

Cami Joner wins prestigious award



Cami Joner

Cami Joner, Vancouver freelance journalist, has been named by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the Small Business Journalist of the Year for the state of Washington.

Joner won the award for her work in 2004, writing articles about small business issues as a *Vancouver Business Journal* staff reporter, a position she held from July 2000 until resigning last month to launch her own freelance writing business. Her current work focuses on business news coverage for regional news publications.

Joner, a 1999 graduate of Washington State University Vancouver, is also researching and writing a book on the Italian immigrant farming industry in Portland.

Joner will receive her award in Seattle in April, is also a nominee for the national award.

Vancouver Fire Department presenting citizen awards

Vancouver Fire Chief **Don Bivins** will present commendations and citizen awards for life saving and other meritorious actions at a public ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, in the Water Resources Education Center.

Lifesaving awards are being presented to **Gina La Combe**, for initiating successful CPR, **Krystal Byfield**, who discovered a building fire, alerted the occupants and called 9-1-1, **Travis Jackson** and **Dennis Kinsey**, who pulled a man to safety from a burning car, and **Jesse Calhoun**, Vancouver police officer, who successfully performed CPR.

Letters and certificates of appreciation will be presented to **Jennifer Allan**, **Anthony** and **Joseph Aviless**, **Cailen Thompson** and **Tom Wright**, and to the department's Trauma Intervention Team and the employees of Columbia Homes Northwest. Commendations within the department will be presented to Truck 82-A, Truck 85 and Engine 89-C.

InterACT calling for help in designing 2005 season

Recently re-invigorated InterACT, the public forum that probes the pulse of the southern Washington community, is seeking citizen input at a forum content-building session at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31, in the Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way.

Following a presentation of changes now occurring in Clark County, forum participants will form small discussion groups which will be led by trained facilitators. The collective results of the group sessions will determine the 2005 agenda for InterACT, according to InterACT spokesperson **Dan Euliss**.

InterACT is a nonprofit independent organization, whose mission is to promote constructive community dialogue about challenging public issues. There is no charge for InterACT forums, all of which are open to the public. For more information about InterACT, go to www.interactclarkcounty.org.

Vancouver accepting applications for Urban Forestry Commission

A mid-term position on Vancouver's seven-member Urban Forestry Commission has opened, for which the city will be accepting applications through 5 p.m. Monday, April 18.

The advisory role of the commission includes suggesting changes to urban forestry policy and regulation, administration of the Heritage Tree Program and community outreach through public events and education.

For further information, call **Myk Heidt**, 696-8181.

Hockinson students help stock salmon in creek

Among the more than 5,000 Clark County school students who have toured Columbia Springs Environmental Center this school year, 60 students from the Hockinson Elementary School Friday, March 25, will help stock Salmon Creek with coho salmon.

The coho fry to be released are the product of 10,000 coho salmon eggs incubated by the state Fish and Wildlife Department as part of Columbia Springs Salmon in the Classroom program, which in turn is supported by Clark Public Utilities.

Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center, 12208 SE Evergreen Highway, is a partnership that includes Clark College, City of Vancouver, Evergreen Public Schools, as well as Clark Public Utilities and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The center is open from 7:30 a.m. to dusk seven days a week. There is no charge. For further information, call **Jane Van Dyke, 882-0936**.

News briefs

Port of Ridgefield commissioners meet in regular session at 6 p.m. this evening in port offices at 111 W Division Street. The agenda includes an update about the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's proposed casino and resort between Ridgefield and La Center. 🏠 A select group of Southwest Washington's outstanding businesses will be honored at the *Vancouver Business Journal* Business Growth Awards Dinner at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Heathman Lodge. For further information on the \$65-per-person dinner, call **695-2442**. 🏠 The Vancouver Clinic is offering a free lecture on getting the most out of a night's sleep at 7 p.m. this evening in the Columbia Tech Center office, 501 SE 172nd Avenue. To register, call **604-1740**. 🏠 A day-long transportation symposium sponsored by Clark College, Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council and the Port of Vancouver is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 24, in the Heathman Lodge. Keynote speaker is Dell computer executive **Mike Gray**. For further information on the \$25 event, call **Dena Horton, 992-2508**.

Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:

[Downtown Hilton begins hiring in anticipation of June opening--Columbian, Jonathan Nelson](#)

[River flows at record low levels--Columbian, Kathie Durbin](#)

[Moeller's bill to give Vancouver permission for instant runoff voting is moving right along--Columbian, Don Jenkins](#)

[Modern tools fashioned ancient Chinook longhouse at Ridgefield--Columbian, Dean Baker](#)

[Plankhouse is window to our past--Columbian, Tom Koeninger](#)

[Potential potable water resource roiled by jurisdictions--Columbian, Jeffrey Mize](#)

[Former Evergreen High School student wins big Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions prize--Oregonian, Foster Church](#)

[Quest to return World War II mementos to Japanese family hits odd twist--Seattle Times, Diane Brooks](#)

[Court of Appeals turns down Schiavo case, Florida governor Jeb Bush, whose legislature failed to intervene, said he would ask a state court to act on behalf of the Schiavo parents--New York Times, Adam Liptak and Abby Goodnough](#)

Wednesday on the air

Diverse Families: Hopes and Fears—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Fire Department Recruit Graduation—6:30 p.m. CVTV
Telecommunications Commission (3/16)—7 p.m. CVTV
Bravo! Vancouver: Missa Solemnis—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Claire and Reha Seekins celebrating a combined total of 130 wedded years Thursday. 🏠 **Jim Crawford** hobnobbing with sprinklered guests. 🏠 **Susan Tissot** showing off treaties and other memorabilia. 🏠 **David Casteel's** collection of rocks growing. 🏠 **Ramona Lupo** bearing more gifts. 🏠 **Steve Bogdon** speaking of tapas and diving. 🏠 **Wednesday**, scattered light rain, 53. **Thursday**, mostly cloudy, possible showers, 52. **Friday**, showery, 53.