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District Stories

Automated External Defibrillators to be installed at district facilities

The district plans to install Automated External Defibrillators in district schools, support services facilities and the district office by spring break, according to Health Services Director Jennifer Douglas.

An automated external defibrillator is used in cases of life threatening cardiac arrhythmias which lead to cardiac arrest. Tuesday night school board members received for first reading: Board Policy 3412 Automated External Defibrillators.

Personnel Report (from 2/21/12 school board meeting)

Employment

(Certificated) NONE TO REPORT

(Classified) NONE TO REPORT

Resignation/Retirement

Certificated: Sue Hansen, PE Specialist, Blue Ridge, 29 years

(effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year)

Leave of Absence

Certificated: Gayle See, PE Specialist, Walla Walla High School, 31 years

(for the 2012-2013 school year)

Staff Transfer: Rocio Anaya is transferring from Walla Walla High School to Sharpstein to serve as Secretary to the Principal.

TOC donates paper to school district

Thanks to Total Office Concepts for donating 50,000 sheets of 8-1/2" x 11" 20 lb. white paper for district use. This paper will be used in the district's print shop to support classroom learning.

"We believe strongly in the school district's mission!" said CEO Mark Carlile. "We're interested in doing whatever we can to assist in delivering on that mission".

Four districts announce new Mid Columbia Conference

Tri-Cities and Walla Walla athletes will be playing in a new conference when the 2012-2013 school year begins. Officials from Pasco, Kennewick, Richland, and Walla Walla school districts announced this week that the new conference will be called the Mid Columbia Conference.

The districts announced on January 27 that they would be leaving the CBBN, citing economic circumstances and the desire to keep staff and students in class as the two primary drivers in the decision. The new Mid Columbia Conference will greatly reduce travel distance, which will both save districts money and require less lost instruction time.

The Mid Columbia Conference will consist of Pasco High School, Chiawana High School, Walla Walla High School, Kennewick High School, Kamiakin High School, Southridge High School, Richland High School and Hanford High School and will be a mixed 3A and 4A league.

Community Bank adopts local schools

Tuesday night Community Bank Chief Executive Officer Tom Moran presented a \$1000 check to Superintendent Mick Miller to launch a new Adopt-a-School program. Green Park and Blue Ridge Elementary Schools will both receive \$500 to support students in financial need. Funds may be used to assist students to purchase school lunches, classroom supplies, and any other items that would benefit them in their pursuit of an education. Selection of recipients of funds will be entirely at the discretion of teachers and/or counselors at the respective schools.

“We recognize that an investment in people and their education is a smart investment in the community,” said Moran. “Community Bank wants to get more involved in the community and schools are a great place to start.”

Community Bank identified Green Park and Blue Ridge based upon the significant percentage of students who participate in the free or reduced-priced school lunch program. Moran said the bank hopes this program is the start of a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

Explorer Nomination/Referral Period Now Open

Nomination/referral materials are now available in all district elementary and middle schools for the 2012-13 Explorer (Gifted Education) Program. Parents with students in grades 2 through 7 may contact their child’s teacher or school learning specialist/middle school counselor for more information. Program information is also available on the district website, using the following link: <http://www.wwps.org/programs/explorers.htm>

Walla Walla School District’s Explorer Program provides students of high academic and intellectual ability with designated time to explore concepts in greater depth. Classes are currently offered for students in grade 3 through 8.

The goal of the Explorer Program is to encourage the development of higher level thinking skills. Students learn to become responsible for their own learning, to develop their creative thinking and critical reasoning power and to strive to reach their potential. The Explorer curriculum for third through fifth grades focuses primarily on mathematics, science, oral and written communication and critical thinking skills. Elementary students are bussed to Sharpstein Elementary School for two half-days per week. At each middle school, curriculum focuses on the humanities, drawn from the areas of language arts and social studies, and offers advanced, but parallel, learning opportunities.

The nomination/referral deadline this year is March 14, 2012. All referred students will take a norm-referenced standardized test and those who qualify for further testing will participate in cognitive abilities testing, also at their home schools. In all cases, parents will be notified of the results of the process, and a child not selected one year may be referred again in subsequent years. For more information, please contact the Walla Walla School District Curriculum and Instruction office: 509-526-6735.

