

Special needs student known as the Walla Walla dog whisperer

Kenny McMillan calms down excited pets with his gentle touch

When Walla Walla High School Vocational Employability Skills Teacher **Gretchen Baker** placed **Kenny McMillan** at Petco to work as part of the district’s Special Education vocational training program, she thought he would be stocking shelves and cleaning up.

Before long they discovered Kenny’s true talent. He was gifted in working with the animals and calming them down. His gentle touch and calm demeanor was just what the animals needed according to Petco Operations Manager **Rick Fleming**.

“Petco is a pet friendly company,” Fleming said. Many people want to handle the animals before they buy them to make sure they are a good fit for their homes. Many of these animals come to us as babies, so they haven’t been around people very much. Kenny cuddles and pets them to get them more at ease and comfortable with people.”

“Kenny’s duties at Petco at first included restocking the shelves and doing tasks from a list. At times this was a challenge for Kenny, so they had him petting the animals to calm them down.

This has turned out to be a win-win situation for Petco and Kenny. He has found something he really enjoys and this helps him relate better to customers. Petco has gained because the animals are calmer and people tend to purchase them if they are friendly.”

Gretchen Baker - Teacher, Vocational Employability Skills



Wa-Hi Junior Kenny McMillan works with animals at Petco thanks to the district’s Special Education vocational training program.

McMillan’s gentle touch helps calm the animals and get them used to people. Kenny says he’s always loved animals and they love him.

Walla Walla
Public
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Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Spring 2009 | Volume 10 | Issue 3

Budget savings plan protects classroom

Plan saves jobs and programs

Walla Walla Public Schools is trimming its general fund budget \$3.5 million for the 2009-10 school year.

The budget savings plan is a result of deep state cuts in K-12 public education funding.

The district’s budget savings plan protects class size, limits the impact on student learning and extra-curricular programs and saves jobs.

See **Budget Savings Plan** page 4



The 09-10 Budget Savings Plan maintains current teacher-to-student ratios.

Budget Savings Plan Highlights

- Budget reduced by \$3.5 million for the 2009-2010
- Plan focuses on protecting current class size
- Plan has limited impact on student programs
- No layoffs for permanent staff
- Transfers and service reductions eliminated 16 positions
- Four Dean of Student positions have been eliminated
- Teacher and learning support programs reduced
- Out-of-State travel suspended

Budget Savings Plan online: www.wwps.org

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WWCC agrees to lease land for High School Skills Center

The effort to bring a branch campus of the Tri-Tech Skills Center to Walla Walla took another step forward recently after the Walla Walla Community College Board of Trustees approved a long-term land lease at Walla Walla Community College for the future development of the Skills Center facility.

“The location at Walla Walla Community College presents an opportunity for high school students to have more access to college-level programs and support,” Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. “It is also close to Highway 12 which makes it a convenient location.”

State legislators are also expected to approve \$100,000 in state funding this session to authorize the district to complete preliminary designs. The district will also apply for state funds for detailed design fees, construction, supplies and equipment for the skills center. Learn more about the Skills Center on page 2.

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Focus on Education community newsletter is published tri-annually by Walla Walla Public Schools.

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Last day of school

Friday, June 12
• Early dismissal schedule

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Our Core Values
are more than mere words;
they’re our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy



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"The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth."

John F. Kennedy

Successful budget savings plan result of collaboration

Washington state's unprecedented financial crisis has sent a shockwave across the state as K-12 education is taking a substantial hit.

The district has worked in collaboration with staff, parents, students and community members to make tough budget decisions in light of the economic recession.

Our budget savings plan calls for trimming expenditures by \$3.5 million for the 2009-2010 general fund budget. No permanent staff will lose their jobs. We've made reductions through attrition and transfers to eliminate 16 positions.

We have focused on protecting current class size, our staff and programs. Other districts around the state cannot make this claim.

I want to thank everyone for their thoughtful feedback, suggestions and input. It helped us prioritize and make sense of a difficult situation. Your support is appreciated.

