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District Stories

School Board meeting and executive session - Tuesday, Dec. 13

- Tuesday, Dec. 13
- 5 p.m.: Executive Session (School Board only)
- 6:30 p.m.: Regularly Scheduled School Board Meeting (open to public)
- District Office (364 S. Park St.)

Road closed barricades come down at Reser Road project

Reser Road opens for public use Friday evening

The \$2.2 million construction project to improve Reser Road from Howard to Fern Streets is nearing completion as road closed barricades are scheduled to come down Friday, Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. re-opening the road to public use. Culbert Construction Inc. of Pasco began construction August 9 and finished on budget and on schedule, according to Aaron Grimm, Walla Walla County Public Works Project Engineer.

Contractors will continue with minor landscaping and fencing projects through the end of the month. Street striping for the center line, bike lanes, and cross walks will be completed in the spring as weather permits.

The Reser Road improvement project included widening the roadway, sidewalks on both sides of the street, improved school zone safety signage, a new Yellowhawk Creek bridge, bike lanes, additional parking, a new crosswalk at Costello St., storm water swales, new fencing, and street lighting at the three main intersections. This section of Reser Road is highly used for traffic to and from Prospect Point Elementary and Walla Walla High School.

“We appreciate the patience and understanding from the school district and community throughout this project,” said Grimm. “The development and growth to the south of the community has significantly increased traffic on Reser Road and this project will help improve safety and travel efficiency for all modes of transportation.”

The project also netted a \$330,000 Safe Routes to School grant to enhance school zone safety awareness, fund equipment and signage and allow for additional law enforcement.

Cabe’s message to students: Be Nice!

Stu Cabe, founder of the Ovation Company – *Standing Up for What is Good*, visited Walla Walla this week to meet with students in grades 6-12. Cabe’s message was simple: Be Nice. Cabe was the keynote speaker at all-school assemblies at Pioneer and Garrison Middle Schools and Walla Walla High School during his two-day visit. He also conducted a live interview with Jim Bock on the KUJ In-Depth radio show, and met with student leadership teams.

One highlight of his visit was Pioneer Middle School students’ and staff Flash Mob dance performance during their all school assembly. The students donned their newly designed “Be Nice” t-shirts during the performance. Pioneer teacher Chris Plucker produced a video highlighting Cabe’s speech and the dance performance. The video is posted on the Pioneer Middle School web site at: <http://resources.wwps.org/pioneer/>

“I ask students to do the right thing, not necessarily the popular thing,” Cabe said. “You never have to apologize for being nice.”

Cabe will return to the district in February to continue his work of promoting a positive school climate.

Educational and Operations Replacement Levy Facts Online

Visit the district website (www.wwps.org) for Educational and Operations Levy facts. Contact Superintendent Mick Miller (mmiller@wwps.org) or Communications Director Mark Higgins (mhiggins@wwps.org) for more information.

Holiday Concert series online

Visit the district website at www.wwps.org to see a complete listing of the school district’s holiday concert series. All school concerts and special events are listed. Please join us this holiday season!

Calendar recommendation goes to school board

Superintendent Mick Miller will recommend calendar options to the school board for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. Miller organized a broad-based calendar committee this fall to review options and set priorities. Staff, parent, student and community input from online surveys has also been considered during the process. Miller has also worked closely with the district's association bargaining groups in advance of his recommendation. Once approved, the calendars will be posted on the district web site at www.wwps.org.

Winter Break Schedule

- December 19 to 30
- Classes resume Monday, January 2

Voter registration forms available

Voter registration forms are available at the district office and all WWPS schools. The district's Programs & Operations Replacement Levy election date is February 14, 2012. There are two deadlines for voters wishing to cast a ballot for the February 14 Replacement Levy:

Monday, January 16 is the deadline for voters registering by mail, online, or transferring their registration/making address changes within the state of Washington.

Monday, February 6 is the deadline for people who are not registered anywhere in the state of Washington and did not meet the January 16 deadline. They are eligible to register in person at the Walla Walla County Elections Department at 310 W Poplar Street.

For additional information:

Dale Grogan, Voter Registration Coordinator
Walla Walla County Auditor's Office
Elections Department
310 W. Poplar Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 524-2535
dgrogan@co.walla-walla.wa.us

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

School Stories

Crest Club names new officers

Congratulations to the new Wa-Hi Crest Club Officers elected for 2011-2012: President Kayla Leinweber, Vice-President Madison Nelson, Secretary McKelle Wilwand, and Treasurer Madeline Jacobson. They will begin organizing club events, running meetings, publishing announcements and reminders and helping to increase service and academic achievement at Walla Walla High School.

Crest Club and Latino Club team for voter registration drive and plan student and staff appreciation event

Crest Club and Latino Club are co-sponsoring a Voter Registration Drive on Wednesday, December 14th after 6th period outside of the Commons (or inside depending on the weather).

