

Richland Schools

Office of the Superintendent

Memorandum

Date: 9/29/23
To: School Board
From: Shelley Redinger
Subject: Friday Packet

Enclosed please find the following documents:

- Board Dates to Remember
- Community Events/Activities
- Student/Superintendent Advisory Committee Notes
- Memo to the Board on Policy 4220 Advisory Committees
- Special Education Family Resources Fair Flyer
- Media



TO: Board of Directors
RE: Event Dates
DATE: 9/29/23

October:

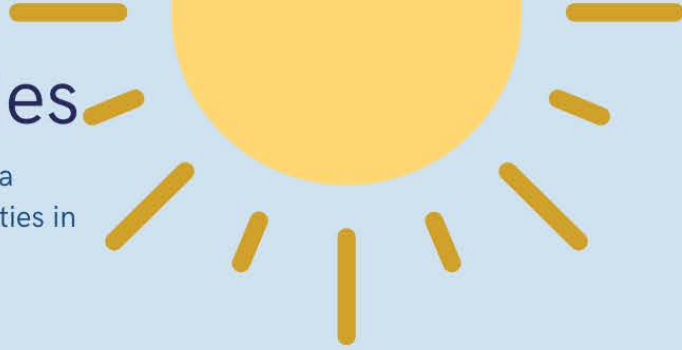
- **10/17...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**
 - **5:30-6:30-Ex Session-(only if needed)**
- **10/31...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**
 - **5:30-6:30-Ex Session-(only if needed)**

November:

- **11/14...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**
 - **5:30-6:30-Ex Session-(only if needed)**
- **11/28...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**
 - **5:30-6:30-Ex Session-(only if needed)**

Upcoming Events/Activities

This list is suggestions of RSD and community events to attend as a Board Member. By no means is it a comprehensive list of all activities in the District. Future events will be added weekly.



October

Wednesday
4 PTO Fun Run
2:00 - 3:30 PM
Homelink Main Campus

Saturday
7 Cavalclade of Bands
Time: To Be Announced
Lampson Stadium, Kennewick
www.cavalcadeofbandswa.org

Thursday
12 Family Resources Fair-
Special Education Dept.
6:00 - 7:30 PM
TLAC

Tuesday
17 College and Career Expo
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Hanford High School

Tuesday
24 RHS Fall Choir Concert
7:00 - 8:30 PM
RHS Auditorium

Friday
6 Cane Quest Northwest
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Leona Libby Middle School

Thursday
12 RSD Facilities
Community Update
12:00 PM
Zoom

Thursday
12 -
Saturday
14 One Acts Festival
7:30 - 10:00 PM
Hanford High School
www.hanforddrama.org/

Wednesday
18 College and Career Expo
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Richland High School

Thursday
26 Fall Red Cross Blood Drive
8:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Hanford High School
(Small Eyrie Gym)

**Hanford + Richland High
Athletic Events Calendars**

www.hanfordathletics.com/events

www.bomberathletics.com/events

Student/Superintendent Advisory Committee

9/22/23

Welcome/Introductions

All students and staff introduced themselves and shared a little about themselves.

Superintendent-Dr. Shelley Redinger

Dr. Redinger started her career as a teacher at Jefferson Elementary, then Teaching & Learning Director, and was very pleased to return to Richland. She is starting her 4th year as Superintendent. She shared two new board members will be sworn in at the next board meeting. The most important role of the Student Advisory Committee is to allow staff to hear student voice, give input, and share ideas.

Capital Projects Levy Security Updates

Dr. Redinger shared details of the security measures planned for high schools. There will be a report at the next board meeting for more details. The goal is to make schools, school entrances, and campuses safer for students and staff. The bids for these projects came in well, so the district should be able to complete all projects.

Rivers' Edge HS / PCOA will be part of an innovative high school campus. The new school, when built, will be accommodate 400 students to relieve overcrowding. The entrance will be changed, and cameras added.

Richland High School-Office will be moved to the entrance instead of down the hallway. Secretaries will have the ability to buzz people in. Students shared concern that entrances to the courtyard are still difficult to control. Students reported several doors remain locked during passing times.

Dr. Redinger asked students how they felt about wearing badges? Most liked the idea but felt student buy in would be low and badges might get lost, stolen, or shared. Staff badges can open doors but a record of who enters is retained. Each large high school has two security guards and 1 SRO (School Resource Officer). The district also has security guards at all middle schools this year.