Richard B. Carter

Administrative positions for 2009-2010

(Internal transfers per Budget Savings Plan)

Donna Painter

• *Principal*, Berney Elementary

Kim Doecker,

• *Principal*, Blue Ridge Elementary

Marcia Walters

• *Director*, Special Education Program

Kerri Coffman

• *Director*, Head Start/ECEAP

Jack Mehn

• *Assistant Principal*, Pioneer Middle School

Connie Taylor-Randall

• *Principal on Assignment*, Curriculum

Skills Center programs offer students hands-on training

As a branch campus of the Tri-Tech Skills Center, the Walla Walla campus would maintain a commitment to high standard technical and professional training. Instructors would be industry professionals with years of experience. The programs would be designed around local, state and national skills standards.

An added benefit of this program, is the connection to the student's home high school. The Skills Center concept is an extension of high school where students remain for three periods allowing them to make an important connection to friends, teachers and counselors.

Students also benefit greatly from the extensive connection instructors have with industry. Many students are placed in job shadows, internships and clinicals during the program. Students get to see first hand how business operates, and on many occasions our students would have a leg up when it comes to applying for and getting a job.

The Skills Center will maintain a connection with colleges and technical schools that allows students to earn college credit at little or no cost while still in high school. Tech Prep programs are saving families money and time when the student moves into advanced training. Over 90 percent of the proposed programs considered have a college credit option.

Learn more about the Tri-Tech Skills Center online:

www.ksd.org/tritech/

Skills Center draws area districts

The following school districts have either agreed to participate or have shown significant interest in having students attend the Skills Center.

- Walla Walla
- Touchet
- Prescott
- Milton-Freewater
- Pomeroy
- Waitsburg
- Dayton

Skills Center programs considered

- Health occupations
- Construction trades
- Manufacturing - welding
- Hospitality
(Culinary arts & hotel management)
- Information Technology

Pioneer Middle School students package meals to help feed the world's children



(L to R) Pioneer 6th grade students **Halie Fisk** and **Emma Gregoire** package meals for the "Children of the Nations" program.

Students, staff and parents packaged thousands of meals to be shipped to Africa or the Dominican Republic to feed hungry children. Earlier this year Pioneer students raised \$2500 from a candle sale to fund the meals.

Event organizer Pioneer PTA President **Holly Carrera** said 100 percent of the proceeds are supporting this hunger elimination project.

Former Inland Printing owner donates paper

Walla Walla Public Schools Print Shop recently received boxes of donated paper from **Brooks Graves**, former owner of Inland Printing. Graves recently sold the business to retire.

Various paper stock and sizes were included in this generous donation. Some of the paper is heavier stock and can be used for covers and flashcards.

"Walla Walla High School uses a lot of flashcards in the Foreign Language and English Departments," District Printer **Kelly Gabel** said. "Since we had ran out of donated paper from Boise Cascade, these departments haven't been able to afford \$60 a box for flashcards. Now that we have additional donated paper to cut up for flashcards, we will be able to fill these orders."

The paper donation fills two pallets, stacked approximately 3 ft. high, according to Gabel. There is also about 15 boxes of other types of paper in the donation.

District News Briefs

Wa-Hi student receives prestigious scholarship

Walla Walla High School senior **Ryan Campeau** was named a recipient of the Washington Scholars program, which recognizes the accomplishments of three high school students from each of the state's 49 legislative districts.

This merit scholarship award, the highest honor the state bestows graduating high school seniors, recognizes academic excellence, leadership, and community service. The scholarship helps pay for up to eight semesters of in-state undergraduate study. The scholarship is good for four years - up to \$6,720 per year. Campeau has decided to attend Whitman College and double major in English and Theatre.



Berney student wins Balloon Stampede Contest

Berney Elementary third grade student **Katy Pasqual** was named this year's Balloon Stampede t-shirt design contest winner. She is in Claudia Ford's class. Her colorful design featured drifting hot air balloons included this year's theme of "Keeping Spirits High for 35 Years—2009".

