

Intergovernmental Task force, Cowlitz Tribe to meet Saturday



Outlined in red above is the 152-acre site of the proposed Cowlitz Casino Resort, west of the La Center junction at Interstate 5 and NE 319th Street.

A newly formed Intergovernmental Task Force of Elected Officials is meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, in the sixth floor hearing room in the public Service Building, 1300 Franklin Street, to discuss the proposed Cowlitz Indian Tribe Casino near La Center.

Representatives of the tribe are expected to attend the meeting called by the unofficial group headed by **Richard Curtis**, a member of the La Center city council and a Republican state representative from the 18th Legislative District.

The meeting is open to the public and is expected to draw a large crowd. The Cowlitz tribe, which gained federal recognition in 2000, owns 152 acres on the west side of Interstate 5 at NE 319th Street, the La Center junction. Proposed is a casino, which would be the largest in the state of Washington by half, as well as restaurants, a hotel and convention facilities and parking for 8,500 cars. When in operation the casino alone, which would employ about 4,000, would be the largest single employer in southern Washington.

The request for primary reservation status on the property is before the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. At the tribe's request, an environmental impact statement is being prepared, the results of which are probably a year away.

Further information on the Cowlitz Tribe and the proposed casino can be found on the tribal website at www.cowlitzcasino.com.

State of the County Address to cover big-picture issues

Transportation, the Cowlitz Tribe Casino, the environment and jobs are the issues most frequently described by residents who answered Clark County commissioner **Betty Sue Morris**'s call to the public to give her big picture issues to discuss at the

annual State of the County Address she will give at 11:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4.

Morris, who is chair of the board of county commissioners, will share her perspectives on the past year and discuss challenges that lie ahead during the address in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay. Spirit of the County Awards will be presented during the luncheon.

The event is co-sponsored by the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce. Luncheon tickets are \$30. Reservations are recommended. For further information, call **694-2588**.

Hockinson school levy will benefit students, won't increase tax base

The proposed Hockinson School District three-year special levy of \$6,625,000, which would provide for general fund maintenance and operations expenses, would not increase the taxes in the district since it replaces an existing levy that expires at the end of this year.

The school district levy proposition is one of two measures to be decided at a special election, Tuesday, Feb. 8. Hockinson voters may vote by absentee ballot or go to the polling places on election day, according to Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey**.

The other measure on the ballot for the special election is a request to form a Greater Clark Parks District within the Vancouver urban growth boundary. If the district is formed, revenue provided by the district would allow the county to develop 35 parks and eight miles of trail, the property for which is already owned by the county. The maximum tax would be just over \$40 a year on a \$150,000 residence. The vote on the park district will be entirely by mail.

Leadership Clark County alumni event open to all

Leadership Clark County, which this year will have graduated over 300 community and civic leaders, is holding its 2nd annual Alumni Event Friday, Feb. 11, to which everyone interested in the community leadership program is invited.

Leadership Clark County was founded in 1992 to provide an opportunity for citizens of all ages to gain community knowledge and leadership skills to enable them to be more effective in community involvement. Graduates apply what they have learned to their careers, current community work and new leadership opportunities, and to further develop the LCC program. Many of those graduates now serve in elected office and on boards, commissions and community service organizations throughout the county.

The 5-to-7 p.m. program is in E. B. Hamilton Hall at 600 Barnes Road in Vancouver Barracks. The program includes beverages and appetizers. Admission is \$10 at the door.

News briefs

The Clark County Animal Protection and Control Board meets in regular session at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the 6th floor training room of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. 📍 The sixth annual Ellsworth Elementary School Community Pride Night is at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the gymnasium at 512 SE Ellsworth Road. 📍 The final meeting in a series being held by Evergreen Schools to gain community input for the process of creating new school district boundaries is at 7 p.m. tonight in Mountain View High School, 1500

SE Blairmont Drive.

Thursday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Last year's county growth plan to be reconsidered--Columbian, **Erin Middlewood**](#)

[County revisits growth plan--Oregonian, **Bill Stewart**](#)

[Ridgefield council sets aside money for top notch city manager--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)

[Tim Thompson resigning from Ridgefield city council--Columbian, **Margaret Ellis**](#)

[BPA announces 12.5 percent increase in electric transmission rates; Clark customers may not feel the hike--Columbian, AP](#)

[Three meningitis cases reported in Clark County, **Aimee Clark**](#)

[Sign language comes easy at early age--Oregonian, **Dee Anne Finken**](#)

[Clark County Arts Calendar--Oregonian](#)

Thursday on the air

Annual Legislative Outlook—5 p.m. CVTV

Washington at Arizona (live)—5:30 p.m. FSN

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Oregon at California (live)—7:30 p.m. FSN, KXL

Town Tabloids and the weather

Cathy Treadwell effortlessly politicking. 🍷 **Jan Carlson** supplying the pretty smiles. 🍷 **John Fratt** finds shortcut to Sunriver. 🍷 **Marjorie Hornberger** looking forward to respite. 🍷 **Pat Jollota** reporting sold-out sales. 🍷 **Thursday**, light showers and sunbreaks, 52. **Friday**, gray day, some moisture, 50. **Saturday**, gray but some sunshine may get through, 50.