

People

BG welders sweep regional competition

Three welding students from Battle Ground High School qualified to compete at the state level following regional competition held Feb. 7 at Clark College in Vancouver.

A machining student from Prairie High School and two from Mt. View High School also qualified for the state level competition to take place in the Tacoma Dome in April.

Brandon Smith of Battle Ground was judged the top welder among 18 entrants from five high schools competing in the event. Clarence Schmeusser of Battle Ground was second and Calvin Boden, also of Bat-

tle Ground, was third.

Battle Ground's David Cain and Cory Kessler finished sixth and seventh, respectively. Two welding students from Centralia High School finished fourth and fifth.

Kenny Snyder, who teaches welding at Clark College, said the top three finishers at the event will advance to state, and possibly more depending on the number of students and schools competing around the state.

Top finishers at the state level qualify for the national competition to be held in Chicago, IL in November.

Zach Uskoski of Prairie



BRANDON SMITH of Battle Ground High School took top honors Feb. 7 at regional welding competition held at Clark College in Vancouver. Students from Battle Ground took top three places in the welding event.



ZACH USKOSKI of Prairie High School qualified to compete at the state level in machining following regional competition held at Clark College.

finished in third place in the machining competition, good enough to move onto state. Alex Korolkov and Jordon Vaandering, both of Mt. View, won the first and second place awards.

Adam Crismon from La Center High School won second place overall but was not competing as a Skills USA member and therefore did not advance to state.

Area industries helped sponsor and organize the event, including Pro Tech of Hazel Dell, owned by Tevis Laspa. Laspa served as an organizer and back-up judge for the regional

competition.

Winning students earned a variety of prizes for their efforts. Prizes were donated by Battle Ground Auto Parts, Elite Collision, Dan's Tractor, Uhacz Industrial, Liberty Welding, Air Gas Welding Supplies, and Pro Tech Industries, among others.

Jim Drake, who has taught welding at Battle Ground High School for 30 years, assisted in organizing the competition.

Snyder said 110 students are currently enrolled in the college welding program, with instruction taking place six days a week both days and evenings.