Katy will be a special guest at the Pilot and Crew briefing on Thursday evening of the Stampede and be a VIP on the field when she gets to be part of the Saturday Nite Glow crew!

Exchange Club names Allen Yu Youth of the Year

The Exchange Club of Walla Walla named Walla Walla High School senior **Allen Yu** its Youth of the Year. With the award, Yu also earns a \$1000 college scholarship and will be considered for further accolades at the district level.

Allen is the son of Bessie Yu and Ronny Yu. He has 3.993 grade point average and has taken 13 advanced or Advanced Placement courses.

Yu has been a state award winning member of Future Business Leaders of America in public speaking and business ethics. He is the senior class president and a member of the National Honor Society.

Allen plans to attend a four year college and major in political science and business. He is also interested in studying Chinese and Italian. He wants to become a lawyer and eventually a U.S. Senator.

Budget Savings Plan: Staff Transfers for the 2009-2010 school year

Name	Current Position	Current Location	New Position	New Location
Administrators:				
Connie Taylor-Randa	Principal	Blue Ridge	Principal on Special Assignment	Admin
Donna Painter	Head Start/ECEAP Director	Blue Ridge	Principal	Berney
Kerri Coffman	Learning Sp./Title I Coord.	Sharpstein	Head Start/ECEAP Director	Blue Ridge
Kim Doepker	Assistant Principal	Pioneer	Principal	Blue Ridge
Jack Mehn	Dean	Wa-Hi	Assistant Principal	Pioneer
Macia Walters	Special Education Teacher	Wa-Hi	Special Education Director	Admin
Library Media Specialist Changes:				
Linda Seibold	Library Media Specialist	Sharpstein	same	Sharpstein and Blue Ridge
Michelle Shaul	Library Media Specialist	Green Park	same	Green Park and Berney
Jennifer Nicholson	Library Media Specialist	Edison	same	Edison and Prospect Point
Ben Ugaldea	Library Media Specialist	Berney	5th grade teacher	Berney
Margo Piver	Library Media Specialist	Prospect Point	Special Ed. Resource teacher	Wa-Hi
JoAnne Savage	Library Media Specialist	Blue Ridge	1st grade teacher	Blue Ridge
Edison Staffing Transfers:				
Olga Velazquez	Kindergarten teacher	Blue Ridge	Kindergarten teacher	Edison
Lisa Braddock	Title I teacher	Berney	1st grade teacher	Edison
Luz Phillips	1st grade teacher	Prospect Point	1st grade teacher	Edison
Martin Telstad	2nd grade teacher	Green Park	2nd grade teacher	Edison
Nilda Williams	2nd grade teacher	Prospect Point	2nd grade teacher	Edison
Erin Moreno	3rd grade teacher	Prospect Point	3rd grade teacher	Edison
Judy Peasley	Induction Coordinator	Admin	5th grade teacher	Edison
Kelly Humbert	ESL teacher	Prospect Point	ESL/Title teacher	Edison
Other Staffing Changes:				
Judy Anderson	Dean	Pioneer	Counselor	Pioneer
Esteban Florian	Dean	Garrison	Learning Specialist/Title I Coord.	Sharpstein
Diana Evenson	Dean	Prospect Point	Learning Specialist	Prospect Point
Angie Gardea	Counselor	Pioneer	Math teacher	Pioneer
Lucy Gregoire	1st grade teacher	Blue Ridge	2nd grade teacher	Green Park
Ryan Van Dyke	3rd grade teacher	Prospect Point	PE teacher	Berney
Steve Droke	Special Education teacher	Prospect Point	Special Education teacher	.5 Edison; .5 Pioneer
Sara Van Donge	Title I teacher (.5)	Sharpstein	Title I teacher (.5)	Garrison
Pamela Lee	ESL teacher	Sharpstein	ESL teacher	.5 Sharpstein;.5 Pioneer
Angie Butler	Explorer teacher (.25)	Sharpstein	Homelink Science teacher (.25)	Berney
Mike Jones	Music teacher	Pioneer	Music teacher	Garrison
John Carter	Creekside teacher	Pioneer	Language Arts teacher	Pioneer
Kim Kelsay	Language Arts teacher	Pioneer	ESL teacher	Wa-Hi
Richelle Palmer	Language Arts teacher (.5)	Pioneer	Title I teacher (.5)	Blue Ridge
Tim Bow	GED teacher	Lincoln	LAP/Tier II teacher	Lincoln
Tom Porter	GED teacher	Lincoln	Science teacher	Lincoln
Lori Finn	Occupational Ed teacher	Wa-Hi	Occupational Ed teacher	Lincoln

