

Observing Vancouver

Local Chem-Dry Franchisees Lend Community A Helping Hand

Pat Heffron and his wife Sandy are two local entrepreneurs in the Vancouver area who have found a way to successfully run their company while supporting their community.

Pat and Sandy have been the franchisees for Chem-Dry, the world's largest carpet and upholstery cleaning company, for over eight years. The two have learned that it takes practice to get the art of cleaning down to a science, so when the chance arose to not only train their technicians but also help the community, Pat and Sandy jumped at the opportunity.

It all started when on a particular job one of their technicians returned with a customer's unwanted couch. It was still in good shape and a waste to throw out. "I immediately looked at the stained furniture and saw a great way to train my technicians on the upholstery cleaning process without having to learn on our own furniture," said Pat, who pointed out that several practice sessions later his technicians were not only more knowledgeable on the process, "but

we ended up with a clean yet unneeded couch."

Pat decided to put his new training method to good use and donate the recycled couch to a local shelter for battered women. His generous gesture marked the beginning of the "Safechoice Shelter Furniture Donation Program," a charity founded by the Heffrons that finds new homes for cleaned-up furniture at local women's and homeless shelters.

"We have cleaned and donated about 45 items in the last several years," said Pat, who started out as a technician and due to the strong field support of the Chem-Dry franchise system, has moved his way up to become the owner of two franchises. "We guess the unexpected result is the feeling that you get for making a difference in a few lives."

What Pat realized was this program was a win-win situation for everyone. Not only were the Heffrons running a successful operation with well-trained technicians, they were actively involved in supporting their community.

Although Chem-Dry of Vancouver has never tracked program results, they do know it has definitely brightened spirits for everyone involved, leaving a positive impact within the community. "It's amazing to see these women's faces when Pat and his technicians show up with a van or two full of clean furniture," said Sherri Bennett for the Vancouver Safechoice Shelter, who has been a part of the program for five years. "It's such a good feeling to know there are people out there who care so much."

Chem-Dry of Vancouver is a full service Chem-Dry franchise offering carpet and upholstery cleaning, protestants, deodorizing and carpet repair. For more information on this program call 360-573-5390 or 503-221-9739.

Chem-Dry, headquartered in Logan, Utah, is the world's largest carpet cleaning company with the over 3900 franchises in 51 countries offering a revolutionary carbonating cleaning process that is non-toxic, dries quickly and cleans thoroughly. The system holds multiple patents.

USAF To Gun Fighter Talk

Pearson Air Museum will host published author and former Top Gun pilot, J.D. Wetterling, for a noon time talk on his new book, "Son of Thunder" on Tuesday 19 January. Gathering time and book signing opportunity from 11:30 to noon with presentation from noon to 1 PM.

J.D. Wetterling flew 268 combat missions in the F-100 in Vietnam in 1968-69 and went back in 1972 for 75 more missions in the F-4. He was awarded the Distinguished

Flying Cross with Oak leaf Cluster and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He was "Top Gun" in every fighter squadron in which he served.

Over 100 of his short stories, columns and essays have been published in The Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, The St. Petersburg Times and many other magazines.

Wetterling's book, Son of Thunder, is a character-driven military thriller about the Vietnam War. His

attention to detail and accurate historical settings resulted in non-fiction excerpts of his book appearing in many major newspapers. BG Tom Wittman calls Son of Thunder, "...great fiction, based on actual experience, told with insight and feeling that is as exciting as it is accurate."

Admission to the museum will be free for the event (donations are always welcome) and J.D.'s book will be available for sale in the museum gift shop.

Captain Vancouver Goes On Display At City Hall

The City of Vancouver and SWIFT (Southwest Washington Independent Forward Thrust) are partnering to promote community support for the Captain Vancouver Monument Project.

A miniature of the proposed Captain Vancouver statue goes on display Friday, Jan. 8, at Vancouver City Hall. The statue was created by local sculptor Jim Demetro of Battle Ground. The media is invited

to the opening of the display at 3 p.m. in the City Hall lobby. Representatives from SWIFT, and members of other groups involved in the statue project, will talk about their efforts.

In addition to assisting with the display, SWIFT is working with The Friends of Vancouver, a grassroots organization that is raising funds to place a larger version of the statue of Captain George Vancouver in

America's Vancouver for the year 2000 celebration. This support will come during a "Fund-an-Item" section in the SWIFT Art Auction Feb. 5 at the Healthman Lodge. Fund-an-Item allows bids to be pooled and given directly to a project.

