

Richland Schools

Office of the Superintendent

Memorandum

Date: 2/23/24
To: School Board
From: Shelley Redinger
Subject: Friday Packet

Enclosed please find the following documents:

- Board Dates to Remember
- Community Events/Activities
- Media
- Winterguard & Indoor Percussion Showcase Flyer



TO: Board of Directors
RE: Event Dates
DATE: 2/23/24

February:

- 2/27/24...Board Meeting-Board Room -- 6:30 PM
 - Ex. Session – 5:30 PM

March:

- 3/12/24...Board Meeting-Board Room -- 6:30 PM
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)
- 3/26/24...Board Meeting-Board Room -- 6:30 PM
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)

April:

- April 1-5...SPRING BREAK
- 4/9/24...Board Meeting-Board Room -- 6:30 PM
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)
- 4/23/24...Board Meeting-Board Room -- 6:30 PM
 - 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.

February

Friday 23rd:

- Daddy Daughter Dance 2024
6 – 8 PM
White Bluffs Elementary
<https://wbe-rugare-marimba.square.site/>
- BinGLOW Night
6 PM
Sacajawea Elementary

Monday 26th:

- K-12 Music Concert (Homelink)
5:30 – 6:30 PM
Richland High Auditorium

Thursday 29th:

- Family Game Night
6:30 – 8:30 PM
Enterprise Cafeteria

March

Friday 1st:

- NO SCHOOL – Spring Professional Day

Saturday 2nd:

- Drama Dessert Theatre
7 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium
<https://www.hanforddrama.org/>

Tuesday 5th:

- Choir Festival Concert
6:30 – 7:30 PM
Hanford High School

Wednesday 6th:

- Early Release (K-5) 12:30 PM
- 8th Grade Night (Incoming Freshman)
6 – 7:15 PM
Hanford High School

Thursday 7th + Friday 8th

- NO SCHOOL (K-5) – Spring Conferences

Thursday 7th:

- Orchestra Concert
6:30 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium

March cont.

Friday 8th:

- The Addams Family
7 PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>

Saturday 9th:

- Oedipus Performance (by Drama III)
7 – 8 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium
- The Addams Family
7PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>

Wednesday 13th:

- Math & STEM Night
5:30 – 7 PM
Marcus Whitman Elementary

Thursday 14th:

- The Addams Family
6 PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>
- Jazz Concert
7 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium

Friday 15th:

- The Addams Family
7 PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>

Saturday 16th:

- The Addams Family
2 PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>

**Hanford + Richland High School
Athletics Calendars**

<https://hanfordathletics.com/events>
<https://bomberathletics.com/events>



HANFORD SPORT OF THE ARTS

WINTERGUARD & INDOOR PERCUSSION SHOWCASE



IMPACT Percussion Performance! Concessions!

TICKETS AT THE DOOR

ADULTS - \$15

STUDENTS/HHS STAFF/VETERANS/SENIORS - \$10

KIDS 5 AND UNDER - FREE



HANFORD HIGH SCHOOL
NORTH ENTRANCE



SATURDAY
MARCH 9, 2024



DOORS OPEN AT 11 AM
PRELIMS 12-2
FINALS 3:30-5:30



bit.ly/Hanford2024



Pasco changes the name of its 3rd high school

BY ERIC ROSANE

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Pasco, WA

Pasco's third comprehensive high school has a new name [three months after parents and students](#) pleaded with the school district to reconsider calling it Harvest View High School.

Drum roll, please — the new name is Sageview High School.

In a unanimous vote Tuesday night, the [Pasco School Board](#) renamed the school currently under construction at 6091 Burns Road.

The name was the [majority favorite among 5,300](#) who participated in an online survey Jan. 9-19. When asked to choose their favorite of three names — Sageview, Desert Vista and Harvest View — nearly half chose Sageview.

Respondents also chose the color combination of forest green, black, white, gray and sage as a favorite to be included into the Sageview High School branding and Lobos mascot. Lobos — Spanish for wolves — is a nod to the school district's 74% Latino population.

In a split 3-2 vote, the Pasco School Board selected Harvest View at its Oct. 24 meeting among five suggestions from the community. Sageview was included in this selection.

A poll voted on by [readers of the Tri-City Herald in November](#) showed that many favored the “Rattlers” as a mascot for the new school.

District staff unveiled the [Lobos mascot at the Nov. 14](#) business meeting, but community members showed up en force to ask the school board to reconsider the Harvest View name. One public commenter, a 10-year-old Pasco student, said the name made him feel like he was in a “retirement home.”

The 300,000-square-foot Sageview High School building is about a quarter finished and is expected to open to students in Fall 2025.

The school and its athletic facilities will sit on a 65-acre campus and serve 2,000 students. Sageview will also play host to a unique agriculture CTE program.

The school district also is currently working to redraw its high school boundaries to incorporate the new high school, and is currently [accepting feedback on draft boundary proposals](#).

Nearly 19,000 students attend classes in Pasco and high school enrollment continues to boom. Chiawana and Pasco high schools are the first- and sixth-largest high schools in Washington state.

Construction of the school is being funded with a 21-year, \$195.5 million bond voters passed last year. The bond will also build a technical school — Orion High School — that will open Fall 2025 and serve 600 in-district students with workforce-ready credentials, industry certifications and hands-on experience.

Orion will be at the corner of Salt Lake Street and Utah Avenue, near Ochoa Middle School. The district will put the project out to bid this spring.

Best schools in Tri-Cities ranked in new study



COURTESY RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hanford High students get a first look at "Sincerely, Room 111: Voices of a New Era." Teacher Phil Cioppa compiled and published the essays of advice they wrote as they coped with the COVID-19 pandemic.

BY KARLEE VAN DE VENTER
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Parenthood means making many decisions for your child every day. Some are more difficult than others, and some have more impact on a child's life than others. But no single day as a parent is void of decision-making.

