

Fort Vancouver student takes top tech prize



Fort Vancouver's winning team including Baker, in the middle.

Daysha Baker, a sophomore from Fort Vancouver High School, won the highest honor given at SEMI High Tech University, a \$1000 scholarship. Baker was one of 34 young women representing 15 Oregon and Southwest Washington high schools participating in the three-day, High Tech U program held at Intel, SolarWorld, and Portland Community College (PCC).

Baker was selected for her ability to excel in a high-tech career, including her attitude and skill at working as part of a team.

High Tech U is an industry-driven math and science-based career exploration program, produced and presented by the SEMI Foundation in partnership with the sponsoring companies' employees. High Tech U aims to connect sophomores and juniors who may have unrealized potential in math and science to the array of careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Students conduct hands-on experiments in statistics, mathematics, electronics, nanotechnology, solar and alternative energy technologies, specific technology aspects of the sponsoring business, and problem solving. Students also attend sessions on educational pathways and career planning and participate in mock interviews with company representatives.

"While we are seeing more females with math and science backgrounds entering the workforce, they are still under-represented in the sciences," **Brian Janecek**, a senior recruiter at Solar World said. "It's important to introduce girls to the possibility of high-tech careers early in their education."

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council partners with the SEMI Foundation to bring the High Tech U program to SW Washington and its students. SWWDC is currently working with local Clark County companies to identify sponsors for a program for 40 Clark County students in June.

Companies interested in co-sponsoring the Clark Country program should contact **Brandi Stewart-Wood** at **360-567-3170**. The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council provides leadership and resources to increase economic development by providing a trained and productive workforce in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties. For more information, visit www.swwdc.org.

Mystery of Mona Bell revealed at April 1 event



John A. Harrison

John A. Harrison became intrigued with Mona Bell Hill in the 1980s when he was covering the Columbia River Gorge for *The Columbian*.

That fascination resulted in *A Woman Alone: Mona Bell, Sam Hill and the Mansion on Bonneville Rock*. He will discuss the book that uncovers some of the mystery around Hill at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, at the Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main Street. The one of the First Thursday Museum After Hours events and admission is free.

Entrepreneur Sam Hill was entranced by Mona as well, building her a mansion overlooking the Bonneville Dam in 1928.

The museum is located in Vancouver's 1909 Carnegie Library building, and admission is free from 5 to 9 p.m. the first Thursday of each month February through November for First Thursday Museum After Hours.

News Briefs

The Nutter Foundation is accepting community grant applications. The foundation supports nonprofit organizations that focus on youth development programs. In 2009, the foundation awarded more than \$100,000. Applications are available online at www.nutterfoundation.org. <> The city of Vancouver is seeking applicants for a full-term position on the new Clark County Arts Commission. The 11-member commission will work to enhance and support the growth of the local economy through collaboration among patrons of the arts, artists, the business community, service groups and schools. Applications are due on April 5. Contact **Cara Cantonwine** at **360-487-8630**. <> Those interested in attending the Clark County Mural Society's "Art on the Block" on Thursday, April 8, at the Vancouver Marketplace are asked to RSVP by April 5 to **Lynn Krogseng, 360-852-1165** or via e-mail at lynn@krogseng.com. <> Admission to the Marshall Lecture on Thursday, May 20, is free, but tickets are required and seating is limited. **Jonathan Jarvis**, the director of the National Park Service, is the speaker. The lecture begins at 11:30 a.m. at Hudson's Bay High School, 1206 East Reserve Street in Vancouver. Tickets can be printed from the Fort Vancouver Reserve Trust's Web site at www.fortvan.org. <> State transportation officials are reminding Washington drivers that April 1 is the deadline for removing studded snow tires. The fine for driving after April 1 with studded tires is \$124. The deadline is the same in Oregon. <> Construction in Truman and Fisher-Mill neighborhood parks is scheduled to start in early April. Work on the Bosco Farm park will add paved and unpaved trails, a playground and picnic tables. Improvements planned for Vandervort Park include a loop trail, playground, a basketball half court, and benches. <> The Board of Clark County Commissioners is seeking a resident of the unincorporated area to fill a new position on the Clark County Law and Justice Council. The new position is open to Clark County residents who live outside city or town boundaries. Council members include the sheriff, prosecutor, medical examiner and representatives of the courts, defense bar and the Washington State Patrol. To be considered for the position, applicants must submit a letter of interest and resume by 5 p.m., Friday, April 23, 2010. They should be mailed to Jennifer Clark, Board of Clark County Commissioners, P.O. Box 5000, Vancouver 98666-5000 or e-mailed Jennifer.clark@clark.wa.gov.

Calendar

Clark County commissioners meet Tuesday, March 30, at 9:45 a.m. at the Clark County Public Service Center. <> Clark County residents will be able to recycle block foam for free from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 3, in the Fisher's Landing Transit Center Parking Lot, 3510 SE 164th Ave. Recycling block foam, packaging from electronics and other purchases saves space in your garbage cart and reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills. Total Reclaim, a Portland recycling business, grinds the foam into powder, mixes and melts it with special additives, and churns out pellets the same quality as new plastic. For more information, contact the City of Vancouver Solid Waste Services at **(360) 619-4120** or Clark County Solid Waste at **(360) 397-6118 ext. 4352**.

Tuesday on the air

VHA: Housing Matters (3-7) — 6:30 p.m. CVTV 21

Clark County Planning Commission (3-18) — 7:14 p.m. CVTV 21