“No permanent staff will lose their jobs as a result of our plan. We’ve made reductions through attrition and transfers to eliminate 16 positions. Other districts around the state cannot make this claim. We appreciate the support and cooperation of our staff through this difficult process.” *Superintendent Rich Carter*

Budget Savings Plan at a glance: \$3.5 million reductions for the 2009-10 school year

- **Trimming staff through attrition:** Positions made vacant through retirements or other reasons may not be filled. Temporary contracts are non-continuing. If the position is needed, it will be filled with the current permanent staff.
- **Internal transfers:** Open positions are being filled through internal transfers. This allows the district to reduce personnel expenditures, while allowing current staff to remain employed without noticeable impact to classrooms and programs. Reductions have been made to teacher support staff and learning support programs.
- **Administrative cuts:** Connie Taylor-Randall is transferring to the central office. This move combines two central office positions into one. The district is eliminating four Dean of Students positions. The district’s former Deans of Students are returning to the classroom or filling other district positions as part of this cost savings measure.
- **Out-of-State Travel suspended:** Out-of-state travel has been suspended for the 2009-2010 school year. Out of State travel funded by grants may be allowed.
- **Athletic Department reductions:** The district’s athletic budget will be reduced by approximately \$115,000. Reduction details remain pending. This represents a 10 percent budget cut.
- **Non-employee related expenditure reductions:** Costs for supplies and contractual services are being cut.
- **Professional Development reductions:** There will be less professional development funds allocated.
- **Curriculum Adoption delays:** There will be delays for curriculum adoptions.
- **Internal administrative hirings:** Open administrative positions are being hired internally.
- **Energy Management Program:** This program has helped cut energy consumption 25 percent to save on utilities.
- **Categorical Program Maintenance fee increase:** The district is increasing its “in-direct” support fees from 2% to 4% on categorical programs (Programs include: Special Education, Bilingual, Title I/Learning Assistance Program). This helps offset the district’s general fund costs to support these non-basic education programs.
- **Wednesday teacher collaboration schedule combined:** The district will eliminate delayed start Wednesdays for secondary schools (Pioneer, Garrison, Walla Walla High School, Lincoln Alternative High School). All schools will follow a Wednesday early release collaboration schedule. This move cuts transportation and supervision costs.
- **Lincoln Alternative High School GED prep class eliminated:** The district will eliminate the Lincoln Alternative Education General Education Diploma preparatory class. This program is still available at Walla Walla Community College. District staff will work closely with WWCC to provide this service to Walla Walla Public Schools students.
- **Library-Media Specialist reduced to half-time:** The district will eliminate three Library-Media Specialist positions. The remaining three Library-Media Specialists will be assigned to two schools to provide half-time service at each of their schools. Elementary libraries will also receive some classified support.
- **Academic coaches to return to classrooms:** The district’s academic coaches are returning to the classroom or filling other district positions as part of a cost savings measure.
- **Creekside Alternative Middle School eliminated:** This reduction saves the district one full-time teaching position and one full-time classified support staff position.

Community Connections

District names Graduates of Distinction

Walla Walla Public Schools names this year's honorees for the Graduates of Distinction program.

