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RIDGEFIELD 4TH OF JULY



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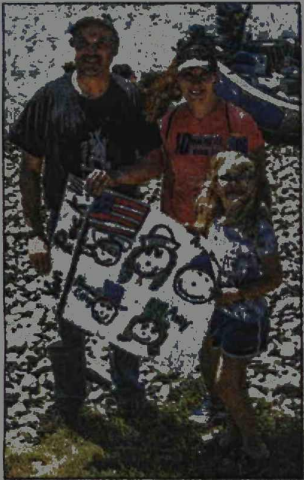
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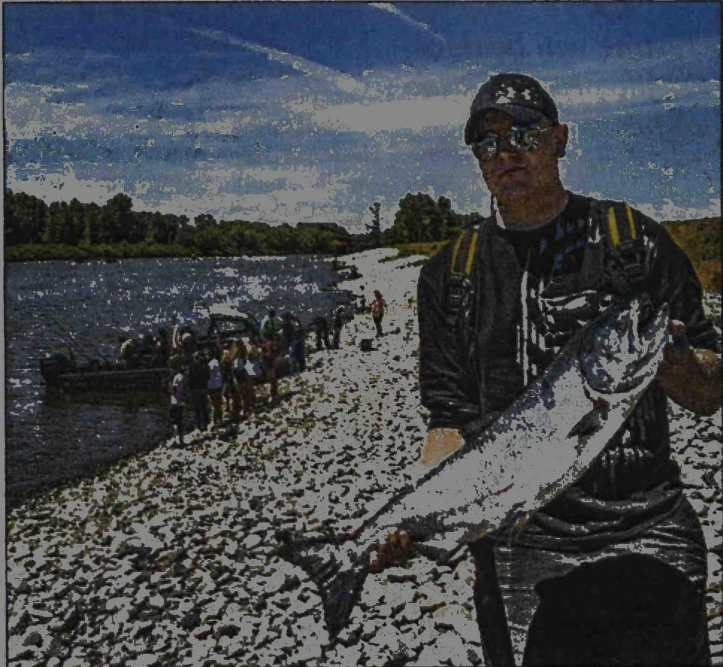
Serving North Clark and South Cowlitz counties, Washington

June 29, 2016

Veterans participate in Operation Salmon Salute early Sunday morning



DION HESS, of Ridgefield, organizer of the Operation Salmon Salute event, stands with Vancouver City Council Member Alishia Topper and Hayden Hunzeker, 7, of Ridgefield. Hunzeker made a poster to welcome back the veterans as they returned to shore with their catches.



SGT. ROBERT CARRIGAN, of St. Helens, came down to the Ridgefield area on Sunday to participate in the Operation Salmon Salute. Carrigan, who is in the U.S. Army Reserves, shows off his catch of the day.

Roughly 140 vets hit the water at 5:30 a.m. to do some fishing

RIDGEFIELD — About 140 veterans and 50 sponsors ventured out on the Columbia River during the early morning hours of Sunday, June 26, to take part in Operation Salmon Salute, a veterans-appreciation fishing outing. This event, which is in its fifth

year, saw its best turnout yet this year. At about 5:30 a.m., vets, sponsors and more than 30 guided fishing boats headed out on the river to catch some fish.

Participants returned around 2 p.m. to weigh what they caught, enjoy a cookout of hot dogs and burgers, and hear from a few public officials, including Ridgefield Mayor Ron Onslow, U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler and Larry

Smith, a former Vancouver City Council member.

Dion Hess, of Ridgefield, was the lead organizer of Operation Salmon Salute, and is a member of the military appreciation committee.

Vets who were returning to the shore after a long day of fishing on Sunday were greeted by groups of children and bystanders who welcomed them back.

Clark County Council adopts 20-year growth management plan update

Final vote came after a seven-hour meeting on June 21

JOANNA YORKE
senior reporter

Capping three years of work, the Board of Clark County Councilors on June 21 adopted a plan after a seven-hour meeting that will guide growth in Clark County over the next 20 years.

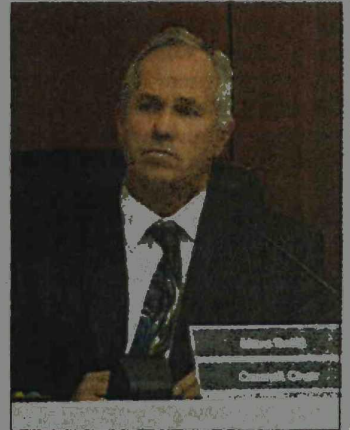
The 435-page Comprehensive Growth Management Plan final update now goes to the state Department of Commerce. By law, Clark County is required to complete the updated plan by June 30.

On Tuesday, June 28, the council will consider adopting an ordinance reflecting its decisions on the update. The county will issue a notice of adoption of the comprehensive plan update, which begins a 60-day appeal period. Appeals are submitted to the Growth Management Hearings Board.

The council approved the plan after seven hours of public comment and discussion among the five council members.

Highlights of the plan include:

- Expanding Battle Ground's urban growth area by approximately 80 acres at the northwest corner of Northeast 219th Street and



Reflector file photo

CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL
Chairman Marc Boldt listens to deliberations earlier this year over the preferred alternative to the county's comprehensive growth management plan update.

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The Reflector

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See **GROWTH** on Page A8

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Photo courtesy of Cowlitz Reservation Development

A PREVIEW IMAGE of the main gaming center to come within the newly titled ilani Resort.

ilani

Continued from page A1

At the center of it all will be the center bar, elevated a few feet off the floor and full of furniture. Directly surrounding the bar will be the gaming center.

