Richland Schools
Office of the Superintendent

Memorandum

Date: **11/09/23**
To: School Board
From: Shelley Redinger
Subject: Friday Packet

Enclosed please find the following documents:

- Board Dates to Remember
- Community Events/Activities
- Media

Richland School District
6972 Keene Road
West Richland WA 99353

TO: Board of Directors
RE: Event Dates
DATE: 11/9/23

November:

- **11/14/23…Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**

- **11/28/23…Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**
  - **5:30-6:30-Ex Session-(only if needed)**

- **TBD…Board Workshop/Bond Discussion**

December:

- **12/12/23…Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**
  - **6:00-6:30-Ex Session-Superintendent Check In**

- **12/18/23-1/2/24…Winter Break**

January:

- **1/9/24…Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**
  - **Ex. Session-(only if needed)**

- **1/23/23…Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**
  - **Ex. Session-(only if needed)**

February:

- **2/13/24…Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30**
  - **Ex. Session-(only if needed)**

- **2/27/24…Board Meeting-Board Room-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.

November

Thursday 9th:
Twelfth Night
7:30 PM
HHS Black Box Theatre
www.hanforddrama.org

Friday 10th:
Much Ado About Nothing
7:30 PM
HHS Black Box Theatre
www.hanforddrama.org

Saturday 11th:
Much Ado About Nothing
2 PM
HHS Black Box Theatre
www.hanforddrama.org

Twelfth Night
7:30 PM
HHS Black Box Theatre
www.hanforddrama.org

Tuesday 14th:
Orchestra Concert
6:30 PM
Chief Jo Auditorium

Orchestra Concert
6:30 PM
HHS Auditorium

Wednesday 15th:
Asking Is Caring Presentation
6 – 8 PM
Desert Sky Library

Thursday 16th:
Homelink Secondary Music Concert
5:30 – 7 PM
Chief Jo Auditorium

Thursday 16th:
Band Concert
7 PM
Chief Jo Auditorium

Friday 17th:
Homelink Secondary Marimba Concert
6 – 7:30 PM
Chief Jo Auditorium

Jazz Concert w/Derico Watson
7 PM
HHS Auditorium

"The Variety Show"
7 PM
Leona Libby Middle School
https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702

Saturday 18th:
Winter Bazaar
9 AM – 3 PM
Marcus Whitman Elementary

"The Variety Show"
7PM
Leona Libby Middle School
https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702

Tuesday 21st:
Band Concert
7 PM
HHS Auditorium

Wednesday 29th:
Choir Holiday Concert
6:30 – 8:15 PM
Hanford High School

Thursday 30th:
Choir Holiday Concert
6:30 – 8:15 PM
Hanford High School

Former Richland administrator, a champion to students with disabilities, dies

Breshears Photography

BY ERIC ROSANE
EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

Pasco, WA
A longtime Tri-City school administrator, who "always had a heart for kids," has died.

Andrew "Don" Donald Ray died Oct. 24 in Richland. He was 87.

Ray worked at Richland School District for three decades between 1961 and 1991, first as a special education teacher and eventually as the program's director.

The Marine Corps veteran was a champion for all students. He helped bring Special Olympics — and Judo — to the Tri-Cities.

His wife of nearly four decades, Bernice Ray, described him as "a man who had absolutely no enemies." He died of pulmonary fibrosis, despite living a very active lifestyle, she said.

"He loved children and dedicated his life volunteering to the community," she told the Tri-City Herald. "He was a great husband, dad, grandpa, uncle, brother and friend."

Friends who knew him said Ray was a "river rat" who loved fishing and recreating on the Columbia River. He spent many hours on the water with his three sons, granddaughters, nephews and friends.

Ray was born in Butte, Mont., and spent his early years living in Salt Lake City. In 1943, he was 7 when his family moved to Richland so his father could take a job working for the Manhattan Project at the B Reactor.

After high school, Ray attended Central Washington University, where he earned his master's degree in education. He served in the Marines from 1955-1958, and was discharged as a sergeant.

As he began his teaching career, Ray also brought the sport of Judo to Richland. He taught and participated in many tournaments with his sons Donny and Kenny for more than 13 years, and was a black belt.

Ray served on multiple boards, including the Tri-Cities Residential Services and the Emmaus Counseling Center. He served as grand marshal of the West Richland Veterans Day Parade, and also was named the city's "Volunteer of the Year."

