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Evergreen's budget crunch prompts leaders to take their case to parents on the Internet

Evergreen Public Schools, whose voters turned down a recent bond issue, is going all out to explain the fiscal predicament facing the district, beginning the process with a live interactive webcast at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4.

Evergreen Public Schools superintendent **John Deeder** said today: "Due to the failure of the recent bond measure, the passage of several new bills and legislative requirements, and despite steep budget cuts and reductions already made, the district is still facing close to a \$2 million dollar shortfall.

"We've made every attempt to minimize the impact on the classroom and the quality of education provided to our students, but, unfortunately, this is not a one-time exercise. We value the community's input on the proposed cuts, and this is one way to gather that feedback."

Deeder concluded: "While we remain committed to the belief that all students deserve a world-competitive quality education, we are also committed to being fiscally sound and responsible. We hope parents, staff and community members will take the time to come share their input either during the webcast or at the forums because it will take each and every one of us working together to achieve these goals."

Deeder will be joined by Evergreen Public Schools chief financial officer **Mike Merlino** and webcast host **Sharon Mitchell**.

Participants are asked to log on to www.evergreenps.org for the live webcast. Questions can be presented by calling a telephone number that will be shown on the website or by emailing to budget@egreen.wednet.edu.

The school district will also hold two budget-focused community forums, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5, in Heritage High School, and 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, in Evergreen High School. For further information, call **604-4088**.

Channel deepening mitigation issue resolved in favor of Colf family

The Colf family farm on Martin Island will not be used for mitigation efforts for the Columbia River channel deepening project, the U.S. Corps of Engineers has decided. Instead property owned by the ports of Longview and Kalama will be used to restore habitat lost to the channel deepening project.

Commissioners from the ports of Vancouver, Longview and Kalama had abstained from federal efforts to take the 600-acre farm on Martin Island by eminent domain.

Larry Paulson, executive director of the Port of Vancouver said: "Throughout this complicated process, we were determined to avoid the use of eminent domain if at all possible."

Mark Ail funeral was Monday

The life of Mark Ail, well-known advertising executive and motor sports producer, who died last Friday at the age of 60, was remembered during his funeral Monday.

Mr. Ail was a former president of Congregation Neveh Shalom, Columbia Credit Union, and Pacific Northwest Regional United Synagogue of America.

Mr. Ail had also been a director of operations for Pamplin Broadcasting, general manager of KVAN Radio, marketing manager for the Clark County Fair, and special projects coordinator and national advertising manager for the Columbian.



Evergreen Public Schools superintendent John Deeder will take an internet approach to talk with parents about fiscal plight of the school district.

Mr. Ail is survived by his wife, **Mona**, daughter, **Felicia**, Portland; stepson, **Kevin Shelley Spencer**, Ridgefield; his father, **Ronald**, Portland; brother, **David**, Richmond, B.C.; and sister, **Rande Petersen**, Keizer, Ore.

2008 primary ballots will be in the mail Thursday

Approximately 200,000 Clark County registered voters will begin getting the 2008 primary election ballots in the mail from the county Elections Department Friday, Aug. 1. The deadline for returning the ballots is 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19.

For the first time in Washington State primary elections candidates do not need to declare their party preference, although most will. And also for the first time in a Washington State primary election, the top two candidates in contested primary races will advance to the general election, regardless of party.

And, unlike the last general election in which voters had to declare a political party, there is no party declaration possible in this primary or general election.

The primary vote will be definitive in nonpartisan races, such as for local and state judgeships. The winner of each nonpartisan race, providing he or she gets 50 percent, plus one vote, will be elected.

County commissioner candidates will be on the ballots in their district in the primary election. In the general election, all voters vote on the surviving county commissioner candidates.

News brief

A garden party fund raising event for State Rep. **Jim Moeller** (D-49th) is from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at the Hudson Bungalow, 4309 NW 121st Circle. Suggested donations are \$35. For further information, call **903-5115**.

People

Adrian E. Cortes has been appointed to a three-year term on the Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Commission, reports Clark County commissioner **Betty Sue Morris**. Cortes is the principal broker for Cortes Financial, a mortgage brokerage firm licensed in Washington, Oregon and California. Cortes is a bicyclist and a trails advocate.

Calendar

The Southwest Washington Blood Program is holding a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 31, in CDM In-Home Care Services, 11818 SE Mill Plain Boulevard. <> **Pepe and the Bottle Blondes** entertain at the Riverview Six-to-Sunset concert at 6 p.m. Thursday in Esther Short Park. The concert is free. Food vendors are n attendance.

Wednesday on the air

Columbia River Crossing Call-In (7/1)—5 p.m. CVTV

Seattle Mariners at Texas Rangers (live)—5 p.m. FSN, KFX

Albuquerque at Portland (live)—7 p.m. KKAD

Honor the Earth: Native American Legacy (7/11)—7 p.m. CVTV

Port of Vancouver Commissioners (7/23)—8:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Commissioner District 2 Candidates—9:15 p.m. CVTV

Primary Video Voters' Guide—10 p.m. CVTV

Army Reserve 100th Anniversary (7/19)—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Jeremy James stirring pot. <> **Bill Morris's** smile widening. <> **John Peterson** getting high marks. <> **Muffin Batiste** scoring with petit vittles. <> **Bud Van Cleve** making the rounds. <> **Wednesday**, partly cloudy, 53-73. **Thursday**, sunny, 58-80. **Friday**, possible light showers, 57-74.