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District Stories

School Board Meeting - Tuesday, March 20

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

Classified Employees Week: March 12-16

This week Assistant Superintendent Laure Quaresma and staff in the Personnel Department prepared “You are out of this World” goodie bags for district classified staff in celebration of Classified Employees Week. Each bag came with inspirational quotes to thank employees and recognize their importance to the organization. Quaresma says classified staff provide the support necessary to accomplish *Excellence in Every Classroom*.

Walla Walla Valley Education Association plans meeting to discuss health care legislative proposals

- Thursday, March 22
- 5 p.m.
- Pioneer Middle School Gym
- All WEA members and K-12 employees are encouraged to attend
- RSVP to: Angie Escoto at: wwveaangie@gmail.com (please use non-district computer to RSVP)

Family Fun Night! *How to Survive Parenting – And Enjoy It!*

- Tuesday, March 27
- 5:15 to 7:45 p.m.
- St. Patrick Church - 408 W. Poplar St.
- Door prizes, free dinner, bring your children (free childcare)
- Transportation* and Spanish interpretation available
- Information & to reserve transportation: Call 509.540.0807

FREE Dinner! 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Resilience: The Key Ingredient: Teri Barila and Mark Brown offer tips on how to help kids survive their stressful world by building personal strength.

Parent Sessions: (following dinner)

- Healthy Family, Happy Home: Low-Cost Fitness and Nutrition Tips to Healthy Living: Mark Higgins, Beth Swanson, Christy Druffel and Abel Hernandez offer an interactive workshop on the relationship between health and happiness, with activities.
- Being an Xbox Parent in a PlayStation World Full of Nintendos and Wiis: Allyn Griffin, former NFL linebacker and development director at Jubilee Youth Ranch, offers tips on how parents can stop competing with the distractions in their children’s lives and bring family interests and children’s demands closer together.
- Finding Peace in the Present: Chris Howard leads a workshop on meditation and relaxation techniques that can help you stay calm and strong in a turbulent world.
- Sexting and Cyber-Bullying: Officer Mike Boettcher discusses how to protect your child from the dangers of cyberspace.

This event is in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Conference: www.wwviolenceprevention.com

Walla Walla Public Schools hosts College and Career Week

Students in grades 6-12 to participate in college visits, ACT testing and academic planning

Walla Walla Public Schools, in partnership with WSU GEAR UP, is offering students an opportunity to begin thinking about college, career choices and their future beyond high school through the EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT program for students in grades 6-11. Students in grades 8-11 will take the ACT assessment and complete an academic progress report. Students in 6th and 7th grades will participate in local and regional college visits.

“As our teachers and administrators work with students and families in preparation for graduation from high school, we are excited to be hosting a 6-12 College and Career week, providing varied experiences related to information needed to make decisions about post-secondary aspirations,” said Dr. Linda Boggs, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. “Between the activities and the test administration, I believe we are the only district in the state of Washington to offer this comprehensive opportunity for all of our students.”

Walla Walla Public Schools is working to develop a more comprehensive college and career plan, aligned with our district Strategic Goals. WSU GEAR UP is a critical partner in this process.

“We know that college and career readiness does not happen during one week of specialized activities, but rather on a daily basis, throughout a student’s educational career in Walla Walla,” Boggs said.

College and Career Week Overview:

- The EXPLORE helps prepare 8th and 9th grade students for their high school coursework and their post-high school choices. EXPLORE includes four multiple-choice tests covering English, mathematics, reading, and science. EXPLORE assessments have content similar to the PLAN and the ACT.
- PLAN serves as the midpoint check of academic progress in high school. It is designed to improve students’ preparation for education, training, and work after high school while they still have time to adjust their high school courses. PLAN has content similar to the ACT.
- The ACT is America’s most widely accepted college entrance exam. It assesses high school students’ general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.

“We are very excited that our students will have this opportunity to participate in a nationally recognized assessment which will provide them with extremely useful information to help guide their future decisions regarding careers and college,” said Ron Higgins, Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal.