School Stories

Walla Walla High School students rank first in technology exam

Last semester, Walla Walla High School Career and Technical Education teachers piloted the Microsoft IT Academy from a partnership between Microsoft and OSPI. This academy offered students the opportunity to take the certification exams, an internationally recognized Microsoft exam. A total of 24 students have passed either the PowerPoint, Word, or Access certification exams, a rigorous 50 minute, proctored exam.

“Currently, we are #1 on the leaderboard for pass rate percentage!” said CTE teacher Gay Buissink.

All staff members who teach the course at Wa-Hi have completed IT Academy training and have been certified as proctors of these professional exams.

“We feel that a student who earns certification will have a competitive advantage in the workplace against those who have not earned this prestigious, internationally-recognized standard of excellence as recognized by Microsoft,” said CTE teacher Scott Reardon. “We hope we can get several more students certified this spring so that we can get Wa-Hi in the top five in the state in the total number of certification exams passed.”

Visit this link to learn more: <http://waschools.ccilearning.com/Home/tabid/1037/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Debate team performs strong at regional event - By Coach Jean Tobin

Over President’s Day Weekend students from Wa-Hi and Lincoln competed in the State Qualifying Tournament in Speech and Debate at Chiawana High School in Pasco. Students from Moses Lake, Wenatchee, Cascade, Quincy, Liberty Bell, Ephrata, Othello, Eisenhower, Pasco and Chiawana also competed.

In a combined 3A and 4A division, Walla Walla High School placed 1st in Debate. Pasco was 1st in Speech in the combined 3A and 4A division. Overall, combining Speech and Debate, in the 4A division, Chiawana H.S. was 1st with 78 points and Walla Walla H.S. was 2nd with 69 points. Points are given for each 1st -3rd place finisher in each event. The Walla Walla H.S. team had its strongest showing yet in Debate Events at a State Qualifying meet. The State Debate Tournament will be held March 16 & 17 at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. We qualified competitors in every form of debate.

- In Congressional Debate, Marisol Beck (junior), Maggie Grant (freshman) and Emma Gregoire (freshman) will attend the State tournament. Marisol Beck placed 2nd out of 32 competitors. Students will debate a variety of bills including birthright citizenship, the Bush tax cuts and the Keystone pipeline.
- In Public Forum Debate, debating if the United States should suspend aid to Pakistan, the freshman team of Malcolm Gabbard and Emily Prull were District Champions and advanced to State.
- In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Rosa Tobin (junior) was undefeated and is the District Champion. She will debate whether or not targeted killings are a morally permissible foreign policy tool at the State tournament.
- In Speech we had a large number of students qualify. The State Speech Tournament (also known as the State IE (Individual Events) Tournament will be held at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma Washington on March 10th:
- In Extemp: Rosa Tobin placed 3rd, Kendall Dunovant 5th, Malcolm Gabbard 7th and Bryan Preston 9th. 1st alternate is Emily Prull
- In Dual Interpretation: Hope Grant-Herriot and Marisol Beck were 3rd and Kurt Funk and Maggie Grant were 5th.
- In Expository: Anna Apostolidis was District Champion, Kate Kuhlmann was 3rd, Ben Parsons 4th, Sabine Vernon 7th.
- In Impromptu: Emily Prull was 3rd, Bryan Preston 5th, Kendall Dunovant 6th, Rosa Tobin 9th.
- In Interpretive Reading: Anna Apostolidis was District Champion, Marisol Beck 3rd, Kera Parsons 4th.
- In Original Oratory: Hope Grant-Herriot was 2nd, Kimberly McLaughlin 5th, Tristan Moore 7th, and Calvin Brigham 9th. Emma Gregoire is 1st alternate.
- In Humorous Interpretation: Konor Clark was 4th and Malcolm Gabbard was 6th.

Overall, in Debate six students qualified to State and in Speech, 18 students qualified.

Thank you for all of your support!

