

Stories this week include:

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Community Stories

- Community Center for Youth basketball team competes in AAU tournament
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- Celebrate Universal Children’s Day on November 20

District Stories

No School Friday, Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

Thanks to all the Veterans past and present for their service to our country. Numerous Veterans Day activities were planned throughout the district this week to honor veterans. Classes resume Monday, Nov. 14.

School Board meeting - Tuesday, November 15

- 6:30 p.m.
- District board room (364 S. Park St.)
- Meeting open to the public

Max Carrera re-elected to WWPS School Board position

Congratulations to School Board member Max Carrera for being re-elected to Position #4. Carrera currently leads contender Veronica Sandau 55 percent to 45 percent with a total of 5802 ballots cast. Remaining uncounted ballots are not expected to change the outcome.

Carrera is a statewide Recruiter for the Washington State Department of Corrections. This is his second, four-year term on the school board. School board members Anne Golden and Jim Lehmann were also re-elected to the school board in uncontested races.

Senior citizens and elected officials to be honored during Focus on Education Week event

- Thursday, November 17
- 10 a.m. to 12 noon (guests will have lunch with students)
- Edison and Green Park Elementary Schools

Area senior citizens and elected officials will go back to school Thursday, November 17 from 10 a.m. to noon to celebrate Focus on Education Week — November 13-19. Guests will visit Green Park or Edison Elementary Schools as part of *Senior Citizen and Elected Officials Appreciation Day*. This event is an opportunity for senior citizens and elected officials to visit and tour a local school and have lunch with students.

“Community involvement is a key to the success of our public schools,” Superintendent Mick Miller said. “We are excited to showcase our outstanding staff and students and provide an opportunity for our community members to feel connected to their local schools. We are committed to being partners in learning.”

For further information regarding Focus on Education Week, please contact Communications Director Mark Higgins at (509) 526-6716 (office), (509) 520-6242 (cell) or by e-mail: mhiggins@wwps.org.

Winter weather is on the way! School closure and delay procedures

At Walla Walla Public Schools, we make every effort to post up-to-the-minute school closure information due to inclement weather or any circumstance that would delay or cancel the normal school schedule. Decisions to delay or close school usually are made by 5:30 a.m. or earlier. This triggers the district’s comprehensive school closure/delay announcement plan. The district makes every effort to begin announcements by 6 a.m.

Announcements include:

- Media release (radio, tv, newspaper)
- Telephone automated message (staff and parents)
- Web posting (www.wwps.org)
- Staff e-mail (GroupWise)
- E-news message (sign up on the district web site: www.wwps.org)
- Twitter message (twitter.com/wwschools)
- Facebook page message
- Orange signs posted in front of schools

Calendar Committee narrows calendar options

Superintendent Mick Miller conducted his third calendar committee meeting Wednesday evening as the district continues efforts to adopt calendars for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. The broad-based calendar committee, chaired by Miller, has narrowed the options down to two calendars for each school year. The primary differences in the calendars are the start and finish dates. One option starts school before the Labor Day Holiday and the other starts school after Labor Day.

Superintendent Miller is preparing instructions for the committee to get further input from their representatives. Walla Walla Valley Education Association President Margo Piver will get input on the two options from the district's teacher's association membership.

Public School Employees President Bill Heiser will get input from support staff. The Administrative Council will weigh in on the options as well and a survey will be posted on the district's web site to get input from parents, students and community members who do not have school-aged children.

Superintendent Mick Miller, working in collaboration with the district's bargaining groups, will study all of the input before making a final recommendation to the school board. Miller says he would like to take a proposal to the school board in January.

Garrison Night School classes scheduled - registration begins November 15

Registration will begin soon for Garrison Night School. This is an adult education program offered in a partnership between Walla Walla Community College and Walla Walla Public Schools. You can register at Walla Walla Community College any time during the day. On November 15-17, there will be evening registration at the college from 5 to 7 p.m. Classes begin Monday, November 28, 2011, and end Thursday, March 1, 2012 with an evening of celebration.

The mission of Garrison Night School is to promote the education of Hispanic parents by connecting them to the school community, preparing them for a General Education Diploma and facilitating their enrollment in college, thus raising the educational level and standard of living of the family.

Classes are held at Garrison Middle School (906 Chase St.) in Walla Walla. Classes this year include General Education Diploma (GED) preparation and five levels of English as a Second Language (ESL). These classes are from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Basic E-Learning will be offered nightly from 5 to 6 p.m. A \$25 registration fee which covers all classes taken is required for the E-Learning, GED and ESL classes. Some scholarships are available as is a free children's program.

