

# Press Release



## Battle Ground Public Schools

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### BGHS, Chief Umtuch take jazz honors

Advanced jazz bands from Battle Ground High School and Chief Umtuch Middle School took home honors for their performances in the recent Skyview High School Jazz Festival. Both groups are directed by Greg “Count” McKelvey.

The BGHS group finished second out of seven bands in the “Open Division” of the festival, which attracted a total of 30 jazz bands overall from the greater Portland – Vancouver area.

The Battle Ground School District’s Chief Umtuch Middle School Advanced Jazz Band took first place in its division, in which nine schools were entered.



Columbian photo

This was the fourteenth year of the event, which originally was called the Lower Columbia River Music Educators Association Jazz Festival. A total of 30 bands, each with 14-20 student musicians, participated in the day-long festival Dec. 3.

Steve Robertson, the Skyview band director and festival organizer, said McKelvey (pictured) “is a highly respected jazz educator in our state and region who has consistently produced top-level jazz bands for many, many years. The Battle Ground students are indeed fortunate to have such a great teacher.”

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