Arguably, one of the most important decisions you'll make for your child regards their education. What schools will they go to, what district do you want them in?

The school ranking and information site [Niche](#) aims to ease this process by offering parents and students searchable data on their education options. For the last decade, this has included an annual ranking of schools, determining the “best” school in specific locations and categories.

Top five best schools in Tri-Cities

According to the Niche ranking, the [best school in the Tri-Cities area](#) is Hanford High School in the Richland School District, which was also ranked the 23rd-best public high school in the entire state of Washington. Like the rest of the top five schools, Hanford High received an A overall grade.

Next in line is Tri-Cities Prep Catholic High School in Pasco. The only Catholic high school option in the area, the school ranked 34th-best private high school in the state.

Third place went to Leona Libby Middle School in the Richland School District, which was ranked the 35th best public middle school in Washington.

In fourth place is White Bluffs Elementary School, and fifth place went to Orchard Elementary School, both in the Richland School District.

Best schools in Tri-Cities, ranked

Not every school received a ranking. Some were left without grades due to lack of available data.

Of the remaining 75 graded schools, three received an A-:

- Amon Creek Elementary School in the Kennewick School District ranked sixth
- Wiley Elementary School in the Richland School District
- Lewis and Clark Elementary School in the Richland School District

The schools that placed ninth-place or lower received a B+ (in order of ranking):

- 9. Cottonwood Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 10. Richland High School - *Richland School District*
- 11. Jason Lee Elementary School - *Richland School District*
- 12. Ridge View Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 13. Enterprise Middle School - *Richland School District*

- 14. Badger Mountain Elementary School - *Richland School District*
- 15. Sagecrest Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 16. Southridge High School - *Kennewick School District*
- 17. Marcus Whitman Elementary School - *Richland School District*

11 schools received a B:

- 18. Desert Hills Middle School - *Kennewick School District*
- 19. Ruth Livingston Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 20. Jefferson Elementary School - *Richland School District*
- 21. Kamiakin High School - *Kennewick School District*
- 22. Kennewick High School - *Kennewick School District*
- 23. Lincoln Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 24. Sacajawea Elementary School - *Richland School District*
- 25. Edwin Markham Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 26. Tapteal Elementary School - *Richland School District*
- 27. Prosser High School - *Prosser School District*
- 28. Carmichael Middle School - *Richland School District*

Another 11 schools received B- grades:

- 29. Sunset View Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 30. Horse Heaven Hills Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 31. Chief Joseph Middle School - *Richland School District*
- 32. Chinook Middle School - *Kennewick School District*
- 33. Vista Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 34. Cascade Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 35. Chiawana High School - *Pasco School District*
- 36. Canyon View Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 37. Hawthorne Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 38. Phoenix High School - *Kennewick School District*
- 39. McLoughlin Middle School - *Pasco School District*

10 schools received a C+:

- 40. River View High School - *Finley School District*
- 41. Washington Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 42. Southgate Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 43. Kiona-Benton City High School - *Kiona-Benton City School District*
- 44. Westgate Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*

- 45. Liberty Christian School of the Tri-Cities - *Private school in Richland*
- 46. Fuerza Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 47. Maya Angelou Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 48. Rosalind Franklin STEM Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 49. James McGee Elementary School - *Pasco School District*

C grades went to eleven schools:

- 50. Three Rivers HomeLink - *Richland School District*
- 51. Park Middle School - *Kennewick School District*
- 52. Barbara McClintock STEM Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 53. Prosser Heights Elementary School - *Prosser School District*
- 54. Eastgate Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 55. Edison Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 56. Mark Twain Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 57. Kennewick Mid- Columbia Parent Partnership - *Kennewick School District*
- 58. Highlands Middle School - *Kennewick School District*
- 59. Pasco Senior High School - *Pasco School District*
- 60. Whitstran Elementary School - *Prosser School District*

The most popular grade was a C-, given to 19 schools:

- 61. Housel Middle School - *Prosser School District*
- 62. Amistad Elementary School - *Kennewick School District*
- 63. Kiona-Benton City Primary School - *Kiona-Benton City School District*
- 64. Virgie Robinson Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 65. Robert Frost Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 66. Marie Curie STEM Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 67. Finley Middle School - *Finley School District*
- 68. Emerson Elementary School - *Finley School District*
- 69. Kiona-Benton City Intermediate School - *Kiona-Benton City School District*
- 70. Stevens Middle School - *Pasco School District*
- 71. Longfellow Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 72. Ellen Ochoa Middle School - *Pasco School District*
- 73. Finley Elementary School - *Finley School District*
- 74. Whittier Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 75. Kiona-Benton City Middle School - *Kiona-Benton City School District*
- 76. Rowena Chess Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 77. Rivers Edge High School - *Richland School District*

- 78. Captain Gray STEM Elementary School - *Pasco School District*
- 79. New Horizons High School - *Pasco School District*

Only one school received a lower grade. Legacy High School in Kennewick School District received a D-.

How Niche grades are calculated

Niche uses a myriad of datasets to determine each ranking, depending on the [type of school](#), mixing quantifiable data with parent and student reviews. Certain aspects of data are worth more than others. A full breakdown of methodology is available [here](#).

“We get deep, too, asking questions about everything from college prep to cafeteria food,” Niche said on its website. “Though quality data is a priority, at Niche, we know that a school is more than a collection of stats.”

In general, the factors included make up the following categories:

- Academic Grade: Based on state assessment proficiency and survey responses on academics from students and parents.
- Teacher Grade: Based on teacher salary, teacher absenteeism, state test results and survey responses on teachers from students and parents.
- District Grade: Based on rigorous academic and student life data analysis and millions of reviews from students and parents.
- Culture & Diversity Grade: Based on racial and economic diversity and survey responses from students and parents on school culture and diversity.
- Parent/Student Surveys Grade: Niche survey responses scored on a 1-5 scale regarding the overall experience of students and parents from the school.

So, with that in mind, how did Tri-Cities schools stack up?