On Friday, December 16th, Crest Club will make and hand out free cups of hot chocolate to students and staff at Wa-Hi between 7:45 and 8:15 a.m. A table will be set-up in front of the Main Office doors on the Academic Courtyard side of the building. This will be a fun service activity and a nice way to show others we care about them during the month of December when the mornings can be cold. Walla Walla High School Social Studies Teacher Michelle Higgins is the Crest Club advisor.

Wa-Hi FFA Holiday Wreath sale

- 16" ring (the wreath will be 20"-24" wide when it is finished)
- Bow colors: Red, White or Blue
- Cost: \$20 (payable upon delivery or pick-up)
- Deliveries are underway
- To place an order, contact FFA Advisor Arch McHie - amchie@wwps.org / 527-3020

Lincoln High School Drama Department presents: Snow Angel

When the quiet town of Deerpoint, Vermont is hit by the biggest blizzard in 107 years, a mysterious girl named Eva steps out of a snow bank and into the lives of 15 confused teenagers who are asked to help her in her search. What Eva's searching for — and who she truly is — becomes a mystery that baffles, divides, and energizes the teens of Deerpoint. Told through journal entries and interactions among the students over the course of a single snow day, *Snow Angel* is a funny and eerie tale of teen angst, discovery, and the power of believing.

Who: The Lincoln High School Play Production Company and The Lift

What: *Snow Angel* is a funny and eerie tale of teen angst, discovery, and the power of believing.

When: December 9 & 10 at 7 p.m.

Where: Walla Walla Community College China Pavilion

Cost: Admission is FREE

Video promotions: <http://youtu.be/4n7wREomVKQ> <http://youtu.be/qrkW9ITo1b8>

Information: Jeremy Gradwohl - 509.526.8516 or jgradwohl@wwps.org

Community Stories

YMCA offers FREE ACL Screening and ACL Prevention Clinic for area girls

Did you know that adolescent and adult female athletes have a 4-to-8-fold higher incidence of sustaining a serious non contact knee ligament injury compared to male athletes participating in the same sport (American Journal of Sports Medicine)? Each year in the US, 1 in 100 high school female athletes will suffer a serious knee injury.

Screening date:

- Monday, December 19 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Clinic:

- Tuesday, December 20 through Thursday December 22 from 9 to 10 a.m.

Pre-Register online: wwymca.org or at the YMCA in person

Contact Christy Druffel for more information at: cdruffel@wwymca.org or 509.525.8863

YWCA hosts gingerbread house-making event

The YWCA of Walla Walla will host their annual “Hansel and Gretel” gingerbread house-making event on Wednesday, December 21 at the YWCA. All ages are welcome to join in the fun. Parents of children age 5 and younger are asked to stay for the duration of the event.

This year the cost will be \$5 plus the donation of an unwrapped, new, nonviolent toy (no play guns or play weapons). Space is limited in the three sessions. To reserve your spot, please call 525-2570.

Session 1: 1 to 2 p.m.

Session 2: 2 to 3 p.m.

Session 3: 3 to 4 p.m.

Please call the YWCA for more information:

- Anne-Marie Zell Schwerin, Executive Director

- (509) 525-2570

Walla Walla University Department of Music presents free Christmas Concert

Walla Walla University’s Department of Music will present “Eternal Purposes,” the department’s annual Christmas concert, on Friday, Dec. 9. The concert will feature music from Handel’s Messiah.

Two performances of the same concert are scheduled to accommodate all those who wish to attend. The hour-long concerts begin at 6 and 8 p.m., both in the University Church. Admission is free. The concert will include choral performances by the University Singers and I Cantori, both directed by Kraig Scott. The university’s symphony orchestra, directed by Brandon Beck, will also perform.

In addition, the concert will feature solo performances by university students and music instructors. The audience will also be invited to participate in congregational singing.

The concert will include selections from Handel’s Messiah, such as “Worthy is the Lamb” and “For Unto Us a Child is Born,” John Rutter’s “I Wonder as I Wander,” among other musical selections.

For more information about the program, contact the Department of Music at (509) 527-2561.

Livestreaming of the 6 p.m. performance will be available. Access link from wallawalla.edu/concert

Information:

Rosa Jimenez, Director of University Relations

Walla Walla University | 204 S. College Ave. | College Place, WA 99324

T: (509) 527-2363 | (800) 541-8900 | F: (509) 527-2398

|E: rosa.jimenez@wallawalla.edu

German Christmas sing-along planned Saturday

German Christmas sing-alongs will be Saturday, December 10, at 10 a.m. in College Place at the Walla Walla University Fine Arts Center, room 208. Everyone is welcome, regardless of level of German. We will sing, hear how Christmas is celebrated in Germany, and have some treats.

Information:

Curtis Schafer, Walla Walla High School German & Spanish Teacher

509-527-3020 ext 4703

cschafer@wwps.org