ACT Testing dates:

- Pioneer Middle School (8th grade only): Tuesday, March 13
- Garrison Middle School (8th grade only): Thursday, March 15
- Sager Middle School (8th grade only): Thursday, March 15
- Walla Walla High School (9th, 10th, 11th): Tuesday, March 20

The ACT® contains five curriculum and standards-based assessments: English, mathematics, reading, science, and an optional writing test. The assessment is used as a college admissions and placement test and measures the skills and knowledge needed for first-year college success. Additionally, the ACT includes a career exploration component that stimulates students’ thinking about future plans and relates personal characteristics to career options. The score reports from all the tests provide comprehensive academic data. These assessments are also excellent career and college advising and academic planning tools for teachers, counselors, and parents.

“We are excited to offer this opportunity to our 8th grade students,” said Gina Yonts, Garrison Middle School principal. “We are focused on providing opportunities for all students to create a personal plan for their academic success. The outcomes of EXPLORE testing will allow us to better counsel our students and help them establish plans for their high school and beyond careers!”

Pinewood Derby race wraps up Garrison Night School Extended Day Learning Program

The 10-week Garrison Night School Extended Day Learning Program celebrated its final night with a 30-car pinewood derby sponsored by Exploring Post 311 and the night school. The celebration was for grades K-7 students who participated in the extended learning program.

The race was February 29. Thanks to the assistance from Walla Walla High School Latino Club volunteers. The car made by Gilberto Badillo, an elementary student from Milton-Freewater, placed first; Sharpstein Elementary student Lupita Parra-Garcia, second place; third place was Jose Martinez from College Place.

It is the fifth year the race was held at Garrison Night School and is a partnership between the Walla Walla School District, Walla Walla Community College, Wa-Hi Latino Club, and Exploring Post 311. Fifty-six Latino Club members provided more than 928 hours of service to the program during the four-nights-per-week, 10-week program.

“The help and support of our Latino Club volunteers has been a significant part of our program’s success,” said Diana Erickson, coordinator of the Extended Day Education Program. “The preschool and grade school students in our programs are not only getting individual tutoring each night, they are also being mentored by outstanding role models who are members of the Wa-Hi Latino Club.” Reading, math and vocabulary support was provided to the children of parents who attended the night school.

Volunteers from Wa-Hi Latino Club have supported Garrison Night School Program since 2008. Starting that fall, Exploring Post 311 received a \$3,200 grant from Walla Walla United Way to implement The Estrellita (literacy) Program for pre-school children whose parents attend the Garrison Night School Program. Through the grant, Latino Club members received training so they could help Spanish-speaking pre-schoolers learn their alphabet and letter sounds.

The next year, the program was expanded to provide educational support to all students in the program. Latino Club volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring and presentations to the younger students and help and support the adult programs, also. People of all ages throughout our community benefit from the instruction and activities that Garrison Night School offers.

School Stories

Walla Walla High School student wins state debate

Congratulations to Walla Walla High School Junior Hope Grant-Herriot for winning the state championship in Speech and Debate. Hundreds of students from around the state packed the University of Puget Sound campus for the state tournament. Hope placed first in Oratory becoming Wa-Hi’s first State Champion in Speech and Debate. Thanks to Green Park Teacher and Debate Coach Jean Tobin for her hard work preparing Hope and the team.

Walla Walla Public Schools Music Program presents The Rhapsody Trio

The Rhapsody Trio will be performing in concert March 23 at 7 p.m. at the Walla Walla High School Auditorium. The Trio is composed of Tim Brown, retired music teacher, Laura Curtis, faculty member Whitman College, and Roger Garcia, band director at Garrison Middle School. They will perform *Trio A Minor Opus 114* by Johannes Brahms, and *Trio Bb Major Opus 11* by Ludwig van Beethoven. The event is free to the public.

