

# Bieloh leads renovation of Fletcher Team Room

Nearly 20 years ago, former Walla Walla Athletic Director **Bill Bieloh** organized the creation of the Fletcher Team Room and Blue Devil Athletic Hall of Fame in honor of legendary football coach Felix Fletcher. Tucked away on the second floor of Walla Walla High School's main gym, the Fletcher Team Room is a place to honor the past and help today's athletes excel through team meetings and film study sessions.

Two decades of use and ever changing technology pushed Bieloh to help modernize the room to meet today's needs. Bieloh reached out to his alumni contacts, including **Mike Murr**, to help fund the \$35,000 renovation.

The original Blue Devil Athletic Hall of Fame plaques were also returned to the Fletcher Team Room and replicas will be featured in the main gym lobby.

Fletcher coached at Wa-Hi from 1947 to 1970. His win/loss record at Wa-Hi was 162-45-10. He had undefeated seasons in 1952, 1956 and 1963. His teams had seven seasons with only one loss. Fletcher taught physical education and was the school's athletic director for more than 20 years.



**Bill Bieloh**, former district teacher, coach, athletic director and personnel director, organized a \$35,000 fundraising effort to modernize the Fletcher Team Room at the Walla Walla High school main gym. This space will be used by coaches and student-athletes for game preparations and special events.

Upgrades funded by alumni donations include a 60" video screen, new chairs for film reviewing sessions and new tables for note taking and electronic equipment.

**"Felix Fletcher was our mentor. He taught all of us so much about the psychology of coaching and the importance of maintaining athletic traditions and history. We want to pass on his passion for the game to today's coaches and athletes."**

*Bill Bieloh*

## Walla Walla Public Schools

# Focus on Education

*Excellence in Every Classroom*

Your School District Newsletter | Winter 2012 | Volume 14 | Issue 2

### Senior citizens and elected officials honored "Focus on Education Week" a time to say thank you



Edison Elementary 4th grade student **Mason Eacker-Rude** explains the life cycle of salmon to City of Walla Walla council members **Jerry Cummins** and **Jim Barrow** during Focus on Education festivities.

Walla Walla Public Schools honored senior citizens and elected officials as part of its week long effort to thank the community for its support. Guests learned more about district schools and activities. Guests toured and visited classrooms at Edison and Green Park and ate lunch with students.

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#### Chamber endorses Levy

The Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has voted to endorse the district's Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy which will appear on local ballots February 14, 2012. Rates for the replacement levy are similar to those currently being collected. Levy funding makes up approximately 20% of the district's General Fund budget.

"The business community recognizes that long-term economic growth is simply not possible without a strong local education system, and that is why the Chamber's Board of Directors has voted to endorse the district's Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy."

**Damien J. Sinnott**  
Vice President Public Policy & Business Development

See **Replacement Levy** page 3

### District teams with Whitman College to help prevent violence

#### Save the Date!

2nd Annual Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Coalition Conference  
*Sponsored by Whitman College*

#### Monday, March 26

- Free Public Forum
- 7 p.m. / Maxey Hall (Whitman College)

#### Tuesday, March 27

- Free workshops and activities at Whitman College (schedule available online)
- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"It's important for the school district to have a leadership role in finding solutions to violence and the complex issues that surround this issue in our community. We really value their input and collaboration on this project."



**Kari Tupper-Bridges**  
Event Founder

Information Online: [www.violenceprevention.com](http://www.violenceprevention.com)

## Walla Walla Public Schools

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#### Board of Directors

- Max Carrera
- Anne Golden
- Dan Hess
- Dr. Jim Lehmann
- Cindy Meyer

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## Remember to Vote!

### Replacement Levy

Tuesday, February 14

(Ballots mail out Friday, Jan. 27)

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

**Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect**  
**Courtesy | Innovation | Diversity**



**Mick Miller**  
Superintendent

526.6714 (Office)  
mmiller@wwps.org  
www.wwps.org

**Message from Superintendent Mick Miller**

With the passing of winter break, it means our 2011-12 school year is at the halfway mark. In early 2012, February 14 to be specific, our district's Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy will be on the ballot. Levy equals learning. I encourage you to check our district's website to learn more about the levy and what educational programs and staff members are supported by local dollars. While the levy makes up almost 20 percent of our district's budget, every student in the district is touched by programs and staff supported by the levy. Please do check our levy fact sheet and remember to vote on February 14.