Many Tri-City schools still a half-year behind in math, reading



BOB BRAWDY • BBRAWDY@TRICITYHERALD.COM

Many Tri-City students are still a half-year behind in math and reading when comparing pre-pandemic and current test scores.

BY ERIC ROSANE
EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

On average, students in Tri-City schools are still a half year behind on math and reading when comparing their most recent test scores to 2019.

The stark finding is based on new data from 2023 standardized testing.

Average test scores in the Tri-Cities remain below pre-pandemic levels and students are still struggling to catch up years after schools took up temporary remote learning measures, according to [findings from Stanford and Harvard universities' the Education Recovery Scorecard](#).

Students lost a historic amount of quality instruction time in the classroom time after the COVID pandemic hit U.S. communities in March 2020.

Aside from essential programs, nearly all school buildings in the country closed immediately in the wake of the pandemic and students quickly pivoted to remote learning.

Here is what students in the Mid-Columbia region lost between 2019 and 2023. Data reflects years lost or gained in subject achievement:

- Kennewick School District: -0.45 in math, -0.33 in reading.
- Pasco School District: -0.41 in math, -0.34 in reading.
- Richland School District: -0.09 in math, +0.03 in reading.
- North Franklin School District: -0.07 in math, +0.03 in reading.
- Finley School District: -0.08 in math, -0.34 in reading.
- Kiona-Benton City School District: -0.39 in math, -0.63 in reading.
- Columbia (Walla Walla) School District: -0.56 in math, -0.77 in reading.
- Prosser School District: -0.69 in math, -0.46 in reading.

While some districts — including Columbia and Prosser — remain more than a half-year behind their 2019's scores, others including Richland and North Franklin have returned to where they were before the pandemic.

'All-hands-on-deck'

"It was an all-hands-on-deck approach," said North Franklin Superintendent Jim Jacobs. "We had paraeducators, teachers — everyone who could walk and talk and had a pulse was helping students... I was pretty pleased with our educational community in serving these students during that time."

After health mandates loosened in fall 2020, North Franklin was among the first districts in the region to return its 2,000 students to some form of in-person learning. The district quickly brought K-6 students back to in-person and set 7-12 students on a hybrid schedule as the school implemented social distancing measures.

Once health mandates expired, the district found success in catching students up with a robust school enrichment and intervention program — which it plans to continue funding after their COVID funds expire — and summer school activities. It was all about keeping students engaged and helping families to address their social-emotional needs.

"We took a really humanistic approach to solving this problem that none of us had ever faced before," Jacobs said. The student population of his district is comprised of 34% English language learners, 32% migrant and more than 70% free or reduced lunch. "Everyone really focused in on how we could support students and be supportive of students during this time."

With COVID mostly in the rearview mirror, and a learning loss catastrophe avoided, North Franklin still has other far more important challenges ahead to face.

Students there are still lagging behind by more than a grade level when compared with national averages. And the traumatic impact of COVID continues to stunt the growth of some of the district's youngest learners.

Richland School District invested millions the past couple years to keep classroom sizes small, create programs to address and respond to mental health crises, expand summer school programs and opportunities, and implement progress monitoring systems.

The district also earmarked \$150,000 alone in COVID funds for “outside-the-box” efforts to support education and address building-level learning loss.

End of ESSER money

Congress provided nearly \$200 billion in federal aid to K-12 schools during the pandemic in the form of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds, or ESSER, with most of that going to high-poverty school districts. State and federal guidance was broad at first, but has since narrowed to focus on learning recovery the last couple years.

Over the past few years, Tri-City school districts have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in ESSER to respond to the pandemic and catch students back up. That funding has taken the form of summer school programs, high-quality and intensive tutoring, adding teachers to classrooms and hosting after-school instruction.

One estimate from [Georgetown University's Edunomics Lab](#) estimates it would collectively take more than \$77 million in reading and math tutoring for Kennewick, Richland and Pasco to collectively rectify an average learning loss of three months in math and two months in reading.

Despite the infusion of cash, academic performance remains lower and more unequal than in 2019 in all but the wealthiest communities, [according to research from Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research](#).

With the third and final installment of ESSER set to expire this September, that means many students will likely never catch up.

Many elementary and middle school students have made up significant ground since schools closed to in-person learning, but they are nowhere close to being fully caught up, according to a [recent data story in the New York Times](#). Across the country, students have recovered about a third of what they lost in math and about a quarter in reading.

Out of all 50 states, Washington spent the most amount of time in remote or hybrid learning, according to the Education Recovery Scorecard. Public school students spent nearly all of the pandemic year — a calculated 95% — in learning models other than in-person instruction.

Because of that, Washington is one of 17 states more than one-third grade level behind in math and among 14 states more than one-third grade level behind in reading.

Kennewick school board to discuss opposing state bills on diversity in books, teaching



KOBUS LOUW • GETTY IMAGES

The Kennewick School Board will consider a resolution opposing Washington state Legislature bills related to books and curricula on historically marginalized and underrepresented groups.

BY TRI-CITY HERALD STAFF

The [Kennewick School Board](#) has called a special meeting for 9 a.m. Tuesday morning to consider opposing two bills before the Washington state Legislature related to books and curricula on historically marginalized and underrepresented groups.

The only item on the agenda for the unusual special session is a resolution to oppose ESB 5462 and ESHB 2331.

[ESHB 2331](#) was introduced in the House by Rep. Monica Stonier, D-Vancouver, where it passed on a party line vote with 58 Democrats in favor and 39 Republicans opposed.

“We know that banning and burning books are go-to moves for dictators around the world, especially when they target minority authors and topics,” Stonier posted on social media. “As an educator, I know how important it is for kids to have access to books that are written by or feature characters who look like them or have common experiences.”

The [bill would bar school boards](#) from refusing to approve or prohibiting the use of educational material because it includes the contributions of those that are part of a protected class.

