



# MATTERS

November/December 2011



Hazel Baker  
Mead Union High School 1928



Hazel Rodes  
100 Years Old - 2009

## Oldest Living Mead Graduate Saw the Birth of the Mead District

As Mead Schools celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, one of our very first graduates recently celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup>!

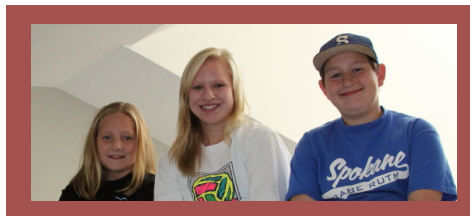
Fairwood Retirement Village resident Hazel (Baker) Rodes grew up on a Peone Prairie farm on land purchased from Chief Peone. She has watched the Mead District grow from scattered pioneer schoolhouses into an award-winning suburban district.

Kids really did walk miles to and from school in the snow back then – but not always for the reasons we think.

"I walked with my sister to Valley Prairie Elementary School 2.5 miles each way, every day, to be sure she would go to school," says Hazel. "That's how I got my perfect attendance certificate!"

"School buses were a big improvement taking us to Chattaroy for junior high and then in 1927 to the 'new school' (Mead Union HS) for my junior and senior year. Those buses were slow and cold in the winter but they never got stuck!"

Hazel made a lasting mark on the district, proposing Mead High's blue and gold theme colors, which won approval by student vote and have remained ever since.



Hazel's great-great grandnieces and great-great grandnephew, current Mead SD students  
Paige, Ashley & Cole Patterson

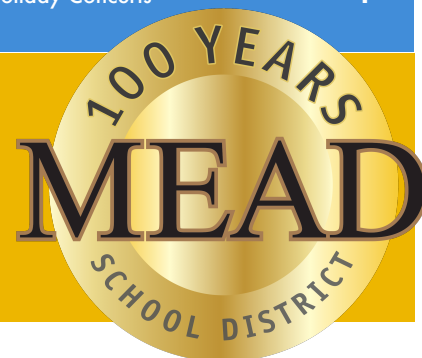
Today Hazel's great-great grandnieces and great-great grandnephew attend schools in the district. Their families will join in the Centennial Celebration for the district on January 21<sup>st</sup> at Mead High School. From humble beginnings in one-room schoolhouses to today's modern classrooms serving 9,500 students, it's 100 years of education worth celebrating.

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Mead SD  
Centennial  
Party

Saturday, January 21, 2012  
1-4 pm @ Mead High School



## Congratulations!



**Five Mile Prairie School**, the district's parent partnership program, has earned a 2011 *School of Distinction Award*. They are one of only 99 schools in the entire state to receive this award and were honored at a reception held at ESD 101.



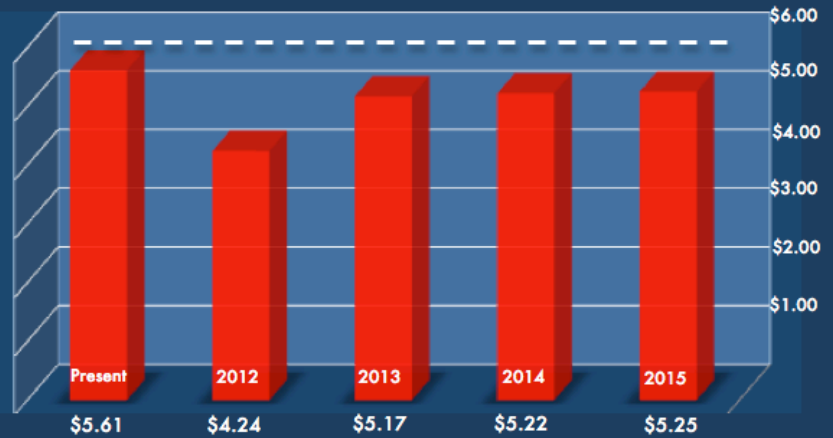
**Mark Phillips**, Evergreen Elementary physical education teacher, was recently presented with the WAHPERD Physical Education Division Award. This award honors one PE teacher in the state each year who is exemplary both in and out of the classroom.



**Dorcas Wylder** (far left), Director of Elementary Education, was named the 2010-2011 **WORD** (Washington Organization of Reading Development) *Administrator of the Year*. She was nominated for this award by the Spokane Area Council for International Reading Association for her work in promoting literacy and instilling a love of lifelong learning in the Mead SD.

