



## Replacement Levy saves activities and teacher positions

By **Mason Mackleit**  
Staff Writer

The Replacement Levy was passed February 14 as proposed by the Freeman School Board and Superintendent, much to their relief. In order to be passed, the levy needed 50 percent of votes, plus one vote. Freeman voters' results totaled at 54.39% for and 45.61% against.

"We are very happy to receive 54% support in light of the tough economic times and are very appreciative of our community," said Superintendent Randy Russell. "Levies have been traditionally supported by school communities across the state; however, many school districts had an approval percentage well below past levies. Again, I

think our difficult economic times had a direct impact."

The replacement levy will support the district for three years, starting January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015, after which another replacement levy will be created for the Freeman School District.

Russell said that the replacement levy is worth about 1.75 million dollars to the district's budget. Without the passing of the new levy, Freeman would have been forced to cut some extra-curricular activities such as FFA, some after-school sports, math-is-cool, and staff positions.

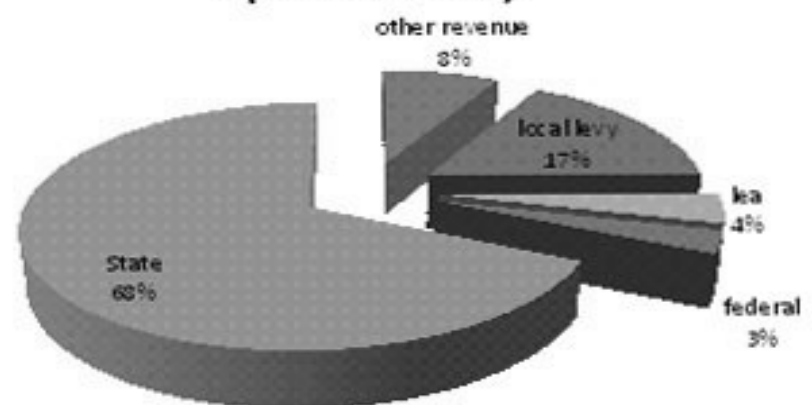
"It is great not only how our community is connected to what's going on, but also how connected our students are with the community," said Russell.

The levy passed will affect only Freeman School District residents. The levy is not new and will not be adding new costs to the local tax payer's bill. The amount will vary depending on the assessed property value. For every \$1,000 that it is assessed for, property owners will pay \$2.93

to the Freeman School District. According to Fiscal Director Jan Davis, the Levy has been running for at least 20 years.

Freeman School staff would like to thoroughly thank the Freeman community for their support of the Replacement Levy and of the school itself.

Replacement Educational Programs & Operation Levy



## Freeman's FBLA members rise to the top!

By **Scott Moore**  
FBLA Advisor

On February 1, forty-six FBLA members from Freeman HS attended the 2012 Northeast Region FBLA Conference at Eastpoint Church in Spokane Valley.

They joined approximately 500 other students from throughout the region to compete in a number of business related areas such as Job Interview, Network Concepts, Accounting, Public Speaking, Entrepreneurship, Business Ethics, Desktop Publishing, and over 50 other categories. Combining those competitors with the number of advisors,

judges and chaperones, the Northeast FBLA region has the largest regional conference in the state of Washington this year with over 615 participants!

The top five competitors in each competition qualified for the state conference which will be held in Seattle during the second week of April. Top finishers at the state competition earn the honor to compete at the National FBLA Conference in San Antonio, Texas in June.

A big congratulation goes out to all the FBLA members who represented Freeman in an excellent manner! Freeman's FBLA

qualified 29 students to compete in Seattle.

Freeman High School's Future Business Leaders of America is the premier organization for students preparing for careers in business. It is the largest and oldest student business or-

ganization in the world with more than a quarter of a million members! FBLA prepares students for 'real world' professional experiences, with members gaining the competitive edge for college and career successes.

