COMING EVENTS

Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King Day, College Closed
Jan. 20 - AAWCC Luncheon
Jan. 23 - National Service Day Celebration, 1-3 p.m.
Feb. 16 - President’s Day, College Closed
Feb. 19-21, 26-28 (8 p.m.);
Mar. 1 (2 p.m.) - Laughing Stock, a “backstage” comedy
July 9-11, 16-19, 23-25 - Summer Musical - Grease, Fort Walla Walla Amphitheater, shows begin at 8 p.m.

MUSICAL CHOICE ANNOUNCED!!

It’s official! Grease has been named as the popular choice for the 2009 Summer Musical at the Fort Walla Walla Amphitheater in July. The 29th annual production will run July 9-11, 16-19 and 23-25. Jessica Barkl will direct the 10-day extravaganza that will have the audience dancing in the aisles to everyone's favorite rock 'n roll songs.

A pre-audition meeting is scheduled Thursday, February 5 at 7 p.m. in WWCC’s performing arts theater. This information session will offer tips on auditions, singing and acting. Actual auditions will take place at 6:30 p.m., again in the theater, on March 3, 5 and 6. Callbacks will be conducted on March 7.

Females will audition to “Hopelessly Devoted to You” and male hopefuls will sing a portion of “Greased Lightnin.” They will also learn and perform a dance that night.

More information coming later.

The President’s Corner

Walla Walla Community College lost one of its best friends last Sunday when Rep. Bill Grant passed away. A WWCC trustee for nine years and a state representative for 22, Bill had a smile that made those around him smile and a presence that exuded his confidence and support of important issues affecting our District. His record showed exceptionally strong support of education.

But Bill was more than that. His farming background and his sincere love of family showed that he was just a normal person, a regular guy whose dedication and devotion endeared him to both those who knew him well or who had just met him. Bill was my friend.

In reflection, Bill will always be on campus in spirit. The dedication in 2007 of the William A. Grant Water and Environmental Center stands as proof of his strength of character and his straightforward ways. We will accept the challenge to perpetuate Bill’s legacy through innovative programs and services located at the Center. We will make a difference in fostering good stewardship of our natural resources for our college and generations to follow.

We salute Bill for his many contributions to the college, our community, and the state of Washington. He is a role model for all of us who are left to carry on the business of daily life.

Memories abound and they bring with them a full range of emotions. I’m going to miss Bill. A lot. As will everyone who knew him. He will be missed, but not forgotten.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Water Center on Saturday.

Changes Will Come Slowly

It’s inevitable that during these times of uncertainty, changes will need to be made, both personally and professionally.

First of all, Theresa Degan (4686) now is in charge of all Facility Services tasks that include work orders, key requests, complaints (and kudos!) and emergency requests for a maintenance, custodial or grounds person. You may also contact the Information Center (0) to have them radio for assistance if there is an immediate need or emergency.

Marketing and Communications has changed with the resignation of Kathy Thornton. Clint Gabbard now oversees the department. Cathy’s job has grown to include the new “What’s Happening” website news, the website calendar and the readerboard. You may e-mail your requests to cathy.nelson@wwcc.edu (or call at 4571) so that she can add information to any one of the above sites. Website news could provide information about a new class or program or even a special accomplishment by a co-worker or student. Calendar news will include special events, athletics, meetings or a class that people might be interested in attending. And the readerboard is the perfect spot for announcing athletic competitions, special events, or bragging about college awards earned. It is common for an announcement to fit in more than one spot.

Other changes will include The Insider going to a monthly publication so there is adequate time to begin a quarterly community newsletter and take over some of Sandy Price’s Foundation duties upon her retirement last week.

Please be sure to contact us with any departmental changes you have.
Who Am I?

This young lady was nicknamed Tank because she would break through, climb over, or find a way around any barricade that her parents put up. And teachers told her parents that they had to correct her for reading TOO much!

e-mail your answer to cathy.nelson@wwcc.edu

Remember to send in your own photo soon!!

Condolences

Our sympathies go out to Andy Gallagher and his family at the passing of his mother during the holiday break. Andy is a basic skills instructor at the penitentiary. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Instructors to Present at “Booked for Winter 2009”

Four WWCC instructors will be guest presenters for an evening this winter at the Walla Walla Public Library. Each instructor chose a book to discuss featuring literature or poetry created during, or as a reaction to, times of struggle and oppression.

Brad LaFran begins the four evening session on January 22 with The Orsinian Tales by Ursula K. Le Guin. He will be followed by Jennifer Boyden on February 5 discussing Good Poems for Hard Times by Garrison Keillor.

Linda Andrews presents When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka on February 19. Jon Stratton completes the sessions on March 12 with a discussion on The Winter of Our Discontent by John Steinbeck.

Programs begin at 7:00 p.m. and are free to the public.

Update on JoAnne

Lisa Rasmussen wants everyone to know that her mom, former drama instructor JoAnne Rasmussen, was able to come home on Christmas Day for dinner and opening presents. Dr. Barga still wants her to get more physical therapy before returning home permanently. Her blood test numbers are fluctuating a little so they will be watching that in a month. In the meantime, a wheelchair ramp is being built at home for easier negotiation. Lisa says JoAnne is in good spirits and they are feeling positive.

Wellness at Work

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the ‘3’ steps—STR.

Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S - Ask the individual to SMILE.

T - Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE coherently, i.e. It is sunny out today.

R - Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call the emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

NEW SIGN OF A STROKE – STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE

Another ‘sign’ of a stroke is this: Ask the person to ‘stick’ out his tongue. If the tongue is ‘crooked’, if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

TRiO Club’s Gift Tree

A Huge Success!

Thanks to the TRiO Club and WWCC staff and student efforts, many children that would not have had a gift this holiday season will have presents to unwrap at Christmas.

Children who attend an after school program at the Washington Park Neighborhood Center along with some children of students here at the college put wish lists on stars that decorated the TRiO Gift Tree. Students and staff were excited and appreciative of the opportunity to give back this holiday season. Children were ecstatic when they were given their gifts.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this happen and to all who gave of their time, effort, and resources to make this holiday season brighter for children in need.

Be on the look out for the TRiO Gift Tree next year!