Wa-Hi AVID students celebrate achievement

Students, staff, families and friends packed the Walla Walla High School Commons Wednesday evening for the Third Annual AVID Academic Recognition and Family Night. Students involved in the Advancement Via Individual Achievement or AVID program were honored for academic achievement. Erin Jones, OSPI Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement delivered a powerful keynote speech to the students.

Jones' made three key points during her message:

1. It doesn't matter where you come from, it's where you end.
2. Every decision matters.
3. Set goals.

AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is an elementary through postsecondary college readiness system that is designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance. AVID students are expected to access rigorous curriculum and the elective class is an avenue for students to acquire the skills in communication, critical thinking, note-taking, peer-tutoring, organization and time-management.

Last year, all fifteen of the seniors in the AVID program went on to higher education institutions after high school. The AVID project is a collaborative effort between Washington State University GEAR UP, Walla Walla Public Schools, and our community.

Walla Walla High School's *Winter Wish Week* opportunity for dreams to come true

Walla Walla High School Associated Student Body leaders are coordinating *Winter Wish Week* to help make dreams come true for their classmates and teachers. Wishes range from simple items like candy and school supplies to ski and movie passes and appreciation cards for staff.

Other wish examples include a cradle made by a wood shop student for another student's sister's newborn, a book signed by local author Patrick Carmen, a guitar, and a yearbook for a student's older sister from the year she graduated.

This week ASB leadership visited classrooms granting wishes to students. The project concludes February 28 with an all school assembly that includes choir, dance team, and jazz band performances. The assembly will be an opportunity to unveil some of the more moving wishes, for example, several dinner dates wished by students for their parents, and student wished recognition for deserving Walla Walla High School teachers. The assembly will act as the big finale, providing some laughs, smiles, and closure for *Winter Wish Week*.

"Our future goal is for every student to have had a wish granted during their high school years," said senior Andrew Hoffman, Walla Walla High School ASB Treasurer. "Overall the project has been very successful. Kids have come to us asking if they can now grant a wish for the person who granted them a wish. The entire program has snowballed into something far greater than anyone could have imagined."

Hoffman said the project has also challenged students to treat others with respect and kindness.

"We have had hundreds of wishes for bullying to end, for people to just be nice, wishes we couldn't grant directly, but that raised awareness on campus for doing what is right," Hoffman said.

All of the wishes have been donated directly from businesses, staff, parents and community members or have been purchased by ASB using funds donated by the community.

All School Assembly

- Tuesday, Feb. 28

- 9:30 a.m.

- Walla Walla High School Main Gym

Sign ups now accepted for Lincoln High School's Sweet Onion Jam

Music festival benefits district music program

Plans are in place to have a one day music festival Sunday, April 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the YMCA grounds in coordination with Lincoln High School's after-school program "The Lift" and AmeriCorp. The Sweet Onion Jam is open to elementary through college aged students. The festival will benefit Walla Walla Public School music programs.

Different music groups or soloists will play for approximately five minutes and the audience can vote for the group they like best by donating a dollar per vote. All styles of music are welcome. The groups that raise the most money in their respective age groups -- elementary, middle school, high school, college -- are the winners and can win amazing prizes donated by members of the community. Laetitia Lehman-Pearsall is coordinating the event. Sign up forms are available at district schools.

Email forms to llehmanpearsall@gmail.com or drop them off to Walla Walla music teachers at school by March 1. Participation also costs \$5 dollars per group to help with expenses. The audition is March 10 from 7-9 p.m. or March 11 from 12 noon-3 p.m. at Lincoln High School.

If you cannot make either of those times, feel free to send a You Tube link, a video clip, or an audio clip to llehmanpearsall@gmail.com of your music instead.

Public invited to free Mariachi Huenachi concert March 2

The Walla Walla School District and the Walla Walla High School Latino Club will be hosting Mariachi Huenachi for a series of concerts on March 1 and 2. Mariachi Huenachi is the advanced mariachi music class at Wenatchee High School and has earned a reputation as the best high school mariachi in the State of Washington. This will be the third year the group has come to Walla Walla.

