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District Stories

School board sets February 14, 2012 for the four-year replacement levy election

Levy rates similar to those approved in 2008

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors, during a special school board meeting Tuesday night, unanimously approved February 14, 2012 as the date for the district's four-year Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy. The dollar amount and estimated rates for the replacement levy are similar to those approved in 2008. An election resolution will now be filed with Walla Walla County. Learn more online at: www.wwps.org

Dates and approval:

- Election date: Tuesday, February 14, 2012
- Ballots mailed: Friday, January 27, 2012
- 50% + 1 vote required for approval
- Four-year levy

Replacement Levy Facts

- Proposed taxpayer levy rates are similar to last year's rates
- Increases in home values will not increase tax collections
- Replacement levy funds about 20% of the district's budget
- Levy funding pays for library staff and health clinicians
- Levy dollars lower class size, fund training and buy materials
- Pays for specialists not funded by the state (PE & Music)
- Funds all extra-curricular activities (music, sports, drama, FFA)
- Voters approved a similar levy in 2008
- Levy dollars help employ more than 100 staff

Summary of 2012 Replacement Levy Proposal

2013 - \$10,227,450 (projected rate \$3.64 per \$1,000)

2014 - \$10,483,136 (projected rate \$3.70 per \$1,000)

2015 - \$10,745,215 (projected rate \$3.75 per \$1,000)

2016 - \$11,013,845 (projected rate \$3.81 per \$1,000)

* These rates are based on per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Proposed rates are similar to those approved in 2008

Value of home: \$175,000

- Current annual - \$628.25
- Current monthly - \$52.35
- Proposed annual - \$637.00
- Proposed monthly - \$53.08

Value of home: \$250,000

- Current annual - \$897.50
- Current monthly - \$74.79
- Proposed annual - \$910.00
- Proposed monthly - \$75.83

Value of home: \$350,000

- Current annual - \$1256.50
- Current monthly - \$104.71
- Proposed annual - \$1274.00
- Proposed monthly - \$106.17

* These rates are estimates based on per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Information: Contact Communications Director Mark Higgins at (509) 526-6716 or mhiggins@wwps.org

School board meeting - Tuesday, Nov. 1

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

Reser Road and Howard Street intersection closed for three weeks

The Reser Road construction project has moved west and is now focused on the section near the Reser Road and Howard Street intersection. The Reser Road and Howard Street intersection is now closed for three weeks. Detour signs are in place and Walla Walla County has detour maps posted on its Public Works Department web site. Project Coordinator Aaron Grimm says the contractors hope to pave before the Thanksgiving Holiday. The project remains on schedule to be completed in early December. Motorists are encouraged to use extreme caution when driving in this area and allow more time for travel.

Principal Appreciation Month

In recognition of Principal Appreciation Month, Walla Walla Public Schools is proud to recognize our building leadership and give them a heartfelt thanks for their tireless efforts on behalf of the kids. We encourage everyone to express their gratitude. Tell your principal what they mean to you! Thank you for dedication to our students, staff and families.

Comment from Laure Quaresma, Assistant Superintendent:

“A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader, a *great* leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves. (unknown)

Thank you to our principals for the energy and optimistic attitude affirming that everyone in the school is doing their best for every child and that each day brings another opportunity for improvement.”

Missy Peterson Memorial Service Saturday

- St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
- Saturday, October 29
- 2 p.m.
- Reception will follow the service at the church hall

Former Art Regier Volunteer of the Year recipient Mary-Louise “Missy” Orrick Peterson, 62, passed away at home, surrounded by her family, on September 14, 2011. She died of pancreatic cancer. During her nearly 28 years in the Walla Walla valley, Missy devoted much of her time serving the community, the public schools in particular. She served on the Edison and Berney PTAs, on the boards of the Explorer Program, the Walla Walla Symphony, and Great Explorations, and volunteered countless hours in classrooms throughout the district.

In 2005, with Kay Barga, she started “Books for Babes,” a community service program through Edison Elementary that provides books to every newborn in Walla Walla. The program encourages parents to read to their babies, fostering literacy and providing the basis for a lifelong love of learning. Earlier this year, the Walla Walla Public Schools honored Books for Babes as a Partner in Learning, an accomplishment that made Missy particularly proud. The School District also recognized Missy’s individual commitment with a Community Leadership Award. From all of us at Walla Walla Public Schools, we thank Missy Peterson for her dedication and love for Walla Walla staff and children.

