

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Ridgefielders pass school levy big time, Oregonians smother income tax bailout

BY TAUF CHARNESKI

Staff Writer The Insider

Nearly 42 percent of the registered voters in the Ridgefield School District cast ballots in yesterday's special election, giving the district's \$7.9 million special levy proposal a whopping 69.01 percent majority.

Meanwhile, voters in Oregon trounced Measure 30, which would have raised \$800 million in state income tax to pay for, among other things, public school operations. The defeat of the measure triggers over \$500 million in cuts in Oregon's schools, public safety and human services.

Even Multnomah County voters rejected Measure 30, after having in last May given their approval to a local income tax increase essentially targeted to schools. Statewide, the measure was losing by 59 percent to 41 percent.

Does this mean that Oregon voters are more mean-spirited than those in Ridgefield?

No. Ridgefield voters were more enlightened than those in Oregon.

Ridgefield voters were much better informed about their school district's needs than Oregon voters were informed about what the \$800 million bailout would produce.

Voters, and that includes you, dear reader, and me, are much smarter and much more knowledgeable than some people give them credit for.

If we are given a proposition that is unambiguous and clearly explained we can make a decision—for or against. When we face a proposition that is not clearly spelled out, it's pretty hard to come to a positive conclusion.

Congratulations to the Ridgefield School District and its supporters for a job well done.

Let's hope that the backers of the March 9 Fort Vancouver Regional Library District's proposed \$48 million bond issue do as good a job of informing us about the need for updated library facilities and services as the backers of the Ridgefield schools did for their voters.

Student musicians to compete to perform with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

Nine regional student musicians will compete Sunday, Feb. 22, in Trinity Lutheran Church for an opportunity to perform with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

The competitors are: pianists **Eileen Chow** and **Ellen Kim**, both of Portland, and **Andrea Johnson**, Milwaukie; brass/woodwind instrumentalists **Linda Brest**, West Linn, **Margaret Francis**, Portland and **Andrew Helmsworth**, Portland; and string players **Sonja Anne Bohr**, Beaverton, **Karin Kasparyan**, West Linn and **Tobie Webb**, Tualatin.

Three winners of this, the tenth annual young artists competition held by the symphony, will perform with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra during its concerts April 17 and 18.

There is no charge to attend the competition, which begins at 1:30 p.m. in the church at 309 W 39th Street.

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WEDNESDAY

Feb. 4, 2004

Skills Center auto tech students headed for the New York International Auto Show

Three Clark County Skills Center advanced automotive technology program pupils will compete in the National Auto Tech contest sponsored by the Greater New York Auto Dealers Association during the New York International Auto Show in New York City April 12 through 16.

Dan Talley, **Aaron Springer** and **Jeremy Mark** are seniors in the Skills Center program. Their instructor, **Kirk Vangelder**, will accompany the trio, which earned the right to compete nationally after their dominating first-place finish in state competition earlier this year sponsored by the Puget Sound Auto Dealers Association.

They will be given 90 minutes to correctly identify and repair a variety of faults in a 2004 vehicle.

News briefs

Hearings on a request for a conditional use permit for a 40-unit Alzheimer's facility and a 45-unit expansion of an existing independent living facility at 8200 NE 54th Street, and a request for approval of the Hockinson Village Subdivision of nine single-family residents, are being held before Clark County hearings examiner **Daniel Kearns** at 7 p.m. tonight in the Public Service Center. ~~SES~~ The Puget Sound Blood Center is holding a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, in the International Air Academy, 2901 E Mill Plain Boulevard. ~~SES~~ An artists reception for glass artist **Gregory Lueck** is at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, in the North Bank Artists Gallery, 1005 Main Street. Lueck is owner of Firehouse No. 12.

Wednesday on the Air

Population and Funding: Why They Grow Differently—4 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus—6 p.m. CVTV

Portland Blazers at Phoenix (live)—6 p.m. KGW-TV, KXL, KRMZ

Clark County Close Up—6:30 p.m. CVTV

Telecommunications Commission (1/21)—7 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Land Use Hearings (2/3)—9 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of local interest at 4 p.m. EST Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2004

Alaska Air Group	26.63	-.57	Linear Technology	39.00	-.95
Alcoa	34.00	+.05	Microsoft	27.01	-.28
Amazon.com	45.39	+.49	Nautilus	14.25	-.20
Bank of America	81.70	+.19	Nike	70.69	+.64
Bank of Clark County	20.00	unch	Nordstrom	39.97	-.03
Bemis	48.01	-.17	PepsiCo	47.60	-.05
Boeing	43.56	+.46	Precision Cast	47.38	+.11
Boise Cascade	31.27	-.78	RLRN	29.30	-.05
CenturyTel	27.42	+1.09	Starbucks	36.86	+.39
Costco	37.30	+.17	TSM	10.32	-.38
Expeditors Intl.	37.24	-.66	Tektronix	31.39	-.15
Georgia Pacific	26.68	-1.15	US Bancorp	27.94	-.01
HPQ	22.19	-.72	Wash. Mutual	43.82	+.12
Intel	30.02	-1.34	W. Coast Bancorp	21.11	-.67
Kyocera	70.05	-.75	Weverhaeuser	60.00	-1.00
DOW: 10,470.74 -34.44 NASDAQ: 2014.14 -52.07 S&P: 1126.52 -9.51					

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Angela Meinig showing a knock for knobs. ~~SES~~ **Chris Crowley** presiding at La Center. ~~SES~~ **Harold Abbe** back at his post. ~~SES~~ **Larry Patella** sharing quotes. ~~SES~~ **Woody Pollock** on the agenda. ~~SES~~ **Jari Graves-Highsmith** plans open house. ~~SES~~ **Wednesday**, gray, but some sunbreaks, too, 46. **Thursday**, gray, sun, possible showers, 46. **Friday**, gray and rainy, 48.

Acapulco	88/70
Athens	47/36
Chicago	24/16
Dallas	43/37
Hong Kong	57/47
Los Angeles	64/46
London	58/48
New Orleans	63/60
New York	43/25
Orlando	74/58
Paris	55/46
Phoenix	58/42
Rome	64/52
Seattle	46/34
Sydney	79/59
Tokyo	47/31
Washington	46/24