Concert Schedule

Thursday, March 1

- The group will be part of the Garrison Night School celebration at 6 p.m. and provide entertainment for those adults who are completing the night school's 10 week education program.

Friday, March 2

- The group will perform at Blue Ridge Elementary, Edison Elementary School, and then perform a concert at 9:30 a.m. at Cordiner Hall on the Whitman College Campus for the Green Park, Sharpstein, Prospect Point and Berney Elementary Schools. The group will then perform during first and second lunch at Walla Walla High School. In the afternoon Mariachi Huenachi will be at Pioneer Middle School.

- The public is invited to an evening concert that will be held at the Walla Walla High School Auditorium on March 2, 2012, starting at 7 p.m. Admission is free. An opportunity to support this event through a donation will be made available during the concert.

The Wenatchee School District's Mariachi Program has over 300 students district-wide, 100 of which are Wenatchee High School students. Last year the group performed at over 40 events and festivals including the Seattle Seahawks, Mariners, and Chivas de Guadalajara games, Washington State University, University of Idaho, Orcas Island, Space Needle, Folklife Festival, EMP, and for Governor Gregoire. In summer of 2009, Mariachi Huenachi shared the stage with the renowned group Los Tigres Del Norte.

Corps of Engineers organize bridge building contest

Representatives from the Corps of Engineers organized a bridge building contest this week to celebrate National Engineers Week. Walla Walla High School students in John Herr's Design and Applied Math class built bridges out of balsa wood and then put them to the test for strength. Corps of Engineers representatives also answered student questions regarding careers in engineering and related fields.

Pioneer Middle School teacher travels aboard US Navy aircraft carrier

Pioneer Middle School teacher Donna Morris recently participated in a “Tiger Cruise” aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C Stennis. Morris, who is married to City Firefighter Brad Morris, participated on the cruise in support of her daughter McKhayla.

The USS John C. Stennis returned to San Diego following an eight month deployment in the middle east. Morris traveled from Honolulu to San Diego. McKhayla is an aviation structural mechanic with the Black Aces Super Hornet Fighting Squadron.

Walla Walla High School choral concert February 29

The WWHs Choral Music Department is presenting “A Leap Year Concert” on Wednesday, February 29th at 7:00 PM in the WaHi Auditorium. The program features “SONGS FROM MANY LANDS.” Music will be sung from Argentina, Inner Mongolia, France, Germany, and the British Isles, to name a few of the origins.

The concert will include all five choirs at WWHs: Concert Choir, Treble Ensemble, Chansons, Belles Voix, and Chamber Singers. A \$2 donation is requested.

Community Stories

Parent to Parent supports families with special needs children

The Parent to Parent program Coordinator Cyndy Knight reported to school board members Tuesday night on services available through her agency for parents with special needs children. Knight says Parent to Parent offers parents both emotional and informational support to parents of children with special needs from birth to adulthood.

“Parents who may be just learning about their child’s disability or chronic health condition will be provided with helpful information and resources in their local communities that will assist them,” Knight said. “Parents may also receive personal support and mentoring from other parents who have a child of their own with similar needs.”

Parent to Parent also offers two support groups. The first is for children ages birth to eight and the second is for caretakers who are parenting high school students through adulthood. In addition to support and educational groups, Parent to Parent also holds special events featuring guest speakers and host legislative teas, educational teleconferences, Hispanic children’s day and much more.

Call or email Knight at 509-524-2940 or cknight@co.walla-walla.wa.us for additional information.

Violence Prevention Conference set for March 26, 27

The second annual Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Coalition Conference, “Stop Violence Now — For Yourself, Your Family, Our Community” will open with a keynote speech by Dr. Vincent Felitti, M.D., noted for his research into the interconnections of childhood trauma — including violence — to problems in adult life. Dr. Felitti’s speech takes place at 7 p.m. Maxey Hall, Whitman College. The conference workshops and panels on violence and its prevention in our community begin at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 27, at Reid Campus Center, Whitman College. A Community Fun Night for Families, at which dinner and childcare are provided at no cost, will be held at St. Patrick Church, (415 W. Alder St.) Walla Walla. Details: 509-540-0807. All events are free and open to the public.