District partners with The Moms’ Network for free Parent Workshop Series

Your Child’s Health

- Wednesday, November 9 @ 7 p.m.
- YMCA
- Dr. Trent Rogers, Pediatrician, Walla Walla Clinic
- Free child care and translation services available

Reserve your spot by contacting Beth Swanson at 509.301.7471 or beth@themomsnetworkww.com

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 5:00-7:00. 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 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Monday through Thursday. Basic E-Learning will be offered nightly from 5:00-6:00. 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 \$150.00. 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

Planning meeting scheduled for international trip

- Student/Staff/Parent Trip: Dublin, Ireland & London, England with an overnight in Wales
- Trip Organization: EF Student Travel (This is the International arm of Smithsonian Student Travel)
- Informational meeting to learn all of the details & have your questions answered
- Monday, Nov. 7
- 7 p.m.
- Group leaders: Kathryn Southwick Hess & Dan Calzaretta

Garrison and Pioneer students team for National Junior Honor Society Leadership workshop

This week more than 60 National Junior Honor Society members from both Pioneer and Garrison Middle Schools, along with their advisors Andrea Sundberg, Jami Eggart, and Sue Schulz, attended a leadership workshop at Walla Walla High School. The event was sponsored by Wa-Hi's National Honors Society and their advisors Crystal Holmes and Peggy Payne.

Students participated in games lead by local youth pastor Doug Hayes. They also listened to guest speaker 16th District Representative Maureen Walsh. Students also had an opportunity to meet high school leaders and learn about opportunities to lead in their own schools as well as next year as high school students.

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 November 1
- Box office open 4 to 6 p.m. weekdays and one hour before shows.
- Box office number: 526-8613
- 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

Walla Walla High School GEAR UP hits home run at College and Career Planning Night!

By Ana Andrade, Walla Walla High School student

GEAR UP's College and Career Planning Night on October 17, 2011 was a huge success for Walla Walla High School! The night consisted of many beneficial college and career resource booths and three important breakout sessions. GEAR UP provided dinner from Big Cheese pizza as parents, teachers, and students advanced their knowledge at each college booth. As the planning night progressed, students and parents broke out into three sessions: the WOIS presentation, the college fair, and the AP vs. Running Start presentation. The college fair seemed to be the most popular and college advisors were busy providing valuable information to the attendees.

"This night gives students a perspective on college options that they can pursue beyond high school," said Eastern Washington University's admission advisor Joe Hewa, "For students wanting a good future, education is such a critical component."

Hewa went on to state that he loves representing Eastern Washington University at Wa-Hi's college fair because he enjoys Wa-Hi students' desire to learn and because the event was well-organized and attended. When it comes to interested students wanting to continue their education beyond high school, GEAR UP is there as a great support system to provide students and their families with guidance, education, and opportunities. GEAR UP's next event at Wa-Hi, 3 Ways To Pay, will be held on November 14, 2011 and will be a good opportunity for families to learn more about college financing options.

Prospect Point earns School of Distinction award

Prospect Point Elementary School received a 2011 School of Distinction award for five-year improvements in reading and math. Outstanding improvement in student achievement led to a special honor for 99 schools; all received the 2011 *School of Distinction* Award from The Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE), the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD), the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP), Phi Delta Kappa-Washington Chapter (PDK-WA), Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), Washington State ASCD and Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA).

The 2011 *School of Distinction* award winners include 53 elementary schools, 22 middle / junior high schools, 17 high schools and 7 alternative schools. This represents the 5th annual *School of Distinction* award recognition in Washington State.

2011 School of Distinction Award Ceremony (other area schools including Prescott HS will be honored)

- Monday, November 14
- 1 to 2 p.m.
- Prescott School District

Walla Walla High School student-athletes honored for academic achievement

Walla Walla High School student-athletes participating in fall sports recently received state awards for academic achievement. This fall 15 of 16 Walla Walla High School athletics teams received Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Academic awards. Each season the WIAA recognizes teams from across the state for academic performance. Two awards are offered: "Outstanding Team Award" for teams with an accumulative Grade Point Average of 3.5 or better and "Distinguished Team Award" for teams with a Grade Point Average of 3.0 to 3.499. Awards are based on the last semester Grade Point Average.

