

## All the chads will be gone when Clark County votes in February

Clark County voters will never have had it easier than they will when the first election of 2006 comes around February 7. No more punching out chads.

Instead, official ballots will arrive in the mail to all registered voters on standard sized 8 1/2- by 11-inch paper, with voting boxes clearly marked. The correct quarter-of-an-inch-long boxes are to be entirely filled in with a black or blue ink pen. The secrecy envelope and the mail-in affidavit envelopes will be just about the same as usual.

Voting in 2006 will cost the voter two cents more, though, the cost of first-class postage having gone from 37 to 39 cents.

Voters will be receiving mail-in ballots in the second half of January.

Deadline for new voters to register by mail is Saturday, Jan. 7. Prospective voters have until Monday, Jan. 23 to register in person at the county Elections Department office, 1409 Franklin Street.

The only issues on the first election of 2006 are school district operations and maintenance levies.

The Vancouver School District is asking voters to approve levies, for a four-year period, of \$139,300,000. Evergreen School District voters are being asked to approve \$141,835,000 in levies to be collected over a four-year period. The Camas School District is requesting approval of four years worth of levies totaling \$36,635,265, and for a two-year levy of \$755,991 for transportation needs. The Battle Ground School District levy request for four years is \$67,068,784. The Green Mountain School District is asking for a four-year levy of \$1.1 million. The La Center School District levy request is for four years, totaling \$8,180,000. The Washougal School District four-year levy request is for a total of \$18,703,754, and there is also a request for a two-year \$500,000 levy to buy school buses.

## NEPA scoping session on port expansion set for January 4

A public scoping meeting to be conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Services for the Port of Vancouver's proposed Gateway expansion will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan 4, in the Fruit Valley Community Center, 3203 Unander Avenue.

The purpose of the scoping process is to identify issues and alternatives raised by the public. The three-hour meeting will include presentations, an informal discussion, and questions and answers.

For further information, call **Kyle Brown, 823-6106**.

## Calendar

Clark County commissioners meet informally at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28.

## Tuesday headlines from at home and around the world

[Humane Society of Southwest Washington to more than double in size with \\$4.5 million reconstruction to begin in April--Oregonian, Allan Brettman](#)

[Ray Hickey Foundation honored with Oregon Philanthropy Award--Columbian, Tom Vogt](#)

[Hanukkah lights illuminated Donn Allen's Cosley Lanes last night--Columbian, Kelly Adams](#)

[Hazel Dell Sewer District overseeing 486 miles of sewer lines to become Clark Regional Wastewater District in 2006--Columbian, Erik Robinson](#)

[Nancy Condon's tavern patrons make donations to YWCA children's programs--Columbian, Kelly Adams](#)

[Rick Bowler's \\$50 million project on 192nd Avenue passes first hurdle--Columbian](#)

[Iraq leaders meet to plan new government--New York Times, Reuters](#)

[Untangling genetics of cancer gives optimism in creating new treatments--New York Times, Gina Kolata](#)

[Up-all-night culture develops around outsourced jobs--Washington Post, Mitra Kalita](#)

### Tuesday on the air

Maya Lin Land Bridge Groundbreaking (12/7)—4:30 p.m. CVTV  
**Insight Bowl: Arizona State vs. Rutgers live**—5:30 p.m. FSN  
Pearl Harbor Day Observance (12/7)—6 p.m. CVTV  
**Portland State at Oregon (live)**—7 p.m. KXL, KPOJ  
Clark County Commissioners Workshop (12/13)—7 p.m. CVTV  
City Minutes (12/25)—9:30 p.m. CVTV  
Bravo! Vancouver: Handel's The Messiah—10 p.m. CVTV

### Tuesday headlines at home and from around the world

#### Town Tabloids and the weather

**Avril Massey** a stickler for correcting the incomprehensible. ☞ **Bruce Bosch** reports view from bridge was good but crowd below was rowdy. ☞ **David** and **Marilyn Casteel** want a little more pizzazz in 2006. ☞ **Ray Cleveland** comes home with new collar. ☞ **Jim Sanders** does birthday gig on Santa Claus day. ☞ **Timoteus** and **Victoria Racz** adding a touch of class. ☞ **Tuesday**, lots of rain, 54. **Wednesday**, big winds driving more rain, 52. **Thursday**, rain may taper off, but windy conditions could continue, 50.