

### **Baird asks Department of Interior to hold public meeting on casino**

U.S. Department of Interior Secretary **Gale Norton** has been formally asked by U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird** (D-3rd) to hold a public meeting in Clark County to clarify inconsistencies in information provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the status of the application by the Cowlitz Tribe to build a casino on I-5 near La Center.

In a letter dated today to Norton, Baird said: "In an effort to clarify these inconsistencies and provide the residents of southwest Washington with the complete and accurate information they deserve, I request that you immediately arrange a public meeting in the region. To ensure that the information provided is as comprehensive as possible, I ask you to guarantee that representatives from all federal agencies with a role in this process, including the Washington, D.C., Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Regional Office, the Office of the Solicitor at the Department of Interior, the National Indian Gaming Commission, and the Office of Indian Gaming Management will be present at the meeting to provide information and answer questions."

Baird also asks Norton to appoint an ombudsman at the Department of Interior to serve as a single point of contact for information pertaining to the tribal applications and the process governing the applications.

According to Baird, his office has been inundated by telephone calls and letters from constituents with questions about the process. He said, "Some of my constituents have reported difficulty in obtaining complete and accurate information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

### **Evergreen to ask voters to extend levy support**

Evergreen Public Schools board last night unanimously approved a resolution calling for a February 7 special election to extend the district's special levy for an additional four years.

If approved, the levy of \$3.11 per \$1,000 assessed valuation would begin in 2007 and conclude in 2010. The current levy expires at the end of 2006.

Levy funds make up approximately 14.5 percent of the district's total operating budget. To be adopted, they levy must receive a 60 percent majority vote from Evergreen voters

### **New Hilton gets award for environmental achievements**

The Washington State Hotel & Lodging Association, holding its annual convention in the Hilton Vancouver Washington, has awarded Vancouver's newest hotel its Enviro-Management Award. The award is based on programs of successful energy conservation, solid waste reduction, water conservation, policy and training.

The hotel is currently registered with the U.S. Green Building Council and is scheduled to receive a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating next year. It would be the first newly constructed freestanding LEED certified hotel in the United States.

The hotel is expected to use 30 percent less energy than similar hotels that do not qualify for LED certification.

### **Soroptimists' election night chili feed to benefit women in need of education**

The Vancouver Soroptimists are holding their second annual chili feed and auction from 5:30 to 8 p.m., on election night, Tuesday, Nov. 8, in the Leupke Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Boulevard. Soroptimist International of Vancouver was formed over 60 years ago by business women in the community who endeavor to improve the lives of women and girls.

The menu for the \$10 dinner includes home made chili, corn bread, salad, cake and a beverage. Auction items include gift baskets, stained glass, audio systems and a motorized scooter.

For further information, call **685-7211** or **835-1544**.

### **Calendar**

An open house discussion of proposed improvements to Highway 99 between NE 99th Street and NE 129th Street begins at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Salmon Creek United Methodist Church, 12217 NE Highway 99. ☞ The Paradise Point Neighborhood Association's annual meeting is at 7 p.m. this evening in the Ridgefield Com-

munity Center, 210 N Main Street. ✍ Vancouver's **Kathy Condon**, nationally recognized speaker and trainer on career transitions, business networking and business communication, presents a networking seminar hosted by the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce from 8 to 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 28, in chamber offices, 1101 Broadway. The cost of the seminar, open to non-members as well as chamber members, is \$40. For details, call **694-2588**.

### Thursday headlines at home and abroad

[Miers withdraws her nomination to Supreme Court--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Vigil honors war's dead--Columbian, \*\*Kelly Adams\*\*](#)

[War protestors mark grim milestone in Iraq--KATU, \*\*Paul Bukta\*\*](#)

[Meeting this evening focusing on casino plan--Oregonian, \*\*Allan Brettman\*\*](#)

[Christian Youth Theater struggling to sell Godspell to the community--Columbian, \*\*Brett Oppegaard\*\*](#)

[Commissioner candidates trading jobs--Columbian, \*\*Erin Middlewood\*\*](#)

[Conference at the Hilton Vancouver Washington addressing needs of gifted students--Columbian,](#)

[Howard Buck](#)

[Fort Vancouver High School students help Spanish and Russian speakers--Oregonian, \*\*Holley Gilbert\*\*](#)

[iPod programs run the gamut--Seattle Times, Knight Ridder Newspapers--\*\*Julia Ojeda Zapata\*\*](#)

[Exxon Mobil profit leaps on oil prices--Washington Post, Reuters, \*\*Deepa Babington\*\*](#)

### Thursday on the air

Early Childhood Learning Forum (9/29)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

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

### Town Tabloids and the weather

**Larry Blaufus** enduring success. ✍ **Tim North** making new contacts. ✍ **Guy Davis** bagging history. ✍ ✍ **Ron Hulse** ahead of the curve. ✍ **John Roniger** entertaining seat mates. ✍ **Thursday**, partly sunny, 59. **Friday**, partly cloudy, showers likely, 58. **Saturday**, cloudy, 50 percent chance of rain, 57.