Around Indian Country

## Longtime employee to lead Couer d'Alene gaming

Laura Stensgar is the new chief executive officer of the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel in Worley, Idaho. She's a very familiar face at the facility, as she has worked there since its debut 25 years ago, The Pacific Northwest Inlander reports.

"I think what's key is our employees," Stensgar told The Inlander of her vision. "I really want to empower

employees to offer that great customer service, what we call traditional tribal hospitality. I really want to focus on that. And then continue to be a good neighbor and work with the community."

Stensgar succeeds Francis SiJohn, who resigned in early October. She was named interim CEO during the search for a permanent leader before being named to the post.

"The Tribal Council has a lot of confidence in Laura's abilities," Chief Allan, the tribe's vice chair, said in a statement quoted by The Spokesman-Review. "We have no doubt she will continue to run our resort at the top level we know she is capable of and that our guests have come to expect of us."

## Shoshone-Bannock win hazardous waste case

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor recently in the case of FMC Corporation vs Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

FMC argued that the tribe's demand for payment of storage of hazardous waste on the reservation should be dismissed, as the demand could be in perpetuity: Waste from a nowclosed FMC phosphate processing plant has become a Superfund site, and safe cleanup could take decades. Or forever.

FMC stopped paying the tribes for storage in 2001, when the it ceased the phosphorus operations.

The tribes sued in tribal court. Eventually the case reached a tribal appeals court, and that court found the money was owed because "FMC's creation and storage of this hazardous waste on the reservation creates "an ongoing and extensive

threat to human health" and threatens the "welfare and cultural practices of the Tribes and their members." Last month the Ninth

U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the tribal appeals court had jurisdiction in the case, and its ruling stands.



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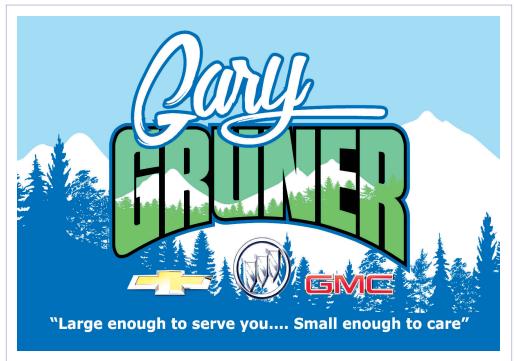
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