



Battle Ground Public Schools

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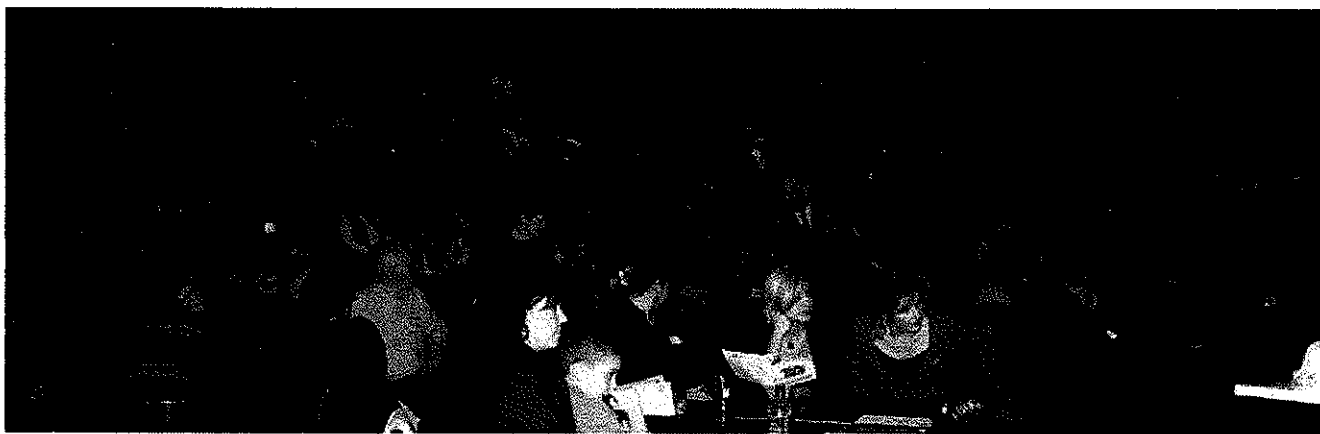
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Jan. 14, 2010

Battle Ground Bits and Bites

An occasional roundup of news you can use -- or cheer

We gave a party, and they came!

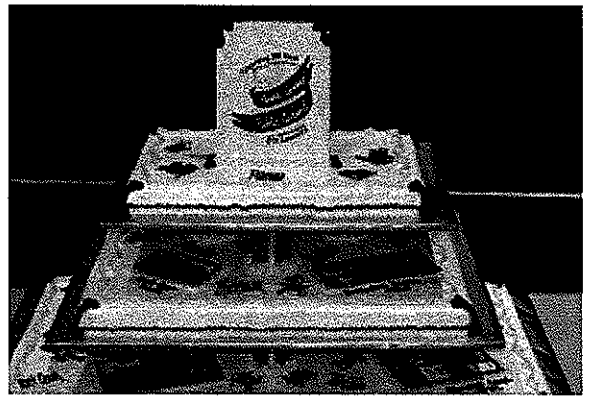
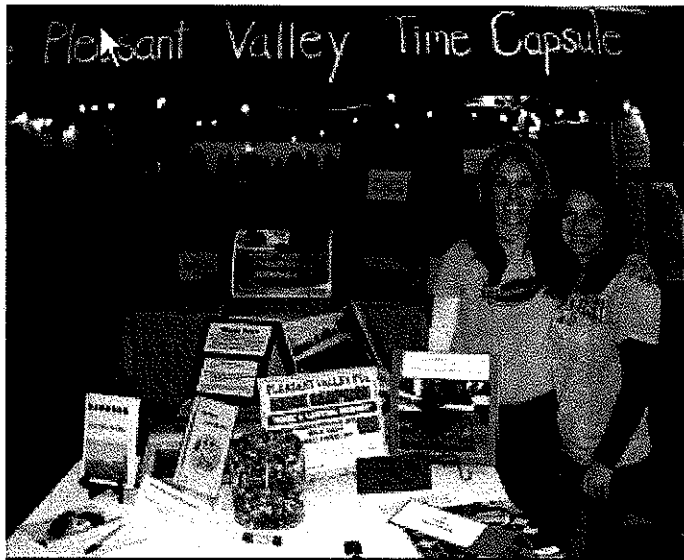


An estimated 1,200 people from as far as Sequim, Wash., flocked to Battle Ground High School on Jan. 9 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the school district.