Hanford High School-The entrance will be re-done. Secretaries will have the ability to buzz people in the building. Some type of decorative fence/wall will be added in the CTE area.

Social Emotional Health/Mental Health

Students discussed the Advisory Class once a week dealing with Social Emotional Learning (Character Strong). The advisory has only taken place several times so far since it is new. Ideas shared include:

- Students are forming relationships
- Staff members make a difference-some are more engaged than others
- Some students stated this was going well, others stated some students didn't want to talk about vulnerable issues with people/teachers they don't know
- Some students not interested
- Need buy in from staff and students
- Good to have speakers that did the training for staff for an assembly
- Work on sense of community/belonging
- Should be more ice breakers/fun activities

Student Representatives to the Board asked others to share input from their schools as often as possible.

School Board Meetings-Student Report

- September 26, 2023-Board Meeting-6:30pm (Marisa Dunfee volunteered)



Memorandum

Date: October 6, 2023

To: Board of Directors
Dr. Shelley Redinger

From: Galt L. Pettett, General Counsel

Subject: Policy 4220 – Advisory Committees

Policy 4220 – Advisory Committees provides in part, “By-laws and charters for all advisory committees will be reviewed by the Board on an annual basis.” Currently the District has the Student Advisory Committee, Special Education Task Force, Parent/Guardian Task Force, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

I worked with the Superintendent’s Executive Assistant to search for all by-laws and charters for each of the advisory committees. We were not able to locate any by-laws or charters for any of the committees. Therefore, there is no review for the school board to conduct this year. While by-laws and charters are not necessarily required, it might be something that the school board would want to institute.

The Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) does have a policy 4110 – Citizen Advisory Committees and Task Forces. It is classified at discretionary. WSSDA defines discretionary as a policy addresses an action likely deemed important by the board; a policy would likely be deemed appropriate due to special circumstances of the board; or a policy that communicates district philosophy that a board may want to promote to employees and/or the community.

WSSDA’s Policy states, “The superintendent and/or board may appoint a citizen advisory committee or task force as necessary to gather public input and/or establish interaction with the community about selected issues. The committee will study district/school topics and submit their findings and recommendations to the superintendent and/or board. This committee will be formed by authorization of the board. Such authorization will include a description of the

responsibilities and reporting relationships and will specify the duration of the committee's existence.”

If the board would like me to update Policy 4220, I will bring it before the board this school year. If not, there is no action that needs to be taken by the board at this time.



RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PRESENT

FAMILY RESOURCES FAIR

MAKING CONNECTIONS

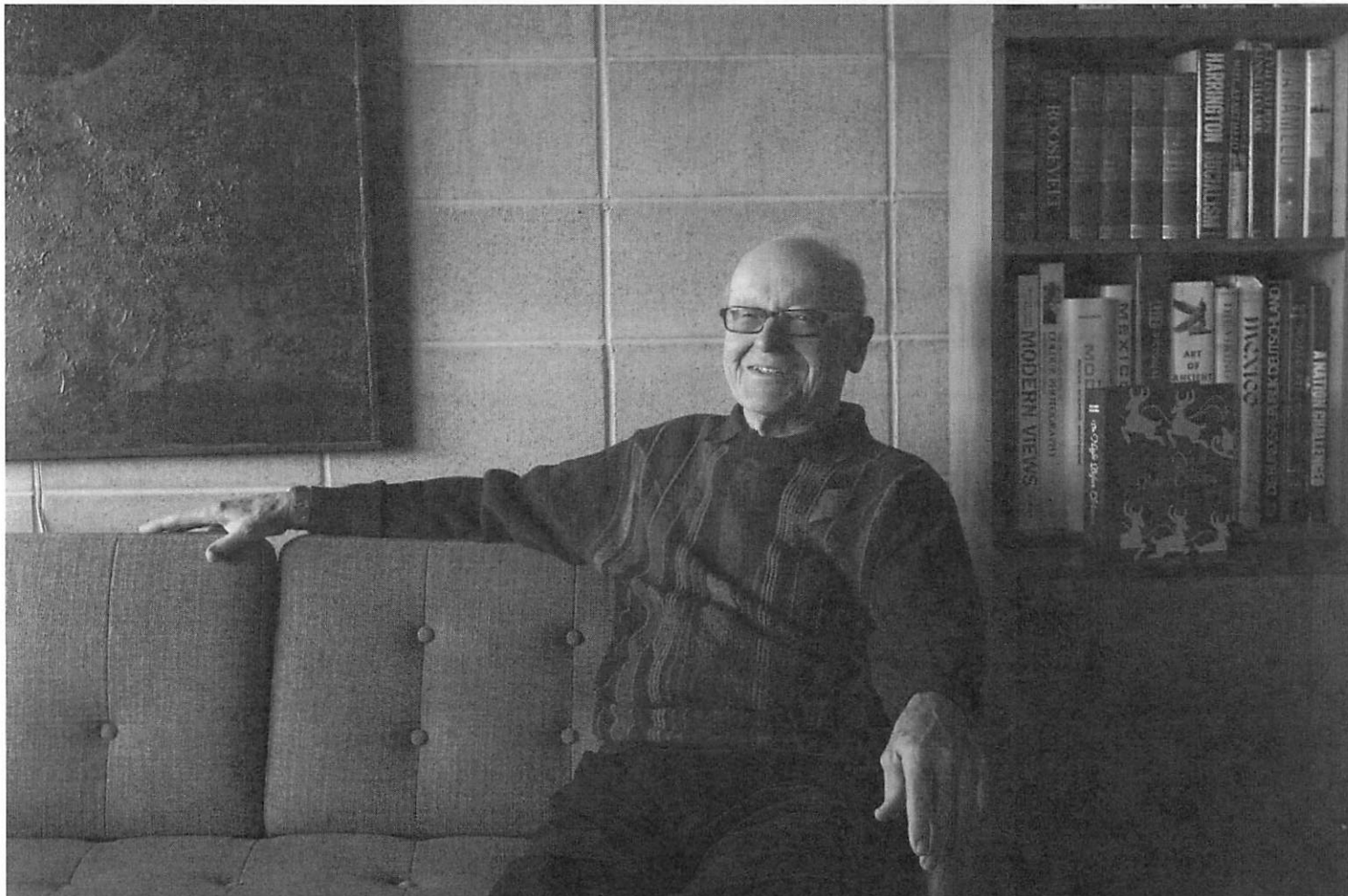
THURSDAY, OCT. 12 • 6-7:30 P.M.

RSD Teaching, Learning & Administration Center
6972 Keene Road, West Richland, WA

Join RSD's Special Education Department for the first annual Family Resources Fair! **Make connections** and discover new resources from more than 30 local and state organizations. All ages are welcome at this free event. A light dinner will be available for attendees. Childcare will be provided by the Richland High School Key Club.



Known as Tri-Cities' 'patron mayor,' Fox dies at 95



KAI-HUEI YAU • TRI-CITY HERALD FILE

John Fox is shown in January 2014 shortly after retiring as Richland mayor. He died Tuesday.

BY ANNETTE CARY
ACARY@TRICITYHERALD.COM

The man once called “the patron mayor” of the Tri-Cities has died.

John Fox, the mayor of Richland for six years through 2013, died Tuesday at the age 95.