He also read for the Evergreen Radio Reading Service for the blind at WSU. And his greatest pleasure was serving as a Sunday school teacher at HIllspring Church for several years.

A service is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, at the Hillspring Church on West Gage Boulevard.

Time is running out to vote in important local elections; here's our recommendations

BOB BRAWDY TRI-CITY HERALD

Ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday, Nov. 7, or placed in an official drop box by 8 p.m. Tuesday. To find a drop box near you, visit the elections website for Benton County or Franklin County.

BY TRI-CITY HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD

The off-year general election vote might not be as scintillating as a ballot bursting with presidential, congressional, gubernatorial and legislative candidates. But what the Nov. 7 ballot has instead are opportunities to choose leaders whose decisions will affect voters close to home.

A single vote for a city council or school board member could decide the winner.

Those city council and school board members will make critical decisions that shape Kennewick, Richland and Pasco. They will influence what sort of education children receive and will determine how communities grow and evolve.

School boards and city councils are, at least on paper, nonpartisan, but partisanship has seeped into local politics in recent years. Voters have a chance to tamp that down.

Voters also will determine the fate of local public safety measures.

The Tri-City Herald Editorial Board is fortunate to interview so many great candidates in local races. The conversations are always interesting and enlightening. We thank every candidate who steps up and offers to serve the community. It requires courage to stand before one's neighbors and ask for their vote.

Elections succeed when competing candidates vigorously debate the issues in public forums, giving voters a clear choice between visions of the future.

Some candidates refused to meet with The Tri-City Herald and other civic organizations. They manifest a troubling trend in politics of skipping debates and other forums where candidates must defend their views.

They hope to slip into office in an information vacuum and that voters will blindly choose them based on a party label. We believe voters are smarter than that.

Below are our recommendations based on interviews with candidates, their records and positions. View our full arguments and videos of the interviews at tri-cityherald.com.

It's time to stop procrastinating.

Ballots must be placed in an official drop box by Tuesday at 8 p.m. To find a drop box near you, visit the appropriate elections website for Benton County or Franklin County.

TRI-CITY HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD RECOMMENDS

Levies and propositions

Support public safety and emergency responders in local communities. If Benton County's Proposition 1 fails, communities will lose dozens of local law enforcement officers and funding for public safety programs.

Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax (Prop. 1): Yes

Franklin County Public Hospital District 1 Levy: Yes

Franklin County Fire District 3 Levy: Yes

Walla Walla County Fire District 5 Levy: Yes

Richland City Council

Choose candidates who will dial back politicization of the council and who will increase geographic representation.

Position 1: No recommendation

Position 2: Liz Vann-Clark

Position 5: Shayne VanDyke

Position 6: Kurt Maier

Position 7: No recommendation

Richland School Board

Close the book on school board turmoil by choosing candidates interested in education, not hot-button social issues.

Position 3: Chelsie Beck

Position 4: Katrina Waters

Position 5: Jill Oldson

Kennewick City Council

A qualified challenger must provide a strong case to oust a successful incumbent.

Position 7: James Millbauer

Kennewick School Board

Resist a local GOP effort to send the school board lurching right into culture wars.

Position 3: Mike Connors

Position 4: Brittany Gledhill

Position 5: No endorsement

Pasco City Council

The best candidates are planning for coming population and economic growth.

Position 2: Joseph Campos

Position 3: No recommendation

Position 5: David Milne

Position 7: Peter Harpster

Pasco School Board

Elect the incumbents to bring needed stability to the board.

Position 1: Vincent Guerrero

Position 2: John Kennedy

Position 5: Rosa Torres

Richland school races uphold recall decision; incumbents sweep council

BY CORY MCCOY AND
WENDY CULVERWELL
NEWS@TRICITYHERALD.COM

Richland voters had a tough decision ahead of them this election cycle. With the majority of their school board recalled and residents pushing for broader representation on the city council, the races had the potential to reshape policy in the city and its schools.

But after the first rounds of ballots were counted, it looked like voters chose to keep their council in tact, while reinforcing that the school board recall was what the majority of voters wanted.

The first round of votes released in Benton County is the tally received through 5 p.m. on Tuesday. So far, nearly 19,800 ballots wee counted and about 20,000 more are expected to be counted over the next few days. Election results will be certified on Nov. 28.