The 2010-2011 **WORD Celebrate Literacy Award** was presented to Colbert teacher **Connie Ramsey** (far right). A veteran teacher, Ms. Ramsey is responsible for creating and implementing the V.A.S.T. parent volunteer program, whose goal is to improve reading achievement at Colbert Elementary.

## Mead Five-Year Tax Rates



## The February M & O Levy Vote

At the end of January, look for a ballot in your mail to renew the Mead School District maintenance and operations levy, keeping the district running through 2015. Here are a few key facts:

### Mead School Taxes are Going Down

School taxes are comprised of levies and bonds. Levies are funds provided by voters to operate and maintain educational programs and facilities. Bonds are voter-approved funds to pay for construction or modernization of buildings and facilities. As the graph illustrates, overall taxes will drop even with approval of the February levy.

Tax rate decreases, compared to current rates, are as follows per \$1,000 of assessed value:

2012	<\$1.37	2014	<\$0.39
2013	<\$0.44	2015	<\$0.36

Rates will fall even more if the state continues funding levy equalization for school districts.

### The Levy Helps Maintain Existing Programs

Until recently, state government provided more than three-quarters of the money necessary to run Mead schools. Now, because of continuing state budget shortfalls, the district will receive less state funding. The district anticipates a drop of approximately 5% which is why the levy is critical to program stability.

### This is not a Spending Increase

This local maintenance and operations levy merely maintains valuable existing programs such as small class sizes, activities & athletics, bus service, and advanced placement courses. It does not finance new programs or new buildings.

**For more about the Mead levy, visit [www.mead354.org](http://www.mead354.org).**

## Become a Voter

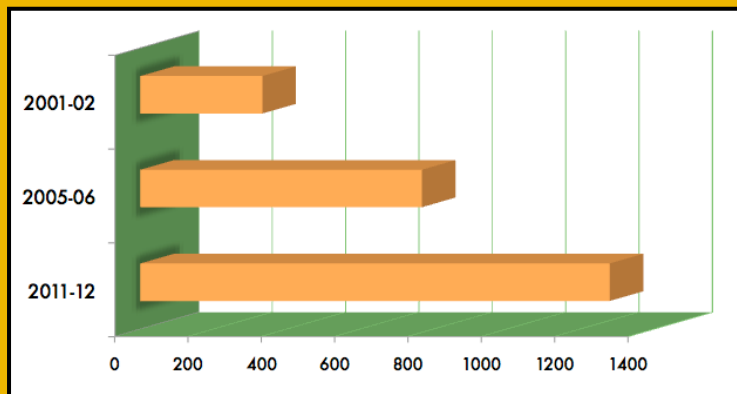
To vote in the February 14, 2012 levy election a new voter must be registered by February 6, 2012. A registered Washington voter who has moved and needs to transfer his/her registration must do so by January 16, 2012.

Voter registration forms are available at each of our schools. If you are not registered simply stop by and complete an application. We'll take care of returning it to the Spokane County Elections Office.

To register online visit:

<https://wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/secure/Pages/OnlineVoterRegistration.aspx>





## Advanced Placement Enrollment Increases

2001-2011 saw a 384% jump in enrollment!



The number of students taking Advanced Placement classes at Mead and Mt. Spokane High Schools has continued to rise steadily. Over the past ten years the number of AP course offerings has more than doubled and students have been encouraged to attempt the challenging curriculum offered through these courses.

Students who take and pass the AP exam enjoy the added benefit of receiving college credit at a substantial cost savings over taking the same class in college. AP class offerings are funded, in part, by local maintenance and operations levy monies.

## We're Glad You Asked

**Q:** Why are there banners on the front of Mead schools?

Welcome to  
Mead School District!



It may sound silly, but because of our proximity to other districts and our recent growth, there have been numerous instances of confusion with parents and patrons – they have not been sure which school district they live in!

This was especially evident last year when Spokane schools were closed because of snow and we were not. We had almost half of "our" students in schools close to the boundary stay home.

We want to do whatever we can to reduce confusion and feel making the connection between school and district is important, especially in the event of bad weather or a crisis situation.

In addition to identifying each school as part of the Mead District we feel the banners help promote a positive, welcoming environment for our community.

## Thank You Veterans

Veteran's Day was celebrated with sincere appreciation to those who have and continue to serve our country. All schools had something special planned.

