

Paul McCoy named VP of collections at Columbia Credit



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Paul McCoy, formerly assistant vice president collections at Columbia Credit Union, has been promoted to vice president of the department, reports **Daniel Marciante**, Columbia's chief financial officer. McCoy, who has been with Columbia for the past seven years, is a graduate of Oregon State University. Active in the community, McCoy is a volunteer for the Blind Olympics and the Red Cross.

Task Force of elected officials formed to assess casino impact

State Rep. **Richard Curtis**, (R-18), who is also a La Center city council member, has announced the formation of a task force of governmental officials whose purpose is to identify and address projected impacts of a proposed Cowlitz Tribal casino on 152 acres west of I-5 at the La Center junction.

Curtis says, "The task force will focus on educating southwest Washington elected officials on the positive and negative impacts of the proposed Cowlitz Tribe development, which could include an 800,000-square-foot casino, hotel-convention center, recreational vehicle park, gas station-truck stop, restaurants, retail complex and tribal facilities."

The task force will meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, in the sixth-floor hearing room in the Public Service center, 1300 Franklin Street, according to Curtis, and expect tribal representatives to make a presentation.

Curtis says those attending an organizational meeting December 30 included the following: State Reps. **Ed Orcutt** (R-18th) and **Deb Wallace** (D-17th), State Sen. **Joe Zarelli** (R-18th), Clark County commissioners **Steve Stewart** and **Marc Boldt**, Battle Ground mayor **John Idsinga**, and councilmember **Sandra Barnes**, La Center mayor **Jim Irish** and councilmember **Dale Smith**, Vancouver city councilmembers **Tim Leavitt** and **Larry Smith**, Port of Ridgefield commissioner **Joe Melroy**, and port director **Brent Grening**. According to Curtis, State Rep. **Bill Fromhold** (D-49th) and State Sen. **Don Benton** (R-17th) have indicated they would participate.

Deadline to register for February 8 election looms

Deadline for voter registration for two special elections to be held Tuesday, Feb. 8, is Monday, Jan. 24, reports Clark County elections supervisor **Tim Likness**. Registration must be done in person at the county Elections Department, 1408 Franklin Street.

Two special elections involve voters in the Hockinson School District, who are being asked to approve special levies in the amount of \$662,500, and the urban growth boundary outside the City of Vancouver, where voters are being asked to form and fund a metropolitan park district.

The Hockinson levy request is for maintenance and operation over a three-year period and could cost property owners \$2.70 to \$2.85 per \$1,000 assessed valuation each year.

If formed, the metropolitan park district would provide funding, through a tax of 27 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation, to maintain 35 new parks and eight miles of trails.

Clark County has the money to develop the parks through a separate tax mechanism but will not develop the facilities unless it has a financial base for maintenance, which the parks district would provide.

NE 112th Avenue connector under discussion this evening

Although the beginning of construction is just a little over a year away, state Department of Transportation and City of Vancouver officials are presenting plans for the I-5, Mill Plain boulevard exit connector overpass to NE 112th Avenue at an open house at 6 p.m. this evening in Cascade Middle School, 13900 NE 18th Street.

The \$13.4 million project will provide a direct connection for northbound I-5 traffic to NE 112th Avenue, eliminating the need for motorists to use the Mill Plain exit. A five-cent gasoline tax approved by the state legislature in 2003 is paying for \$12 million of the cost; the rest is being paid by the city.

For further information, call project manager **Jeff Schmidt** at 696-8290, extension 9591.

Heritage High School honors Martin Luther King Jr. Friday

Retired Jefferson High School teacher **Jeffery Brooks** is the featured speaker at the sixth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assembly at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 14, in the school auditorium at 7825 NE 130th Avenue. The program is open to the public.

Performances will be given by the Heritage dance team, band and choir. The Sandy High School Step Team will also perform. For further information, call **Karen Gilliam**, 604-3400, extension 7767.

Women in Action book Joe Kortum

Joe Kortum, president and CEO of Southwest Washington Medical Center, will present his view of the next decade of healthcare in Clark County at the 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, meeting of Women in Action in the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay.

Pre-registration is required. Admission is \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers. For further information, call **Anissa Russell**, 263-6389.

People

Beverly Robinson, executive director of the YWCA of Clark County, will be leaving that organization in February.

News briefs

Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening in port offices at 111 W Division Street. ☘ The final public forum seeking citizen input on the selection of a new superintendent for Evergreen Public Schools is at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Image Elementary School media room. ☘ U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird** is holding a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. tonight in the Rose Besserman Community Room at C-TRAN's Fisher's Landing Transit Center.

Wednesday headlines at home and from around the world:

[I-205 southbound traffic backed up after fatal crash between Airport Way and Columbia Boulevard--KGW-TV, **Abe Estimada** and **Teresa Bell**](#)

[Vancouver urged to nurture local identity--Columbian, **Jonathan Nelson**](#)

[Bus riders lobby C-TRAN board for smaller fare increases--Columbian, **Erin Middlewood**](#)

[Vancouver man pleads guilty in really big scam--Columbian, **John Branton**](#)

[Library district proposes new library for Battle Ground Center--Columbian, **Tom Vogt**](#)

[Christine Gregoire sworn in as governor--KGW-TV, AP](#)

[White House says Iraq WMD search officially over--USA TODAY, AP](#)

Wednesday on the air

Portland Blazers at Washington (live)—4 p.m. KXL, KRMZ

Creative Economy: Vancouver's Funk Factor—4 p.m. CVTV

Portland Winter Hawks at Brandon (live)—5 p.m. KUPL

City Minutes—6 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Close Up—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Planning Commission (1/11)—7 p.m. CVTV

49th District Legislative Town Hall Meeting—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Dan Heine showing off. ☘ **Jim Marten** sending Omaha regards west. ☘ **Barbara Ainslee** giving the troops fair warning. ☘ **Mary Keller** taking care of details. ☘ ☘ ☘ **Wednesday**, gray, sunbreaks, possible showers, 45. **Thursday**, possible cool showers, 40. **Friday**, still cool, mostly sunny, chance of snow flurries late, 40.