

Families with children accounted for nearly half the homeless in Clark County

On January 26, nearly half of the 1,391 persons counted as homeless by the Emergency Shelter Clearinghouse for the Clark County Council for the Homeless were families with children, reports **Kim Connor**, executive director of the Council for the Homeless.

Families with children accounted for 665 of the homeless. The count also included 688 individuals, of whom nearly one-third were women. Thirty-eight teenage or younger persons were found to be homeless.

All but 271 of the homeless people counted were living on the street, Connor said. The others were being housed in emergency shelters.

A homeless count is conducted annually by the clearinghouse.

***Vancouver Business Journal* honors exceptional companies**

From a list of 14 finalists, the *Vancouver Business Journal* honored five exceptional businesses last night in ceremonies during the business paper's second annual Business Growth Awards dinner at the Hilton Vancouver Washington.

Innovator of the year was Techjet Imaging, a large-format printing and imaging company. Discount Tobacco & Liquor was presented the Start-Up-of-the-Year award. Winner of the fastest growing business in its first five years designation was US Funding Group, a Vancouver-based home lender. The fastest growing company in its first ten years designation was won by Northwest Personal Training and Fitness. The "fastest growing company in business for more than ten years" was the Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt law firm.

Jessica Crouch continues winning ways

Jessica Crouch, 2004 Skyview High School graduate, has been named 2006 Miss Thunder Mountain Pro Rodeo by sponsors of the pro rodeo held annually at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds.

Crouch was the 2004 Clark County Fair queen and was Miss Vancouver Rodeo in 2005.

A sophomore at West Texas A&M University, where she is a member of the university's nationally ranked equestrian team and executive chair of the school's Horseman's Association, Crouch is also on the dean's list and a member of Delta Nu Delta Sorority. Crouch is majoring in equine business management, with a concentration in public relations.

She is the daughter of **Jeff** and **Sharon Crouch**, Vancouver.

Genealogical society concentrating on women in day-long Saturday meet

The Clark County Genealogical Society will be honoring women during its 8 a.m.-to-4 p.m. Saturday, March 25, spring seminar in the Washington State School for the Deaf Auditorium, 615 Grand Boulevard. March is Women's History Month.

Strategies for uncovering information about female ancestors and how to record their stories will be offered.

Cost of the seminar is \$40 for members of the society, \$45 for nonmembers. To register for the seminar, go to www.ccg-wa.org.

Vancouver games are Tuesday

The Vancouver Games for the Physically Challenged are from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, at Mountain View High School.

More than 160 participants, ranging in age from 3 to 21, will be participating from the Evergreen Public Schools, Vancouver, Battle Ground, Camas and Washougal School Districts, and the Washington State School for the Deaf. For further information, call **Linda Ball**, 604-6700, extension 4908.

News brief

Spring break for Washington public schools, which began today, will be observed by the Clark County Sheriff's office with extra patrols to help enforce curfew and minors in possession of alcohol regulations. Curfews are 10:15 p.m. for children under the age of 14; midnight, for those between the ages of 15 and 18. Children are permitted to consume alcohol only with a parent or guardian or during a religious ceremony, according to sheriff Sgt. **David Thompson**.

Calendar

The Chinook planthouse just north of Ridgefield will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 25. There is no charge for the events that include tours, children's activities and presentations. ✂ Felida Community Park, at NW 122nd Street and NW 36th Avenue, will be dedicated at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 25. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided by the Salmon Creek Lions Club. ✂ U.S. Rep. **Brian Baird** (D-3rd) will attend the Battle Ground Friends of the Library pancake breakfast at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 25, in the Mallard Landing Assisted Living Center, 813 SE Clark Avenue, Battle Ground.

Friday headlines from at home and around the world

[Senate page has an impact on politics--Columbian, **Jose Paul Corona**](#)

[Vancouver Police Chief Brian Martinek leaving over residency policy--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)

[La Center city officials inched closer to conflict, not compromise, with the Cowlitz Tribe on Wednesday night by agreeing to send a strongly worded letter opposing the \\$510 million casino complex--Columbian, **Jeffrey Mize**](#)

[Lewis & Clark Re-enactors begin trip back to St. Louis--Columbian, **Dean Baker**](#)

[Orville Yearout's dream of turning an Orchards turkey farm property into EastRidge Business Park is nearing the final stage of its 30-year buildout--Columbian, **Cami Joner**](#)

[The sternwheeler Empress Of The North ran aground on a sand bar in the Columbia River near Camas Friday afternoon-- KATU \(Includes video\)](#)

[Arizona issues warrant for two of the people stranded in motor home for more than two weeks--Seattle P-I, AP, **Joseph B. Frazier**](#)

[New home sales drop 10.5 percent in February, largest drop in nine years--Washington Post, AP, **Martin Crutsinger**](#)

Friday on the air

City Minutes (3/19)—4:24 p.m. CVTV

Women of Achievement (3/8)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Washington vs. Connecticut (live)—6:30 p.m. KOIN-TV, KFX

San Antonio at the Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL, KMUZ

Portland Winter Hawks at Seattle (live)—7 p.m. KCMD

Telecommunications Commission (3/1)—7 p.m. CVTV

Clark College Orchestra Winter Concert—9:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Symphony: Celestial Navigation—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Newt Rumble pacesetting. ✂ **Scott Salsbery** joining crowd. ✂ **Dennis Hatton** helping seat the table. ✂ **Kim Capeloto** watching bullets bounce off. ✂ **Marge Martell** celebrating a pair of low numbers. ✂ **Bill Jameson** putting shine on walking shoes. ✂ **Kevin Wann** earns another feather. ✂ **Friday**, a little sun, occasional showers, blustery, 56. **Saturday**, windy, sunbreaks and showers, 54. **Sunday**, mostly cloudy, at least one sunbreak, 55.