The [Washington Policy Center](#), which opposes the bill, says in an online post that it would contradict long-standing state policy that community-based school boards and parents have the right to run their own public schools.

It says the Washington state superintendent of public instruction could cut the budget of a school district that does not comply.

[ESB 5462](#) would require the inclusion of histories, contributions and perspectives of LGBTQ people in age-appropriate [school curricula](#) after a review of learning standards by the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in consultation with the LGBTQ Commission.

The Washington State School Directors' Association, also would be required to adopt a policy for school boards to adopt instructional materials covering such groups as Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, people of different religions and people who are neurodiverse.

A draft resolution to be considered by the Kennewick School Board says that ESB 5462 subverts local school boards' ability to make decisions about instructional materials that reflect the work of professionals in the district and the voice of the people in the community.

The other bill, ESHB 2331, encroaches on the authority of school boards, diminishing their importance, and elevating the state influence in local policies, according to the resolution.

The resolution says that "in equipping future-ready students, the Kennewick School District will seek to foster belonging, instill purpose, and cultivate curiosity in ALL the students it serves."

To watch the meeting remotely, go to bit.ly/42I5Gnc.

Public comments may be made remotely by signing up at bit.ly/3dn9dyk.

The meeting also may be attended in person at the District Administration Building, [1000 W. Fourth Ave., Kennewick](#).

https://www.nbcbrightnow.com/news/resolution-on-2-controversial-bills-to-be-considered-at-special-ksd-board-meeting/article_80f02d8e-cf6d-11ee-8760-2bbb48c28e06.html

Resolution on 2 controversial bills to be considered at special KSD board meeting

Michael LeCompte, NonStop Local Digital Content Producer
Feb 19, 2024



MORE INFORMATION





Kennewick School District to host
student job fair in March

Financial Aid Night set for KSD

KENNEWICK, Wash.—A special meeting of the [Kennewick School Board](#) is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 20 to discuss a resolution concerning two controversial bills in the [Washington State Legislative session](#).

At the meeting the board will reportedly discuss adopting a resolution in opposition to two bills, one concerning the right to ban materials and another requiring that age-appropriate materials containing minority perspectives be taught.

[HB 2331](#): Passed the state House by a partisan vote of 58-39 and has now been introduced in the Senate.

According to the Washington State Legislature, [HB 2331](#) would prevent school boards from banning materials that include contributions from protected people and would allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop guidelines for eliminating discrimination in course offerings, textbooks and instructional materials.

[SB 5462](#) passed through the Senate and has been introduced in the Washington State House.

According to the State Legislature, [SB 5462](#) would require school districts to adopt policies, procedures and curriculum that include the histories, contributions and perspectives of historically marginalized and underrepresented groups.

The KSD's special board meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. at the KSD Administration Center at 1000 W. 4th Ave. in Kennewick. A public comment period will be held at the beginning of the meeting, according to a [post from](#)

Michael LeCompte

NonStop Local NonStop Local Digital Journalist

https://www.applevalleynewsnow.com/news/chiawana-high-school-teacher-named-columbia-basin-music-educator-of-the-year/article_bb101890-ccfb-11ee-9e16-37e7400c03ca.html

Chiawana High School Teacher Named Columbia Basin Music Educator of the Year

Morgan Huff
Feb 16, 2024



Pasco School District

MORE INFORMATION



YVC Students Showcase Original Plays in 2024 Festival of New Works

PASCO, Wash. -- The Pasco School District announced the recognition of JoLyn Glenn, Chiawana High School Music Teacher, as the Columbia Basin Music Educators Association Teacher of the Year.

Glenn, who has been an integral part of CHS since 2012, will be formally honored at the Washington Music Educators Association conference in Yakima on Saturday, February 17. The esteemed award celebrates her

Pasco man killed on SR 18 after tree falls

RadCon 9 wraps up in Pasco, a weekend event of sci-fi, fantasy and fun!

How a dangerous chemical found in fast food containers is affecting pregnancy and the unborn

outstanding contributions to music education, as recognized by fellow music educators in the Columbia Basin region, encompassing Tri-Cities and Walla Walla.

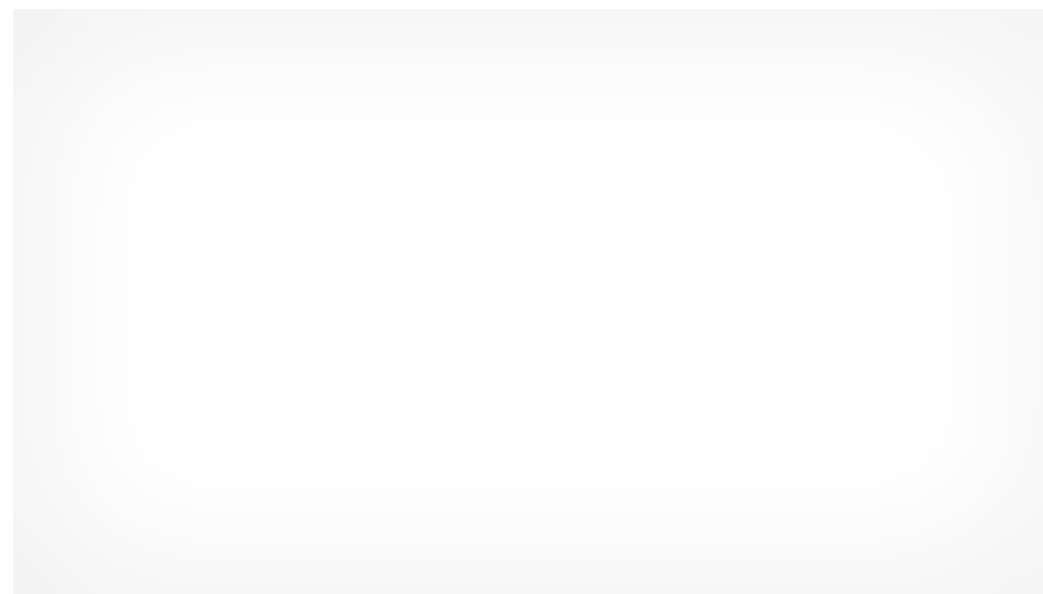
Lauren Edmondson, CHS Director of Orchestras/Guitar Lab, said, "JoLyn deserves this award for her unwavering commitment to her students and the entire school community." Edmondson highlighted Glenn's dedication to incorporating social-emotional learning into her teaching, extending her passion for music beyond the classroom.