R.F. "Dick" Monahan – Class of 1958

- Walla Walla Attorney and Vice President of the American Quarter Horse Association

Daniel DeSiga – Class of 1967

Artist and Muralist currently based in Yakima, Washington

Greg Ralston Pepin – Class of 1968

President of Boeing, Turkey and Vice President of Boeing International

Dr. Philip Phillips – Class of 1975

Researcher and Professor of Physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaigne

Graduates of Distinction Reception

Date: Tuesday, June 2

Time: 6:15 to 7:25 p.m.

Place: Walla Walla School District Board Room

End of Year Ceremonies scheduled

Edison Farewell Party - Tuesday, June 9

3 to 5 p.m. (Tours of original Edison)

7 to 8 p.m. (Farewell Program)

Garrison Middle School 8th Grade Recognition

Wednesday, June 10 - 7 p.m.

Cordiner Hall (Whitman College)

Pioneer Middle School 8th Grade Recognition

Thursday, June 11 - 7 p.m.

Wa-Hi Large Gym

Lincoln Alternative High School Graduation

Thursday, June 4 - 6 p.m. - School Gym

Walla Walla High School Commencement

Friday June 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Walla Walla High School grounds (near Commons)

FFA team wins state Floriculture title



The Walla Walla FFA Chapter won the 2009 Washington FFA State Floriculture Contest on March 27th. They will now represent Washington state at the National FFA Convention next October in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Team Members included: **Brianne Javaux, Desiree Helm, Jordan Davin, Sarah Fuller and Elise Pettyjohn.** There were 15 teams representing the state and 78 contestants. The team's advisor is teacher **Arch McHie.**

Corps of Engineers donates computers

The U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers recently donated 58 computers worth approximately \$30,000 to Walla Walla Public Schools to provide more technology options for students.

The donation was made possible by the Department of Defense Computers for Learning Program. The computers will be used to support classroom instruction, according to Walla Walla Public Schools Technology Director **Janis Barton.**

"The goal of this program is to provide computer technology as an integral part of every classroom to assist in the education of students to meet 21st Century learning demands," Barton said. "This is a significant donation. In economic times like we are witnessing, this allows the school district to provide resources that would otherwise not be possible."

Lt. Col. **Michael Farrell**, commander of the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said this donation was the right thing to do.

"We recently replaced many of our computer systems at the Corps, and I knew there were local organizations that we could help. I was thrilled when the Walla Walla Public Schools expressed interest in partnering with us," Farrell said.

Walla Walla Public Schools name 2009 Volunteers of the Year

Special thanks to our Art Regier Award recipients for their dedication and exceptional service



James Payne - Green Park Elementary, Pioneer Middle School and District Level Committees

Nominators - Peggy Payne and Kay Schisler

Volunteer Highlights

- Boundary Review and High School Facilities Task Force Committees participant
- Classroom volunteer
- Past Green Park PTA President
- Provides student presentations to discuss archeology and history
- Provides students free passes to visit Fort Walla Walla Museum



Annie Capestany - Green Park Elementary and Pioneer Middle School

Nominators: Jean Tobin, Mari Sanders and Samuel Lopez

Volunteer Highlights

- Offers classroom support to Green Park teachers
- Helps with Pioneer PTA fundraisers
- Provides individualized support to help struggling students.
- Helps organize Green Park's Math-a-thon and Science Fair
- Provides translating support at both Green Park and Pioneer



Keith Crain - Pioneer Middle School

Nominators: Judy Anderson, Angie Gardea and David Tegtmeier

Volunteer Highlights

- Volunteered for all three days at Stars Camp
- Repaired, cleaned and organized fishing poles for Stars Camp students
- Served as a parent chaperone for the Natural Helpers Camp
- Involved in the fall Pioneer Power Night and Sally Foster Cookie Dough fundraisers
- Facilitator during the 6th grade Safe and Civil Schools workshop
- Spring Power Carnival and Book Fair volunteer

"This award is in recognition of their exceptional volunteer service and demonstration of care, compassion and empathy to the staff and students of the Walla Walla Public Schools."

Superintendent Rich Carter