By P.B. Wakefield

Three new Clocktower panels will be unveiled by Gov. Gary Locke at 2 p.m. April 25.

The Northwest explorer Juan Pérez, humanitarian/naturalist Floyd Schmoe, and legal advocate Elmer Smith will be recognized for their contributions to North- west culture.

According to an inscription on the Clocktower, the honorees “by virtue of their giftedness, have enriched our culture and are individuals whose energy and creativity have allowed us to enjoy life more fully.”

Gov. Gary Locke will proclaim April 25 Centralia College Day in the state of Washington when he visits the campus at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday to participate in the college’s 75th anniversary celebration.

Locke also will participate in the unveiling ceremony of three new panels on the college’s Clocktower at 2 p.m.

“This is a special day,” said Dr. Hank Kirk, president of the college. “The fact that we’ve been in continuous operation longer than any other college is a tribute to the men and women who founded this college and who kept it alive through thick and thin. It also makes a powerful statement that we are the community’s college. Without steady support and enduring support we could not have survived.”

Throughout the day, the pedestrian walkway will be the scene for bands featuring music for people of all ages. The college library will host a display of 75 years of technology and 75 years of college memorabilia will be on display at various locations throughout the campus.

The 75th birthday celebration day will include activities for students beginning at 11 a.m. A luncheon on the college mall near the cafeteria will be available beginning at noon, weather permitting.

Following the unveiling ceremony, there will be a special presentation in the cafeteria. Also on tap for the afternoon will be a fashion show, “75 Years of Fashion.” The event is staged by the college’s marketing students and will begin following the unveiling ceremony at the Clocktower.

An Open House begins at 5 p.m. and will take place in the cafeteria.

At 7:30 p.m., the college’s music and drama departments combine to bring a special presentation in Corbet Theatre.

See related articles about the college’s 75 year history on pages 8-13.

The original eight panels were partially funded through a $7,000 donation from the Associated Students of Centralia College.

The three new panels are being funded by the Diversity Committee.

Nominations were solicited from students, faculty and staff, and the local community last spring.

Pérez, Schmoe and Smith were selected from 29 nominees.

Schmoe: humanitarian and naturalist

By P.B. Wakefield

“I’ve always believed that individuals are responsible for what happens in the world. We can make a difference.”

With that philosophy Floyd Schmoe has lived his life.

At age 104, Schmoe does not see or hear as well as he once did.

During a recent phone conversation it was hard for him to hear but as his daughter, Ruthanna Higley, 65, one of his three surviving children, relayed the questions, he certainly had plenty to say.

“I think it’s a great honor and a great occasion. But I don’t understand why I’m included, except for the fact that I’ve been a resident of the general area for a very long time. I hope I’ve contributed something, but I’m not the only one by any means. I hope to be worthy of it.”

Schmoe has spent most of his life, when he was not abroad helping war victims, living in and learning about the Pacific Northwest. Starting as a guide in Mount Rainier National Park, he became a ranger and then the park’s first naturalist. It was during a winter spent in a tent at Paradise on Mount Rainier that his second child died shortly after she was born because the family was snowed in.

SEE SCHMOE PAGE 3

Pérez: Northwest explorer

By P.B. Wakefield

Juan Pérez was the first non-native American explorer of the Pacific Northwest.

In 1774 Pérez sailed the Spanish vessel Santiago, from Mexico with a crew of 86 Spaniards and Mexicans. At the time, Mexico was under the auspices of Spain and expeditions to the Pacific Northwest set out from Mexico and included Spanish naval officers and a Mexican crew.

Between Pérez’s expedition in 1774 and 1819 there were 45 major Spanish expeditions to the Pacific Northwest. Pérez’s inclusion on the Clocktower is not to honor just him, but also to honor the contributions made by all of the early Hispanic explorers and scientists of the Northwest, said Randy Johnson, Centralia College diversity coordinator.

Dr. Antonio Sanchez, research analyst, Washington state House of Representatives Office of Program Research, nominated Pérez.

“Juan Pérez is significant in the history of this state,” said Sanchez. This (the) centennial celebration is not to honor just him, but also to honor the contributions made by all of the early Hispanic explorers and scientists of the Northwest, said Randy Johnson, Centralia College diversity coordinator.

SEE PÉREZ PAGE 3

College honors Schmoe, Smith, Pérez

By P.B. Wakefield

The invocations had been sent. The ads had been placed. The brochures had been printed. Gov. Gary Locke was coming here at 1:30 p.m. on April 25 to participate in the college’s 75th birthday celebration and dedication of these new Clocktower panels.

And, yes, Locke will be here as advertised. But the college was not certain

Inside: A 75-year retrospective

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See related articles about the college’s 75 year history on pages 8-13.
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What he objected to was Smith being called, had been charged with firing at, wounding and killing several World War II veterans, including the first apples, wheat and live- stock. Sanchez said these accomplishments were performed here by these Spanish and Mexican scientists, “It has been acknowledged and to weave into his- tory what has been neglected. History in that he did not accept their money, he was thinking of the Spanish cartography of the coast. Most significantly it is because of his voyage that we are in now in the state of Washington and in Canada.

The Spanish, said Sanchez, intro- duced many of the things that are the foundation of the economy of this state including the first apples, wheat and live- stock. Sanchez said these accomplishments have often been overlooked by histori- ans. Since this is an English-speaking country, historians have been more inclined to write about the accomplishments of the English rather than the Hispanics, he said.

School textbooks contain little of this information, said Sanchez. As a result, he and Erasmo Gamboa, associate pro- fessor of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington (who re- searched the biographical information for Pérez’s nomination), have recently produced a textbook and video for use in grades 9-12.

Scheduled to attend the ceremony to honor Pérez are Sanchez; Luis Fernando Esteban, the Seattle-based vice consul general of Spain; Ondrej Contreras, di- rector of the Commission of Hispanic Affairs; and Mariano Lemus Gas, the Seattle-based consul general of Mexico.

Emily Smith is a descendant of a distinguished family, one that had ties to the Seattle area from the 1800s. Her great-great-grandfather was a member of the first wave of settlers who arrived in the area.

Emily Smith’s father was a distinguished public servant who served as a U.S. senator from Washington State. She is the great-granddaughter of a former governor of Washington State and the great-great-great-granddaughter of a president of the United States.

Emily Smith has had a long and successful career in the public service, including serving as a U.S. senator and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Emily Smith’s children are all successful professionals in their own right. Her son, a lawyer, is currently running for election to the office of mayor of Seattle. Her daughter, a noted journalist, is currently covering politics for a major newspaper in Washington DC.

Emily Smith is known for her dedication to public service and her commitment to helping others. She has been a vocal advocate for issues such as education, healthcare, and the environment, and has worked tirelessly to make a difference in her community.

Emily Smith is a true leader and a role model for all of us. Her dedication to public service and her commitment to helping others will continue to inspire generations to come.

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Clocktower honor) is an important event for Spaniards. Sanchez has long worked to acknowl- edge the achievements of the early Span- ish explorers in the Northwest.

“Because of the area is first mapped and named by the Spanish, when the Americans took over, most of the area’s history remained intact of the Spanish record.

The Spanish came as explorers – not conquerors, said Sanchez. They came at a time of underdevelopment and conducted very rigorous scientific studies. Sanchez searched for the most incredible scientific experiments ever done in the world were performed here by these Spanish and Mexican scientists, “It has been acknowledged and to weave into his- tory what has been neglected. History in that he did not accept their money, he was thinking of the Spanish cartography of the coast. Most significantly it is because of his voyage that we are in now in the state of Washington and in Canada.

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