

### Skills Center students bring hors d'oeuvres, hobnob with the governor



The Culinary Department at the Clark County Skills Center prepared 3,500 hors d'oeuvres for Gov. **Christine Gregoire**'s inaugural reception held in the state Capitol in January and four of the students got a chance to talk to the newly-elected governor after helping distribute the tasty snacks.

Shown to Gov. Gregorie, from left to right are Skills Center students, Heritage High School seniors **Justin Smyth**, **Kristopher Willard** and **Richard Ahloo**, and **Jonathan Watts**, Camas School senior.

The Skills Center, owned by nine southern Washington school districts, the school provides technical and professional training programs to prepare high school and college students for the workforce.

### Two out of three voters give Hockinson levy thumbs up

Hockinson School District voters yesterday gave their school's special levy a smashing endorsement, approving the replacement measure by a 66.82 majority. For every one voter who voted no, two voters voted yes.

The unofficial vote total reported by the Clark County Elections Department last night was 1,603 to 796. Additional absentee ballots are to be tallied, but they won't affect the outcome.

The three-year special levy of \$6,625,000 will provide for general fund maintenance and operations expenses and does not increase school district residents taxes, since it replaces an existing levy.

### Creation of a metropolitan park district outside Vancouver is hanging fire

By 468 votes, voters were rejecting a measure that would create a metropolitan park district in the Vancouver Urban Growth Area, after the Clark County Elections Department counted ballots from the all mail-in vote last night.

Perhaps as many as 1,500 votes are still in the mail and yet to be counted, but it would take a three-to-one surge to put the measure over the top.

The tally completed last night showed 50.78 percent of the voters opposed the district; 49.22 percent favored its creation.

There are 35 parks and 8 miles of trail in the area, bought and paid for by real estate excise taxes, but no money for maintenance and operation.

If the district were formed it would provide a tax base to cover maintenance and operation costs. The cost would have been about \$40 a year on a \$150,000 residence.

### YMCA board organized for the year

**Jim West**, owner of the All American Deli in Vancouver, has been installed as 2005 president of the Clark County YMCA. **Jennifer Rhoads** has been installed as vice-chair.

New board members for the YMCA for 2005 are **Nelson Holmberg**, **Michael Fisher**, **Debra Arnold** and **Dick Mattson**, who join an existing board consisting of **Rod Cook**, **John White**, **Kurt Lenhoff**, **Bruce Paris**, **Gary O'Connell**, **Joe Gaudio**, **Russell Brent**, **Doug Calvert**, **Greg Kimsey**, **Evan Dudik**, **Kimbal Logan**, **Alice Leach**, and **Gary Ostenson**.

**Judy Davis** has been promoted to property manager at EastRidge Business Park. Davis, who has 20 years' experience in real estate and operational management, has been with EastRidge for the past five years. She is a Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce ambassador. **Melissa Young**, who has been with EastRidge Business Park for the past three years, has been promoted to assistant property manager. Young has ten years' experience in accounting, operations and database management experience. **Karen Moline** has been promoted to property administrator at EastRidge Business Park. Moline has ten years of office management, customer service and administrative support experience. EastRidge Business park is a 90-acre mixed-use business park at 11805 NE 99th Street, Vancouver. 🗳️ State Rep. **Jim Dunn** (R-17th) has been appointed to the House Education Committee. Dunn also sits on the Children & Family Services Committee, the Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade Committee and the Housing Committee. Dunn represented the 17th District from 1996 through 2002, when he was defeated in an attempt to be reelected for a fourth term by Democrat **Deb Wallace**. Dunn defeated Democrat Pat Campbell last November.

**Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:**

[HP's Carly Fiona fired, expects to get \\$21 million severance package--USA TODAY](#)

[Medicare drug benefit dwarfs original price tax, may cost \\$1.2 Trillion in first ten years--Washington Post, \*\*Ceci Connolly\*\* and \*\*Mike Allen\*\*](#)

[Winchester rifle used as part of book report at Skyview High School gets reported to sheriff's office--Columbian, \*\*Amy McFall Prince\*\*](#)

[C-TRAN board says OK to fare hikes--Columbian, \*\*Jeffrey Mize\*\*](#)

[C-TRAN will raise fares and stop transfers--Oregonian, \*\*Bill Stewart\*\*](#)

[George Fox, Ridgefield interim city manager, one of two being considered for a permanent post in the position that now pays \\$120,000--Columbian](#)

[Senate Water, Energy and Environment Committee gives 'do-pass' to bill that would make Clark Public Utilities' appliance repair program permanent--Columbian](#)

[Vancouver's Dick Dickau finding his niche in NBA--Columbian, \*\*Nick Dacshel\*\*](#)

**Wednesday on the air**

2005 Port of Vancouver Report—4 p.m. CVTV

National Mentoring Month—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Capital Perspectives—6:30 p.m. CVTV

**New Orleans at Portland Blazers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL, KRMZ**

Recreation Inclusion in Oregon and Washington—7 p.m. CVTV

**Town Tabloids and the weather**

**Greg Flakus** continuing to send dispatches. ☼ **Barbara Kerr** spies an extracurricular I. ☼ **Bruce Cross** dropping names. ☼ **Donna Roberge-Nozel** keeping up with the neighborhood. ☼ **Eric Campbell** making good connections. ☼ **Steve Rommel** spreading around compliments. ☼ **Wednesday**, sunny after morning fog, 52. **Thursday**, warming sunshine, 55. **Friday**, clouds move in but some sunbreaks left, 54.