Richland City Council

Richland City Council members saw a group of challengers looking to bring a wider geographic area of the city into the fold. Most of the current council lives in or around a single neighborhood, because all of their seats are at large.

With those challenges also came ideological divides as the city must begin to tackle a plan for housing, growth and development.

Four winners will serve four-year terms, while the one who wins with the fewest votes will receive a two-year term.

Jhoanna Jones

In the Position 1 race, incumbent Jhoanna Jones was looking to keep her seat in a challenge from Allison Ball. Jones had 4,227 votes, or nearly 64%, to Ball's 2,388 votes, or 36% on Tuesday night.

Theresa Richardson

In the Position 2 race, Mayor Pro Tem Theresa Richardson had a tough race against challenger Elizabeth “Liz” Vann-Clark. Richardson had 4,135 votes, or nearly 62%, to Vann-Clark’s 2,564 votes, or 38%.

CITY OF RICHLAND
Shayne VanDyke

In the Position 5 race appointed incumbent Shayne Van Dyke held off challenger Gregery Levy. Van Dyke had 4,406 votes, or nearly 67%, to Levy's 2,186 votes, or 33% on Tuesday.

Kurt Maier is a candidate for Richland City Council Pos. 6 in 2023

In the Position 6 race to replace outgoing councilman Terry Christensen, Kurt Maier had 3,753 votes, or 56.5%, to Kent Madsen's 2,862 votes, or 43%.

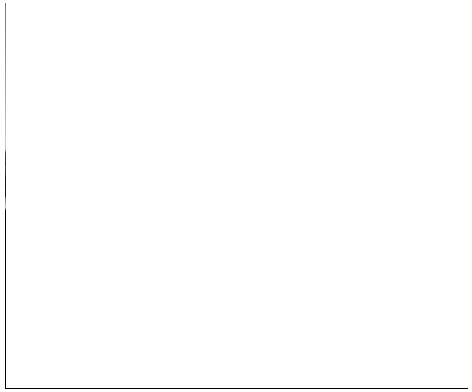
Councilman Ryan Whitten

And in the Position 7 race appointed incumbent Ryan Whitten had 3,840 votes, or 58% to Joshua Short's 2,749 votes, or nearly 42%.

Richland Schools

Two of the three recalled seats on the Richland school board were up for election, and one incumbent who was not recalled faced a tough challenge.

Richland Director No. 3



In the race for the Director No. 3 position, Chelsie Beck led with 5,547 votes, or 62% to Nino Kapitula's 3,373 votes, or nearly 38%.

The winner will serve a four-year term.

Chelsie Beck

Beck is a chemist who works at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). She has two children who attend Richland schools.

Kapitula is a small business owner and former insurance professional. She has three children who attend class at a private Christian school.

The race for the Director No. 3 seat is the only without an incumbent.

Semi Bird, the former school board member who was ousted by voters over the summer in a recall election, decided instead to run for governor as a Republican in 2024.

Richland Director No. 4

In the race for the Director No. 4 seat, Kari Williams attempted to win back her seat after being recalled in August, but was coming up short.

Katrina Waters has a majority of the votes with 5,067 votes, or about 56% to William's 3,890 votes, or 43%.

The winner will serve a four-year term.

Katrina Waters

Williams is a former elementary school teacher who holds a master's degree in education from the University of Utah. She's a full-time, stay-at-home mother with five children who attend class at every level in the school district.

She alongside two other school board members were recalled by a majority of voters over the summer over an illegal vote to make COVID face masks optional in Richland schools.

Waters is a chief scientist of biological sciences research at PNNL. Her three children graduated from Richland schools.

Richland Director No. 5

Incumbent Jill Oldson faced a stiff challenge to keep her seat. She is one of only two directors left on the board after the recall.

Oldson leads the Director No. 5 race with 4,924 votes, or nearly 55% to Gene Nemeth's 4,041 votes, or 45%.

The winner will serve a four-year term.

Jill Oldson

Oldson, a former marketing executive, is running for a second term to bring some continuity to the board.

Nemeth is the parent of four children, all with special needs, who says student achievement has declined under Oldson's leadership.

He's a retired 26-year Navy captain who currently works in PNNL's facilities and infrastructures operations department.