Walla Walla High School vocal students qualify for state

More than 60 entries from Walla Walla High School participated in the Columbia Basin Music Educators Vocal Solo-Ensemble Festival held in Walla Walla on March 9. All of the students did an outstanding job on their performances. Several will have the opportunity to perform at the State Solo & Ensemble Competition in Ellensburg on April 27 and 28.

The CBMEA Region can qualify eight soloists and six ensembles for the State event. Walla Walla High school vocalists will fill seven of the eight solo slots and three of the three ensemble positions. There are also several alternates who may eventually be invited to perform in Ellensburg.

State Qualifiers from WWHS include: Caleb Leitch, Bass; Nathan Loomer, Baritone; Eduardo Olmos, Tenor; Hirut Senter, Mezzo-Soprano; Kayla Leinweber, Mezzo-Soprano; Daisy Schoen, Soprano; Merrit Filan, Soprano; Gina Lincoln/Tessa Hankins-Snider Duet; Gabe and Michael Anderson Duet; and the Senior Quartet (Merrit Filan, Kayla Leinweber, Jacob Dyer, Matt Rothstrom).

First Alternates include Emylee Gobel, Mezzo-Soprano; Samantha Zuger, Soprano; Olivia Hemenway, Alto; Matt Kroeger, Baritone; Belles Voix vocal ensemble (Julia Cosma, Christina Canwell, Samantha Case, Samantha Zuger, Anna Pettyjohn, Michellie Hess, Belle Taylor, Emma Opsal, Karri Mickelson, Lauren Wardwell, Ashley Melton, and Alaina Weimer. Second alternates include Christina Swanson, Soprano, and the Ashley Melton/Lauren Wardwell Duet.

“We would like to acknowledge all of the student and parent helpers who came out on Friday to ensure a smoothly-run event,” said Wa-Hi Choral Director Norb Rossi. “Special thanks to all of our local voice teachers and the many accompanists who helped our students excel.”

Walla Walla High School Debate Team performs strong at state - By Coach Jean Tobin

This past weekend the Wa-Hi Speech and Debate team competed in seven events at the State Tournament: Oratory, Expository, Humorous Interpretation, Dual Interpretation, Interpretive Reading, Impromptu and Extemporaneous. Hundreds of students from around the state packed the University of Puget Sound campus for the tournament.

Two Wa-Hi students advanced to Finals: Anna Apostolidis (freshman) and Hope Grant-Herriot (junior). Anna placed 6th in Expository speaking with a speech on National Anthems. Hope placed 1st in Oratory becoming Wa-Hi’s first State Champion in Speech and Debate.

Wa-Hi has had a Speech and Debate team for three years and this is the second year the team has had students final rounds. Only four students from the 5/6 District made it to State Finals this year. Two of those four were from Walla Walla High School. Many students on the team received high marks for their speeches and we had several students that missed the finals by only a few points.

This weekend, six Wa-Hi students will travel to the State Debate tournament in Spokane. Malcolm Gabbard and Emily Prull (freshman) will compete in Public-Forum debate, Rosa Tobin (junior) will participate in Lincoln-Douglas debate and Marisol Beck (junior), Emma Gregoire (freshman) and Maggie Grant (freshman) will take part in Congressional Debate.

Walla Walla High School student wins Superintendent's Choice at Education Service District Art Show

Congratulations to Walla Walla High School student Joseph Kern for winning the Superintendent's Choice award for pottery at the 2012 ESD 123 High School Art Show. Submissions were made by both Walla Walla High School Art and Career and Technical Education classes in the following categories: art, pottery, media technology and animation, multi-media, and photography.

Superintendent's Choice: (Pottery)

- Joseph Kern: "Bouquet of Flowers"

Pottery:

Judges Choice

- Joseph Kern: "Bouquet of Flowers"

Honorable Mention

- Kennedy Snider: "3 Piece Set"

Photography:

Judges Choice

- Ivan Saucedo: "Untitled"

Honorable Mention

- Belle Taylor: "Untitled"

- Lelaina Fernandez: "The Sole Asylum"

Media Technology and Animation

Judges Choice

- John Meliah: "Icy Road"

Honorable Mention

- Darnell Larish: "Untitled"

Berney parent raises \$1500 through firefighter stairclimb event fundraiser

Berney Elementary parent volunteer Tania Nelson recently participated in the 21st Annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb event at the Columbia Center in Seattle. Nelson joined more than 1,500 firefighters from over 200 different departments in racing up 69 flights of stairs, or 1,311 steps, in full fire gear to help raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). This was Nelson's second event. She raised \$1550 for the cause and made to the top.

