

Washougal business owner is nominated for national award

Kim Erion is president of LKE Corporation

The owner of a Washougal business will find out later this month if she has been named "National Minority Small Business Person of the Year."

Kim Erion, president of LKE Corporation, is one of 10 business owners vying for the title. The award will be presented at the 29th annual Minority Enterprise Development Week conference, hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency. The conference will take place Tuesday, Sept. 27, through Friday, Sept. 30, in

Washington D.C.

In addition to Erion, the regional winners include business owners from Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Texas, Kansas, South Dakota, South Carolina, Indiana and California.

The conference will also include workshops on access to SBA's lending programs and access to federal contracts through the Small Business Jobs Act, growing a business through social media and access to government contracts through federal Mentor-Protegeé pro-



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grams. There will also be a roundtable discussion about government contracting opportunities for small businesses.

LKE, incorporated in 1993, is a heavy construction general contractor, specializing in environmental work such as reclamation, wildlife habitat, wetlands development, watershed restoration, in-stream fish enhancements, vegetation management, planting, soil preparation and naturalized landscaping. As a heavy civil general contractor, the corporation performs road construction, water and sewer replacements, water management, culvert installation, environmental monitoring and design build services.

Erion volunteers for conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Trout, the Gifford Pinchot Task Force and ExCEL Academic League.

"It's great to get kids involved and excited," she said. "An awesome feeling is when you inspire young adults to make a difference and to live a conservation lifestyle. They are always so intrigued about me, a little gal, playing with big rocks and big machines making a big difference."

LKE Corporation's main office is located at 1002 Ryan Tavelli Road. It also has a branch office in Portland. For more information, call 837-1700 or visit www.lkecorporation.com.