The announced starting time was 11 a.m., but by 10:30 celebrants were arriving in droves and reception-area volunteers were scrambling to greet them. The enthusiasm of those early arrivers was a precursor of what was to follow, with a crowd that packed the cafeteria for the honoring of 100 “Heroes” and a blanket of enthusiasm, nostalgia and good feeling spread over the day.

There were moments to remember: Virginia Richards, daughter of “Hero” R.S. Durkee, coming from Sequim and leading the Pledge of Allegiance . . . Reynold Mason and Jeanne Yankee, perhaps the only ones there who had attended the former Bee Tree School (early '30s) northwest of Lewisville Park . . . That timeline and those old letterman’s jackets at the BGHS exhibit . . . The Yacolt exhibit with its hand-carved beaver and scorched “trees” representing the big 1902 fire . . . The Tukes Valley video . . . The Pleasant Valley Time Capsule . . . Paul Bardzik pitching for Summit View . . . The Vancouver Heritage Ambassadors and their Catholic/Protestant phobias . . . Sodexo’s always-popular spaghetti . . . Countless small groups of folks re-connecting and sprinting down Memory Lane together . . . Jason Foster’s heartwarming video . . . and on and on.

As one employee said in an e-mail to the district office on Monday, “What a positive and meaningful way to bring our community together! Each of our schools represented our district -- both past and present -- in an affirmative, upbeat light. Congratulations to everyone for making this day one that our community will remember for a long time!”



Left: Pleasant Valley co-PTA presidents Melinda Darley, left, and Aimee Walter had every reason to be proud of their campus's historical exhibit. **Above:** The three-tiered BGSD 100th Anniversary cake, featuring edible photos of old schools, was donated by Fred Meyer of Battle Ground and was big enough to serve 600. BGHS students helped in many ways, including the cutting and serving of the cake.



Chief Umtuch Middle School Principal Linda Allen takes a break from helping at her school's exhibit to serve BGSD Centennial birthday cake to Bruce Kelley, who worked at the T-shirt-sales table.



Above: The historic Glenwood School bell, hauled to the party by Principal Eric Hoglund, left, and Assistant Principal Mike Maloney, was a hit.



Ray Bergren, Battle Ground High Class of 1936, renews old friendships.

Worth noting: The BGSD Centennial celebration was financed with private donations and T-Shirt proceeds. Thank you, donors!



“Mr. Onsdorff, what’s this about sending our children to school with those Catholics from Dublin?”

Meanwhile, back at the ranch . . .

Levy information: The district’s Web site (www.bgsd.k12.wa.us) has a link to the informational brochure being mailed to BGSD residents. The county is mailing ballots to voters on Jan. 20.

DVDs for Soldiers: Prairie High’s JROTC is collecting DVD movies to send to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan on Jan. 29. Donate your old ones via intra-district mail to AFJROTC at Prairie, unless your building has a collection point, as some do.

Change for Books: First graders at Captain Strong are earning change to donate for school library books about children dealing with change in their lives. The effort is dedicated to Elisa Pedersen, 4, the sister of a Captain Strong student who lost her battle with cancer in December.

Thanks, iQ: Laurin Middle School has been awarded a \$150 grant from iQ Credit Union to purchase Scholastic Books.

Honoring a teacher and a coach: The Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce’s annual “Treasures of the City” banquet will be Friday, Jan. 29, at the Heathman Lodge near Vancouver Mall. In addition to the Citizen of the Year announcement, the Chamber is making other awards, including teacher and coach of the year from the Battle Ground and/or Hockinson districts. Reservations and information: www.battlegroundchamber.org or call 687-1510.

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