The extended day learning program for the children is supported through the Millennial's program that serves Garrison Middle School students and Blue Ridge Elementary School students and the Title III Federal Bilingual Program grant.

Beginning Spanish for native English speakers will be taught on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m., and Advanced Beginning Spanish for native English speakers will be taught on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. The fee for the Spanish class is \$150. Registration for these classes is at the Walla Walla School District Business office.

For additional information regarding the Garrison Night School, contact Program Supervisor Melito Ramírez at (509) 526-8638 or by e-mail at mramirez@wwps.org, or Program Coordinator Diana Erickson at (509)526-1930 or by e-mail at derickson@wwps.org.

School Stories

Walla Walla High School Drama Presents its Fall Production: *Radium Girls* by D. W. Gregory

In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, *Radium Girls* traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court.

Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder, an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumors could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case goes on, however, Grace finds herself battling not just with the U.S. Radium Corporation, but with her own family and friends, who fear that her campaign for justice will backfire.

- Tickets go on sale now
- Box office open 4 to 6 p.m. weekdays and one hour before shows.
- Box office number: 526-8613
- Remaining Show dates: November 10,11,12,17, and 18 at 7 p.m.
- November 19 at 2 p.m.
- \$6 student tickets & \$12 adult tickets

Albertsons donates \$1000 to Blue Ridge and Preschool program

Wednesday afternoon Blue Ridge Elementary Principal Kim Doepker and Head Start/ECEAP Preschool Director Kerri Coffman helped Albertsons re-open its Eastgate store following a complete renovation by participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Doepker and Coffman were in attendance to receive a \$1000 donation from Albertsons. The donation comes in the form of gift cards to be used to purchase groceries, school supplies and other items to support students and families.

Blue Ridge and the preschool program each received five, \$100 gift cards. Doepker and Coffman will develop an education program focused on proper nutrition and healthy living in conjunction with store purchases. They plan to organize classroom activities and a family night to reinforce the educational component.

“Albertsons wants to be involved in the community and help our local children,” said Larry Perez, Albertsons Eastgate Store Director. “Albertsons is also committed to supporting healthy living and nutrition education.”

Coffman says the timing of the donation is ideal since her students and staff are focused on educating the whole child and their family.

“We are so appreciative of Albertsons designating Blue Ridge Elementary and the Preschool programs as the recipient of this \$1,000 gift card award,” said Coffman. “Kim and I both have the philosophy that healthy eating leads to better learning. With Head Start’s primary focus being on health and nutrition, this fits perfectly with our goal of healthy families!”

Walla Walla High School and Washington State University GEAR UP Host “3 Ways to Pay”

Walla Walla High School and WSU GEAR UP are hosting community representatives who are all experts in their respected fields. They will speak on financial planning options and state scholarship opportunities. The first informational session will begin at 5:30 at the Walla Walla High School Commons and will end at 7:30. Subway sandwiches will be provided for all attendees Monday, Nov. 14 at 5:15 p.m.

The evening will feature three information sessions on paying for college sessions:

- Scholarship Opportunities and Options
- Financial Planning
- FAFSA: Application to Awards

For more information: Becky Waggoner: 509-526-8621 / bwaggoner@wwps.org

Pioneer Middle School principal named keynote speaker for International Education Week forum

Pioneer Middle School Principal Mira Gobel has been named the keynote speaker for the International Education Week Forum 2011 – *Courage Beyond the Borders* event Thursday, November 17 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. Gobel will share her story as a Korean, biracial individual who faced discrimination in Korea and eventually journeyed to the United States.

The forum is designed to promote a greater understanding of international issues related to teacher education and the appreciation of other cultures. International Education Week is an international celebration of different cultures in our world and promotes education about these different cultures.

“I am truly honored to be invited to such an amazing event to share my personal story,” Gobel said. “I want to share that hope is the fuel that keeps the fire of courage burning. This same hope is what I try to cultivate in students every day.”

Gobel is currently in her first year as Principal of Pioneer Middle School in Walla Walla, Washington. Mira has been an educator for the past 23 years – 15 years as a classroom art teacher and eight as an administrator. She began her career as an art teacher at Pioneer Middle School in the late 1980s. In 1999, she transferred to Walla Walla High School where she taught in the Art Department for four years.

