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Cowlitz building high-tech wastewater reclamation plant



Photo by Mike Schultz

IN AN EFFORT to protect the environment and more easily navigate the required Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permitting process, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe is planning to use a high-tech wastewater treatment process that is designed to meet the most stringent federal requirements.

The multi-million dollar plant will 'reclaim' wastewater before injecting it into the ground

KELLY MOYER
staff reporter

LA CENTER – In an effort to protect the environment and more easily navigate the required Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permitting process, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe is planning to use a high-tech waste-

water treatment process that meets the most stringent federal requirements.

According to Michael Ollivant, a project design and consulting engineer with Parametrix, Inc., the company designing the Cowlitz Tribe's water reclamation system, the advanced water treatment system will essentially take the tribe's wastewater back to drinking water standards before injecting the newly "reclaimed" water 120 feet into the ground. Once underground, the water will pass through even more filtration before entering the groundwater system.

"It's a very robust system," Ollivant says. "It does exceed the minimum requirements for EPA and does produce water instead of treated wastewater."

Citing concerns about the water reclamation system planned by the tribe, Clark County issued a Stop Work Order at the Cowlitz project site on Feb. 26 and then last week the county and its fellow appellants in the federal lawsuit opposing the casino project near the La Center I-5 junction filed

See **COWLITZ** on Page A2

Appellants of Cowlitz casino project seek injunction



Photo from Cowlitz Indian Tribe Facebook page

COWLITZ TRIBE MEMBER David Barnett is shown here tearing up a Stop Work Order that was placed at the site of the tribe's casino project near La Center on Feb. 26. The photo was posted on the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Facebook page.

County and others ask federal judge to halt construction

KEN VANCE
Editor

Clark County and its fellow appellants in the federal lawsuit opposing the Cowlitz Tribe's casino project near the La Center I-5 junction have filed a motion seeking an injunction to halt construction at the tribe's 152-acre reservation site.

Land preparation began at the site last fall and construction of the project began in January. The tribe held an official groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 14. On Feb. 26, Clark County issued a letter to the tribe demanding that the tribe cease and desist all construction at the site. The county also posted a Stop Work Order at the site of the project, which the tribe has said will open in the summer of 2017.

On Feb. 28, Cowlitz Chairman Bill Iyall told *The Reflector* that the tribe would not halt construction. Tribal officials met with county officials last week but no agreement was reached. A photo and video was also posted on the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Facebook page of Tribal Member David

See **INUNCTION** on Page A3

County Council passes new preferred alternative resolution



Photo by JC Cortez

THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL voted 3-1 to accept a new preferred alternative resolution without Alternative 4 provisions last Tuesday, the next step in developing the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update for 2016. The decision reverses an earlier vote by Councilors Tom Mielke and David Madore who voted to accept the first preferred alternative containing Alternative 4.

New framework spells the end of Alternative 4

JC CORTEZ
staff reporter

VANCOUVER – The Clark County Council voted to pass a resolution last week authorized during a previous hearing which cements a new preferred alternative to the county's Comprehen-

sive Growth Management Plan omitting all parts of the controversial Alternative 4 proposal developed last year.

Councilors first crafted the new preferred alternative during a special reconsideration hearing in late February. After dissolving the old preferred alternative, councilors chose new provisions from a menu to

See **COUNCIL** on Page A3

BG community members meet city manager finalists

One of six finalists will be chosen for the job

JOANNA MICHAUD
staff reporter

BATTLE GROUND - Battle Ground community members were able to meet with the six finalists for the position of Battle Ground city manager during an open house at the Battle Ground Community Center on March 3.

Council Member Shane Bowman, who has been heading up the search for the city's new city manager, started off the open house event by thanking Police Chief Bob Richardson, who has been acting as the interim city manager since former City Manager John Williams' departure in December.

"I'm sure the chief feels like it's been about a year," Bowman joked.

Bowman said they received 26 applications for the city manager position and three of the city council members independently reviewed all of the applications and agreed on the six finalists.



Photo by Joanna Michaud

ONE OF THE SIX finalists for the position of Battle Ground city manager, Matthew Brown, talks with Council Member Lyle Lamb during a March 3 Open House event at the Battle Ground Community Center

The six finalists each took a few minutes to introduce themselves to the crowd made up of city staff, council members and community members.

The first to speak for a few minutes was Jeff Swanson, who currently serves as the director of economic development for Clark

See **CITY MANAGER** on Page A2

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Woodland announces Planter's Day Princesses

Girls act as ambassadors, will sell fundraising tickets.

JC CORTEZ
Staff reporter

WOODLAND - Officials in Woodland announced the 2016 Planter's Day princesses who will compete for the title of Miss Woodland during this year's celebration.

Woodland first celebrated Planter's Day in 1922 on the one-year anniversary of the completion of the protective dike which made farming possible in many low-lying areas around the small town.

"It was to celebrate that the dike held," explained John "JJ" Burke, president of the Planter's Day Committee.

Every year, the committee selects a small number of local girls to act as ambassadors for the celebration and sell fundraising tickets. This year's nominees include Jaiden Marshall, Taylor Blatnik, and Calista Clifford.