"This year the honoree was a little girl who passed away, and it was definitely heartbreaking listening to her mom tell her story," Nelson said. "It always gives me something to think about while climbing those 1,311 stairs. I am planning on doing this event again next year!"

Nelson said there is always a lot of encouragement during the event.

"While in the stairwell you are passing other firefighters and some are passing you, but each time you get by another firefighter there is always a high five, pat on the back or some encouraging words, which is something that keeps you going," Nelson said. "There were about five or six of us together toward the top and when we reached the 69th floor we knew that there was only four floors to go. The firefighter in the front of our little group started yelling -- four more floors guys, we can do this, then three more and on and on until we passed 72 then he said last one, finish strong."

Walla Walla High School Conspiracy of Hope Benefit Concert March 21-22

Walla Walla High School presents the annual *Conspiracy of Hope Benefit* concert, Wednesday, March 21 and Thursday, March 22 at the Walla Walla High School Auditorium. Both performances begin at 7 p.m. with a \$5 donation being collected at the door.

Conspiracy of Hope is a student production benefitting both the *Dave Meyer Foundation* and Walla Walla High School's new program *Winter Wish Week*.

The *Dave Meyer Foundation* was created to help athletes of low-income families with expenses associated with sports participation such as equipment and camp fees.

Winter Wish Week is Walla Walla High School's student lead version of the Make a Wish Foundation. Its mission is to show, through the granting of wishes, that every student is valued. This year Walla Walla High School was able to grant over 200 wishes with donations from the community.

"The hope is this program may continue, and that within the four years of high school, every student will have had one wish granted," said Jenny van Dyk, ASB President. "However, in order to achieve this goal, Walla Walla High School must have a fund set up purely through donation, and that's where Conspiracy of Hope comes in."

For more information about this event, contact Wa-Hi's ASB coordinator Arch McHie at 527-3027

Conspiracy of Hope Fact Sheet:

- Event Highlights: Student produced benefit concert highlighting the multi-talented student body
- Concert Dates: Wednesday, March 21 and Thursday, March 22
- Location: Walla Walla High School Auditorium
- Cost: \$5 Donation

Orchestra students participate in master class workshop

Wa-Hi Orchestra students attended the Terry Durbin Orchestra workshop at Kennewick High School on March 9-10. On Friday, violinists Jennifer Cho and Abby Chacon and cellist Brynn Chacon participated in a masterclass and technique session with Barb Riley and Dr. Durbin. On Saturday, students participated in sectionals and an open orchestra rehearsal with musicians from Kennewick, Kamiakin, and Southridge High Schools. Dr. Durbin also directed a group session with the Wa-Hi orchestra.

Big Cheese Pizza discount coupons help fund student trip to Europe

Pioneer Middle School teacher Dan Calzaretta and a group of parents are planning a trip to Ireland and England in June of 2013.

"In order for this to work we need your help...by eating pizza," Calzaretta said.

Calzaretta and parents associated with the trip are selling Big Cheese gourmet pizza certificates available for \$10. This is a \$9 savings. If you would like to purchase a certificate, send Calzaretta an email at: dcalzaretta@wwps.org

Lincoln High School and WWCC Alternative Education Program and students receive Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Month awards

Congratulations to Lincoln High School seniors Carmen Flores and Johanna Paine and Walla Walla Community College Alternative Education seniors Chris Neal and Devynn Challinor-Fetter for receiving Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Month Awards this month.

These students 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. 2011-2012 Youth of the Year Theme: “All Aboard! Today’s Youth, Strengthening America One Community at a Time.”

