



Top row: Darla Helt, Kevin Myles, Jeanne Mack, and Dick James. Bottom row: Jeanne Firstenburg, Gloria Campbell, and Matt and Val Hadwin.



Innovative Services NW announces 8th annual Caring Heart award winners

Innovative Services NW, a 47-year-old local Clark County nonprofit, will be hosting its annual Caring Heart Awards Dinner and Celebration at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 13. Established in 2003, the eight award categories honor individuals, businesses or organizations that embody the community spirit of helping our local children, adults and families lead meaningful and productive lives. The Caring Heart Awards Dinner and Celebration, presented by Comcast, will take place at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver.

In addition to recognizing the 2010 award winners, this event also serves as a fundraiser for Innovative

Services NW. The funds raised at this event, through corporate sponsorships, donations and a gift basket silent auction, will support the clients and families served by Innovative Services NW. Moreover, a \$5,000 challenge match, provided by an anonymous donor, gives attendees the opportunity to maximize the impact of their donations made at the event.

The Caring Heart Award Winners are the following: **Jeanne Mack**, Children's Caring Heart Award for making a difference in the lives of children and families; **Darla Helt**, manager and co-coordinator, Clark County Parent Coalition, which helps guardians become effective advocates for family members and others with developmental disabilities, Community Advocacy Caring Heart Award; **Kevin Myles**, clinical manager, Hospice Southwest, where he serves individuals with special health needs, EveAnn Classen Leadership Award; **Gloria Campbell**, a member of the Innovative Services NW Development Advisory Board for the past five years, Development Caring Heart Award; **Whole Foods Market**, whose eight stores in the Oregon-Southwest Washington region contribute 830 jobs, the Employment Caring Heart Award; **Jeanne Firstenburg**, executive vice president, COO, First Independent Bank, Chairman of the Board Caring Heart Award; **Dick James**, who has exemplified a life of service through his involvement in both faith-based and community organizations, giving generously of his time, finances and talents, Board of Directors Caring Heart Award; and **Matt and Val Hadwin/McDonald's Clark County**, who support and impact the lives of countless children in our community, especially those in foster care, the Vancouver USA Hometown Caring Heart Award.

Reservations for the 8th Annual Caring Heart Awards will be accepted through Thursday, March 11, 2009. For more information about the Caring Heart Awards or to reserve your tickets, visit www.innovativeservicesnw.org or contact **Dawn Johnston**, development director, at **823-5171**.

Song receives prestigious NSF CAREER award

WenZhan Song, assistant professor in the School of Engineering and Computer Science and director of the Sensorweb Research Laboratory at Washington State University Vancouver, has received a prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER award to build networks of sensors that work reliably in harsh environments. Song is the first Vancouver campus recipient of the award.

Receiving an NSF CAREER award from the Faculty Early Career Development program is a significant achievement. It's the most prestigious award the NSF gives to junior faculty members in recognition of their high potential to become a future leader in their research area.

With the five-year, \$422,955 award, the researchers will be working to develop a new design paradigm for sensor networks, which will include innovative architecture principles, algorithms and protocols, and design and evaluation methodologies for sensor networks in challenging environments. The goal is to develop sensor designs and computer networks that require no maintenance and are extremely robust.

For instance, Song will be working to develop computing capabilities that make individual nodes of a sensor network "smarter," so that the nodes can cooperate on data delivery and on storage when conditions are not optimal. That is, when one node stops working, the others will know to pick up the slack.

"The data is more likely to survive and eventually reach a data sink, even as nodes fail," Song says.

The project also has applications for sensors that are in the field for long periods of time and use alternative power sources, such as solar panels, rather than batteries. When using an unreliable energy supply, network communications can become unstable.

The researchers will have several testing sites and will develop a prototype. Song has been working with NASA for the last several years to develop a 'spider' network on Mount St. Helens. It's a wireless network of pods that collect data and communicate with each other and with a space-based satellite. The spider network can identify activity—such as volcanic eruptions—and send information early enough to save lives.

Song holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Nanjing University of Science and Technology in Nanjing, China, and a doctorate from Illinois Institute of Technology in computer science. He has been with WSU since 2005. More information about this project and Song's research is at <http://sensorweb.vancouver.wsu.edu/research/career.html>.

FVRL launches "Get Job Help @ Your Library" services

Job seekers have new resources available to them at Fort Vancouver Regional Library District locations, thanks to a grant-funded Get Job Help @ Your Library program that began in February.

Helpful tools include a live-chat job coaching and résumé review service; résumé-writing software; an online service to help users explore career options; extra time on computers; classes on creating and polishing résumés and cover letters; and, by April 1, free use of netbook computers (small laptops) in select libraries.

FVRL received \$48,420 as one of 17 Washington public libraries awarded a Renew Washington grant by the Washington State Library in late 2009. The purpose of the grant program is to address the needs of people needing access to employment-related information, resources and services. The Renew Washington grant program is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

A full summary of the Get Job Help @ Your Library resources is available at www.fvrl.org/findinfo/GetJobHelp.cfm.

News Briefs

Tickets are still available for the Clark College Alumni Association's Annual Winter Theatre Reception being held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 6, in the College Penguin Union Building. Hearty hors d'oeuvres and wine reception will be followed by the Theatre Department's hilarious and technically ambitious production of *The Producers*. Tickets are \$35 for Alumni Association members and \$40 non-members. Visit clarkcollegefoundation.org/events to purchase tickets. Contact the Clark College Alumni Association office at 992-2301 or foundation@clark.edu for more information.

Calendar

A park board meeting will be held at 4:20 p.m. today, March 3, Washougal City Council chambers. <> Ridgefield Planning Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. today, March 3, at the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 N Main Street. <> A senior luncheon is being held at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 4, in the La Center Community Center. Lunch will be served by Loaves and Fishes. For more information, call 567-7670.

Wednesday on the air

Vancouver Housing Authority: Housing Matters (2-7)--6 p.m. CVTV

City/County Telecommunications Commission (live)--7 p.m. CVTV

Columbia River Channel Deepening Update with U.S. Senator Patty Murray (2-19)--10 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Board of Health Work Session on Health Equity with the Public Health Advisory Council (2-16)--11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and Weather

Rebecca Gomez-Millner staying in touch. <> **Ron Gompertz** "on top of things." <> **Wednesday**, showers, 56-59. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 57-61. **Friday**, a.m. showers, 61-67.