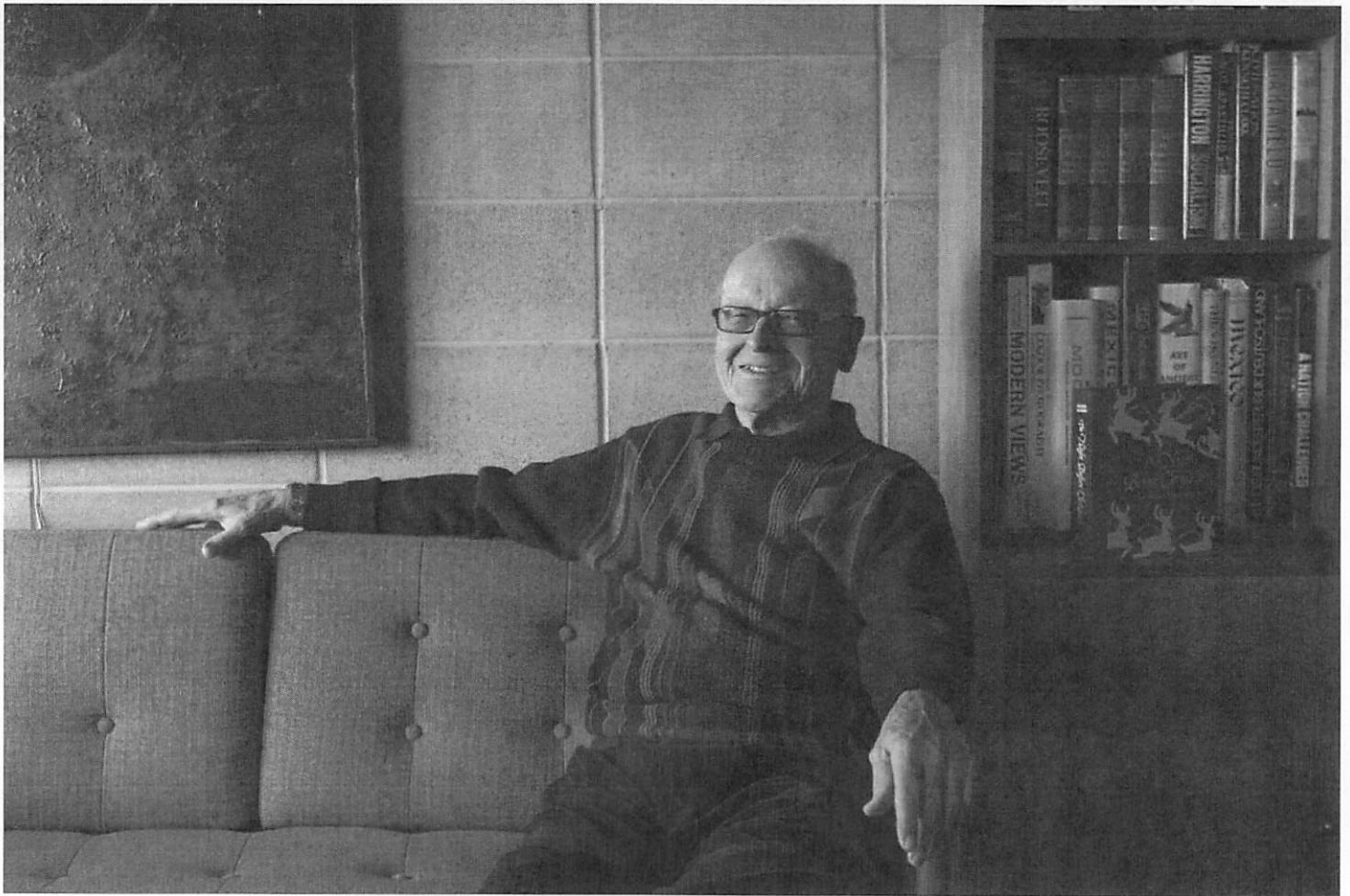
He came to the Tri-Cities in 1951, fresh out of Oregon State University with a master’s in mechanical engineering, planning to work at what would later become Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for a few years before moving on.

He liked bigger city life, he thought at the time.

But he met his wife, Kathryn, a South Dakota native, and never left.

She told the Herald on Thursday that he felt like he had such a good life that he should give back. He spent decades making Richland a better place to live and work.

He served on the Richland School Board for two terms in the '70s and '80s. In the '90s, he served on the city's parks and planning commissions.



KAI-HUEI YAU • TRI-CITY HERALD FILE

John Fox is shown in January 2014 shortly after retiring as Richland mayor. He died Sept. 26, 2023.

In 2002 he joined the council and served there until his retirement as mayor more than 11 years later.

It was the late Steve Young, the former mayor of Kennewick, who called Fox the patron mayor of the Tri-Cities.

Young turned to Fox for guidance after being selected as his city's mayor, and Fox met to talk him through "the ups and downs, the highs and the lows."

A new tradition grew out of that meeting — the mayors of Kennewick, Richland, West Richland and Pasco began getting together regularly, leading to greater understanding among the cities and even opportunities for some of them to work together on projects to save money and gain efficiency, Young said.

He described Fox as "the most honest, professional, compassionate person I think I've ever known," and said Fox's commitment to the Tri-City community was an inspiration.

Matt Watkins, former mayor of Pasco, praised Fox at the Richland mayor's retirement for the wisdom and perspective he brought to the mayor gatherings.

David Rose, the Richland mayor pro tem when Fox retired, said then that he had learned patience from Fox and to make sure he knew both sides of each issue before commenting.