Mark Higgins is the Youth of the Month program coordinator.

Carmen Flores – Lincoln High School

Carmen was chosen as one of our “students of the month” due to her hard working demeanor and very pleasant attitude. She started her sophomore year at Lincoln and since that time has earned a 3.5 GPA. An avid athlete, Carmen excels in all sports but most specifically boxing. While in high school, she has had a part-time job, participated in extra-curricular activities and will be the first person in her family to graduate from high school. She wants to attend college to become a PE teacher.

Johanna Paine – Lincoln High School

Johanna started at Lincoln High School, part time, her freshman year after moving to Walla Walla from Elko, Nevada. She was home schooled and started in music classes only. When she started full-time at Lincoln, she excelled. Johanna has been in debate, in various plays, on the volleyball team, an ASB officer, and a community volunteer. Earning a 3.6 GPA and being an outstanding, helpful, and delightful student has earned her the “student of the month” status. Johanna will be attending college to be a cosmetologist.

Chris Neal: Alternative Education Program – Walla Walla Community College

Chris Neal is the son of Michael and Terri Neal. He will graduate with Honors from the Alternative Education Program this June with both an AA degree and his high school diploma. Chris plans to transfer in the fall to Eastern Washington University and pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. An outstanding student, Chris made the President’s and Vice President’s List every quarter. He is an active member of the 2012 All-Washington Community College Academic Team. While in the Alternative Education Program at WWCC, Chris was nominated for the Neil M. Palmer Outstanding Research Paper Award and accepted to the Sherwood Trust Community Leadership Program.

In his spare time, Chris has been a teaching assistant for one of the college’s Sociology professors, Susan Palmer. When asked about Chris, Susan wrote, “Integrity is the word that foremost comes to my mind to describe Chris Neal’s character. He has a well-cultivated and deep grasp of moral principles, coupled with being hardworking, open to new and diverse ideas, humble, authentic, and non-judgmental. These admirable qualities are evident the moment you meet him. He’s a student I will always remember, who stands out among the rest.”

Devynn Challinor-Fetter – Walla Walla Community College Alternative Education Program

Devynn Challinor-Fetter is the daughter of Mike and Toni Fetter. Devynn will graduate from the Alternative Education Program this June and pursue a career in the medical field. Devynn has always enjoyed helping people and was accepted into the EMT program at WWCC in the fall. She is also the newest member of the Walla Walla County Search and Rescue team. In her spare time, Devynn enjoys spending time with friends, family, and her animals. Several members of the AEP staff nominated Devynn for her positive attitude and her determination to pursue her career ambitions. One of Devynn’s instructors, Brian Gabbard, praised Devynn for being “gregarious, engaged, enthused, and confident enough not to take herself too seriously.”

Public meeting scheduled Thursday to review changes at Berney aimed at improving safety in the school zone

Walla Walla Public Schools has teamed with the City of Walla Walla Public Works Division, city police and parent volunteers from the Safe Travels Alliance to improve school zone safety at Berney Elementary.

The school district is planning a public meeting Thursday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the Berney gym to review changes aimed at improving safety in the school zone. A site map will also be distributed during the meeting detailing the changes. The school zone changes at Berney Elementary will take effect after Spring Break.

Berney School Zone Changes: (changes will take effect after Spring Break)

- Student drop-off and pick-up areas have been expanded to the front of Berney Elementary on Pleasant Street and will continue around the building to the west-side of School Avenue.
- School buses are being relocated to a school bus loop west of the school.
- The parking lot west of Berney is now an “enter only” lot for staff and visitors. Motorists will leave the parking lot using the new one way exit loop.
- The bus lane/car exit area is NOT a student drop-off and pick-up area.
- A new crosswalk is being installed on the north side of Pleasant Street at Sycamore Street.
- Flashing School Zone Speed limit signs will be installed on Pleasant Street and School Avenue.
- City of Walla Walla crews will repaint all crosswalks to improve visibility and curbing to indicate no parking zones.
- Additional signage is being installed to better identify student drop-off and pick-up areas.

