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District Stories

Thanksgiving Holiday Break Schedule

- Wednesday, Nov. 21 (Early Dismissal - All Schools)
- Thursday, Nov. 22 & Friday, Nov. 23 (No School)
- Monday, Nov. 26 (Classes resume)

School board meeting Tuesday, Nov. 20

- 6:30 p.m.
- District Office School Board Room
- 364 S. Park St.
- Meeting open to the public

Citizens for Schools names Walla Walla High School bond co-chairs

Walla Walla Citizens for Schools has named Craig Sievertsen and Shannon (Murdock) Bergevin co-chairs for the Walla Walla High School Bond Committee. Sievertsen and Bergevin will organize activities to help educate the community regarding the Walla Walla High School bond election scheduled for February 12, 2013.

Sievertsen is a 1991 graduate of Walla Walla High School. His father Al Sievertsen was a teacher, coach and assistant principal at Walla Walla High School spanning 40 years. Craig Sievertsen is the Senior Vice President and Manager of Small Business and Consumer Lending at Banner Bank in Walla Walla. He and his wife Julie have four school-aged children.

Bergevin is a 1987 graduate of Walla Walla High School. Her father George Murdock was Deputy Superintendent for Walla Walla Public Schools before taking a Superintendent position in the Pasco School District where he earned Washington state Superintendent of the Year honors in 1997. Shannon Bergevin is the owner and operator of Express Employment Professionals in Walla Walla. She and her husband Robert have two school-aged children.

Sievertsen and Bergevin have planned the first Citizens for Schools meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

Walla Walla Citizens for Schools Meeting

- Monday, Nov. 26
- 6:30 p.m.
- Whitman College (Memorial Building Room 328)

For more information, contact Craig Sieversten at: 509.301.5205 or Shannon Bergevin at: 509.522.1326.

Improved teaching and learning spaces top priority of Walla Walla High School bond

Walla Walla Public Schools will seek a \$48 million bond on the February 12, 2013 Special Election to fund a \$69.6 million modernization of Walla Walla High School.

All of the existing 1963 buildings will be remodeled and upgraded in the design to reduce costs. The project is eligible for \$21.6 million in State Matching dollars which will be used on the Wa-Hi project. Should there be any excess funds, they will be dedicated for facility improvements at Lincoln High School.

Cost is an increase of 68 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The recently approved College Place School District bond was \$2.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Learn more about the Wa-Hi bond online: www.wwps.org

Superintendent's Patron Tour program takes community members to Edison, Wa-Hi and Lincoln High School
Superintendent Mick Miller is continuing his Superintendent's Patron Tour program Wednesday, December 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Guests will visit Edison Elementary, Walla Walla and Lincoln High Schools as part of the program.

Miller's goal with the program is to build relationships, learn about each other and listen. Please ask your friends, family, neighbors and parents of students to participate. They will value the experience and learn a lot along the way. Patron Tour guests will meet with Superintendent Miller, tour schools and conclude with lunch and a debriefing. If you are interested in participating in a Patron Tour, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins: 509.526.6716 or by email: mhiggins@wwps.org.

American Education Week Salute - By Superintendent Mick Miller

American Education Week is November 11-17, 2012. This week presents all Americans with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. We hope you will join with our district in highlighting the importance of bringing together educators, parents, students, patrons and public figures, in an effort to build and maintain great public schools. Together, we can make a difference.

Public education is the backbone of democracy and is key to preserving the American way of life. Our educated citizenry has perpetuated our democracy for 223 years and created the most prosperous nation in the history of the world. That same citizenry will be the one that will work to meet the current challenges facing our nation. History teaches us that Americans have always faced significant challenges and met them every time.

I am proud of the Walla Walla Public School staff who rise to the challenge of making sure all students have opportunities to reach their full potential and be competitive in today's ever changing global society.

Thank you for your support as we partner to do what is best for children. Thank you for taking time this week to reach out and praise educators for all they do for Walla Walla children. Join us in Celebrating American Education Week — November 11-17.

School Stories

Walla Walla High School Latino Club Supports Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts - By Bill Erickson

Jerry Cummings, executive director of the Blue Mountain Chapter of the Red Cross, paid a visit to the Walla Walla High School Latino Club this past Thursday. He came to thank the Club for their recent \$200 donation to support the Red Cross efforts to provide help to victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Cummins stated the need for relief funding will be needed for many months since the effects of the storm that hit the northeast is one of the biggest disaster to hit the United States in the past 20 years with damages that exceed those of Hurricane Katrina. The Red Cross currently has 8,000 volunteers serving in the storm area with five of those from the Walla Walla Valley. Funding and cash donations are still needed to maintain the Red Cross efforts to help with Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.

