Closing the ‘Loop’: New Art for Clark College Branch Campus

The $30 million Clark College at Columbia Tech Center campus in east Vancouver opened in September, and has grown rapidly with students. But the shiny, four-story classroom building lacks a certain flourish, until now.

This week, Seattle artist Ann Gardner, above at right, and her crew are carefully installing her large glass sculpture, “Loop,” near the center’s main entry. The piece is comprised of three feet-tall, public art element of the new facility.

At top, Gardner directs, left, Sophie Gardner, Ed Koury and Lisa Downey during an early phase of work Wednesday. Gardner has crafted dozens of glass works placed in public buildings across the United States and beyond. Her art has been widely exhibited in the Pacific Northwest. (See http://www.anngardner.net/bio.html.)

In May, the college unveiled a bronze-and-stainless steel sculpture by noted Ridgefield artist and part-time Clark instructor Beth Heron. Her piece outside Gasser Hall, “Scend,” holds the school’s new 25-year-time capsule.

Other Heron works on display locally include a “Water Forms” fountain on Officers Row in Fort Vancouver National Site and “Winged Women,” which stands in a downtown Vancouver sculpture park.

Heron will be among artists featured on the weekly “Oregon Art Beat” show at 8 tonight on Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Southwest Washington Transportation Council

Pilot project land-use issue

Governors group selects agency to devise procedures

By ERIK ROBINSON Columbia staff writer

Hoping to formalize a closer connection between transportation and land use, the executive director of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council is working on a pilot project sponsored by the National Governors Association.

Dean Lookingshield spent part of last week in Washington, D.C., attending a policy academy sponsored by the governors group.

"We will contribute time, but there is no grant through this," Lookingshield said.

The idea is to form a closer connection between how a community plans its transportation network that ties it together.

The governors group selected Washington, and specifically picked the Southwest Washington RT Council to help devise a better process to maximize economic and environmental benefits, not just "an afterthought," from the perspective of transportation planners.

A letter from the letter "B" to Gov. Duntsch of Oregon, which selected a few states from a dozen or so states to participate in the RTD's pilot project.

The project plans to look at reducing congestion and improving transportation networks for people and goods.

In honor of Census (No foolin'), a look

By MICHAEL ANDERSON Columbia staff writer

Happy Census Day!

In April 1, and once every 10 years that means more than pranks. Today's the day the U.S. Census Bureau officially takes its snapshot of the population.

If you haven't got a Census form yet, don't panic—addressing problems interfered with some forms, new addresses reported today. Be sure your form still hasn't arrived by April 12, call 877-606-6560 or visit their website.

The Census 2010 report is due in April 2011.

In the meantime, the Census Bureau took a toll through its archives to reveal many years of Census-related stories. A few noteworthy passages...