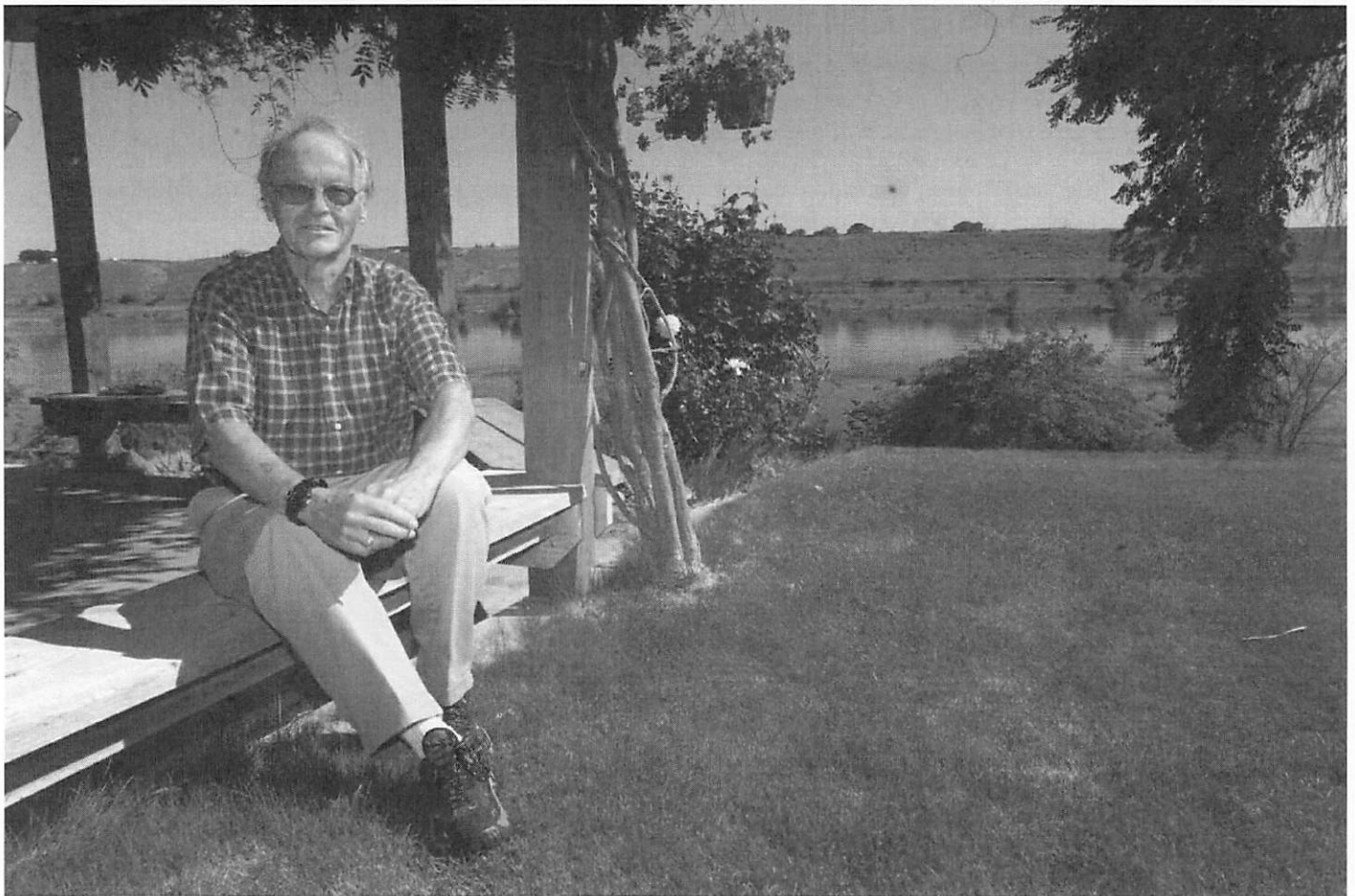
Fox listened, built consensus

Fox told the Tri-City Herald in an interview as he retired from the council that he learned a valuable lesson about public participation and public opinion in his first hot-button issue as a public official.

As a new school board member in 1975 the council was considering whether to start building schools in south Richland and West Richland or go to year-round schools.

He supported new schools, with the board ultimately proposing a bond measure that voters approved.

"Afterward, (some) people would come to us and say, 'Well, we don't agree with your decision, but you listened to us and you gave your reasons for doing it, so we'll accept it,'" he said.



RICHARD DICKIN • TRI-CITY HERALD FILE

Herald/Richard Dickin Retired Battelle engineer John Fox is the newly appointed Richland councilman. Fox, 74, was appointed to fill an open seat on the council that was vacated by Terry Tanner, who resigned in August for ethical reasons.

