

Around Indian Country

# Cowlitz begin casino work

The Cowlitz Tribe of Washington is on track to open a long-awaited casino in the spring of 2017.

The casino and resort project has an estimated cost of about \$500 million.

The 368,000 square-foot facility will feature 100,000 square-feet of gaming space with 2,500 slots and 80 gaming tables, 15 restaurants, bars and retail outlets and a 2,500-seat meeting and entertain-

ment venue.

The project will create up to 1,200 new jobs, according to the tribes.

The tribe is still facing opposition from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in neighboring Oregon.

A lawsuit pending in federal court is based on the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*.

The ruling held that the Bureau of Indian Affairs can only place land in trust for tribes that were 'under federal jurisdiction' in 1934.

The Cowlitz didn't gain formal recognition until 2000, but the BIA determined that the tribe met the standard in a decision that was upheld by a federal judge.

The American Cancer Society **Relay For Life** of Jefferson County get underway on Thursday, Feb. 18, as event volunteers and participants gather at the Inn at Cross Keys Station in Madras.

The kickoff rally, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., launches the 2016 Relay fundraising efforts for the year. The rally will feature good food and beverages, door prizes, information about Relay for Life, and a chance to meet up with old friends and make some new ones.

Indian Head Casino is again a supporter and partner in the Relay for Life.




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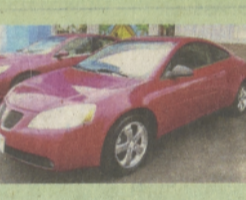
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