For more information, contact Berney Elementary Principal Donna Painter at 527-3060 or by email at: dpainter@wwps.org

CBBN Announces the Winter NECA/IBEW Award Winners

The Columbia Basin Big Nine is proud to announce the winter winners of the NECA/IBEW CBBN Award. The National Electrical Contractors Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are proud to present the 8th annual recognition of these fine scholar athletes from each of the fifteen CBBN schools. These two organizations are training electricians for the future. NECA/IBEW encourage all high school students to explore, with their high school counselors, a career in the Electrical Construction Industry which provides salary levels that are above average and careers that last a lifetime.

On behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers we recognize the following NECA/IBEW CBBN high school students who demonstrate superior balance in academics, athletics and community involvement.

The NECA/IBEW 2012 Walla Walla High School winter CBBN Athletes are:

- Walla Walla High School
- Megan Thompson, basketball
 - Blake Rowley, basketball

Sharpstein Elementary invites community to Celebration of the Arts March 21

Little Pollacks, Matisses and Picassos have been busy this winter at Sharpstein Elementary in preparation for the school's fourth annual Celebration of the Arts. Their creations will be on display Wednesday, March 21 from 6 to 8 pm in the school gymnasium, and organizers welcome members of the community to join the festivities.

"We are excited to bring the Celebration of the Arts to the kids at Sharpstein because it gives them yet another opportunity to awaken their inner artist and create beauty in the world," said Lisa Stott, the event's chairperson. "We would love for members of our community to come and see what we've created."

More than 20 student-created items will be on display and auctioned off during the evening. Third-grade students painted in the style of Jackson Pollack, flinging, splattering and drizzling paint on canvases. First-graders fused nature and art, creating delicate paper mache birds-nest bowls and eye-popping, whimsical birdhouses. Encouraged to "draw with scissors," second-graders fashioned a large-scale paper leaf collage in the style of Henri Matisse. Fifth-grade students painted original 4x6 pieces, acrylics on heavy paper, that were combined together into one eye-catching work of modern-abstract art. One of the more unusual projects was spearheaded by parent Scott Caldwell, who worked with Sean Reid's fifth-grade students to create a three-dimensional dragon head.

"My goal was to help them discover possibilities in art that they might otherwise think was beyond them," said Caldwell. "Through the Picture Lab program (formerly Picture Lady), I have had many opportunities to work with Sharpstien students over the years and I knew I had some really talented kids to work with, also it is the Chinese year of the Dragon. With all that in mind, I proposed to the class a more advanced project that would really challenge them."

The dragon head is actually made from card stock paper pieces that had to be meticulously cut out with a very high level of precision and accuracy. Once cut, each piece had to be scored to ensure accurate folding and then finally inspected before the piece could then be added to the model. There were a total of 193 individual parts printed on 47 sheets of card stock. The class worked over the course of three days to cut out all of the pieces with every student taking part, including teacher Sean Reid.

Once the dragon was assembled, Caldwell asked the students to come up with their ideas for paint schemes and with those he tried to incorporate the varying styles into the final painting. (A poster of the students' concept art work will also be available for auction). Finally, they added some LED lights to the head and a display stand made from oak and galvanized pipe. The finished dragon head stands 20 inches tall and 29 inches long.

"I have to say that this was an incredibly rewarding project to be part of," said Caldwell. "I know whoever wins the dragon head at this year's auction will be acquiring not just an amazing conversational piece but also an inspiring sculpture that showcases the amazing heights that children can achieve through art."

All artwork will be auctioned to raise funds for the Sharpstein PTA. Family-friendly packages and gift certificates from local merchants like the Walla Walla Sweets, the Sweet Putt, Walla Walla Clothing Company, and Bright's will also be available through a silent auction.

Sharpstein teachers have also gotten into the spirit, offering "adventure packages" for students and their families to bid on—fun activities hosted by teachers that include bowling, pottery painting, baking cookies, a Wii tournament, a Sweets game, a "spa" day and more.