Prior to taking her current position, she was Associate Principal at Walla Walla High School specializing in curriculum and assessment, state graduation requirements, professional development and course development and scheduling. Gobel also has extensive training in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program which now spans grades 7 to 12 in Walla Walla Public Schools. The AVID program provides additional support to students to help them develop a path to college entrance. As a second language learner herself, Gobel understands the importance of supporting students to help them meet their true potential.

Mira Gobel has been a key district leader in advancing the Response to Intervention (RTI) model across the school district. The RTI model focuses on identifying each student’s academic needs and developing an individualized learning plan to address these specific areas. Last school year Mira was invited by the State of Delaware Department of Education to discuss Walla Walla High School’s RTI success stories with Delaware educators. Her leadership helped Walla Walla High School achieve a 96.4 percent on-time graduation rate and become one of only two high schools in the state to receive the 2010 Washington Achievement Award for the *Closing the Achievement Gap* category.

District high school students attend WSU leadership conference

Sixteen Walla Walla High School and Lincoln High School students along with 235 Washington State high school students attended the 15th Annual Children of Aztlán Sharing Higher Education (CASHE) conference at Washington State University during the weekend of November 4-6, 2011. These students included Walla Walla High School Students, Berenice Bañales-Sanchez, Carlos Bañales-Sánchez, Oscar Baza, Minerva Cardenas, Annissa Escobar, Anthony Fernández, Paola Flores, Kory Handley, Meganie Hernández, Brenda López, Bertha Madrigal, Marilyn Melgoza, Perla Villagas, and Mitzy Rodríguez. The two students from Lincoln High School were Victor Pérez and Leonardo Corona. Marilyn Melgoza’s impression of the three day conference was, “CASHE really changed my mind about Washington State University. WSU is now my first choice.”

“This year, thanks to WSU, we were able to involve more students in the conference than in the past. This allowed us to take students from Lincoln High School and three of our ESL students from Wa-Hi,” stated Diana Erickson, Bilingual Coordinator of the Walla Walla School District.

Senior Lincoln High School student Leonardo Corona not only came home with a future goal of attending college and becoming an architect after high school, but also felt that CASHE “was educational, inspirational, exciting and fun.”

The CASHE Conference, hosted by Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A) promotes higher education for Latina/o high school students throughout Washington State through multicultural leadership and awareness workshops, while developing a network for students seeking higher education. The students were able to attend the conference through the support of staff from Exploring Post 311.

Walla Walla High School music program students advance to state

Walla Walla High School students in the music program recently earned All-State honors.

“This is the most students Walla Walla High School has sent to the All-State Band and Choir,” District Music Coordinator Roger Garcia said. “This is a very talented group. We look forward to the February 2012 event in Yakima. Way to go Wa-Hi music!”

All-State ensembles

Michelle Ruzicka - Concert Band on Clarinet
Kyli Humphreys - Symphony Orchestra on French Horn
Machado Mijiga - Jazz Band on Alto Saxophone

All-State Choir

Cougar Henderson - Symphonic Choir, Tenor 2
Daisy Schoen - Treble Choir, Soprano 2
Hirut Senter - Symphonic Choir, Soprano 2
Merrit Filan - Treble Choir, Soprano 1
Gabe Anderson - Symphonic Choir, Tenor 1
John Gossett - Symphonic Choir, Bass 1
Elena Janis - Treble Choir, Soprano 2
Jacob Dyer - Symphonic Choir, Tenor 1
Emylee Gobel - Symphonic Choir, Soprano 2
Brittany Higgins - Symphonic Choir, Alto 1
Christina Swanson - Treble Choir, Soprano 1

Community Stories

Community Center for Youth basketball team competes in AAU tournament

Last weekend, Community Center for Youth’s new ninth grade boys’ basketball team, the CCY Legends, played in the AAU Central Washington HD Season Tip-Off Tournament in Selah.

“The team trained hard to prepare for the tournament and made it to the playoffs,” said Cynthia Selde, CCY Director. “They also enjoyed meeting and visiting with other players and coaches at the tournament, and are looking forward to continuing as a team in the spring.”