**A big congratulation goes out to the following students who made it into the top 5 in their area and will be heading to the state conference!**

- Brett Sinden and Colin Ayers – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Banking and Financial Systems
- Josiah Lara and Samantha Strothman – 1<sup>st</sup> Desktop Publishing
- Josiah Lara, Samantha Strothman, and Kirsten Fuchs – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Business Presentation
- Robin Faulkner, Grace Rudy and Brett Sinden – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Entrepreneurship
- Bethany Williams and Brooke Williams – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Emerging Business Issues
- Bethany Williams – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Word Processing 1
- Moriah Longhurst – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Introduction to Business Communication
- anna Weathers – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Job Interview
- Cody Dickinson – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Cyber Security
- Grace Rudy – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Hospitality Management
- Austin Carpenter – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Introduction to Business
- Shelby Nelson – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Client Service
- Brett Schmidlkofer and Cody Dickinson – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Management Decision Making
- Bethany Williams – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Public Speaking 1
- Ben Carasco – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Business Communications
- Danny Cossey – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Job Interview
- Katie Pintar and Hanna Weathers – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Desktop Publishing
- Kirsten Fuchs – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in FBLA Principles and Procedures
- Jami Pratt, Shenoa Rush and Rachel Underwood – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Business Presentation
- Cody Dickinson – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Technology Concepts
- Colin Ayers, Hunter Beaulaurier and Austin Rice – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Entrepreneurship
- Eric Hjaltalin – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Sports Management
- Leaira Anderson – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Business Communications
- Cody Dickinson and Greg Ruby – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Network Design
- Zeke Flack and Tanner Waite – 5<sup>th</sup> place in Management Decision Making
- Grace Rudy – 5<sup>th</sup> place in Business Communications
- Austin Carpenter – 5<sup>th</sup> place in Introduction to Technology Concepts
- Elizabeth Kosanke – 5<sup>th</sup> place in Job Interview
- Eric Hjaltalin – 5<sup>th</sup> place in Future Business Leader
- Danny Cossey – 5<sup>th</sup> place in Impromptu Speaking
- Samantha Strothman and Brooke Williams – 5<sup>th</sup> place in Business Ethics.

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# News

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## Foster kids need Freeman's donations

By Ruby Falciani  
Opinion Editor



Photo by Ruby Falciani

Imagine if you had no parents or family to raise you and you had to live with people you didn't know, and go to a school where you knew no one. If you think you would be able to make it, imagine your little brother or sister having to be separated from you. And they would have to face foster care, alone, and scared. It's not a happy thought, is it? This scenario isn't make-believe. This really happens to children and teenagers every day.

"The issue is that we have so many foster kids, we have to do donations so they don't end up on the streets," said freshman Johanna Jackson. "Emotionally, they can't

really trust and it's sad, but it's better to live in a home rather than in an orphanage."

Some of them receive shoes that fit or clothes that are too small or big. These kids need new clothes. All kinds of donations are needed: newborn clothing to clothing for 18 year-olds, bags and backpacks, and shoes up to size 12. New underwear and socks are one of the most needed necessities for those in the foster system.

The Sleep Country U.S.A. website (<http://www.sleepcountry.com/help-foster-kids.aspx>), explains that over 10,000 kids enter the Foster Care System every year. Only sixteen percent of those kids get

adopted, while the rest move from home to home. And those homes need our help.

Why make foster kids wear old clothes and not have school bags if we can give them what they need? Sleep Country has been supporting and giving back to the community for over 20 years by running donation events for foster children. From March 19 - June 3, Sleep Country (15607 E. Broadway) is holding a Foster Kids Shoe Drive to collect shoes to donate to local foster kids. All shoe sizes are needed. If you have new clothes that you don't need or want, deliver them to Sleep Country to donate to a worthy cause.

In 2011, Sleep Country's charity events provided 2,800 pairs of new shoes, over 12,000 clothing items, 56,000 school supply items,

and 9,000 coats for local foster children. Due to all of the donations, Sleep Country gave local foster children over 2,300 tickets for them to go to fun events like amusement parks. They were able to raise over \$140,000 from donations and the Foster Kids Pajama Bowl.

With every article of clothing you donate, there is one less child waiting for someone to care about them, and their simplest needs. It doesn't take a lot of effort to be a hero, just time, and clothes.



Photo by Ruby Falciani

## Rapid increase in college tuition

By Jessica Ruby  
Staff Writer

College is a huge investment, if you are planning on going. And right now is the worst point in college history because of huge increases in tuition due to government cutbacks in college funding. The costs of tuition are changing drastical-

ly, and everyone can see the increase.

"How can you not?" asked high school counselor Laura Hamma.

In the past, the state would help pay a part of tuition, but today, a larger portion of college costs fall on students and their families. In 1981 tuition was 12% of the average family's income,

while in 2010, it increased to 25%. This is a huge contributing factor that determines whether or not a potential student can afford college or not.

