

Vancouver Business Journal names Growth Award finalists

The *Vancouver Business Journal* today named ten finalists who are competing for five growth and innovation awards to be presented by the business publication at an awards dinner at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, in the Heathman Lodge.

The finalists are as follows:

Innovator of the Year, LifePort Inc., developers of medical and other accessories for helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, and Organic Products trading Company/Café Feminino Foundation, coffee importers working with women coffee growers who provide organic, free-trade coffee beans.

Start-Up of the Year, When the Shoe Fits, retailer of custom fit comfort footwear and orthotics, and Techjet Imaging, retailer of large-format printing.

Fastest Growing Business, 1-to-5 years, Northwest Personal Training and Fitness Education, award-winning Vancouver personal training, and exercise facility and nLight, a vertically integrated designer and manufacturer of high-power diode lasers.

Fastest Growing Business, 6-10 years, Bank of Clark County, a local business bank which focuses on superior service, and Skyward Construction, a commercial construction company that more than doubled revenues in 2004.

Fastest Growing Business, longer than 10 years, Wells Fargo, national consumer and business bank with a new call center in Vancouver, and The JD White Co., a Vancouver-based land use, natural resources and public involvement facilitation firm.

Tickets to the \$65-per-person dinner are available by calling **Tena Wolski, 695-2442**.

Evergreen School District Phonathon Raises \$20,000 for literacy, so far

The March phonathon being conducted by school students in Evergreen Public Schools has raised \$20,000 for the Evergreen School District Foundation at midpoint in the month-long project to raise money for literacy, according to spokesperson **Carol Fenstermacher**.

Last year, the project raised just over \$27,000. The goal this year is \$35,000.

Calls are being made by middle and high school students and adults to school district parents between 7 and 9 p.m. each weekday. For further information, call **604-4022**.

Skills Center student, teacher earn top state awards

Making its first appearance in the Washington State Lodging Management Program competition in Seattle the Clark County Skills Center brought home two major honors. **Jacob Benjamin**, a home-schooled senior from Camas, was named the Outstanding Lodging Management Program Student of the Year. Benjamin's instructor, **Pantelis Zafiriou**, was named the Outstanding Lodging Management Program Teacher of the Year.

Benjamin, who had already earned \$2,500 scholarships, was awarded an additional \$1,000 for being named best student.

News briefs

Clark County commissioners and Fort Vancouver Regional Library Board trustees meet in joint session at 6:30 p.m. this evening in conference Room B in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. 📍 The Clark County Planning Commission, meeting at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the 6th floor hearing room in the Public Service Center, will consider recommending changes in three county critical areas ordinances: Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Ordinance, Flood Hazard Areas Ordinance and the Geologic Hazards Ordinance. 📍 The Forum at the Library takes on the hopes and fears of today's diverse families at its free presentation at 7 p.m. this evening in the Vancouver Community Library Hall. **Ron Morrison** is the moderator.

[Thursday headlines from at home and around the world:](#)

[Liz Luce gets top licensing job in Washington--Columbian](#), [Don Jenkins](#)
[State budget forecast jumps by \\$739 million](#), [Seattle P-I](#), [AP](#), [David Ammons](#)

[County exhibition center open for business--Columbian, Erin Middlewood](#)

Thursday on the air

Gonzaga vs. Winthrop (live)—4:25 p.m. KOIN-TV
Fairgrounds Exposition Hall Grand Opening—5 p.m. CVTV
Portland Blazers at Dallas (live)—5:30 p.m. FSN, KXL, KXMG
Clark County Planning Commission (live)—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Mike Gaston pleased as usual. ☞ **Kathy McDonald** seeing new opportunities. ☞ **Wayne Clemetson** oiling the machinery. ☞ **Jeanne Lipton** clayfully teaching. ☞ **Kim Capeloto** keeping Irish in line. ☞ **Greg Kimsey** making certain that more than shamrocks are green. ☞ **Jeb Davis** taking in shamrock scene. ☞ **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 57. **Friday**, mostly sunny, 58. **Saturday**, gray and showers, 54.