Reflecting on the honor, Glenn shared, "From a young age, my love for music was evident, and the decision to become a music teacher took shape during my high school years." She expressed gratitude for the mentors who inspired her and emphasized the profound power of music to forge connections.

Student testimonials further attest to Glenn's impact. Brianna Maki praised her for always putting in maximum effort and taking care of her students, while Sydney Broeker highlighted her inclusive teaching style and responsiveness to student input.

Glenn concluded, "While this accolade brings personal pride, I am acutely aware that my true motivation and inspiration come from the students I have the privilege to teach." She accepted the award with gratitude, recognizing it as a symbol of the collaborative spirit of the music education community.

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Meteorologist Tiffany Savona



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By Emily Goodell



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By Rylee Fitzgerald

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Morgan Huff

Digital Content Manager

Kennewick votes on bills on diversity in books, teaching



TRI-CITY HERALD FILE

The Kennewick School Board passed a resolution strongly opposing two bills in the Washington Legislature related to books and curricula on historically marginalized and underrepresented groups.

BY ERIC ROSANE

EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

Kennewick, WA

The Kennewick School Board [passed a resolution Tuesday morning](#) strongly opposing two bills in the Washington Legislature related to books and curricula on historically marginalized and underrepresented groups.

The vote was unanimous, 4-0, with school board member Mike Connors abstaining from the vote over objections to the time and manner of the last-minute meeting.

The Kennewick School Board — which oversees the instruction of 20,000 K-12 students — appears to be the largest in Washington to come out in opposition to the two bills.

The school board says it believes the legislation would trample local control and parental rights over their children's education.

The board believe the bills are being peddled by "activist state commissions pushing sexual agendas and politics and subverting the vote of the local community," the resolution stated.

"We're not trying to ban books, we're not trying to segregate kids. We're not trying to do anything like that," said board President Gabe Galbraith.

But nearly all of the 20 local community members who showed up at the meeting — many of them former teachers or school board members — say they believe Kennewick's resolution was simply misguided fear and sends the wrong signal that they were participating in partisan politics.

The resolution also goes against the district's guiding principles and values on diversity and serving every student, they said.

"You're telling people like me: I shouldn't be here, I shouldn't have a say," said Aaron Beasley, 63, a Black man who served on the Pasco School Board in the 1990s.

[ESHB 2331](#) would bar school boards from refusing to approve or prohibit the use of educational materials on the basis that they include the contributions of any individual or group who is part of a "protected class."

Some have viewed this legislation as an anti-book banning bill that would bar school boards from taking action against books they find objectionable. If local board's violate the bill, critics say, they may be subject to losing some or all of their state apportionment money.

The bill passed the Senate Committee on Early Learning and K-12 Education on Monday and is on track for a floor vote sometime this week. If passed in the Senate, it would go to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

The other bill, [ESB 5462](#), would require schools to teach the histories, contributions and perspectives of LGBTQ people in age-appropriate [school curricula](#) after a review of learning standards by the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in consultation with the LGBTQ Commission.

The Washington State School Directors' Association, also would be required to adopt a policy for school boards to adopt instructional materials covering such groups as Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, people of different religions and people who are neurodiverse.

The House Committee on Education was scheduled to take executive action on ESB 5462 on Tuesday afternoon, which could pave the way for a floor vote later this week.

Both bills passed their first chambers in party-line votes.

Galbraith said tight legislative deadlines and similar resolutions from other school boards, including Mead and Central Valley, is what prompted calling the quick special meeting 9 a.m. on Tuesday after the holiday weekend.

He said he understands there may be diverse takeaways from the community on this action: Some will appreciate them weighing in on what's going on in the Legislature, but others might view them as trying to whitewash history or ban books, which he denies.

"At the end of the day, we're just trying to figure out what we feel is right for the school district and our kids. And people are going to disagree and people are going to agree," he said.

Kennewick staff have not studied what affects the bills could have in the schools yet because they're still making their way through the Legislature and are subject to amendments and changes.

Kennewick Education Association President Rob Woodford attended the meeting and did not speak to the board. Later, he declined to comment on the vote.

The resolution is not binding and does not immediately impact any curriculum. It simply reflects the view of the school board.

This story is breaking and will be updated. Check back for more information.

https://www.nbcrightnow.com/news/southridge-biology-teacher-awarded-stem-research-grant/article_202f1fdc-d0cb-11ee-8f99-6baf3e39396d.html

Southridge Biology teacher awarded STEM research grant

Michael LeCompte, NonStop Local Digital Journalist
Feb 21, 2024



MORE INFORMATION



Kennewick School District board passes resolution opposing 2 education bills

Pasco middle school band teacher to be inducted into Washington Music Hall of Fame

Call if you can, text if you can't, text-to-911 now available statewide

KENNEWICK, Wash.—A Biology teacher at Southridge High School has been awarded a grant from the [Society for Science](#) to advance STEM education.

Rama Devagupta, who also teaches Chemistry at Columbia Basin College, is one of 41 teachers from across the country awarded grants for scientific innovation that will provide students with research project resources.

The [Society for Science](#) is a Washington, D.C. based nonprofit that works to advance STEM education and build science literacy.

The grants, ranging from \$2,000-\$5,000, were awarded through the Society's [STEM Research Grants program](#) that engages students from diverse and low-income communities in independent science research projects, according to a press release on the awards.

