

Camas man takes spin on game show

Barry Williams got the e-mail inviting him to audition for "Wheel of Fortune" on March 31, so the Camas phlebotomist and Clark College student suspected it was a scam or an April Fool's Day prank. But it wasn't, and Williams will appear on Thursday's episode of the game show, which airs at 7:30 p.m. on ABC channel 2.

Williams' wife, Suzanne Luttrell-Williams, had filled out an online application for him during the winter 2008 snowstorm. He never expected to actually make it on the show.

"I've watched all those game shows for so many years, so getting a chance to be on one was fantastic," said Williams, 35.

He auditioned in Portland in April, and filmed in Culver City, Calif., in November. He's planning to celebrate his television appearance with a viewing party for about 125 family members, friends and co-workers at Big Al's in Vancouver.

Filming was a "surreal" experience, he said.

"When you see (hosts) Pat (Sajak) and Vanna (White) and meet (announcer) Charlie (O'Donnell), when you're actually right there on the stage with the wheel, it's very overwhelming," he said. "It's just like the shortest 30 minutes of your life. It flies by so fast."



CAROL KAELSON

Camas resident Barry Williams will be on "Wheel of Fortune" Thursday.