Vancouver suit filed to thwart Cowlitz tribe casino plans

The City of Vancouver last Friday filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court against the National Indian Gaming Commission. The suit asks for a declaratory judgment and an injunction setting aside the National Indian Gaming Commission's approval of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's tribal gaming ordinance.

The grounds for the city's lawsuit.

, according to Vancouver city attorney **Brent Boger**, are that tribal casino-type gaming is permitted only on Indian lands. The land on which the tribe is seeking permission to operate a casino are owned not by the Cowlitz Tribe but by a Washington limited liability company, Salishan-Mohegan, LLC.

In addition, the tribe must also have a valid compact with the state which would govern gaming by the tribe, Boger says. He adds that the Cowlitz Tribe does not have a valid compact with the State of Washington that would govern gaming at the proposed casino site. Without a valid compact between the Cowlitz Tribe and the State of Washington, the NIGC lacks jurisdiction to approve any gaming ordinance with respect to the proposed casino site.

Mark Matthias earns Rotary award for business and community work

Mark Matthias, who has a smile and big hello for everyone, has been recognized by the Vancouver Rotary Club and the Columbia River Economic Development Council for his exemplary business and community service

Matthias, owner of Beaches Restaurant and Bar, received the 2008 Vocational and Service Award for the outstanding commitment he has made over a significant number of years in his business and profession and for actions that have generated a lasting positive influence in the community in general.

In 1995, Matthias created Beaches' Charity Fund as a separate nonprofit organization. The organization's fundraising efforts have generated hundreds of thousand dollars in contributions. The goal of the foundation is $1 million by 2011.

Matthias also inaugurated the "Green Eggs and Ham" program in Clark County schools, in which volunteers serve breakfast and promote reading in 48 elementary schools, helping 8,000 children in five days each spring.

Mark Matthias

Matthias also serves on the Board of the Vancouver School District Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington and is active in many other community efforts.

High-capacity study group offers public participation through survey

The public is invited to make comments through a survey posted by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council on proposed intra-county high-capacity transit corridors that are being studied.

Routes under consideration are as follows: Mill Plain Boulevard, Fourth Plain Boulevard, I-5, I-205, Highway 14, Highway 99.Highway 500, and the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad right-of-way.

The survey can be found by going to **http://rtc/wa.gov/hct**.

Frederick Williamson helping Pearson Field compete

Frederick "Willy" Williamson, as the new manager of Pearson Field for the City of Vancouver, has begun coordinating groups that have diverse interests in the airfield and historic site.

Williamson succeeded **Sean Loughran**, who left in February to become an aviation planner for the Port of Portland. For the past four years Williamson had been manager of a private airfield in Falmouth, Mass. Williamson is a licensed pilot and flight engineer.

Pearson Field, owned by the city, is one of the oldest continuously operating airfields in the world and is also a registered historical site. Part of the airfield is on National Park Service land. One of Williamson's projects is to complete an agreement with the National Park Service that will make Pearson eligible for federal aviation grants.

Michael Munk speaks
of local dissent

Michael Munk, author of "The Portland Red Guide," will discuss the City of Portland's heritage of social dissent at noon Tuesday, April 1, at Washington State University Vancouver.

Using maps and photos, Munk will tell stories of Oregon people who and organizations that have fought against repression and injustice.

There is no charge for the event in room 201 of the WSU Vancouver library, 14204 NE Salmon Creek Avenue.

John McDonagh to headline
Clark County Chamber event

John McDonagh, publisher of the *Vancouver Business Journal*, will be the featured speaker at the 7-to-9 a.m. Tuesday, April 8, Clark County Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting in the Hostess House, 10017 NE 6th Avenue.

McDonagh's topic is "The Business Climate in Clark County." There is no charge for the meeting, according to outgoing chamber president **Walt Ronish**. The meeting is open to both members and nonmembers of the chamber. For further information, call **258-1181**.

Calendar

Clark County commissioners meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 1. **<>** The Southwest Washington Transportation Council meets in regular session at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, in the 6th floor training room of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. The council will hear updates on both the Columbia River Crossing Project and the Clark County high-capacity Transit System plan. **<>**

Monday on the air

Texas at Seattle Mariners (live)—3:30 p.m. FSN, KFXX
Vancouver City Council Workshop (3/24)—4 p.m. CVTV
Brian Baird's Capital Perspectives (3/27)—6:30 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver City Council (3/17)—7 p.m. CVTV
Columbia River Crossing Panel Discussion (3/4)—9:31 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Janice Bradley wins prizes, makes cover page. **<> Jane Cooney** dutifully serving cookies and punch. **<> Mary Branze** LOL. **<> Dave** and **Lisa Meyer** planning next big party. **<> Dee** and **Bill Aldridge** hitting the top of the gustatory meter. **<> Monday**, sunbreaks, 31-53. **Tuesday**, sunny, 34-59. **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, a few clouds, 34-64.