Retirees Association plans Teddy Bear Show and Tea party

The Walla Walla Columbia County School Retirees Association is having the 6th annual Teddy Bear Show and Tea with visiting doll exhibits. Saturday February 25, 2012 at the St. Francis Social Hall, 722 West Alder. Hours will be from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This event features a Gala Tea, Story Corner, Photographer, Raffle, Silent Auction, Doll & Bear exhibits, Teddy Bear Store selling Bearapheralia and more. This event is the primary fund raiser for this association. Two annual scholarships of \$1,000 each are awarded each year. Admission is \$5. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets are available at the door.

Commitment to Community seeks volunteers for annual Children's Day event

Come join us to celebrate kids! This year is the sixth year that Commitment to Community (C2C) hosts the annual Children's Day at Washington Park. This year, Children's Day will be Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities at the event will include: a soccer tournament, piñata breaking, relays, hula hoop and jump rope contests, arts and crafts, the jumping castle and much more. Children's Day is a great way to get out into the community and begin to build some fundamental relationships.

As a local organization that works with children and families, we recognize you and the organization you represent as a great asset to the community. We would like to invite you and your organization to participate in this year's Children's Day. Generally, participating organizations host an activity station on the day of the event. Activities range from bean bag toss to relay races.

Any activity that engages kids in something fun and creative is highly preferred. Attending organizations are asked to supply all of the materials necessary to operate the chosen activity, such as volunteers, tables, chairs, art supplies, etc. Set-up will be from 8 to 9:45 am., although some participants will arrive early, and take-down is from 3 to 5 p.m. There will be volunteers available to help you set-up and take-down. Please contact us if you have more questions about what type of activity or game your organization would like to host.

Whether you have participated in Children's Day every year, or if this is your first year, we look forward to meeting and playing with you at the end of April.

For more information, contact:

Yesenia Guevara, Commitment to Community
509-540-0583
julial@bmacww.org

AAUW Annual Book Sale (Feb. 24, 25 & 26)

- 37th Annual AAUW Book Sale
- Friday, Saturday & Sunday - February 24, 25 & 26, 2012

Friday - Noon to 8 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: The Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center 6 W Rose St - Walla Walla, WA 99362

Thousands of boxes of lightly used hardback and soft back books sorted by topic into dozens of categories, offered for sale at very reasonable prices. First editions, regional materials, huge collection of children's books, special interest topics, cookbooks, military, vintage, business, biographies, science fiction, mystery and much, much more. Browse our

"Special Books" collection for first editions, regional materials, collectibles, vintage materials and the just plain unique. Many treasures to be found throughout this sale. Cash or check, no credit card. Dealers welcome, no preview. Proceeds from the sale support local and national scholarships for women, local educational projects such as the Children's Museum, the local library, Books for Babes through the local hospital and special requests for support.

AAUW scholarship applications now accepted

Applications are now being accepted for the AAUW Educational Scholarships, established to provide assistance to women who have completed at minimum one year of college (30 semester or 45 quarter credits) and have a desire to complete their undergraduate or post-graduate education. Please note that there must be a break of at least one year at some time during the college education process.

Applications will be accepted from women who meet the following requirements:

- 1) They must be able to provide transcripts from at least one year of college, followed by an interruption (time lapse) in education.
- 2) They must submit two letters of recommendation from someone familiar with their educational background and goals.
- 3) They must be residents of Walla Walla, Columbia, or Umatilla County.

Additional information and the scholarship application can be accessed at the AAUW website: <http://www.aauw-wallawalla.org> Or contact: Jeanne at 509-525-7401 - beirnejj@charter.net. *Completed applications must be received by April 20, 2012.*

Send completed applications to:
Debbie Dumont
AAUW Scholarship Committee
827 SE Sentry Dr.
College Place, WA 99324

Walla Walla mom publishes book based on the family cat - Book signing event March 10

Longtime district parent volunteer Kathryn Southwick Hess has published a children's picture book based on how her family cat finds love and a name. The book is titled: *Whitepaws - Fabio Giorgio Don Gato Hess*. Kathryn is planning public book signing event Saturday, March 10 from 3 to 6 p.m. at The Book and Game Company on First and Main in Walla Walla. Kathryn's sister Harvalee Wright Hess of Portland illustrated the book.

