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Holiday Baskets featuring Fort Vancouver, Officers Row, Vancouver Barracks, Pearson Air Museum now available from the Historic Reserve

For the first time ever, holiday shoppers can purchase themed gift baskets featuring Vancouver history, Fort Vancouver, Officers Row, Pearson Air Museum, Vancouver Barracks and more. Some baskets feature local products by local artists and artisans. All baskets are percent from what the items would cost if purchased

Baskets are available at the Historic Reserve

the Visitor Center, Evergreen Aviation-themed available at The Pearson Air Fifth Street. Both on the Historic managed by the National Historic

“These gifts meaningful

Bishara, assistant

Reserve Trust. “We encourage people to shop locally, purchase Northwest products and avoid mall crowds while supporting Fort Vancouver, the only national park in the Vancouver-Portland metro area and supporting the Historic Reserve Trust.”

The Historic Reserve Bookstore is open 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call **360-992-1824** for more information.

Basket choices, pricing and details are available here: (PDF flyer) http://www.vnhr.org/docs/gift_basket.pdf.

Firefighters set Rides for Toys December 12

Clark County Fire & Rescue is proud to announce the second annual Rides for Toys! The event is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the parking lot to the Battle Ground Fred Meyer located at 401 NW 12th Avenue.

Firefighters will provide free rides in a fire engine, to both children and adults, in exchange for new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages.

The toys will be distributed to children of low-income families living in Clark County through the North County Community Food Bank.

For additional information, contact **Tamara Bailey** at **360-887-4609**.

Clark College *Phoenix* earns top honors

Phoenix, the student art and literary magazine of Clark College, has been named the best college literary art magazine in the country by the American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA). This is the first time that *Phoenix* has received the top award in its category (junior/community colleges with enrollment of more than 2501 students).

In their message to the college, ASPA officials noted that *Phoenix* scored 975 points out of a possible 1000 and noted that the magazine “shows the efforts of talented and creative editors, writers, artists, photographers, layout designers, staff members and advisors.”

Dr. **Rita Carey**, English professor, is the literary advisor to the



Reserve Trust.

represent our region in a unique way and are mementos for out-of-town visitors,” said **Dorine**

retail manager at Vancouver National Historic

discounted 20 individually. Bookstore inside 1501 E. Boulevard. baskets also are Museum Shop at Museum, 1115 E. shops are located Reserve and are Vancouver



Phoenix staff. Dr. Carey said, “These awards testify to the talent of our students. From the student staff to the students whose literature and art was featured in the 2008 issue of *Phoenix*, Clark students once again demonstrated their commitment to excellence in the fine arts.”

Dr. Carey noted that the 2009 edition, which will be issued during Clark College’s 75th anniversary year, will mark the 45th year of *Phoenix*. The publication was originally called *The Egg*. Sixteen editions of *The Egg* were published. This will be the 29th edition of *Phoenix*. The 2008 *Phoenix* is available on the Clark College Web site at http://www.clark.edu/student_services/phoenix/2008Phoenix.pdf

Art professor **Kathrena Halsinger**, art advisor to the *Phoenix* staff, said, “I am so honored to be a part of this program and to have the generous support of so many people across the college.” Halsinger noted that *Phoenix* “is truly a team effort that begins with our talented students, who are so ably mentored and encouraged by our Art and English faculty and staff, supported and financed by the Associated Students of Clark College, and cheered on by our administration.” Halsinger specifically cited the work done by **Martha Lewis**, who served as Art Advisor for the 2008 issue of *Phoenix*, graphic editor **Mary Kate Carmichael** and “all the rest of the wonderful, hard-working student staff.”

Phoenix is funded by the Associated Students at Clark College. Flat art work, photographs of three-dimensional work, poetry, and prose are all considered for publication. The deadline for literary submissions for the 2009 *Phoenix* is January 13. The deadline for visual art submissions is February 4. The 2009 publication will be unveiled in early May.

Correction:

A reporter, of all people, should know not to believe everything he or she reads. We apologize for an error in the Friday edition stating that the city of Battle Ground is the only municipality in Clark County to receive an upgraded bond rating. In fact, the fair city of Washougal also received an upgrade following its recent review with Standard & Poor’s. We implore you to continue to believe what you read here, unless we tell you otherwise.

City of Washougal receives upgraded bond rating

The city of Washougal recently underwent a rating review with Standard & Poor’s, which resulted in an upgrade of the city’s general obligation bond rating from an A to AA-.

“This is a great accomplishment for our city,” said Mayor **Stacey Sellers**. “This tells us that despite the challenges presented by the current economic conditions, the city continues to maintain the course and remain efficient and conservative with our fiscal resources.”

Sellers said, “the bond rating and rating report reflects that the city is very well-managed and has excellent financial policies in place for the benefit of our citizens.”

According to Finance Director **Becky Hasart**, Washougal received the bond rating of AA- based on the following factors: Very experienced management, strong financial practices and policies, including the use of third-party economic research in preparing budgets, and a track-record of maintaining strong financial reserves.

News Brief

GF Strategies and E.D. Hovee and Company have joined forces to offer Fairgrounds and Expo Center master plan and feasibility studies, it was announced today by Greg Flakus, owner of 15-year-old GF Strategies, and Eric Hovee.

Calendar

- **12/8**—Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Board of Trustees meets in regular session today, Dec. 8, 2008 at the Vancouver Community Library (in Library Hall) 1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver. An executive session is scheduled for 5 p.m. The public meeting begins at 6 p.m.
- St. Joseph Catholic Church presents a live Biblical Christmas Story as part of its day-long Advent Festival Saturday, Dec. 13, beginning with Mass at 9 a.m. in the church at 400 Highland Drive. An exhibit of Madonnas will be shown in the church from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Choir International performs from 1 to 3 p.m. At 3:30 p.m. there will be a presentation of the Rosary. Following a 5 p.m. mass, participants are invited to go caroling with parishioners.
- **12/16**—**Rescheduled Meeting**: The Vancouver Library Capital Facility Area Board will meet on **Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.** (meeting was previously scheduled for December 9) in the Clark County Commissioners Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington, for review and approval of the final design for the new main library.

Additional Community Calendar Links

The **Southwest Washington Center for the Arts** has published its December newsletter and calendar of events. [Click here](#) for the PDF file.

Greater Vancouver Chamber Community Calendar: [Click here](#)

City of Vancouver Calendar of Community Events: [Click here](#)

Monday on the air

- 7:00 p.m. [Vancouver City Council \(12-1-08\)](#)
- 8:00 p.m. [Clark County Board of Commissioners \(11-26-08\)](#)
- 9:15 pm [Clark County Land Use Hearings \(12-4-08\)](#)
- 10:45 p.m. [Vancouver Land Use Hearings \(11-18-08\)](#)
- 11:00 p.m. [Accomplished and Under 40 \(11-4-08\)](#)

CVTV programming on demand:

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/cvtv/cvtvindex.asp>

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Susan Holton packaging. <> **Kim Hash** zipping.<> **Bridget Schwarz** exchanging.<> **Heidi Young** singing.<> **Barbara Hammon** promoting Bateristas. <> **Polly Jobe** agreeing it doesn't get much better. <> **Monday**, not bad for a Monday, partly cloudy, 39-51. **Tuesday**, clouds increasing mid-day, 38-46. **Wednesday**, chance of rain, 37-44.

[Click here for additional local weather information.](#)