Fox spoke with an engineer's deliberateness and logic, but he was also known for his dry sense of humor. He said at his retirement from the council that he tried to build consensus on the council and foster a collegial atmosphere.

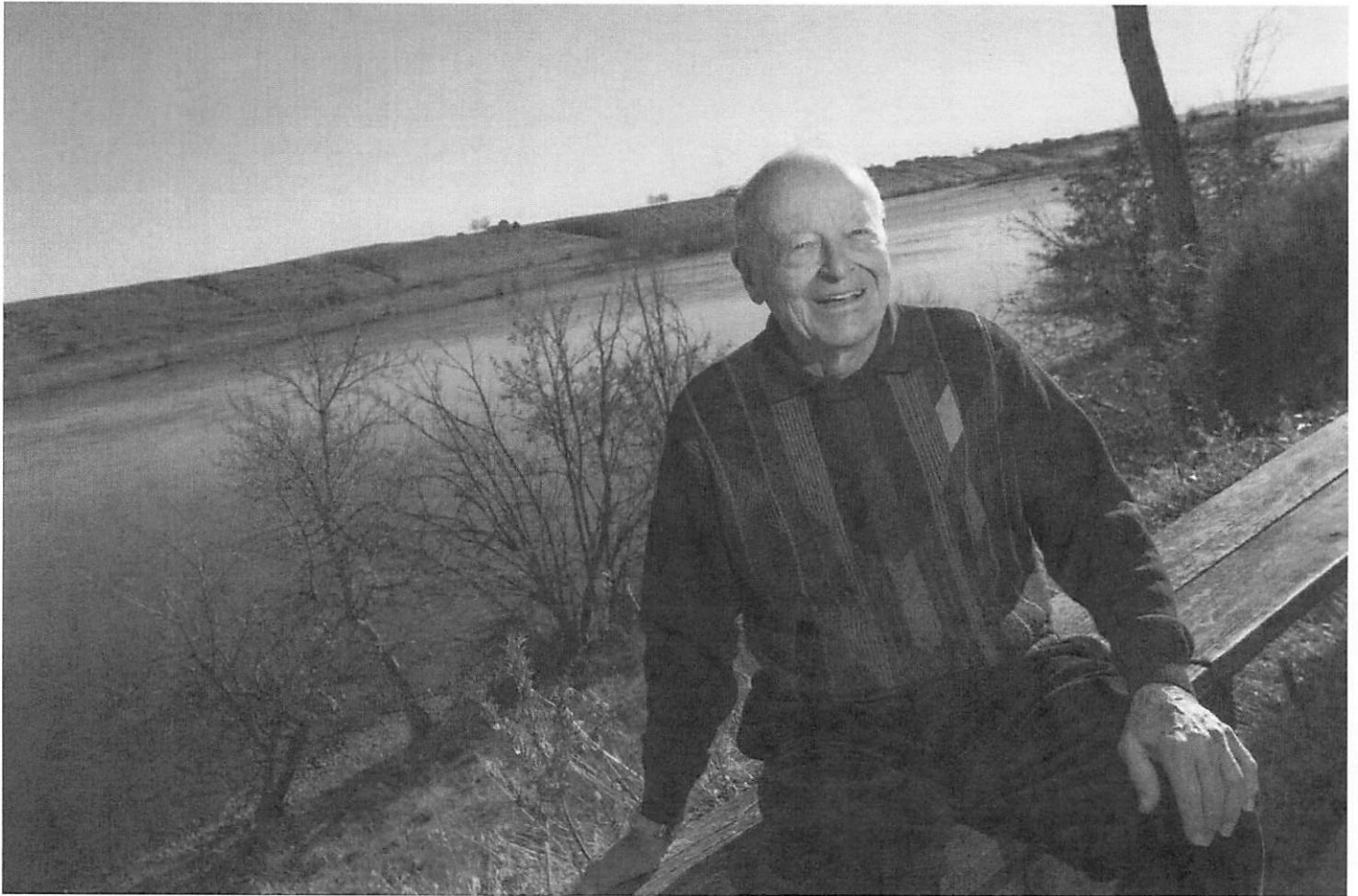
After leaving the school board and retiring from full time work at the national lab, he joined the city's Parks and Recreation Commission and worked on the effort to build the community center at 500 Amon Park Drive.

He also became a city planning commissioner and was then picked to fill a vacancy on the city council.

He served on the council during years of strong economic growth, with assessed property value swelling by 96% and sales tax revenue increasing 30%. He called developing a long-range strategic plan for the city that was responsive to its residents one of his most important projects.