According to the Society for Science, the STEM Research Grants were awarded in two forms, research kits prepared and presented to teachers and funds directly to teachers to be used for STEM-related equipment.

The grant funding awarded to Rama will be used to help students study and better understand neuroplasticity in the brain.

"Most current high schoolers lack a deeper understanding of the brain's neuroplasticity," said Rama. "We can now purchase EEG equipment which will widen student engagement in their learning and help them to appreciate and understand the significance of taking care of one's mental health, one's own learning and taking responsibility for their decisions and actions."

Rama is the 2023 WA State Finalist for the [Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching](#), and the 2023 recipient of Washington Education Association's Human & Civil Rights International Peace and Understanding Award.

Michael LeCompte

NonStop Local NonStop Local Digital Journalist

https://www.applevalleynewsnow.com/news/pasco-school-district-celebrating-new-book-vending-machine-donations-welcome/article_5540d3fe-d1bc-11ee-96ab-333511e194ba.html

Pasco School District celebrating new "Book Vending Machine", donations welcome

Morgan Huff
Feb 22, 2024



Pasco

PASCO, Wash. -- A new "Book Vending Machine" will be placed at Virgie Robinson Elementary School.

There will be a ribbon cutting to celebrate the placement on Friday, February 23, at 9 a.m.

The Pasco School District said this will mark a significant milestone to the school's commitment for literacy and creating a love for reading among its students.

Three years ago, PSD had a vision for this vending machine and because of the community and school students and staff, it will now be a reality.

The way the vending machine was funded was through students participating in a "Penny Drive". During the fundraiser, PSD said students raised more than \$1,000.

Other donators include Peak Partner Kiwanis of Horse Heaven Hills (\$500), the Virgie Robinson Board (\$1,000), and Simplot (\$500) further fueled the project. The Associated Student Body also raised money.



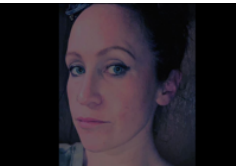
To be able to purchase a book from the vending machine, students will be able to buy coins through the school's Comet Store using "Comet Bucks". The "Comet Bucks" are earned by students for good behavior and ensuring they're using safe behavior.

Maria Sandoval, Principal of Virgie Robinson Elementary School, expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "The Book Vending Machine is not merely a source of books; it stands as a portal to a world of knowledge and imagination for our students. It embodies the unity and commitment of our community in promoting literacy and academic excellence."

For those interested in supporting this transformative project, the school is open to receiving new or gently used book donations. For donation inquiries, please contact Maria Sandoval, Principal, at msandoval@psd1.org.

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Milton-Freewater police issue warrant for suspect in Red Tea Garden robbery
Erin Wencil



UPDATE: No shots fired in SWAT situation in Kennewick, area residents asked to stay in homes
Erin Wencil, Austin Reed, Lucy Lobdell



Federal student loans for nearly 153,000 borrowers are being automatically canceled, Biden says
By AAMER MADHANI and COLLIN BINKLEY - Associated Press



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5SD PASSES RESOLUTION OPPOSING WA BILLS

Kennewick School Board passes resolution against Washington bills that would require...

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Morgan Huff
Digital Content Manager

Richland astronaut featured in documentary on isolation in space



COURTESY NASA

NASA astronaut Kayla Barron works inside the International Space Station's Life Science Glovebox conducting botany research looking at the genetic architecture of plant regeneration in space.

BY ANNETTE CARY
ACARY@TRICITYHERALD.COM

[Kayla Barron, the NASA astronaut from Richland](#), knows something about the isolation that astronauts will face on a three-year mission to Mars.

The graduate of Richland High School in Eastern Washington spent six months away from her husband and other family members on the International Space Station starting in November 2021.

Her experience in space is featured in a new documentary that looks at how astronauts will be prepared psychologically when NASA launches a mission to Mars for the first time, likely within the next decade.

The approximately 90-minute film [“Space: The Longest Goodbye”](#) had its premier at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival in 2023 and will be more widely available for United States audiences this spring, including on public television.

When astronauts yet to be picked leave for Mars, communication in real time will be impossible due to the immense distance.



COURTESY NASA

NASA astronaut Kayla Barron works inside the International Space Station's Life Science Glovebox conducting botany research looking at the genetic architecture of plant regeneration in space.

What started as a documentary about the first crewed mission to Mars changed directions when filmmakers met Al Holland, a senior NASA psychologist, whose job is to keep astronauts mentally stable in space.

The psychological impact of the level of disconnectedness and isolation — both from mission control and loved ones — for the years of the Mars mission is impossible to predict, endangering the mission itself, according to Independent Lens.

The documentary is “about courage, intelligence, community, and trust for those brave enough and willing to reach new frontiers,” said Lois Vossen, Independent Lens executive producer. “But most importantly, it is about sacrifice.”



ROBERT MARKOWITZ • NASA/JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Kayla Barron of Richland was picked by NASA for its 2017 astronaut candidate class.

The writer and director of the documentary, Ido Mizrahy, said in an interview for the Sundance Film Festival that one of his favorite memories from [making the film was interviewing Barron](#) while she was on the International Space Station.

“It was the closest I ever got to being in space, even if it was only my voice,” Mizrahy said. “I was so over-excited when Houston’s mission control patched me in, I couldn’t believe it was really happening.”



Kayla Barron

Amazon lists the DVD for the [documentary available to purchase](#) for \$14.99 on March 12. Greenwich Entertainment says it will be available on Apple TV and Amazon starting March 8.

It will premier on [“Independent Lens” on PBS](#) on May 6, but local schedules for the show may vary.



COURTESY NASA

Crew-3 Mission Specialist Kayla Barron of NASA is pictured May 5, 2022, journeying back to Earth inside the SpaceX Dragon Endurance spacecraft following its undocking from the International Space Station.