In addition to art displays and silent auction items, guests will be treated to musical performances and light refreshments. All are welcome and invited to come!

Community Stories

Think Pink! Join Just Us Girls Sharing (JUGS) for a fundraiser to benefit local cancer patients

- Saturday, March 17

- Just Us Girls Sharing (JUGS) brings Pink Ball back to Walla Walla

JUGS is excited to bring back our second annual Pink Ball Saturday, March 17 from 7-11 p.m. VIP reception begins at 6:15 p.m. Join us for a runway show, dinner, and dancing to support our organization's fundraising efforts in the Walla Walla valley. Tickets are \$50, \$75 (VIP) and \$500 (table for eight).

VIP ticket holders will enjoy a private champagne reception to kick off the evening. They also received reserved seats for the runway show, gift bags and personal table service during dinner by Andrae's Kitchen.

"If one in three people get cancer in their lifetime," says JUGS president and founder Amy Vixie. "The need for our help is really out there," she said. "We love to have these events, and give everyone the opportunity to enjoy a night out. But these events are also about recognizing cancer survivors. And recognizing the need in our community to bridge the gap between help that's available to them, and the real need we all face for the things that aren't covered."

"Last year, JUGS raised thousands of dollars for local cancer patients with this event." said JUGS vice president and treasurer Traci Jensen. "We're hoping to meet and exceed that amount this year with ticket sales, donations and our raffle."

Just Us Girls Sharing is also excited to bring back a fun-themed photo booth by Melissa Brown Photography. Businesses such as Four Feathered Sparrow, Holly's Flowers, Bliss Spa & Salon, and C Salon have tickets on sale now. Ticket are also available online at - <http://www.just-us-girls-sharing.org>.

Check out the JUGS Facebook page at facebook.com/jugsww for information.

JUGS is a local non-profit organization dedicated to raising money for local cancer patients. <http://www.just-us-girls-sharing.org>

Contacts:

Amy Vixie

JUGS Founder and President

(509) 301-1161

j.u.g.s@hotmail.com

Traci Jensen

JUGS VP and Treasurer

(503) 816-0212

Pink Ball Fundraiser volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed on Friday, March 16 around 5 p.m. for setup. This will likely take a few hours. Volunteers are also needed for cleanup Sunday, March 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. These volunteers can be students.

Volunteers are also needed during the event to be buffet servers, greeters, security, VIP staff, etc. Volunteers during the event must be 21. Anyone interested in volunteering can email j.u.g.s@hotmail.com or at (509)386-5296.

Altrusa and the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Present the 5th Annual Spelling Bee

- Event is at the Balloon Stampede
- Saturday, May 12
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Walla Walla County Fairgrounds (Community Center)

Altrusa International of Walla Walla and the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce will host the 5th Annual Spelling Bee, Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds (Community Center) during this year's Balloon Stampede presented by Gesa Credit Union. Students in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades will spell their way to a Spell-Off by grade. The top four students from each grade will be awarded prizes for their spelling proficiency.

Altrusa International of Walla Walla is a group of women working together to provide service to our community through leadership and service, promoting education and literacy. A complete listing of rules and additional information is online: <http://www.wwps.org/community/spellingbee.htm>

For further information regarding the Spelling Bee, please contact Linda Thorson at 509-522-0812, thorson@bmi.net.

Fort Walla Walla Museum again to offer Free School Tours

Connecting children with their heritage promotes a stronger sense of place and belonging. Learning about the contributions and accomplishments of kids who grew up in their community helps develop a "can do" attitude. These feelings help produce community minded citizens. This is the 45th year that Fort Walla Walla Museum has been an educational partner with regional schools.