Wa-Hi music students selected to All-Northwest Choir

Six students from Walla Walla High School have been selected to perform as members of the All-Northwest Choir in Portland in February. Students from the six Northwest states were selected from taped auditions.

- Addy Clark
- Cougar Henderson
- Elena Janis
- Mary Beth Jones
- Daisy Schoen
- Hirut Senter

Walla Walla High School FFA Tractor Driving team takes state title

Walla Walla High School students Reed Curcio, Jed Eastman, and Hayden Leber won the State Tractor Driving championship Nov. 9. Curcio took 1st place in the individual category, Eastman was 2nd place individual and Leber earned a 7th place finish. The competition included 17 FFA chapters and 27 teams.

Students competing in the Tractor Driving Competition must complete a written test with questions regarding tractor safety, mechanics, and operating procedures; identify parts on a tractor; and drive a tractor and trailer through a course. The operating course requires students to weave the tractor and trailer through cones going forward and in reverse. They also attempt to not hit or touch the cones, make unnecessary changes of direction, grind the gears and a number of other operating mistakes. They must navigate the course within two minutes and thirty seconds.

The team of Samantha Zuger, Michaela Stalder, and John Mihelitch, first time competitors at the State event, placed 22nd. Thanks to FFA Advisor Lindsey Butcher for all her work preparing the teams for competition.

Pioneer Middle School named collection site for Toys for Tots program

Pioneer's National Junior Honor Society has partnered with Toys for Tots to collect new unwrapped toys through December 14. In 2011, Toys for Tots collected 2002 toys, 588 books and 460 stocking stuffers. These gifts were distributed to 1196 local children from Dayton to College Place.

All the toys collected and money donated go directly to the local children of our area. Toy or cash contributions are accepted. Please drop off donations at Pioneer Middle School -- 450 Bridge St.

Only three shows remain for Walla Walla High School's "Get Smart" drama production

"Get Smart," the play, is based on the story of the first episode of the television series, Get Smart. Maxwell Smart talks his way into handling two huge problems at once; how to guard Professor Dante's invention that, predictably, would bring disaster in the wrong hands (AKA - KAOS), and how to guard Ingrid, a fun-loving Princess from Scandinavia, who could be the next victim in a series of kidnappings.

Of course, the two problems turn out to be interconnected, and action, confusion, and a blonde Chinese waitress follow, all culminating with Max saving the day with a bit of surprisingly quick thinking.

"Get Smart" Schedule (remaining)

- November 16, and 17 @ 7 p.m.
- November 17 at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices:

- \$12 for adults and \$6 for students

Tickets on sale now at the Wa-Hi Performing Arts Auditorium Box Office. Box Office hours are weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m. and one hour prior to all shows. For more information call 526-8613.

Community Stories

Save the date for Great Explorations!

Great Explorations is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Adventure for 5th through 8th grade girls. This year's event features Jody Wolf, Assistant Crime Lab Administrator - Phoenix Police. CSI comes to Walla Walla!

- Saturday, March 23
- Whitman College
- Information: Sue Parrish (529.3956 or wallawallannan@gmail.com)

YMCA Burn the Bird Thanksgiving

Join us Thanksgiving Day for a three hour total workout! Choose between five 30-minute classes or burn max calories by staying for all three hours! **FREE TO THE COMMUNITY** - Anyone is welcome, you do not have to be a Y member to attend. Bring your friends & family!

Thursday, November 22 / 8 -11 a.m.

- 5 different fitness classes
- Lap swim
- Family Swim
- Free babysitting
- Organized activities for kids & teens
- Football game & parade will be on TV's!

Universal Children's Day activities planned November 20

What: Children's Art Program and Candlelight Vigil. The children will be led in an art project to design their vision of peace. The artwork will be visible at Children's Home Society of Washington's office through the month of December.

When: Tuesday, November 20 -- 4 to 6 p.m.

Where: YMCA of Walla Walla, 340 S. Park, Walla Walla

Cost: Free

The event also includes a coloring contest and free hot chocolate. To pick-up the coloring contest, visit Children's Home Society of Washington beginning November 6 between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. CHSW is located at 1612 Penny Lane in Walla Walla. Coloring pages are also located at all elementary school offices. All entries are due by November 19. Prizes include gift certificates to Inland Octopus as well as passes to the Children's Museum.

Information: Stephanie Biegel -- (509) 529-2130 ext. 110 or stephanieb@chs-wa.org