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YWCA Rock Star Party is Saturday night

The annual YWCA Clark County fundraiser, this year called Party Like Rockstars, kicks off at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3, in the Hilton Vancouver Washington.

Headliner for the \$75 per-person event is **Hollie Vest**, a **Tina Turner** impersonator straight from Las Vegas.

Guests are encouraged to dress as their favorite rock stars or in the alternative blue jean attire.

For further information, call **Jim Watts, 906-9135**, or **Rose Hart, 906-9153**.

Four Columbia River Crossing designs up for public scrutiny and comment

The Columbia River Crossing project released its draft environmental impact statement today, signaling the beginning of a 60-day public comment period that ends Tuesday, July 1.

At the end of the day, the expected preferred alternative will be two new bridge spans and light rail. Expected cost beyond \$4 billion. Financial sources will be tolls, taxes and federal and state grants.

"This document will help the public, stakeholders and decision-makers understand the trade-offs of the proposed alternatives," said CRC Task Force co-chair **Hal Dengerink**, chancellor, Washington State University, Vancouver. "The information and the public's comments will help us select the preferred alternative to remove a bottleneck hurting the economies of the region, the west coast and the nation."

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the examination of potential effects when considering construction of a transportation facility. The project's draft environmental impact statement is a report prepared according to NEPA and other federal regulations and provides a detailed assessment of potential community and environmental effects of the five alternatives under consideration.

The five alternatives analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement include no build, replacement bridge with bus rapid transit, replacement bridge with light rail, supplemental bridge with bus rapid transit, and supplemental bridge with light rail.

These alternatives were selected for detailed analysis based on criteria developed by the project, the Oregon and Washington departments of transportation, TriMet, C-TRAN, Metro, RTC, the cities of Vancouver and Portland, and the 39-member CRC Task Force. To date, four advisory groups and more than 12,000 people have also provided input on project planning.

The draft environmental impact statement is available for viewing and commenting on the project's Web site, www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org. Printed copies are available for viewing at area libraries, community centers and the CRC project office, 700 Washington Street, Suite 300. CDs containing the document are available at no charge by contacting the CRC office at feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org or (866) 396-2726.

County asking BIA how MOU affects their decision on casino

According to Clark County commissioner **Marc Boldt**, the board of commissioners has written a letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs asking specifically how a memorandum of understanding between the county and the Cowlitz Tribe would affect the bureau's determination of whether the tribe could be granted trust lands near La Center for a casino.

The questions posed to the BIA are whether the lack of a memorandum of understanding would mean the tribe would not be granted reservation status to proceed with a proposed casino, and whether with a memorandum of understanding the BIA would automatically grant gambling status to the tribe.

Clark County and the Cowlitz Tribe approved a memorandum of understanding three years ago, but that was declared invalid by the Western Regional Land Use Hearings Board.

In recent weeks the commissioners have held three informational meetings seeking public input on what should be included in a newly proposed memorandum of understanding that would spell out the relationship

between the tribe and the county over tax, public safety and infrastructure issues.

Boldt indicated that the commissioners will not prepare a new memorandum of understanding until they get a definitive answer from the BIA.

El Pollo Loco opens in

Vancouver on Cinco de Mayo

Vancouver is getting the first El Pollo Loco restaurant in the state and it opens Monday, May 5, at 1525 SE 164th Avenue. A public ribbon cutting ceremony is at 11 a.m.

Founded in 1975 in Guasave, Mexico, the company opened its first American restaurant in 1980 and now has 397 restaurants nationwide. Another 35 are planned by West Pollo Partners for Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

Fresh flame-grilled chicken is the specialty of the house. The restaurant will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, and until midnight Friday and Saturday.

People

Former Vancouver city manager **Vernon E. Stoner** has been appointed chief deputy state insurance commissioner, according to the *Vancouver Business Journal*. Stoner has worked for the state twice before, and he has been a city manager at Lacey and Saginaw, Mich., as well as Vancouver.

Calendar

First Friday activities this evening occupy most of the downtown Vancouver art galleries and studios, and most restaurants are open later than usual. Gallery 21, 1013 Main Street, is holding an artists reception from 5 to 9 p.m. <> The Oregon Chamber Players are presenting a concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3, in All Saints' Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Boulevard, Portland. For further information on the \$15 event, call **(888) 626-8788**. <> A nominating convention for the purposes of nominating **Bridget Schwarz** an Independent candidate for Clark County commissioner, District 1, is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 4, in the Three Creeks Regional Library, 800-C NE Tenney Road. For further information, call **573-5873**. <> The Clark County Public Facilities District board meets at 4 p.m. Monday, May 5, in the 6th floor conference room A in Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. <> Port of Camas-Washougal commissioners meet in regular session at 4 pm. Monday, May 5, in port offices at 25 S A Street.

Friday on the air

Seattle Mariners at New York (live)—4 p.m. FSN, KFX

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (4/19)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

New Orleans at Portland Beavers (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Capital Perspectives: Brian Baird (3/27)—7:45 p.m. CVTV

Local Planning Short Course (4/1)—8:30 p.m. CVTV

County Board of Health (4/23)—11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Kelly Adams reporting a good day. <> **Jeff** and **Liz Firstenburg** preparing for July 4. <> **David Alanzo** cranking up new production company. <> **Don Doran** helping alter egos find new job opportunities. <> **Patty Westby's** potluck lunch was rousing success. <> **Friday**, sunbreaks, very light showers, 48-61. **Saturday**, more showers, sunbreaks, 45-64. **Sunday**, partly cloudy, sunbreaks, 46-70.