Calista Clifford is a music lover who sings and plays piano and has been involved in choir since her 5th grade year. She enjoys creative writing, volunteers with the Beaver Boosters and is involved with the Be the Change Program to counter bullying in local schools.

"With the volunteer opportunities I have had, it feels good to give back to the community I live in," Clifford wrote in her application. "Knowing that I am making a difference makes me happy. I would love to represent my community and my home town and show others what the spirit of Woodland is all about."

Jaiden Marshall also sings in addition to her participation in the Woodland High School Equestrian Team, Jazz choir, soccer



Photo courtesy of Noel Johnson

WOODLAND PLANTER'S DAY PRINCESSES Taylor Blatnik, Jaiden Marshall and Calista Clifford will be selling fundraising tickets to support the festival until the event in mid-June. For information on tickets, contact the Woodland Chamber of Commerce at (360) 225-9552.

team, and cross country programs. She volunteers through her church to help struggling families and helps provide Christmas gifts to needy children. She is interested in entomology, marine biology and dermatology and works part time at Woodland Burgerville.

"Woodland community gives me a

sense of belonging and pride to be a part of a caring town that is willing to reach out to others in need," she said of Woodland in her application.

Taylor Blatnik is a National Honor Society scholar who puts extra focus on her grades in addition to an ongoing commitment to the school basketball and volley-

ball teams. She participates in community outreach and fundraisers, as well as helping set up community events like the annual Father-Daughter Ball and various food drives, school supplies fund raisers, and peer mentoring programs. She works at Promise Land Daycare and, as a Running Start program participant, hopes to graduate with her Associates in Science. After that, she plans to attend nursing school.

"The small, but growing, Woodland community means home to me," Blatnik wrote in her application. "To me, the Woodland community is my extended family, and I enjoy watching it flourish and grow."

This year's Planter's Day schedule is still seeing some final tweaks and development, but community members can count on a lot of old favorites returning and some new excitement yet to develop. Plans are already in motion for the Thursday, June 16th children's day events and parade, followed by the Miss Woodland coronation in the evening.

Through the weekend, residents can enjoy the carnival, a car show, barbecue on Saturday, vendors with food and other goodies, and a fireworks show over Horseshoe Lake. A complete schedule of events will be released closer to the event.

Prizes for this year's fundraiser include a \$5,000 cash first prize, a Traeger Big Tex grill and iPad, among others. Tickets will go on sale in several locations as the event nears, but for now all tickets must be purchased from one of the Planter's Day Princesses. People needing to contact a princess can contact the John Burke at the Woodland Chamber of Commerce for details at (360) 225-9552.

Council

Continued from page A1

include in an updated version. Last week, councilors voted 3-1 to accept a resolution making the choice official in order to move ahead to future steps which must be completed ahead of the June Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update deadline.

Debate raged over the Alternative 4 proposal for months last year as councilors Tom Mielke and David Madore fought hard to keep it alive. The Clark County Planning Commission twice rejected the provisions it contained, but the council voted to pass it in spite of the recommendations and opposition from cities throughout Clark County.

Council Chair Marc Boldt vot-

ed with Councilors Jeanne Stewart and Julie Olson to accept the new resolution. Councilor David Madore cast the opposing vote, Councilor Mielke was not in attendance. Several residents at last Tuesday's Council meeting expressed concern and dismay over the decision.

"Rural people are very disappointed in three councilors, who voted to remove Alt 4 elements

of the preferred alternative," said Carol Levanen, secretary of the pro-Alternative 4 group Clark County Citizens United. "Absent corrective action, each of you should expect a huge backlash from those who supported your election who will all work against you in the next election."

John Madsen, who has spoken several times in support of Alternative 4, also talked after last

Tuesday's vote.

"We're just asking for a simple solution for the people in rural Clark County," he said. "Help us out. There's 230,000 acres out in rural Clark County, so there's lots of room for houses out there."

A hearing over the County's rural industrial land bank designation was canceled and rescheduled for next month at 6 p.m. Tue, April 5.

Injunction

Continued from page A1

Barnett ripping the county's Stop Work Order at the project site.

On Thursday, the appellants filed their motion with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, asking for an injunction stopping construction at the Cowlitz site until the court rules on the group's federal appeal of

the ruling that allowed the tribe to take its 152 acres into trust.

In addition to Clark County, the group of appellants include the La Center cardrooms, the city of Vancouver, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Citizens Against Reservation Shopping and neighboring property owners. Oral arguments in the federal appeal are scheduled to be heard March 18.

The county's Feb. 26 letter to

the tribe focused on the tribe's intention to construct an injection well system at the casino site.

"The County understands that the Tribe is currently in discussions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval to inject hundreds of thousands of gallons of wastewater into the ground at the proposed

Cowlitz gaming facility site," the county's letter stated. "Whatever the outcome of these discussions, Ordinance 07-02 does not authorize that proposed discharge, unless and until it complies with applicable County code provisions. The County has a responsibility to protect the environment and public health of all its citizens

and the County insists that the Tribe abide by its own Ordinance on this important issue.

"The County is troubled that the Tribe has not discussed this proposed discharge with the County," the letter read.

Iyall also said the tribe is working with the EPA on its wastewater issues.

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