

Stories this week include:

District Stories

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- Realtors Association "Care and Share" Food Drive sets new record
- Author of *Breakfast at Sally's* coming to Whitman College

District Stories

Daylight savings time ends Sunday -- Fall back one hour Saturday night

Be sure to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night as time reverts to standard time at 2 a.m. Sunday, November 6.

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

Senior Citizens and Elected Officials Appreciation Day

- 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.

Washington's Scores Above Nation on NAEP Reading, Math

OLYMPIA — Washington's fourth- and eighth-grade students continue to perform above the national average in reading and math, but their average scores on the 2011 National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) mirrored the national trend and remained generally flat from two years ago.

Results from the 2011 tests were released today. In math, Washington students finished with an average score of 243 in fourth grade and 288 in eighth grade. The national average was 240 (fourth grade) and 283 (eighth grade). Less than 10 states finished statistically higher than Washington in both grades. In reading, Washington's eighth graders finished at 268 compared to the national average of 264.

In fourth grade, both the Washington (221) and national average (220) remained the same from when students last tested in 2009. Washington's scores finished in the middle of the pack nationally in reading. Just like with our state exams, we are seeing the trend of our test results flattening out,” State Superintendent Randy Dorn said. “With the continued cuts to education, we don't expect that trend to change. Our students and teachers have done a tremendous job of continuing to excel despite diminishing resources.”

For the full press release, please visit: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2011/NAEPScores.aspx>

Reser Road and Howard Street intersection closed until Thanksgiving

Access to Prospect Point driveway from Reser Road closed next week

Contractors working on the Reser Road project will install curbs near Prospect Point next week forcing the closure of the driveway to the school off Reser Road. The work is expected to be completed by next Friday.

The Reser Road and Howard Street intersection remains closed as contractors prepare for paving. It is expected to be open by Thanksgiving according Project Coordinator Aaron Grimm. 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.

Exchange students enjoy Walla Walla

Students praise school and opportunity to visit America

American Field Service (AFS) Exchange students (L-R) Catherine Chevalier (France), Soukaina Kherdioui (Morocco) and Thierno N'Diaye (Mali) reported to Superintendent Mick Miller and school board members during Tuesday night's school board meeting to discuss their stay in Walla Walla.

Area AFS Coordinator Linnea Keatts organized the presentation detailing the students' experiences in Walla Walla. Keatts reported AFS provides intercultural learning experiences that bring global cultures together. She said the program started in 1947 following WWII and is now offered in more than 50 countries.

The exchange students thanked the school board and administration for its support. They reported they are having a great experience in Walla Walla and are thankful for the opportunity to spend time in America.

Personnel Report (from Nov. 1, 2011 school board meeting)

Employment

(Certificated) NONE TO REPORT

(Classified) NONE TO REPORT

Resignation/Retirement

(Classified)

Ardis Dick, Para-Educator, 23 years

Jeanine Griffin, Food Service Assistant, 10 years

Leave of Absence - NONE TO REPORT

Calendar Committee to meet again Wednesday

Wednesday evening Superintendent Mick Miller conducted his second Calendar Committee meeting as the district prepares calendar options for 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. Several options are being reviewed to determine the best fit for Walla Walla.

One issue which remains divided is whether to begin school before or after Labor Day. Calendar committee members and community input has recommended the district find ways to consistently develop annual calendars so there are few changes year-after-year. Superintendent Mick Miller is organizing another Calendar Committee meeting Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 6:30 p.m. to continue the process.

AFS International Exchange program information night planned

Whether you're seriously considering going abroad or just curious, attend an AFS Information Event with your family and friends to learn more about studying overseas or hosting an exchange student in your home!

- Wednesday, November 16

- 7 to 8:30 p.m.

- Walla Walla High School Library.

- Listen and ask questions from experienced volunteers, current exchange students, and host parents

- Learn about available scholarships, and opportunities to experience the world

- Information: Linnea Keatts 525-0049 or Holly Howard 301-1859

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 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

Juggling act helps Sharpstein reinforces to make positive choices

This week Sharpstein Elementary students were treated to the juggling talents and positive messages of anti-bullying expert Greg Bennick as they learned important ideas about bullying. Students defined bullying and talked about what bullying means to them. They covered the following information:

- WHAT IS BULLYING? Paying attention to the feelings of those around you, and to your own feelings as well. Be sure to think about how your words and actions impact others. Be creative in your responses to bullying. Remember that people have unique abilities, qualities, and differences and these are things to celebrate, not to criticize.

- WHAT TO DO ABOUT BULLYING? When someone is mean to you, tell them to stop! That is a great way to deal with bullying. Tell the person you don't like what they are saying. If they don't stop, ask an adult for help.

SOLVING PROBLEMS AND MAKING POSITIVE CHOICES: Students talked about teamwork too and what it means to work together. Pay attention to those around you and do what you can to help make the school bully-free. Think about what you like to feel in school: safe, happy, and then if anything gets in the way of that, let a teacher know! And remember this takes practice: work on your goal everyday. If you want the school to be bully-free, you have to work at it!

Walla Walla High School web site down for service this weekend

The Walla Walla High School website will be down for maintenance and upgrades Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6, The web site is expected to be operational Monday, November 7.

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

Trunk-or-Treat event nets healthy donation for Christian Aid Center Food Bank

An estimated 2000 children and families participated in Trunk-or-Treat Halloween night helping collect 1336 pounds of food for the Christian Aid Center Food Bank. This year 15 school clubs participated in the event. Special attractions included a Haunted Barn sponsored by FFA and a Haunted Auditorium sponsored by Drama Club. Special thanks to the Walla Walla High School Key Club for sponsoring the event under the leadership of advisor Shelley Mann.

Walla Walla High School and Washington State University GEAR UP

Host "3 Ways to Pay"

November 14 @ 5:15-7:30 p.m.

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

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

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. Washington State University GEAR UP, which is located on campus at Walla Walla High School, involves a variety of innovative partnerships and initiatives to support students in college and career readiness skills.

For more information contact the GEAR UP office located at Walla Walla High School.

- Becky Waggoner
- 509-526-8621
- bwaggoner@wwps.org

Garrison Middle School students demystify *Day of the Dead*

This week Garrison Middle School teacher Sara VanDonge and district bilingual coordinator Diana Erickson developed a unit on the *Day of the Dead* with the Garrison Middle School Dual Language students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade.

Students learned vocabulary, grammar, and culture through a variety of hands-on and interactive activities culminating with the creation of traditional sugar skulls - calaveras. Day of the Dead is celebrated November 2. The students engaged in genuine Spanish conversation in a risk-free environment while participating in these events.

Girls Cross Country team earns 4A State academic championship

For two consecutive years the Walla Walla High School Girls Cross Country team won the 4A State Academic Championship. Their team GPA was an impressive 3.935. The team will receive its trophy at the State Cross Country meet in Pasco.

Community Stories

Realtors Association “Care and Share” Food Drive sets new record

“Care and Share” Food Drive Coordinator Peter Swant reported this week the annual food drive set a new record in 2011. This year’s effort netted 45,525 lbs of food for the Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank. This year Walla Walla Public Schools teamed with area realtors to support the food drive.

Walla Walla Public Schools netted 16,513 lbs. Walla Walla Public Schools plans to continue and build on the partnership in the coming years. Thanks to everyone who supported this great cause!

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.