Midway Elementary unveiled their "Wall of Honor", Northwood Middle School created a "chain of stars", and Meadow Ridge Elementary held two special music assemblies. Meadow Ridge is also collecting money for donation to Inland NW Honor Flight whose mission is to transport local war veterans to Washington D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifice.

At Mt. Spokane High School the keynote speaker was Captain John Pritchard, a 2002 graduate from Mt. Spokane.



## Maintenance & Operations Levy Community Forums

January 10 -  
Five Mile Prairie School 7 p.m.

January 24 -  
Meadow Ridge Elementary 7 p.m.

January 17 -  
Midway Elementary 7 p.m.

January 31 -  
Farwell Elementary 7 p.m.



MEAD MATTERS  
Mead School District #354  
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Mead, WA 99021

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## Holiday Concerts

Nov. 29	Mead HS Jazz Band Concert 7 pm Orchestra Concert-Mt. Spokane Theatre 7 pm
Nov. 30	Advanced Elementary Band Concert-Mountainside 7 pm Advanced Elementary Band Concert-Northwood 7:30 pm
Dec. 1	Beginning Band Concert-Mt. Spokane Theatre 7 pm Brentwood Holiday Program 5 pm, 6 pm, 7 pm
Dec. 1 & 2	Mead High Holiday Choir Concert 7 pm
Dec. 5	Mountainside Holiday Choir Concert-Mt. Spokane Theatre 7 pm
Dec. 6	Mt. Spokane Intermediate Holiday Choir Concert 7 pm Elementary Orchestra Holiday Concert-Mead Theatre 7:30 pm
Dec. 6 & 7	Prairie View Holiday Program 6 pm, 7 pm
Dec. 7	Beginning Band Concert-Mead Theatre 7 pm Northwood 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Musical 8 pm
Dec. 8	Mt. Spokane Advanced Holiday Choir Concert 7 pm Northwood Holiday Band Concert 7:30 pm Prairie View Holiday Program 6 pm
Dec. 9	Colbert Holiday Program 9:45 am & 1 pm
Dec. 12	Orchestra Concert (Mead & Northwood)-Mead Theatre 7:30 pm All District Choir Concert-Mt. Spokane Theatre 6:30 pm
Dec. 13	Mead HS Winter Band Concert 7 pm Mountainside Winter Band Concert-Mt. Spokane Theatre 7 pm Brentwood Colonial Night 7 pm
Dec. 13-15	Midway Winter Program 7 pm
Dec. 14	Northwood Holiday Choir Program 7:30 pm
Dec. 14 & 15	Farwell Winter Program 6 pm
Dec. 15	Shiloh Kindergarten Holiday Program 7 pm
Dec. 16	Farwell Kindergarten Holiday Program 10 am Colbert Kindergarten Holiday Program 10:30 am & 2:15 pm Evergreen Holiday Program-Whitworth Cowles Auditorium 7 pm

## Excellence in Student Learning A Message from Superintendent Tom Rockefeller



Mead patrons want our students to receive a high quality, well-rounded education. This goal, I believe, is one of this community's greatest long-standing attributes. The Mead community has a 100 year history of supporting our schools – a dedication to *Excellence in Student Learning*.

The Mead School District Board of Directors, combined, have nearly 75 years of board experience. All of the directors' children have attended Mead schools, K-12. Our board is personally invested in the district and has a demonstrated and ongoing dedication to *Excellence in Student Learning*.

Currently, because of declining budgets, all district staff including teachers, coaches, support staff and administrators have taken pay reductions in order to lessen the impact of reduced funds on student learning and activities. We unified as a group to maintain programs as much as possible. I believe this underscores our staff's professional dedication to both maintain and enhance *Excellence in Student Learning*.

Thank you for your on-going support of Mead schools! Whether through participation, volunteering or donations your involvement demonstrates care and concern for our kids. I look forward to our continuing partnership as we - district and community - join together and dedicate ourselves to another 100 years of moving forward in achieving *Excellence in Student Learning*.

~Tom Rockefeller



S

Science

T

Technology

E

Engineering

M

Mathematics

**Project G.E.A.R. Heads: Girls Excited About Robotics** is a new afterschool program coming soon to Mountainside Middle School. One goal of the program is to connect students with area professionals, specifically with local women who are in STEM careers. Project G.E.A.R. Heads will promote innovation, problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, and a STEM academic skill set.