retail, residential and office plans--](#)

[Oregonian, Allan Brettman](#)

[Port headquarters expansion includes offices and conference space--Oregonian](#)

[Shiite shrine in Sunni district blown up--Seattle Times, AP, Ziad Khalaf](#)

[Pope names Levada and O'Malley cardinals--New York Times, John Holusha and](#)

[Keith Bradsher](#)

Wednesday on the air

Vancouver Fire Department Recruit Graduation—4 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up (2/05)—4:27 p.m. CVTV

Peoples Court II—5 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes (2/12)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

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

Portland Winter Hawks at Prince George (live)—7:30 p.m. KCMD

Red Cross Real Heroes Breakfast—7:30 p.m. CVTV

Cowlitz Tribe Casino Application Process (2/15)--CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Boren Biswas making life easy. ☞ **Bill Reid** thankful for late hearts and flowers. ☞ **Angela Meinig** waiting for strings. ☞ **Ethan Jobe** hoping birthday list does the trick. ☞ **Jack Burkman** taking names and addresses. ☞ **Wednesday**, light showers, 46. **Thursday**, additional showers, 47. **Friday**, mostly cloudy, 45.