Museum staff has worked hard to obtain sponsorships and grants to cover the admission cost of the school tour programs. In order to show the funders this program is worthy of their continued support, the Museum needs schools to use the service. To date during the 2011-2012 academic year, both Wa-Hi and Green Park have sent students to the Museum. This Free School Admission Program is supported by the Stubblefield Trust, Boise Inc., Pacific Power Foundation, Mary Garner Esary Trust, and AmericanWest Bank. For questions, special requests, or to book a tour, contact Anne Stotler at 525-7703 or programs@fortwallawallamuseum.org.

Walla Walla Kids Read 2012 welcomes best selling authors

Walla Walla Kids Read is excited to welcome best selling authors Tony DiTerlizzi and Andrea Davis Pinkney to Cordiner Hall April 16 and 17. Edison Elementary will be hosting the Community event for book signings and author activities, April 17, 6-8 p.m. For full details, please refer to wallawallakidsread.com

Shakespeare Walla Walla plans student matinees

Shakespeare Walla Walla is offering student matinees at the Power House Theater in May. The student matinees are full-length productions of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* followed by a 15-minute Q&A session with the actors. The production is geared towards middle and high-school students, but appropriate for all ages.

- May 1, 2, and 3
- 10:30 a.m.
- Power House Theatre
- Tickets \$10 for students (chaperones are free)
- A limited number of scholarship tickets available for students who are in need of financial assistance.

Information:

Leah Bailey, Education & Development Coordinator
leah@shakespearewallawalla.org
509.529.7278

2nd Annual Violence Prevention Conference set for March 26, 27

- “Stop Violence Now–For Yourself, Your Family, Our Community!”
- Registration Now Open: www.wwviolenceprevention.com

Schedule of Events

Monday, March 26

- Violence Prevention Keynote Speaker: Dr. Vincent Felitti
- “Adverse Childhood Experiences: Understanding the Links Between Violence and Illness”
- 7 to 8 p.m., Maxey Hall, Whitman College Campus
- Dr. Vincent Felitti (Kaiser Permanente Health Center, San Diego) is a nationally-known physician, researcher, and a lead author of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study.
- This event is free and open to the public. Spanish interpretation will be provided.

Tuesday, March 27

- Daytime Workshops
- 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Whitman College
- Registration at Reid Campus Center, 8 a.m. (\$10 lunch fee for early registered participants)
- Topics include:
 - Teen drug use
 - School and internet bullying
 - Children’s resilience
 - Strategies for raising boys
 - Gang violence
 - Anger management
 - Youth health (including nutrition, exercise, and meditation)

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 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.

Whitman College public lecture: “The Promises and Perils of Journalism in the 21st Century”

- Thursday, March 29
- 7 p.m.
- Maxey Auditorium

Through the prism of *The Seattle Times*, and illustrated by the Pulitzer Prize award-winning work he managed, David Boardman will discuss what the act of professional journalism requires and marrying the use of modern tools and “citizen journalism” with traditional values.

Boardman serves as Executive Editor of The Seattle Times and seattletimes.com. He has oversight and responsibility for the news department of Washington State’s largest newspaper and for its website, seattletimes.com. As an editor for The Times, David has directed three Pulitzer Prize-winning team projects and edited six other stories that were Pulitzer finalists. As a member of the company’s senior executive team, David contributes to overall company operations, strategy and long-term planning. Before joining The Times in 1983, David was a reporter and editor at several papers in the Northwest, and worked on a construction project in Liberia, West Africa. He is a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and has a graduate degree from the University of Washington.

About The Hosokawa Lecture Series: In 2000, an endowed lectureship was established at Whitman College by David and Beverly Hosokawa, and the Hosokawa Family Foundation. Intended to be a celebration of journalistic excellence, the lectureship honors Robert R. Hosokawa, David’s father, by bringing a noted journalist to campus. The endowment also established the Hosokawa Prize to be awarded each year in recognition of outstanding achievement and excellence as demonstrated by student journalists and photojournalists of The Pioneer. A Whitman Alumnus of Merit, Class of 1940, Robert Hosokawa was a reporter for several papers in Missouri, New York, Iowa and Minnesota. He held journalism professorships at the University of Missouri and the University of Central Florida and has been a mentor to many young journalists.