Many people either don't pursue college because of the huge costs that go along with it, or they take out loans, which is one of the

biggest contributors to national debt.

"I have been working and saving money on my own for a while," senior Shelby Nelson said. "I chose to go to Eastern because it is the most education for your dollar."

President Barack Obama has recently ad-

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dressed the issues with the high costs of college tuitions.

“Contain tuition, or face losing federal dollars,” President Obama threatened post-secondary institutions.

Basically, if colleges don’t bring their costs under control, the federal government will quit helping colleges by subsidizing their institutions. When institutions lose their government money, they will need to make up the lost revenue somewhere else. That cost will probably be passed onto the students attending their hallowed halls.

College is an increasingly more difficult option for many people. Students who need the money are starting to get jobs in high school, working hard to keep up grades for scholarships, and relying more heavily on the Free Application For Students Aid

(FAFSA), which is required to apply for financial aid or student loans for college.

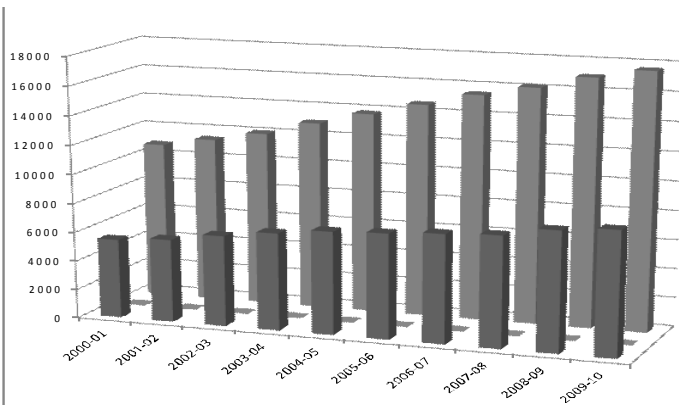
“I am working all year to earn money to help pay for college,” said senior Haley Hansen. “College is so expensive so I want to help however I can.”

Many states, including Washington, have tried to help with this issue, by mandating that schools can only increase tuition by a certain percent after state budget cuts. The increase over the past years is outrageous. Many people take advantage of financial aid and take away opportunity for other students.

“We should go back to valuing education and making it more affordable,” said Hama. “The door is closing on kids we rely on with a fresh education.”

Nobody wants to lose money and everyone wants to make money, which is how this problem was created. College is a necessary part of life. If the prices

keep rising like they are, it is going to be even harder to make it even possible for many people to go, especially in this recession.



Light gray— all colleges and universities; Dark grey— 4-year institutions

## Counselor’s Corner

By Laura Hama  
High School Counselor

Students and Parents:

We have one more week before we have to order the Advanced Placement exams. The deadline is March 7<sup>th</sup> to get to Mrs. Hama the signup sheet. Each exam costs \$87, and that fee needs to be paid by April 30<sup>th</sup>. However, you can order the test now by completing an AP order sign up sheet.

A new job listing for students is available on the Counseling Corner website under the Career link. This is the March list from the Next Generation Zone employment office. Check it out, it has some summer job postings!

# March Calendar

**1-3: State Basketball - Yakima**

**6: Movie vs Book Day**

**8: Advisory Schedule  
Freeman School Board Meeting –  
K-8 MP room, 6:00 pm**

**9: Last day to register for ACT test 4/14**

**10: Sadies Dance  
SAT Test**

**12: 6-week grading period ends**

**13: ASB Student Council Meeting –  
6<sup>th</sup> period**

**13-15: HS Reading & Writing HSPE**

**14: 6-week progress reports to students,  
deficiencies mailed**

**15-17: Alumni Tournament**

**19: Spring Choir Concert – 7:00 pm**

**21: Spring Instrumental Concert, Grades  
5-12**

**21-23: State FCCLA meeting**

**22 or 23: MS Large Group Choral Festival**

**26-29: Book Fair**

**26-29: Conference Week**

**27: ASB Student Council Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup>  
period  
Freeman School Board Meeting – K-8  
MP room, 6:00 pm**

**27 or 28: HS Large Group Choral Festival**

**29: Early Release, High School conferences**

**30: Early Release**

**March 31-April 8: Spring Break**