

AL ALDRIDGE directed jazz bands from Hockinson and Mountain View high schools to third place finishes in their respective divisions of the Clark College Jazz Festival last weekend. Aldridge formerly directed the Prairie High School jazz band.

BG, Prairie choirs are winners at Clark jazz festival

Jazz choirs from Battle Ground and Prairie high schools won first places in their divisions at the 47th annual Clark County jazz festival held Jan. 29-31 in Vancouver.

The Prairie High School vocal jazz group, directed by Monika Tabor, won the AA Division, while Battle Ground, directed by Darcy Schmitt, took first place among AAA schools. Battle Ground sophomore Remi Skalisky received an outstanding musician award.

Among jazz bands from smaller schools, Woodland High School finished second in the A Division, and Hockinson High School was third in the AA Division. The Woodland band was directed by Steve Smith, and Hockinson by Al Aldridge.

Mountain View High School of Vancouver, also under the direction of Al Aldridge, finished third among the largest schools in the festival, the AAAA Division.

Roosevelt High School of Seattle won the sweepstakes award as the best jazz band in the festival. Roosevelt has won the Clark College jazz festival sweepstakes award 11 times, the first time in 1978. The Roosevelt band is directed by Scott Brown.

Garfield High School of Seattle finished second behind Roosevelt in the AAAA Division. Garfield has won the sweepstakes award five times since 1995.