



Don't Miss
A Day with the Coveys

Thursday, April 10th, 2008 | Oregon Convention Center | firstindy.com/covey



First of three meetings on casino agreement opens tonight in La Center

The first of three public meetings to help prepare a new agreement with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe to mitigate financial and environmental impacts of tribal developments on 152 acres near the La Center I-5 junction is at 6 p.m. this evening in the La Center High School commons, 725 Highland Road.

A 2004 memorandum of agreement between the County and the tribe has been negated by the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board.

Chairperson of the Clark County Board of Commissioners, **Betty Sue Morris**, says the objective is to put together an agreement that is an improvement over what was developed earlier. She says she wants to cover all the bases with something that could protect the county regardless of what the tribe might do with the property.

The U.S. Department of the Interior is in its second year of studying whether to grant the tribe protection of the land and hold it in trust for their uses as a sovereign nation.

A second meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, April 10, and a final session is scheduled at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 15, during a regular meeting of the county commissioners in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street.

In the midst of all of this, the county commissioners, all three of whom have individually said they do not want a casino in Clark County, have scheduled a vote on a resolution opposing the casino. Although the resolution has no legal status, it is expected to be approved with little argument.

The Cowlitz Tribe is proposing a \$500 million casino, which would be by far the largest casino in the Northwest, on 152 acres just outside the city limits of La Center, the only city in Clark County that permits and collects taxes on card rooms.

Conservative author discusses religion and politics Wednesday

The Washington State University Vancouver Public Affairs Lecture Series alternates between conservative and liberal points of view. The 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, presentation in the Skyview High School auditorium, 1300 NW 139th Street, is definitely the conservative side.

Best selling author **Dinesh D'Souza**, *What's So Great About Christianity?*, will speak on "The Crisis at Home and Abroad: Is Religion the Problem?"

D'Souza, a staunch defender of Christianity, argues that Christianity gave birth to Western civilization.

The lecture is sponsored by the WSU Thomas Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service, *The Columbian*, the WSU Vancouver Office of Student Involvement and the WSU Vancouver Office of the Chancellor. Admission is \$10, plus service charge, through Safeway TicketsWest centers. For further information, call **546-9530**.

PDX future gets airings this week

The Port of Portland Airport Futures group will be presenting information on airport noise, traffic and deicing, as well as information on airport construction and a new flight to Amsterdam, during open houses in Vancouver and Portland this week.

The Vancouver open house is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in Discover Middle School, 800 E 40th Street. The Portland meeting is 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, in the commission meeting room in the Port of Portland Building, 121 NW Everett Street.

Klineline bridge could open in October

With demolition of the existing bridge and approaches over Salmon Creek expected to begin this month, Klineline Bridge, on Highway 99, could open in October, according to Clark County construction management officials.

The bridge, which connects the business and commercial highway in Hazel Dell-Salmon Creek, was closed

last winter when it was endangered by washouts beneath bridge supports.

The new bridge will support four through-lanes, left-turn lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks.

The \$9.2 million reconstruction project was awarded to Ostrander Rock & Construction, Longview.

Calendar

The Vancouver City Council meets in a workshop session at 4 p.m. this afternoon. <> The Vancouver City Council meets in regular session at 7 p.m. this evening. <> **John McDonagh**, publisher of the *Vancouver Business Journal*, will discuss the business climate in Clark County at the 7 a.m. Tuesday, April 8, meeting of the Clark County Chamber of Commerce. There is no charge for the breakfast meeting and nonmembers are invited, according to **Walt Ronish**, spokesperson for the chamber. For further information, call **258-1181**. <> Clark Public Utilities' commissioners meet in regular session at 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 8. On the agenda is a discussion of their decision last month to eliminate the appliance repair department. <> The Southwest Washington Blood Program is holding blood drawings from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, and Wednesday, April 9, outside the Student Union Building at Clark College, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way. <> Port of Vancouver commissioners meet in regular session at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 8, in Port offices at 3103 NW Lower River Road. <> Clark County commissioners meet in regular session at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 8. <> Clark County Public Health is discussing the effect of climate change on public health at a "brown bag" meeting from noon until 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, in the Center For Community Health, 1601 E Fourth Plain Boulevard. The meeting is free and open to the public. <> Clark County Communicators meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 8, in the Hula Boy Char Broil Restaurant, 1109 Washington Street. <> The C-TRAN board of directors meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8.

Monday on the air

Vancouver City Council Workshop (live)—4 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver City Council (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Sacramento at Portland (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

West Precinct Community Forum—3/25)—CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

David Bennett enjoying a little time out. <> **Celinda Rupert**, still in the thick of things. <> **Jeff Wriston** handling mistaken identity with aplomb. <> **Nadine Robertson** nearly, but not quite, incognito. <> **Eric Spolar**'s balancing act worthy of *Circue du Soliel*. <> **Monday**, industrial-strength showers, 39-44. **Tuesday**, more showers, 37-50. **Wednesday**, possible early clearing, but afternoon showers resume, 44-54.