Other spaces to take up the outside layer besides the 15 vendors are going to be an entertainment lounge, VIP lounge and a huge multipurpose room.

The entertainment lounge is expected to hold 350 people around a main stage.

"We want to have weekly live entertainment such as music in that space," Fox-LaRose said. "We don't know which days of the week that will be yet."

Much larger is the multipurpose room, which will be able to hold up to 2,500 people in theatre seating. Banquets, concerts and whatever else are what Fox-LaRose plans to use it for.

"We want to have regular nationally recognized events in there, like concerts," Fox-LaRose said.

To please all their future visitors, the managers said

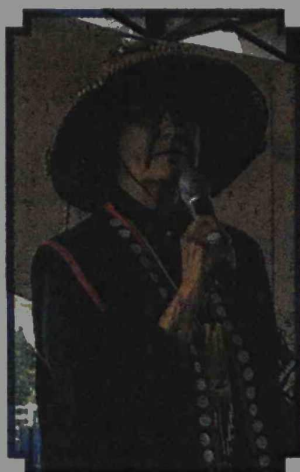


Photo by Cale Johnson

COWLITZ TRIBE spiritual leader Tanna Engdahl explains why the name ilani was selected. It simply means "sing" in the Cowlitz language.

they are working on making the casino as smoke-free as possible, but haven't determined exactly where it will and won't be allowed.

Also, to make getting to and from the site as smoothly as possible, roundabouts and wide lanes are being constructed from the Interstate 5 exit to the entrance. At the

door visitors will have the opportunity to valet their car, or can park themselves in a parking lot nearby.

Construction on the entire property began in September 2015 and 150 construction workers are currently employed. When it opens the resort will bring more than 1,000 new jobs to southwest Washington.

According to founder Dave Barnett, 90 percent of those jobs will be pulled from the local market.

Later this summer the organization will start the hiring process for key executives, as well as service, gaming and maintenance staff. Job fairs will be available on dates yet to be determined, but interested applicants can keep an eye out on both ilani's website, www.ilaniresort.com, and social media.

"Whether you're interested in hospitality, back of house, human resources, IT, facilities, or marketing, a lot of great things are happening," Fox-LaRose said.

Ilani Resort sits on a 156-acre piece of Cowlitz Tribe land right next to the I-5 freeway off of exit 16.

Growth

Continued from page A1

Northeast 92nd Avenue west to Northeast 87th Avenue.

- Expanding La Center's urban growth area by approximately 56.7 acres at the northeast quadrant of Interstate 5 and Northwest La Center Road, and by 17 acres for a school site at Northwest Bolen Street and Northwest 14th Avenue.
- Expanding Ridgefield's urban growth area by approximately 111 acres near Northeast 279th Street and Northeast 45th Avenue.
- Reducing rural minimum lot sizes for agricultural land from 20 acres to 10 acres; forest land from 40 acres to 20 acres; and residential land from 20 acres to 10 acres.

The growth management plan update covers the 20-year period ending in 2035, when the population is projected to be 562,207 and 91,200 more people will be employed in Clark County. Currently, the county's population is approximately 450,000.

Councilor Julie Olson said toward the end of the meeting that they are not done with the comprehensive plan process, committing to revisit rural zoning issues.

"It's going to be the last or the end of the conversation as it relates to rural lands, ag, forest, what have you," Olson said. "There's some additional things we're going to continue to do as we move forward to address rural concerns ... Revitalizing the rural lands task force is an option, making legal lot determinations faster and cheaper, maybe free, really looking at the transfer of development rights to purchase for development rights as an option ..."

"This has been a long process that at least I've been kind of thrown into here at the end, but it's not going to be the end of the conversation as it relates to our rural landowners and what opportunities we can have to continue to add some flexibility."

Efforts made by Councilor David Madore to restore parts of his Alternative 4 to the comprehensive plan failed, as the council

continuously voted 3-2 to reject each of his amendments. The council also rejected a motion made by Madore to restore all of Alternative 4 to the plan.

The evening of June 21, Madore took to posting to his Facebook page regarding the vote, calling the day a "sad day for Clark County — especially for rural citizens."

"Today marked another terrible loss for Clark County citizens with the same pattern of 3 to 2 votes against the citizens," Madore wrote on his Facebook page. "The pattern since January continues to be Marc Boldt, Jeanne Stewart and Julie Olson outvoting Tom Mielke and David Madore. The 'Spirit of the Charter' continues to impact our community."

In his post, Madore compared the almost seven-hour long meeting to being as "painful and harmful for citizens as sitting in a dentist chair and having all your teeth pulled out one by one with no anesthetic."

Madore wrote that "vote by vote, citizens were stripped of their private property rights as the 20-year Comp Plan locked in the same disastrous rural plan of 1994 that the court ruled illegal."

By state law, the update must include a capital facilities plan that outlines the public facilities, such as roads, needed to support the additional population and how they will be financed. The county's update calls for builders and developers to pay higher park, school and traffic impact fees. School impact fees are sent to the appropriate school district, while park and traffic impact fees go to county park and road projects.

The Growth Management Act requires state and local governments to manage growth by identifying and protecting critical areas and natural resource lands, designating urban growth areas, preparing comprehensive plans, and implementing them through capital investments and development regulations.

The act applies only to Washington's quickly growing counties.

For more information on the plan and update process, go to <https://www.clark.wa.gov/community-planning/plan-adoption>.

Kubota