Tri-Cities Superintendents meet for the State of the School Districts

By Rylee Fitzgerald
Feb 23, 2024

TRI-CITIES, Wash. — This week, the Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce held a networking event for Tri-Cities school districts. Superintendents were there to present current data and programs, as well as discuss missions and goals.

KENNEWICK

Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce with the Kennewick School District discussed the results of KSD's latest levy which passed, increasing safety in schools with the placement of law enforcement.

"That's a partnership with Kennewick Police Department and the city of Kennewick and our expansion, or our creation, thanks to the levy passing last year, of a School Safety Officer program that's providing safety officers at our elementary schools," said Superintendent Pierce.

All Kennewick high schools and middle schools have a School Resource Office, and there are six School Safety Officers within the city's elementary schools.

Financial literacy for students was also discussed. Financial literacy education is not a requirement in the Kennewick School District, as it is in Richland and Pasco, but there's a group of students who are

"We've had a computer competency requirement for many, many years, and we've got a lot of energy

Watch Dr. Traci Pierce's full presentation on our YouTube page.

around financial literacy," explained Superintendent Pierce. "There is a bill in the legislature right now and we've got a student who's very passionate about financial literacy; started a financial literacy club at one of our high schools, and that's expanded to our other high schools." She explained that the district is looking into what it would take to implement that type of education as a requirement.

Another program that was mentioned was the Teaching Bridge student program, which helps connect students interested in teaching and education with classes through WSU, and even the opportunity to work as a substitute paraeducator in the Kennewick School District.

Superintendent Pierce also explained the expansion over the past years of the dual language programs in the KSD. She went on to say that in the district, almost all students receive free lunch through the Community Eligibility program.

"That helps us understand that the needs of our students may differ depending on what kind of skills they're entering our schools with," said Superintendent Pierce. "We have a lot of different programs that are focused on ensuring that students are getting the different kinds of supports that they need to be successful."

READ MORE: School Safety Officers introduced in Kennewick elementary schools

READ MORE: Kennewick School District's superintendent to retire after school 2024-2025 school year

PASCO

The Pasco School District's bond passed just more than a year ago, and construction is well-underway for one of the two newest high schools coming to the Tri-Cities. It's one comprehensive high school, and another small, innovative high school.

The comprehensive high school had a name; Harvest View High School, but the community reached out and asked the board to reconsider its choice.

"A name is just a name, but it's really the identity that you build around the name that builds culture. So, they wanted to see some branding packages for each of the names that were in the finalists. So, we did that and then we sent those back out into the community for some additional feedback and through that process, Sageview by far was the front runner," said PSD Superintendent Michelle Whitney.

The school board took final action to name Sageview High School after last Tuesday's board meeting, following more than 5,500 community members putting in their feedback.

Superintendent Whitney said the bond to build these new high schools passed at 60.91%, and the school district wanted to do something to memorialize the community who supported the efforts for the new high schools.

“The address to our new school will be 6091,” Superintendent Whitney said. “I want to thank you, Assistant Superintendent Raul Sital, for working with the city to make that happen for us.” Sageview High School will be located at 6091 Burns Rd., Pasco.

School boundaries are now on the agenda for the school district. This is where PSD wants the community’s input.

The small, innovative high school, Orion High School, will focus on career paths including engineering, manufacturing, human and health services, business and marketing. It will only school around 600 students, and bids for contracting start soon.

Watch Michelle Whitney's full presentation on our YouTube page.

Almost 35% of students in the Pasco School District are English learners, Superintendent Whitney said, and Pasco has the largest dual-language program in the state of Washington.

“We are a diverse community, I think is what makes Pasco so special. It's like this amazing tapestry of people from all different backgrounds and as a public school system, then it's important for us to be looking at each individual and what they need out of our system,” said Superintendent Whitney.

The program goes both ways: both Spanish-speaking students learning English, and English-speaking students learning Spanish.

“Any student in our district who wants to start the journey to be bilingual can start that journey in kindergarten and be supported in learning language K-12,” Superintendent Whitney explained. There are 182 dual language classes right now through the Pasco School District. Eight years ago, the program was only in two of the elementary schools, but now it’s in all but one in the Pasco School District.

READ MORE: Pasco School Board chooses names of two new high schools

READ MORE: Pasco School District celebrates grand opening of its Digital Learning Center

RICHLAND

The Richland School District passed its levy last year for capital projects. A big piece of that is improving safety and security in school buildings. The most important thing is knowing who is in the building at all times, according to Superintendent Shelley Redinger.

“Safety, well-being, academics, and community engagement, all these different areas and really we need to be accountable to our public for making sure our students are Richland ready,” said Superintendent Redinger.

RSD is working on a partnership with an outside security company to test for vulnerable spots, and adding things like fencing or cameras. There were areas where the school district needed to improve, which were mainly entryways at the schools.

“We’re doing single point of entry, and vestibules. In it, we’ll have video surveillance, and buzz-in, just to make sure that we know who’s in the building,” explained Superintendent Redinger. Those improvements start this spring, and should be finished by this fall.

A program that kicked off for the RSD at the start of the school year is the CharacterStrong Social Emotional Learning program. It was a district-wide implementation, and while Superintendent Redinger said elementary and middle schools have taken and ran with it, it’s been harder for high schoolers, especially seniors, to do the same.

“They’re giving us really good feedback, and we’re giving that feedback to the founders of the program, this is how our seniors or upperclassmen are feeling about the program,” said Superintendent Redinger. “I really do feel elementary, middle school, it’s going great, and I do think that when the students have had it in kindergarten all the way through, it’s gonna be pretty amazing.”

Watch Dr. Shelley Redinger's full presentation on our YouTube page.

The school district isn’t just looking at feedback from students, but also from the community. For families, there’s a newer platform to the RSD called ParentSquare. There is also a platform being used for community outreach called ThoughtExchange, where people can reach out, weigh in with comments and even star ideas from others. The district plans to use this when reaching out with ideas for the upcoming plans, potentially even for a new high school in the future.