"Each elementary school will be given a copy for their library," Southwick Hess said. "Several Edison staff members and students were readers and assistant editors during the writing process."

Whitepaws has even made a classroom visit in the past and might be up for more in the future. Kathryn says a portion of the profits will go to the Blue Mountain Humane Society and Walla Walla Public Library. She says she hopes the book will help children develop a love for animals and reading.

Early Learning Coalition Hosts Dinner and Dialogue: A Conversation about Early Learning

Area elementary principals, kindergarten teachers, preschool teachers, and childcare directors are invited to a dinner and dialogue session on Tuesday March 20 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Walla Walla Community College Conference Center. The purpose of the event is to build relationships among early learning professionals; successful transition strategies from pre-kindergarten to kindergarten will also be shared.

Hosted by the Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Coalition, the evening will include a light dinner and presentations by local educators and state agencies. Discussion will focus on WaKids (Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills), early learning collaboration and transitions to kindergarten.

For more information, visit www.earlylearningwallawalla.org or call 509-527-4645 to reserve a place at the table.

The Moms' Network March 21 Parent Workshop: "Mom to Mom" with local mom Terri Neal

Workshops are open to all families in the community. There will also be Spanish language translation services provided at each event. Free childcare is also available during the workshop. The event is free thanks to the support of The Moms' Network, Walla Walla Public Schools and the YMCA.

To register for this event or for more information contact Beth Swanson at 301-7471 or beth@themomsnetworkww.com.

The Parent Workshop Series schedule is:

- March 21: "Mom to Mom" with local mom Terri Neal
- April 16: "Yoga Stretches for Moms" with yoga instructor Rebecca Thorpe

All workshops take place at the YMCA. The schedule (plus other family-friendly events) is online at www.themomsnetworkww.com.

FOUR TENORS: This weekend is your last chance to see them at the Power House Theatre

Four Tenors: Directed and arranged by Sunny Thompson, star of Marilyn: Forever Blonde!

Power House Theatre - Walla Walla, WA

- 7 p.m. Evening Performances (Feb. 24, 25, 26)
- 3 p.m. Matinee Performances (Feb 25, 26)

Staring Brian Damson, Michael Scott Brooks, Morgan James and Ken Nielson. THE BEST OF BROADWAY, CLASSICAL, COUNTRY, POP & ROCK. The Four Tenors perform the music of Josh Groban, Michael Bublé, The Sons of the Pioneers, Elvis, Maroon 5, Bon Jovi and more!

Ticket prices range from \$50 - \$9 with FLEX Ticket options. For pricing and seating chart details, visit us at www.PHTWW.com or call Box Office at 509-529-6500. Box Office is open Friday 3 to 5:30 p.m.

RUSH TICKET PURCHASE OPPORTUNITY!

The Power House Theatre has a RUSH ticket policy. These tickets are \$10 per person – Subject to availability, sold 15 minutes before each performance of The Four Tenors at the Power House Theatre box office. Cash or check only.

Media Contact: Claire Slattery / Claire@PHTWW.com / 509-540-0306

Public invited to Dr. Seuss Day festivities

- Celebrate "Read Across America Day and Dr Seuss' Birthday
- Sunday, March 4
- 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- Reid Center (Whitman College)
- Games, crafts and music
- Every family will go home with a book to read together
- Sponsored by: Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, Whitman College, Walla Walla Public Library

Dying to Be Thin - Understanding Eating Disorders

- Thursday, March 1st: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Whitman College Campus (Reid Campus Center Youth Ballroom A)
- This educational event is free of charge
- Lunch Provided

Guest Speakers: Dr. Jenna Flagg, Clinical Director - The Moore Center

Raven Bonnar-Pizzorno - Director of Nutrition and Dietary Services – The Moore Center

Tracee Anderson - Whitman College Counseling Center, Assistant Director & Independent Practitioner

Please RSVP: kklute@moorecenterclinic.com or 509-943-5329