

August 20, 2009

Fort Vancouver National Trust

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NEWS RELEASE --For Immediate Release

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**Pearson Air Museum raises \$30,000 before Saturday's
Dancing with the Local Stars hangar dance;
Elson Strahan and Kim Capeloto will skydive and land at the event at 6:15 p.m.**

For the first time ever, Pearson Air Museum has raised \$30,000 before its annual fundraising hangar dance on Saturday, so Elson Strahan, president and CEO of Fort Vancouver National Trust, and Kim Capeloto, president and CEO of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, will skydive for the first time and will land at the event at 6:15 p.m. For both men, it will be their first skydive. Each will do a tandem jump with an experienced skydiver. The \$30,000 benchmark was set months ago when the dance was being planned.

Elson Strahan said, "We are grateful for all of our dancers' efforts and the community's support for this regional treasure. The skydive professional will have a video camera attached to his arm to capture how Kim and I react during the jump. Hopefully, it won't end up on You Tube."

Another first for this fourth annual event is that reserved dinner seating inside the hangar is sold out. Dance-only canopy seating is still available at \$20 per person for purchase at the door. No dinner will be served in the canopy, but a no-host bar and snacks are available for purchase.

WHO: Eight Clark County celebrities performing in a dance competition

WHAT: Dancing with the Local Stars, the annual fundraiser for Pearson Air Museum

WHERE: Pearson Air Museum, 1115 E. Fifth Street, Vancouver

WHEN: Saturday, August 22 from 6 to 11 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

WHY: To raise money for the museum's aviation education programs

TO ATTEND: At the door purchase \$20 tickets for canopy seating which does not include dinner. Reserved dinner seating inside the hangar is sold out.

CONTACT: Pearson Air Museum at 360-694-7026 or visit www.pearsonairmuseum.org

The evening's program includes:

- 5:30 p.m.: Doors open
- 6:00-6:15 p.m.: Elson Strahan and Kim Capeloto skydive and land at the event
- 6:00-7:30 p.m.: Dinner service and no-host bar by Beaches Restaurant
- 7:00-7:30 p.m.: Ballroom dance lessons from Arthur Murray Dance instructors
- 7:30 p.m.: Dance competition begins. Master of ceremonies is Rod Hill. Music is provided by the Pranksters Big Band.

How it works: Celebrity dancers received complimentary lessons from Arthur Murray Dance Studios and were paired up with a dance instructor. Each dancer will perform a different style of dance at the event. The community is encouraged to "vote" for their favorite dancer with their dollars. Donations are accepted online (www.fortvan.org), by mailing a check or by donating at the event.

The celebrity dancers are:

- Michael Ciraulo, Mayor, City of Battle Ground
- Susan Courtney, Courtney Consulting
- Tamara Fuller, NAI Norris, Beggs & Simpson
- Lisa Lowe, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt
- John McDonagh, Vancouver Business Journal
- George Middleton, Limoges Investment Management
- Terry Murphy, Design Showroom Inc.

- Tommy Owens, Tommy O's

Some of Pearson Air Museum's educational programs supported by this event are:

- Soar with Books toddler reading program under the wings of a vintage airplane
- Open Cockpit Day, an annual event in which all ages can climb into a cockpit of a vintage aircraft and kids ages 8 to 17 enjoy free airplane rides courtesy of pilot volunteers from the EAA Young Eagles program
- Al Coupe Aviation Summer Camp presented by RSV Construction for aspiring aviators ages 9 to 14
- Christmas at Pearson Air Museum in which visitors climb into the cockpit of a vintage 1941 Ryan PT21 airplane and get their photo taken with Santa
- Educational field trips and exhibits including the recent Snoopy as the World War I Flying Ace traveling exhibit from the Charles M. Schulz Museum.

About Pearson Air Museum: The Pearson Air Museum is located at Pearson Field, the nation's oldest operating airfield. When museum visitors step into the museum's pre-World War II Army Air Corps hangars, they immerse themselves in early era of aviation history and learn about the milestones that have occurred at Pearson Field since 1905. Pearson Air Museum is operated by the Fort Vancouver National Trust, a non-profit organization. The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit Pearson Air Museum's Web site at www.pearsonairmuseum.org.