



State Sen. Joe Zarelli reports the theft of puppy. See Page B-2.



Donating in Battle Ground has new owners. See Page A-13.

Live alpaca is offered in auction. See Page A-15.



The Reflector



50¢

# The Reflector

THE NEWSPAPER WITH INTEGRITY

P.O. Box 2020  
Battle Ground  
WA 98604

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BATTLE GROUND, WA  
PERMIT #1

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 3-9, 2006

Serving North Clark and South Cowlitz counties, WA

## Landowners rip habitat plan

Bill Myers  
staff reporter

Speakers at an April 24 public hearing didn't mention taxes on tea or British soldiers in houses. But the tone of outcries was reminiscent of 1775.

The Clark County commissioners scheduled the event to hear public comments on proposed changes to the county's current Habitat Conservation Ordinance.

County officials say legal rulings determined that the ordinance, crafted in 1997 with an exemption for agricultural lands, falls short of meeting requirements of the state Growth Management Act (GMA).

Soon after the ordinance was approved, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board ruled in November 1997 that an exemption for existing agricultural activities did not comply with GMA.

County officials say two subsequent rulings by the Washington State Court of Appeals in 2004 and 2005, sustained the Hearings Board ruling.

Clallam County is now appealing one of the rulings. The case will likely be heard by the state Supreme Court next year.

County deputy prosecutor Rich Lowry said the state legislature granted County officials a one-year grace period in 2004 to get the ordi-



JIM MALINOWSKI



ALEX MATTILA



CROWD FILLED the Hockinson High School gymnasium April 24 as property owners expressed their opinions about proposed revisions to the Clark County habitat ordinance. Most spoke against the county's proposed restrictions on property use.

nance into compliance, and set a deadline of Dec. 1, 2005. The deadline was not met.

Failure to make the ordinance compliant with the GMA will make the County ineligible for state Public Works Trust Fund grants and loans, said commissioner Steve Stuart.

Ineligibility would cost the County about \$8 million this year alone, Stuart said.

"We aren't here because we want to be, but because we have to be," said commission-

er Betty Sue Morris.

A flood of citizen comments came at the hearing, enough to warrant continuations on the next night and on the morning of May 2.

Some citizens said streams and wildlife must be protected for future generations. They urged the commissioners to approve proposed amendments which remove agricultural exemptions except for land in designated non-riparian habitat.

The ordinance is needed, said

Richard Kennon, a member of the Native Fish Society and Fish First.

A few people who don't take care of their properties make it hard on the rest, Kennon said. He said rules should go further and ban new development within a mile of the East Fork of the Lewis River.

Lamas Creek landowner Gene Thompson said "government-made" wetlands using

Continued on page A2



Photo by Wes Stayton, Clark Public Utilities

THESE MONK parakeets, with more than two dozen relatives, continue to rebuild destroyed nests in Yacolt.

## Parrot nests are removed

Bill Myers  
staff reporter

Officials of Clark Public Utilities want to discourage parrots from nesting on power poles in Yacolt.

But the birds aren't listening. The parakeets, known as monk or Quaker parakeets, arrived last year and built two nests on Hubbard Ave.

Utility workers and volunteer bird rescuers removed the nests after a failed attempt to capture the birds on the night of April 11.

Nest areas were sprayed with a solution of ammonia and water, but the birds keep coming back with sticks in their beaks. The birds, about 30 monk (aka: Quaker) parakeets, fled their nests as bird rescue volunteers approached in baskets attached to utility cranes.

Utility spokesman Mick Shutt said the birds could be electrocuted by transformer contacts on the power poles. Nest material can also cause power outages or damage equipment, said Shutt.

Yacolt public works director Paul Testor said power lines could fall and endanger citizens if an electrical short caused a nest to burn.

Shutt said the same species has built thousands of nests on power poles in Florida. He said Florida Power & Light Co. workers are now euthanizing the birds.

Chris Driggins and Chris Dahlenberry, of Northwest Bird Rescues, made the attempt to humanely net the birds at the request of utility officials.

Driggins said the nests contained no eggs.

"The people at the utility want to protect the birds," said Driggins. Several Yacolt citizens are willing to keep the birds as pets in suitable backyard cages, he added.

Town council member Jim Weldon, who lives near the nesting sites and sees the birds feeding in his backyard, said he is amazed by their determination.

A petition, calling on utility officials to provide a safe habitat for the birds, is circulating in Yacolt.

## BG officials explain levy hike

Voters in the Battle Ground School District will decide in a May 16 mail-in election whether to provide \$13.3 million for operations and maintenance in 2007, an increase of about \$4.8 million over the \$8.5 million generated this year in a levy due to expire at year's end.

