



In this photo are Supt. Shonny Bria, Steve Pagel, Karen Lehman, Monty Anderson and John Idsinga.

Unanimous Battle Ground board okays three-year levy

The Battle Ground School Board, with three of its five members freshly sworn in, agreed unanimously Saturday to put a three-year maintenance and operations levy before voters on Feb. 9. The levy is for \$20.5 million in 2011, after the levy approved by voters in 2007 expires.

If approved, the levy will help fill the widening gap between state support for basic education and the basic education needs of students. Levy money goes for teachers, and thus smaller class sizes, teaching assistants, who help provide individual attention to students in the classroom, supplies, transportation, extracurricular activities, and other maintenance and operations expenses.

The amount was reached after considerable

board discussion and input from the public and employees. An initial round of cuts in a best-case proposal amounted to approximately \$4 million. More discussion and trims and an across-the-board reduction removed another \$4 million, for a total of approximately \$8 million below the best-case scenario outlined in a three-year strategic plan.

Under the levy approved by the school board, the rate of taxation per \$1,000 of assessed property value is estimated at \$2.99 the first year, \$2.88 in 2012 and \$2.78 in 2013. By comparison, the Vancouver School District's proposed levy seeks \$3.08 the first year and Evergreen Public Schools seek \$3.49.

The \$20.5 million, followed by \$21.53 million in 2012 and \$22.6 million in 2013, "is necessary for the district to operate," said **Monty Anderson** of Yacolt, one of the three directors elected last month.

Anderson took the oath of office Saturday from **Frederick Striker**, the 12-year board member Anderson defeated in the November election. "It is my hope that the patrons of this district stand behind the children of the district, its employees and this Board and support the levy," Anderson said.

The two other new directors are **Steve Pagel**, who was sworn in by Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey**, and **John Idsinga**, former mayor of Battle Ground, who was administered the oath of office by the current mayor, **Mike Ciraulo**. The two returning directors are **Sam Kim** and **Karen Lehman**.

Three Creeks planning council to discuss 2010 work program

Clark County's Three Creeks Advisory Council will meet at noon Thursday, Dec. 10, to review and consider a variety of topics and set a work program for 2010.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Clark Regional Wastewater District, 8000 NE 52nd Court, Hazel Dell.

The Board of Clark County Commissioners appointed the council to assist with transportation plans, land-use plans and other planning issues in the unincorporated urban areas of Hazel Dell, Felida, Lake Shore, Salmon Creek and Clark County Fairgrounds.

For more information, visit <http://www.clark.wa.gov/3creeks/index.html>.

Clark County Fire and Rescue to host rides for toys

Clark County Fire & Rescue will host the third Annual Rides for Toys event to benefit children of low-income families through the North County Community Food Bank, from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11. The event will be held at the Battle Ground Fred Meyer store located at 401 NW 12th Avenue.

Receive a ride in a fire engine, meet Santa, and enjoy cookies and cocoa all in exchange for a new, unwrapped toy. The toys will be donated to the North County Community Food Bank for distribution to children

of families in need this holiday season. Donations of non-perishable foods will also be gladly accepted.

For additional information, call **887-4609**.

News Briefs

Washington State University Vancouver will host a Financial Aid 101 event at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, in the administration building, room 110. The event is for anyone interested in learning how financial aid can help pay for college, regardless of which college or university a student plans to attend. The course will cover what financial aid is, how to apply for it and how to access the money once it is awarded. The event is free to the public, and free parking will be available in Orange 1 lot. To learn more about financial aid at WSU Vancouver, visit www.vancouver.wsu.edu/finaid.

Calendar

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Board of Trustees meet for a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Dec. 7, in the new Cascade Park Community Library, 600 NE 136th Avenue. <> Public Utility District of Clark County Board of Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, Dec. 8. <> Port of Vancouver USA Commissioners meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Dec. 8. <> Battle Ground City Council meets at 7 p.m. tonight, Dec. 7, City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd floor, 109 SW 1st Street. <> Vancouver City Council meets for workshops from 4 to 6 p.m. this evening, Dec. 7, followed by a full council meeting at 7 p.m., Council chambers. Call **696-8211** for more information. <> Planning Commission is holding a public hearing at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, City Hall, 214 E 4th Street, La Center. <> *Crossing Delancy* auditions are being held at the Magenta Theater from 6 to 9 p.m. tonight, Dec. 7, 606 Main Street. Call **606-0033** for more information, or visit www.magentatheater.com for more details. <> Washougal City Council meets at 7 p.m. tonight, Dec. 7. <> Port of Camas/Washougal meets for an executive session at 3 p.m. today, Dec. 7, followed by an open meeting at 4 p.m. <> Normandeu Associates is at the Northwest Environmental Conference and Trade Show 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, and 8 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, Dec. 8, booth No. 35, to help inform others about solving environmental challenges.

Monday on the air

City Council Workshop (live)--4 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver City Council (live)--7 p.m. CVTV

Clark County World AIDS Day Recognition (12-1)--11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Ken and Kay Andrews adding zip to doodah. <> **Kevin Myles** and **Pam Wiper** assuring. <> **Cal Clark** lending skills to North Pole. <> **Bob Harris** warming up new bench. <> **Monday**, sunny, 35-16.

Tuesday, sunny, 33-19, **Wednesday**, sunny, 36-24.