"Thank you coaches, teachers and parents for your support and guidance of our student-athletes and thank you athletes for your dedication and commitment to athletics and academics," District Athletic Director Don Wilkins said.

2011 Fall WIAA Academic Awards

"Outstanding Team Award"

- Girls Varsity Cross Country: 3.935, Mike Locati
- Boys Varsity Cross Country: 3.816, Mike Locati
- JV Volleyball: 3.754, Gina Eggers
- JV Girls Swimming: 3.655, Katharine Curles
- JV Girls Cross Country: 3.654, Mike Locati
- Varsity Girls Swimming: 3.602, Katharine Curles
- Frosh B Volleyball: 3.564, Kate Keyes
- "C" Volleyball: 3.563, Mikayla McFetridge
- Varsity Volleyball: 3.525, Audra Cummings
- Boys JV Cross Country: 3.508, Mike Locati

"Distinguished Team Award"

- Varsity Girls Soccer: 3.498, Jesse Cruz
- Frosh A Volleyball: 3.450, Kim Armentrout
- JV Girls Soccer: 3.175, Kimberly Gradwohl
- Frosh Football: 3.114, Jeremy Hubbard
- Varsity Football: 3.022, Eric Hisaw

Trunk-or-Treat offers safe and fun Halloween night experience

- Monday, October 31 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- Wa-Hi Science Parking lot
- Trunk-or-Treat from cars that Wa-Hi clubs have decorated (15 clubs have signed up!)
- Special attractions: Haunted Barn sponsored by FFA & Haunted Auditorium sponsored by Drama Club
- Admission is two cans of food for donation to the Christian Aid Center Food Bank
- Trunk-or-Treat is sponsored by Key Club

Pumpkin donation helps make Halloween a treat for Walla Walla students

This week elementary students across the district received pumpkins thanks to a donation from the Washington State Penitentiary. The pumpkins were grown by inmates at the penitentiary farm. District parents Jeff and Kara Schulke also donated pumpkins to district elementary students. At Edison all 500 students were able to take home the pumpkin of their choice.

"The students were excited to pick out their own pumpkin," Edison Elementary Principal Josh Wolcott said. "Some classes will use the pumpkins for classroom activities while others were able to take the pumpkins to their homes."

The partnership between the penitentiary and local elementary school supplies pumpkins for students in grades kindergarten through 3rd grade from the pumpkin patch at the penitentiary. The Schulkes, a local farming family and parents of children at Garrison and Prospect Point, pitched in the rest of the pumpkins so Edison students in 4th and 5th grade received a pumpkin as well. The Schulkes also delivered pumpkins to Lincoln High School.

Wa-Hi Cadet of the Month earns on-the-spot promotion

The Walla Walla High School JROTC "Blue Devils" Cadet Battalion has selected its "Cadet of the Month" for October 2011 and rewarded his achievement with an immediate promotion.

Cadet Private First Class Patrick Kilpatrick, a 16-year-old junior, was promoted to this new rank after he won the top spot with a total score of 70 points, according to the presiding official on the board. The top Cadet was selected from three candidates who were inspected and examined in oral interviews by a board of four advanced Cadets, according to Lt. Col. Bill Bialozor, Senior Army Instructor for the Walla Walla High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Kilpatrick said that he joined JROTC because he wanted to become a more determined and respectable citizen. He plans to go to college for two years, and then become a firefighter. He enjoys playing the guitar.

"His strongest competitive category was his answering technique," said Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Malachi Matthews. "This Cadet of the Month was a close match, since the Cadets' performances were all outstanding."

First runner up was Cadet Private Allison Shrouf, a 16-year-old sophomore, whose strongest suit was her military knowledge. She came in second with 69 points. Second runner up was Cadet Private Timothy Howard, a 15-year-old sophomore, whose strongest suit was military courtesy. He came in third with 42 points.

"After the board tallied the points and the winner was clear, we held a ceremony to promote the winning Cadet one rank higher, to recognize him for his hard work and personal success," said Bialozor.