All team members are Wa-Hi freshmen. CCY, along with Coaches Cedric Johnson and Antonio Barbosa, wish to congratulate the team for their excellent work, and also wish to thank several of the boys’ parents and grandparents for helping make the trip possible, and for traveling to Selah to cheer them on. To learn more about CCY, visit <http://www.wwccy.org>

CCY Legends are:

- Ariel Bermudez
- Stephan Cleveland
- Luis Felix
- Esteban Flores
- Michael Gonzalez
- Jose Lozano
- Juan Peña
- Elijah Samorano
- Juan Zamora

2011 Local Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign kicks off

The Annual Walla Walla Toys for Tots Campaign kicks off this week with 20 local drop off locations. This is the 64th year for Toys for Tots and the 5th year of the Walla Walla Campaign. Last year in Walla Walla, new unwrapped toys were distributed to 792 local children from Dayton to College Place.

Everything collected will be distributed to local children from newborn to 18 years of age. Once again Toys for Tots is working with St. Vincent de Paul, Walla Walla Public Schools, the medical centers and other nonprofits to ensure that every child in the Walla Walla Valley has a happy holiday.

New unwrapped toys or cash donations can be delivered to:

- Book & Game -38 E. Main Street
- Community Bank – 28 E. Alder Street
- Providence St. Mary – 401 W. Poplar
- Walla Walla Sweets – 109 E. Main Street
- City Slickers – 14 W. Main Street
- Inland Cellular, 1605 SE Meadowbrook , College Place
- AAA Washington, 1361 Dalles-Military Road
- NAPA – 1830 E. Isaacs Ave
- Whitman College Bookstore – Reid Campus Center – Park St.
- Tumas Machinery – 3037 E Melrose Street
- O'Brien Chevrolet – Dalles Military Road
- Walla Walla Bread Co. – 225 E. Main Street
- Legacy Ford of Walla Walla – 11 N. Colville Street
- Oil Haus, Tiki Grille, Mama Mia Pastas – Kenwood Street/Rose Street
- John L. Scott Realty – 10 S. 4th Street
- Assumption School – 2066 E. Alder Street
- Waitsburg Hardware & Mercantile – 134 Main Street, Waitsburg
- Dayton General Hospital – 1012 S. 3rd St, Dayton
- Dayton General Store – 426 W. Main St., Dayton
- Dayton High School – 614 S. 3rd St. Dayton

There are several local businesses that are hosting promotions to benefit Toys for Tots. Beginning now until December 14 Book & Game (1st & Main Street) will be giving a 20% discount on anything in the store purchased for Toys for Tots and the Walla Walla Sweets are offering 10% off your entire purchase when you bring in a new unwrapped toy. City Slickers (14 W. Main Street) will host the 3rd Annual Cut-a-thon to benefit Toys for Toys. City Slicker stylists will give free haircuts in exchange for a toy donation to Toys for Tots from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 4.

To request toys families can pick up applications at St. Vincent de Paul (308 W. Main Street) November 14 – 25, St. Paul's Church (323 Catherine Street) Nov. 28 – Dec. 9 or in Dayton at Country Cupboard (330 E. Main Street) Nov 23 - Nov 30. Please only apply at one location. There can be no duplication.

For more information about Toys for Tots please visit the local website www.walla-walla-wa.toysfortots.org or contact Beth Swanson at 509-301-7471 or bethswanson@charter.net

DeSales High School hosts free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday November 22

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Location: Desales High School (919 E. Sumach)

Celebrate Universal Children's Day on November 20

Join Children's Home Society of Washington for an event that shines the light on promoting the needs of our most vulnerable children. Established in 1954 by the United Nations General Assembly, Universal Children's Day is meant to promote the understanding, care, and welfare of the world's children. The day was established to initiate action to benefit and promote the welfare of the world's children. It was also chosen as the day to celebrate childhood.

In support of Universal Children's Day, Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW) is hosting a children's art project to bring together local children and families through a fun, family friendly activity that raises awareness to the most pressing needs facing our children today.

The event also includes a coloring contest and free hot chocolate. To pick-up the coloring contest form, visit Children's Home Society of Washington beginning November 9 between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. CHSW is located at 1612 Penny Lane in Walla Walla. All entries are due by November 18.

Event details:

What: Children's Art Project and Candlelight Vigil

The children will be led in an art project to teach them to appreciate each other and themselves enhancing their experiences and helping them contribute to a healthy and peaceful world. The coloring contest artwork will be visible to the public November 20 to December 31 at Children's Home Society of Washington's office.

When: Sunday, November 20 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Where: Downtown Courtyard, Land Title Plaza, Walla Walla

Cost: Free