He his survived by his wife, Kathryn; his son and daughter-in-law Jay and Celina Fox in Pasco; daughter and son-in-law Ann and Eric Oliner in Issaquah, Wash.; two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by son Ryan Fox.

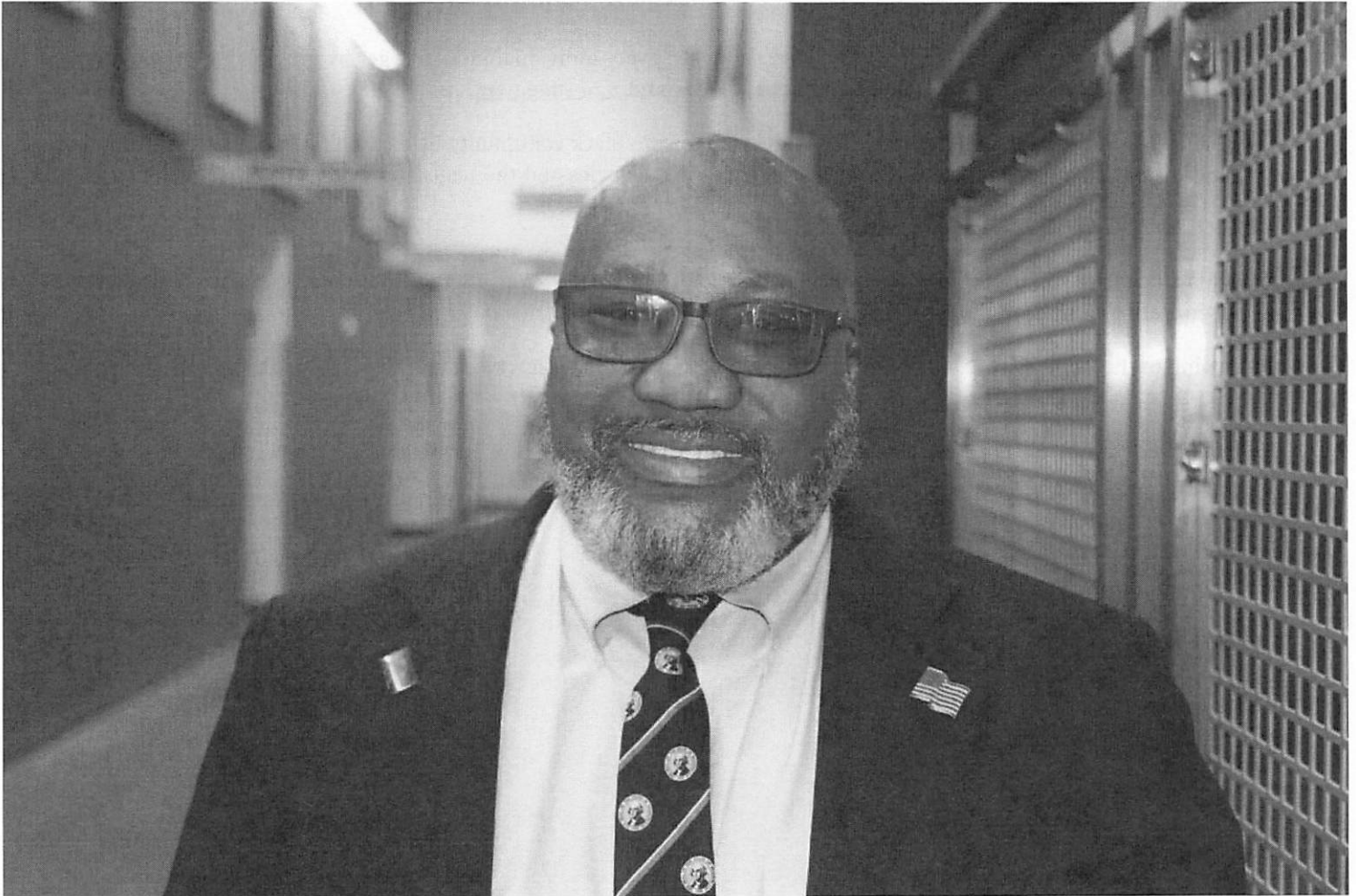
Einan's at Sunset in Richland is in charge of arrangements.



KAI-HUEI YAU • TRI-CITY HERALD FILE

John Fox is shown in January 2014 shortly after retiring as Richland mayor. He died Sept. 26, 2023.