If approved, the 4-year levy would increase to \$16.8 million in 2010, its final year.

District officials say the increase is needed both to continue current operations and to meet additional needs, including needs created by growth.

The levy is offered in two propositions totaling about \$13.3 million in the first year.

District spokesperson Kelly Keister said the current levy pays for 33 teachers for lower class sizes, plus secretarial staff, assistant principals, custodial workers, counselors and instructional support personnel.

The current levy also pays for school site repairs, technology infrastructure, and preventative maintenance.

The current levy also pays for textbooks, instructional software, testing materials and staff development, plus nurses, health assistants, student activities, security, drug and alcohol program, and support for non-English speaking students.

The cost to continue the work performed under the current levy has risen by about \$1.8 million due to inflation, said Keister. Thus about \$10.3

million is needed to maintain current programs, she said.

Keister said levy funding this year represents about 13 percent of the District budget, a figure that would rise to about 17 percent in 2007 with passage of both propositions. **New schools**

The proposed levy seeks about \$3 million for new school sites and to meet state and federal standards and

other needs, said District superintendent Shonny Bria.

District officials plan to open four new schools over the next three years, including two schools at NE 20th Ave. at NE 239th St., and two at a site south of NE 209th St. between NE 167th Ave. and NE 176th Ave. east of Battle Ground.

The proposed levy would fund assistant principals at the

new schools, plus custodial staff, preventative maintenance, textbooks and materials, nurses, health assistants and counselors.

The total amount in the two levy proposals for these new school sites is about \$736,000 in the first year.

**Student support services**

The proposed levy also includes about \$1.4 million to meet state and federal stan-

dards, including instructional support personnel, teacher training and development, curriculum and materials for academic interventions, help for non-English speaking students, and extended learning programs.

**Additional needs**

About \$830,000 in the pro-

Continued on page A2

CURRENT LEVY PAYS FOR:	INCREASED LEVY AMOUNT (ABOUT \$4.8 MILLION) WOULD PAY FOR:
• 33 classroom teachers \$1.8 million	• 4.5 counselors, 2 nurses, 4 choir/fine arts teachers, 2 "Gifted" program teachers, 7 remedial teachers, 3 English language program teachers \$1.3 million
• 1 media specialist, 2.5 counselors, 1 nurse, 1 special ed teacher, 2 choir/fine arts teachers \$420,000	• Time & responsible pay for teachers, "No Child Left Behind" \$170,000
• 33 secretaries, health assistants, drug & alcohol prevention specialists, English language learner assistants, technology support, grounds and maintenance \$1.2 million	• 6 secretaries, technology support staff, 3 health assistants, 1/2 English language program assistant, 1/2 drug/alcohol program assistant, 13.8 grounds/maintenance/custodial \$920,000
• 11.5 assistant principals, 1 administrator \$860,000	• 8.5 assistant principals, 1/2 legal compliance person \$730,000
• Textbooks, instructional software, testing materials, assessments, staff development \$1.6 million	• Textbooks, instructional software, testing materials, staff development, assessments, drug & alcohol program, high school extra-curricular \$710,000
• Preventative maintenance, technology, fire alarm maintenance, site repairs \$2.6 million	• Computers for student & staff use \$500,000
	• Preventative maintenance, school site repairs, security \$140,000
	• Salary adjustments for all staff \$446,000

CHART SHOWS THE current Battle Ground School District levy expenditures (left) with items that would be added if both Propositions 1 and 2 of the proposed levy gain voter approval on May 16. Growth and new

schools are part of the added items. With levy passage, the District would hire about 57 more employees, phased in as enrollment grows over the next four years.

Reserve MOM's Table TODAY!

Open Mother's Day, May 14, 11 am - 9 pm

IRBY'S BISTRO FINE WINES & MICROBREWS

New York Steak And Lobster!

Open Lunch & Dinner

WINES SOUPS SANDWICHES

"Where Fine Folks Gather in Old Town Battle Ground"

New Summer Hours: Mon - Sat • 11am - 10pm Sun • 5pm - 9pm (except Mother's Day)

360-666-4877 • 801 East Main Street

WHEN IT COMES TO RENTER'S INSURANCE, WE'RE CONTENT EXPERTS

At Farmers,® we realize that your belongs are just as important as a homeowner's belongings. We specialize in Renters insurance with coverage and flexible payment terms to meet your individual needs. Call me today to find out the best way to get your insurance coverage back where it belongs.

DAVE MILLER Insurance Agency Inc.

308 E. Main Battle Ground, WA (360) 687-7133

115 E 4th St. La Center, WA (360) 263-4716

1669 N. Goerig St. Woodland, WA (360) 225-6535

FARMERS Gets you back where you belong.