



In Our View: Cheers & Jeers

Green eggs and ham really about reading; casino sewer issue mired in bureaucracy

By

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Cheers: To green eggs and ham. First-graders throughout Clark County have been partaking this week in colorful breakfasts honoring one of Dr. Seuss' most famous books. The celebration is in honor of what would have been the legendary author's 112th birthday, and while it ostensibly is about eating an off-beat breakfast, it really is about bringing attention to reading



The event started 21 years ago as the brainchild of Mark Matthias, owner of Beaches Restaurant & Bar, and since has grown to encompass nearly every elementary school in the county. That is a fitting tribute to an author whose books have sold hundreds of millions of copies, helping youngsters throughout the world learn to read. While some might not know what to make of the meal, odds are that most of them someday will proclaim, "I do so like green eggs and ham! Thank you! Thank you, Sam-I-Am."

Jeers: To bureaucracy surrounding the Cowlitz casino project. What should be an easy fix has become problematic for the burgeoning casino near La Center. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe is planning to treat wastewater to drinking-water quality and then inject it into the ground, roughly 120 feet to 220 feet above the aquifer that provides Clark County's drinking water.

This has led to understandable concern, and county officials ordered a work stoppage on the wastewater system. It would be logical for the casino to hook up with La Center's sewer system, but courts have ruled against that because the facility will sit just beyond the city's urban growth boundary. Whatever changes are necessary to allow the casino to join the sewer system should be made as soon as possible to mitigate an unnecessarily contentious issue.

Cheers: To the history of east Clark County. While Vancouver is boisterous about promoting its historical significance, other portions of the county have a story to tell, as well. The Two Rivers Heritage Museum in Washougal has reopened for the season with several new exhibits to illuminate the history of those who settled that area.

Among the creations is a "School Days" exhibit that includes a recently discovered secretary's ledger from 1867. The stones of the Camas paper mill and Pendleton Woolen Mills also are featured, leading the museum's Richard Johnson to note, "Those were the beginning of all this here in east county."

Jeers: To David Madore. The Clark County councilor has gone beyond vague implications and accused county staff of possible crimes relating to information about the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. If Madore has evidence of this rather than innuendo, by all means, it should be investigated, but there are several problems with his assertions.

For one thing, Madore is using his Facebook page to lob accusations before bringing them up in private or in front of the council. For another, he is offering no evidence of malfeasance, only unexplored accusations that unfairly besmirch county staff. Madore's methods are counter-productive and damaging to the county.

Cheers: To scientific innovation. Ryan Boyd of Vancouver is one of 30 winners in NASA's Robotic Arm Crowdsourcing Challenge. Boyd, 34, a junior at Oregon State University, was selected out of 33,000 entrants in a contest to design a robotic arm for a free-flying robot to service the International Space Station.

Having devised the system architecture for such a device, Boyd now moves onto designing specifics for how the creation would work. "I was over the moon with excitement," he said of reaching the next phase of the competition. Over the moon? Sounds appropriate for a contest involving NASA.

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