Longtime educator in Tri-Cities selected to serve on key state commission



COURTESY OF KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gov. Jay Inslee appointed Stacy Estes to the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs.

BY ERIC ROSANE
EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

A long-time Tri-Cities and Walla Walla teacher and administrator was recently appointed by Gov. Jay Inslee to serve on the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs.

Stacy Estes, an assistant principal at Kennewick High School, will serve on the nine-person board through November 2026.

Estes said he feels that serving in that capacity and actively advocating for Black communities all over Washington enables him to better serve all students and staff in the Tri-Cities.

“When our African American community is stronger, it makes every individual in it stronger by providing more power, more opportunities, more role models and more hope,” Estes said in a statement.

Created in 1992, the commission’s purpose is to advocate for the Black community by examining and defining issues and needs, and by making recommendations to the governor, state agencies and the Legislature.

He will represent Central Washington communities.

Estes holds a bachelor’s in psychology and special education from Eastern Washington University, and started his career as a special education teacher in the Bethel School District in Pierce County.

After moving to the Tri-Cities, Estes became the dean of students and an interventions coordinator at Pasco High School.

He worked a combined 20 years as assistant principal at McLoughlin Middle School and later at Wall Walla High School.

He moved back to the Tri-Cities last year after accepting a job with the Kennewick School District.

Estes also is a member of the African American Community Cultural and Educational Society, serves as outreach for the Riverview United Methodist Church in Pasco and is involved with Men in the Middle, a Walla Walla mental health advocacy network.

14-year-old Tri-Cities student arrested after threatening to shoot up three schools

BY ERIC ROSANE
EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

Kennewick, WA

Kennewick police arrested a 14-year-old high school student on Monday after he allegedly threatened to shoot up multiple schools last week.

The student named Kennewick High School, Southridge High School and Highlands Middle School as targets.

Kennewick Commander Christian Walters said they were made aware of the threats made on the social media site Snapchat on Sunday.

Police were able to identify the student through his username and with the help of school resource officers.

“We always take threats to any schools very seriously and investigate them fully,” Walters said. “We want our schools to be a safe and healthy learning environment for our students.”

The student, whose name was not released, was booked into the Benton-Franklin Juvenile Justice Center in Kennewick on suspicion of felony threat charges.

“We are grateful to the Kennewick Police Department, including our school resource officers, and the quick response to reported safety concerns,” wrote district spokesperson Robyn Chastain in a provided statement.

Last week, the Pasco Police Department investigated similar allegations that turned out to be rumor at Ray Reynolds Middle School.

Security was increased for a day at the school as the circulated rumor was investigated out of “an abundance of caution.”

“The safety and well-being of our students and staff are our highest priorities and we have protocol in place to address such situations,” read a letter from school administrators.

More students gain eligibility for free school meals



ALBERTO MARIANI AP FILE

Second-grade students select their meals during lunch break Dec. 12 at an elementary school in Scottsdale, Ariz.

BY ANNIE MA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Millions of additional students in schools serving low-income communities will be eligible to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost under a rule change announced Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

At schools where 25% of families participate in income-based public benefits, such as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, the federal government now will cover the cost of free meals for all enrolled students. Previously, the qualifying threshold was 40%.

Roughly 3,000 additional school districts serving more than 5 million students will now be eligible, officials said.

During the pandemic, Congress made meals free to all students, but that ended last year. Other federal programs that provided direct food assistance to families also scaled down amid soaring food prices, putting strains on family budgets and leaving some kids hungry.

Meantime, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico and Vermont have made school meals free to all students regardless of income.

The new rule will expand access to universal meals through a program known as the Community Eligibility Provision. Instead of requiring families to fill out individual applications for free or reduced-price meals, schools participating in the program receive federal funding based on income data, with local or state money filling in any gaps in the cost of offering meals to all students. Advocates say reducing administrative burdens like applications helps ensure children don't go hungry.

Some have criticized the costs of the program. The Republican Study Committee has called for eliminating the CEP altogether, arguing it ignores the individual income eligibility of each student.

"The federal poverty guidelines that dictate who gets a free meal and who doesn't are really outdated," said Anna Korsen, policy and program director at Full Plates Full Potential, a nonprofit organization in Maine. "There are so many families that on paper don't qualify for a free meal, and they can get lumped into this group of ... families that can afford to pay for lunch or breakfast at school. But really, those families are living paycheck to paycheck."