

Ballots in the mail for Ridgefield, Battle Ground school elections

Voters in the Ridgefield and Battle Ground School Districts and in Fire District 1 who have not received mail-in election ballots by Wednesday, May 3, should notify the Clark County Auditor's office, reports auditor **Greg Kimsey**.

Ballots must be returned to the county Elections Department by 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, or be postmarked by that date, to be counted. Vote tabulations will be made throughout the day, and early results will be announced about 8:15 p.m.

Ridgefield voters are being asked to approve two separate measures. One is a \$49,500,000 bond issue to build and equip a new high school and to convert the existing high school into a middle school. The second measure would provide the school district with \$7.5 million to be used to make improvements at the South Ridge and Union Ridge Elementary Schools and View Ridge Middle School.

Battle Ground voters are also being asked to approve two separate measures. The first is for replacement school levies, which would be collected during the next four years, totaling \$54,952,693. The second is for a four-year maintenance and operation levy of \$4,960,534.

Fire District 1 voters are being asked to approve a proposed merger of that fire district with Fire District 9.

Park Service, PSU partners in history field school at Fort Vancouver

Portland State University and the National Park Service jointly are conducting a Public History Field School for graduate students at the National Park Service's Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Working with **William Lang**, professor of history at PSU, **Greg Shine**, Fort Vancouver's chief ranger & historian, designed the course. Shine, who is the course instructor, is also an adjunct faculty member at PSU.

The purpose of the school is to help graduate students grasp the importance of site interpretation as part of public history.

The Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is a unit of the National Park Service and is located in the heart of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. The reserve includes a national park, a premier archaeological site, the region's first military post, an international fur trade emporium, one of the oldest operating airfields, the first national historic site west of the Mississippi, and a waterfront trail and environmental center on the banks of the Columbia River, according to historic site superintendent **Tracy Fortmann**.

Fortmann says, "Along with the site's highly regarded Archaeology Field School, the new Public History Field School demonstrates the site's leadership in cultural resource stewardship."

Coyote news

There are an estimated 50,000 coyotes in the state of Washington. Recently human beings in Bellevue have been bitten by coyotes. There have been numerous sightings of coyotes reported in Clark County and reports that coyotes have attacked pets.

Clark County Animal Protection and Control offers the following advice:

"Never approach or run from a coyote. Instead make yourself big and shout." Furthermore, if a coyote is in your yard, make loud noises and throw rocks and sticks at it or spray it with a garden hose.

Port of Vancouver implements alternative fuels program

The Port of Vancouver is among the first in the state to test Washington's new renewable fuel standards by implementing an alternative fuels program for its vehicles and heavy equipment, reports port executive director **Larry Paulson**.

Paulson says the first phase of the transition to biodiesel fuels, 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent diesel, will be for use in maintenance equipment. All future equipment and vehicles bought by the port will be equipped to run on alternative fuels, according to Paulson. A hybrid vehicle for port passenger vehicle needs is on order.

When federal tax credits are factored in, the cost of B20 biodiesel fuel is not that far off the cost of regular #2 diesel fuel, Paulson adds.

People

Pete Capell has been elected to the board of directors of the state chapter of the American Public Works

Association. Capell is the public works director for Clark County.

Calendar

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council meets in regular session at 4 p.m. today in the 6th floor training room in the Public Service Center. ✂ Heritage High School's Jazz Night is at 7:30 p.m. this evening in the school auditorium, 7825 NE 130th Avenue. ✂ The Career Information and Job Fair at the Hilton Vancouver Washington is from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 3. There is no charge. Reservations are not required. Clark County commissioners meet in informal session at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, in conference room B in the Public Service Center.

Tuesday headlines from at home and around the world

[State benefit programs for undocumented workers draw fire--Columbian, Kathie Durbin](#)

[Surviving the Holocaust--Columbian, Tom Vogt](#)

[City not wavering on waterfront dreams--Columbian, Jeffrey Mize](#)

[Residences, offices likely for Vancouver waterfront--Oregonian, Allan Brettman](#)

[Global warming differences resolved--Seattle P-I, AP, Randolph E. Schmid](#)

[Darfur peace talks extended--USA TODAY](#)

[Europe puts sanctions at top of UN's Iran agenda--The Times Online, Richard Beeston](#)

Tuesday on the air

Home Ownership Orientation (4/12)—4 p.m. CVTV

County Commissioner Steve Stuart Town Hall (4/13)—5 p.m. CVTV

Mariners at Minnesota—5 p.m. FSN, KFX (1080)

County Commissioners: Habitat Conservation (4/24)—7 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: Young Artists—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Terry Snyder calls for Date Street meeting. ✂ **Dennis Grunes** not on vacation after all. ✂ **Karmel Shields** exclaiming the joys of all things paranympthal. **Elizabeth Madrigal** back at the old stand. ✂ **Ray Cleaveland** getting good press. ✂ **Jessica Swanson** meets **Tom Henderson** and **Tom Brokaw**. ✂ **Tuesday**, crisp morning, sublime afternoon, 67. **Wednesday**, warmer from start to finish, 72. **Thursday**, sunny and warm, 74.