Wa-Hi JROTC Cadets participate in the program to develop leadership skills and to strive to be better citizens in society. Many Cadets compete with drill, marksmanship, and physical training teams as well as attend the class. These Cadets get to travel to and compete in drill meets at 16 other schools in the Cascade Division that include Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy Cadet programs.

Walla Walla High School students receive Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Month awards

Monday Walla Walla High School seniors Emily Schueller and Kyle Jameson received Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Month Awards for October. Schueller and Jameson will also be eligible to compete for the Exchange Club of Walla Walla *Youth of the Year Award* and a special \$1,000 college scholarship. Congratulations to Prescott High School seniors Brittany Carpenter and Claudio Nunez for also receiving awards. Exchange Club member Mark Higgins is the Youth of the Month program coordinator.

Emily Schueller (Parents: Laura and Albert Schueller)

- 4.0 GPA (National Merit Semi-Finalist)
- AP Scholar: History, Government, Biology, Physics, Spanish, Calculus, Literature
- Music and drama participant (has played violin since age seven)
- Student Athlete: Tennis team
- Volunteers with Humane Society at Petco two times per week taking care of cats
- Volunteers at the Elementary Math contest and holiday musical programs
- Considering Yale, USC or Princeton
- Career: Environmental engineer designing new green technology

Kyle Jameson (Parents: Lori and Kirk Jameson)

- 4.0 GPA (National Merit Semi-Finalist)
- AP Scholar Award (Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, US History)
- Student Athlete: Football, Basketball, Track, Rifle Team
- Boy Scouts and 4H Club President
- Active in his church: Youth camp leader, music program
- Interested in electrical, civil engineering and computer science
- Considering Air Force Academy, WSU, U of Idaho

Sharpstein School Garden fall wrap up - By Beth Thiel

Students at Sharpstein Elementary continue to benefit from their school garden. This fall many volunteer parents and grandparents provided hands on learning experiences in garden produce harvesting, preparing, cooking and tasting. These activities included lessons in nutrition, math, science, history and geography.

Every class visited the garden starting with an introduction for the kindergarten class that included a taste of kohlrabi and heirloom chocolate cherry tomatoes. First grade harvested the tomatoes and peppers that they planted in the spring as Kinders to make a tasty salsa. Weeks later, some students were still making salsa at home with their new recipe. The second grade milled corn from their three sister's garden, made dough which they squished into tortillas for quesadillas. Some of third grade harvested and tasted carrots and others harvested lettuce seeds to keep over winter for planting in the spring, which is a nice compliment to their science unit on seeds.

Fifth grade harvested, scrubbed, cut, prepared and cooked their potatoes to serve to the entire school. In addition to experiencing how to plant and harvest potatoes, students learned geography through hearing the history of the potato, what nutritional value they hold and simple, healthy ways to cook potatoes. Fourth grade will complete perhaps a less satisfying, but the most important activity of maintaining the healthy soils in the garden. They will learn the composition of healthy soil and a variety of ways to maintain healthy soils while carrying out the various methods in the garden.

The success and continued utilization of the school garden is dependent on volunteers and accommodating teachers. A great big thank you goes out to all who helped with the various class activities and the fall clean up activity attended by parents and students. Your contribution is important! Thank you!

Sharpstein garden will hold its annual seed sale in 2012 - January 6-13. Garden club will take place Wednesday afternoons from 1:40-2:45 p.m. starting April 18.

Community Stories

Community Council Full Circle Celebration

- Tuesday, November 8
- Noon to 1:15 p.m.
- Marcus Whitman Hotel
- Cost: \$40 per person
- Program: Saluting Walla Walla Valley's 1st Cycle of Community Enhancements. Keynote speaker - Robert Zagelow
- Tickets and Information: 509.540.6720

Author of Breakfast at Sally's coming to Whitman College

- Thursday, Nov. 10
- 7 p.m.
- Cordiner Hall, Whitman College
- Free admission

Richard LeMieux had a thriving business, beautiful home, family and traveled the world. But, modern technology put him out of business. He lost everything and ended up on the streets of Bremerton, WA with an aging van, a few clothes, a sleeping bag, and his little dog Willow. Hear the inspiring story of LeMieux's experience with homelessness.