For more information call (360) 694-5947. The auction will feature works from more than 50 Northwest artists.

City Seeks Citizens For Budget Advisory Committee

The City of Vancouver is seeking applicants for the Citizen's Budget Review Advisory Committee.

This committee will assist the City Manager in reviewing the revenue and expenditures of the City's

General Fund. Committee members are appointed by the City Manager. Meetings will be frequent over a nine-month period beginning in February.

Application deadline is Jan. 15, 1999. Applicants must be City of

Vancouver residents.

Please send a letter of interest and qualifications to Vernon Stoner, City Manager, Vancouver City Hall, P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668-1995 or Fax 696-8049. For more details call 696-8121.

New Partnership Helps New Moms

The Southwest Washington Medical Center and Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation have merged their pre- and post-natal fitness programs. The Mommy and Me class is offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 at the Clark County Indoor Sports Center, 16311 NE 15 Street.

Babies are a welcome part of the class. A physical therapist from the Medical Center will give a presentation on body mechanics and other issues of interest to pre- and post-natal women.

The class fee is \$23 per month for in-city residents and \$29/ out-of-city. The fee includes access to any fitness

class offered by City Fitness at three locations (Marshall, Bagley and Clark County Indoor Sports centers) and use of the Bagley Center weight room. Scholarships available for qualified city residents.

First class is free. Call 696-8075 for further information.

City Invites Applications For Charter Review Committee

Applications will be accepted by the Mayor's Office Through Jan. 25, 1999 for fifteen positions on the Charter Review Committee, per Section 11.17 of the Vancouver City Charter.

"No later than five years after the most recent charter review, the mayor shall appoint, subject to city council confirmation, a panel of fifteen residents to review the city charter and to recommend to the

city council in time to be considered for the year's election, any charter changes or amendments which the panel believes should be put to a vote to the people, and the council shall thereafter place any such amendment on the ballot at the next municipal election if a majority of the city council so determine; provided nothing herein shall interfere with the right of citizens to, by petition, require an election to be held

for any charter amendment or to cause a freeholder election to be held for a proposed new city charter, nor shall it interfere with the right of the city council to, at any time, propose and submit proposed charter amendments to the voters."

For applications, or questions, contact Jan Bader, Mayor's Office, 735-8870, Fax 696-8049. Or, stop by Vancouver City Hall at 210 E. 13th St.

POLICE NEWS

Heroin Trafficking Targeted By Portland Police Precincts

For the past two months street officers from all of Portland's five patrol precincts have been conducting an undercover investigation of street level heroin dealers who have been plaguing downtown and lower southeast Portland. As a result, on Wednesday morning January 6, 1999, officers executed eight search warrants of residences in the Portland metropolitan area and sought consent to search eight other homes and businesses. Additionally, twenty-nine (29) people have been taken into custody for Delivery of a Controlled Substance (DCS) and Possession of a Controlled Substance (PCS). Officers are currently seeking another 12 to 15 individuals for drug related charges. When located they will be arrested and charged for their participation in the infusion of tar heroin into Portland in recent months.

In early November, 1998, Central Precinct officers began an investigation into street level heroin dealing in the Burnside area of

downtown Portland after officers noticed an influx of new drug suppliers. Through a series of arrests, street contacts and information received from informants, officers found many of the new suppliers were Honduran who were selling tar heroin around the Burnside area on both the West and East sides of the Willamette River. Further, officers found that many of the dealers they were surveilling were found to frequent two restaurants on East Burnside which were identified as the La Casita, 436 E. Burnside St, and Tequila Pepper's, 830 E. Burnside St.

It was found that officers from Southeast Precinct had simultaneously begun an investigation into drug dealing emanating from La Casita and Tequila Pepper's. Officers from Central and Southeast Precincts formally combined their investigations and initiated a series of surveillances and undercover hand to hand drug buys on the streets of Portland and in the La Casita and Tequila Pepper's

restaurants. Efforts have been made to link the known street level heroin dealers to their suppliers.

On January 6, 1999, Wednesday, Portland officers, with the assistance of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon State Police, the Gresham Police Department, the Washington County Interagency Narcotics Task Force (WIN), the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) simultaneously searched several residences for tar heroin and cocaine and in the process took twenty-nine (29) people into custody for Delivery and Possession of tar heroin and cocaine. Officers are seeking 12 to 15 additional suspects who are known to be involved in the distribution of drugs in Portland.