“That will help us form the 25 to 30 year plan, and, so, then the community will know ‘okay, here’s the first bond and why,’ and then we would lay it out so that we would just keep building on that and try to keep the tax rate flat. That’s another big goal, so it doesn’t keep going up and down, up and down. People can kind of count on what it would be,” said Superintendent Redinger.

The Richland School District is considering a new operations center as well, for students possibly being able to work at, or do internships from within the school district. This may include things like nutrition services, diesel mechanics, graphic design and more.

READ MORE: RSD leans into social-emotional learning with CharacterStrong program expansion

READ MORE: RSD inviting community out to comment on planning for third high school

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USDA to spend additional \$21 million to reduce wildfire risk in Central Washington
By Emily Goodell

The Traveling Book Bus brings readers to Yakima Valley coffee shops, wineries
By Emily Goodell

Pasco School District Introduces Teacher Residency Program for Special Education Endorsement

Morgan Huff
Feb 22, 2024

MORE INFORMATION



Tri-Cities Superintendents meet for the State of the School Districts

PASCO, Wash. -- Pasco School District (PSD) is launching a groundbreaking collaboration with the Washington Education Association (WEA) and Pasco Association of Educators (PAE) – the Teacher Residency Program aimed at obtaining a fully licensed special education teacher endorsement.



Whether someone is currently employed by PSD, a community member, or possess a bachelor's degree without a teaching certificate, this program caters to those aspiring to become Special Education Teachers. PSD is offering up to four paid residencies to candidates chosen by WEA/PAE/PSD to complete this year-long program.

PSD is hosting an information night at PAE on February 28. This event offers an opportunity to learn about the program, its advantages, and the application process. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend or spread the word.

The event will take place on Wednesday, February 28, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at the Pasco Association of Educators (PAE), located at 500 N. 20th Ave., Pasco, WA 99301. Attendees can join small group information sessions at 4:30 pm, 5 pm, or 5:30 pm. Alternatively, drop by anytime between 4:30 – 6:30 pm with inquiries.

Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree in any field. The application deadline is April 12, 2024.

ADVERTISING

More details about the program and application can be found on the WEA website. For specific inquiries, contact admissions@washingtonea.org.

This initiative offers an exciting chance to contribute to education and impact students' lives. PSD anticipates community involvement and encourages individuals to go on the journey toward becoming licensed Special Education Teachers.

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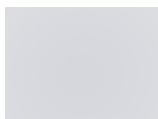
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Pasco School District celebrating new "Book Vending Machine", donations welcome
Morgan Huff



Empowering Migrant Students and Parents at Together Toward Tomorrow Conference
Morgan Huff



A taste of Spring this weekend, but rain and possibly snow makes a return!
Tiffany Savona



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Your Memory Is Photographic If You Can Name 16/30 Of These Old Shows Correctly [↗](#)

By Healthy Gem

Step back in time and indulge in the nostalgia of the small screen with a quiz dedicated to classic television....

Regional Educators Honored with Crystal Apple Award in Southeastern Washington



Crystal Apple AWARDS

Thursday, March 7th at 4:30 PM
ESD 123 | 3924 W Court St, Pasco

 Kevin Alley 9th-12th Grade Life Skills Core & Vocational, Resource & Integrated Math <i>Columbia High School</i> (Columbia/Burbank)	 Wendy Appelgate PE, Art, and Music <i>Whitstran Elementary</i> (Prosser)	 Oscar Carrasco 8th-12th Grade Spanish & 9th-12th Grade English Language Learners <i>River View High School</i> (Finley)
 Kaycee Ferguson 4th Grade English Language Arts <i>Chinook Middle School</i> (Kennewick)	 James Jones Choir (Vocal Jazz, Treble, Concert, Varsity, and Chamber) <i>Hanford High School</i> (Richland)	 Bonita Koepf 5th Grade Teacher <i>Mesa Elementary</i> (North Franklin)
 Mike Neumann 9th-12th Grade Integrated Science, Chemistry, Physics, Principles of BioMed, Biology <i>Kiona-Benton City High School</i>	 Davina Ward-Pink Instructional Coach <i>Edwin Markham Elementary</i> (Pasco)	 Hannah Watkins 3rd Grade Teacher <i>Wahitits Elementary</i> (Othello)

LIVE

SWAT SITUATION HAPPENING NOW

APRIL 5 5:13 PM

TOP STORIES BETWEEN PASCO AND CALIFORNIA'S WINE COUNTRY, SONOMA

WATCH: SWAT standoff in Richland ends, one detained

Established as a tradition in southeastern Washington, the Crystal Apple Awards aim to acknowledge exemplary teachers within the region.

On March 7th, educators will be presented with the Crystal Apple Award, accompanied by a \$1,000 monetary prize, gift certificates, and additional contributions from generous sponsors.

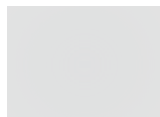
Teachers on the Crystal Apple list are Kevin Alley from Columbia High School (Columbia Burbank), Wendy Appelgate from Whitstran Elementary School (Prosser), Oscar Carrasco from River View High School (Finley), Kaycee Ferguson from Chinook Middle School (Kennewick), James Jones from Hanford High School (Richland), Bonita Koepl from Mesa Elementary School (North Franklin), Mike Neumann from Kiona-Benton City High School (Kiona-Benton City), Hannah Watkins from Wahitis Elementary School (Othello), and Davina Ward-Pink from Edwin Markham Elementary School (Pasco).

This year's teachers will contribute to a total of 281 Crystal Apple recipients since the program's inception in 1999. The public is welcome to attend the 2024 Crystal Apple Award ceremony commencing at 4:30 PM on March 7th at ESD 123 in Pasco.

ADVERTISING

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Save the Date for the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Luncheon
Morgan Huff

Central Washington Sportsmen's show kicks off this weekend at