Unknown quantities of suspected heroin, cocaine and cash were seized from several of the searched locations.

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

The Multnomah County Sheriff's office River Patrol, Portland Fire Bureau, Clark County 76 Sheriff's Officers and the Coast Guard continued the search for the occupants and parts of a plane that crashed in the Columbia River January 08, 1999. The search group consists of 9 boats that are searching from the I-5 bridge to the I-205 bridge. No bodies or significant parts to the plane have been found as of this time other than what was

found during the search Friday night.

The occupants of the plane have been identified as:

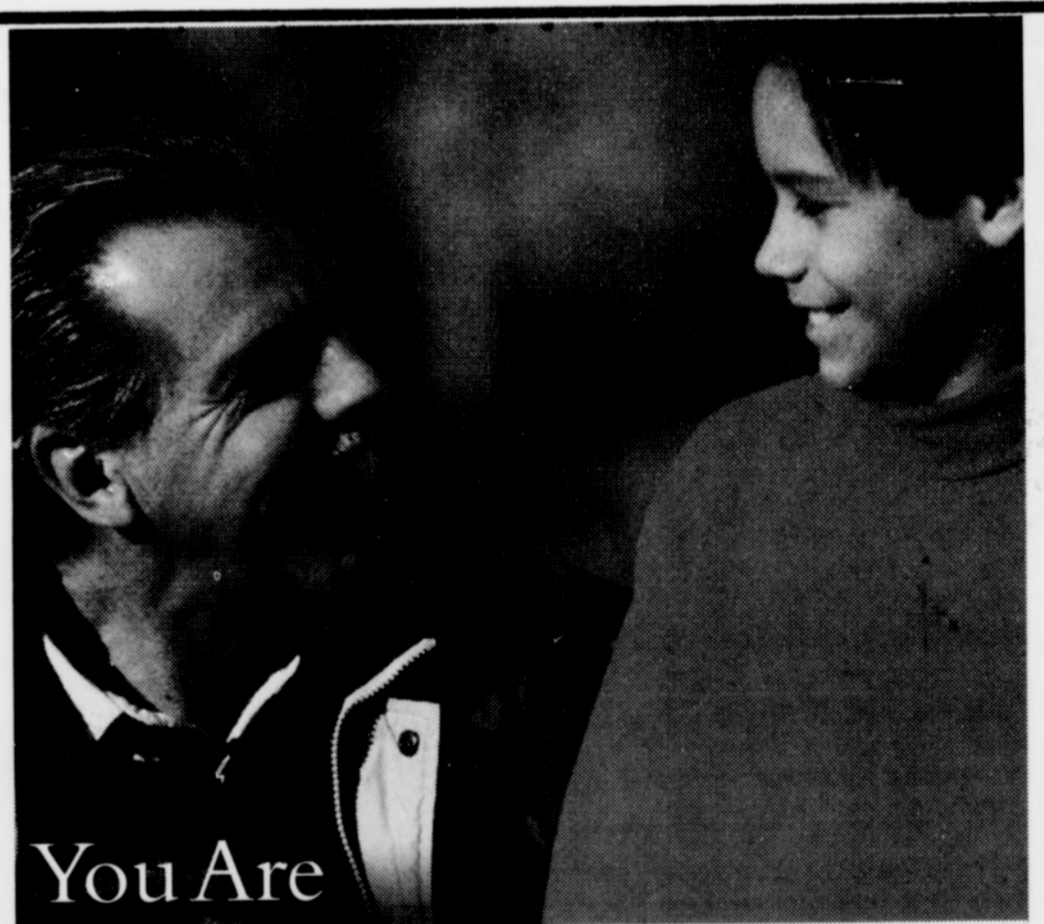
Kimberley A. Kelley
d.o.b 05/12/78 passenger
Resident: S.W. Portland

Hans Oesch
d.o.b. 11/03/59 Pilot-commercial licensed
Resident: Bend, OR
Nationality: Swiss

FAA investigators are on scene and conducting an investigation into the cause of the accident. The plane was

making a routine landing approach at PDX on to runway 10 left at approximately 6:00 p.m. It was approaching for a landing from the west at approximately 500 feet and at 100 - 110 mph. When it was a mile and a half out, the plane suddenly went into a N.E. turn toward Washington State and the Columbia River. The plane went off of the control tower radar and was not seen again.

Any information from Lt. Brian Martinek 251-2515; pager 271-1217



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