Congratulations to the staff and students at Prospect Point Elementary School on being named a *School of Distinction* by the Center for Educational Effectiveness. Five schools in our regional Educational School District 123 were so designated, as were only 53 out of more than 1100 elementary schools, in the state. Congratulations as well to the Wa-Hi girls' cross country team on earning a Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Academic State Championship. The team's combined g.p.a. was 3.935 ... wow! Overall, 15 fall teams at Wa-Hi earned WIAA academic awards.

Finally, thank you to our Board of Directors...President Max Carerra, Vice-President Anne Golden, Dr. Jim Lehmann, Cindy Meyer and Dan Hess for their contributions to the students and staff in the Walla Walla Public Schools.

As we move into the New Year, I am continually thankful to be working and living in Walla Walla. We have a special community; namely, one that continually supports its children. Thank you. If you have questions, concerns, comments, criticisms or compliments regarding our district, please let me know. My direct number is 526-6714 and email is mmiller@wwps.org. Best wishes for a wonderful 2012.

**Cabe's message to students: Be Nice!**

Cabe continues work with district to help develop positive school climate



**Stu Cabe**, founder of the Ovation Company – Standing Up for What is Good, visited Walla Walla in December to meet with students in grades 6-12. Cabe's message was simple: Be Nice!

In this photo Cabe records a video of Pioneer Middle School students performing a Flash Mob dance during their all school assembly. The students donned their newly designed "Be Nice" t-shirts during the performance.

Cabe will return to the district in February to continue his work of promoting a positive school climate and a culture of kindness and respect.

"I ask students to do the right thing, not necessarily the popular thing. You never have to apologize for being nice."

**Stu Cabe**

**School board members sworn into office**



Walla Walla County Superior Court Judge **John Lohrmann** swears in school board members **Jim Lehmann, Anne Golden** and **Max Carrera** to another four-year term on the school board.

School board members also unanimously elected Carrera president of the school board and Golden as the vice president. Thank you to Jim Lehmann for his service as president the past year.

**Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes new members**

Walla Walla High School *Athletic Hall of Fame* is inducting seven new members Saturday, February 4 during the Chiawana basketball game. The ceremony will be held between the girls' and boys' double header basketball game at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Check the Walla Walla High School website for game times and more event details. A reception will follow the induction ceremony in the Fletcher Athletic Team Room.

2012 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees:

- Patrick O'Rourke • Class of 1922
- David Bateman • Class of 1971
- Phil Girsberger • Class of 1984
- Jill (Melia) Watkins • Class of 1996
- Jason Grove • Class of 1997
- Lindsay (Chutas) Morgan • Class of 2000
- Thomas Kelati • Class of 2001



**Remember to Vote!**

**Replacement Levy**

Tuesday, February 14  
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**Community Connections**

**Banner Bank donates paper to district**

Banner Bank donated 30 boxes of white copy paper to the school district in support of area children. Banner Bank also donated 20 boxes of the paper to College Place Public Schools.

"Banner Bank is committed to being a supportive force within the communities we serve," said **Jessica Peters**, Banner Bank AVP/Advertising Coordinator. "One area where Banner is most passionate about focusing its support is education and our area's youth. We sincerely hope this small donation will be useful to the school districts as they provide exceptional education to our community's children."

**Albertsons donates \$1000 to schools**



Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Kim Doepker** and Head Start/ECEAP Preschool Director **Kerri Coffman** helped Albertsons re-open its Eastgate store following a complete renovation by participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Doepker and Coffman were in attendance to receive a \$1000 donation from Albertsons.

"Albertsons wants to be involved in the community and help our local children," said **Larry Perez**, Albertsons Eastgate Store Director. "Albertsons is also committed to supporting healthy living and nutrition education."

**District helps Realtors Food Drive set record**

"Care and Share" Food Drive Coordinator **Peter Swant** reported the annual food drive set a new record in 2011. This year's effort netted 45,525 pounds of food for the Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank. This year Walla Walla Public Schools teamed with area realtors to support the food drive.

Walla Walla Public Schools netted 16,513 pounds. The district plans to continue and grow the partnership in the coming years. Thanks to everyone who supported this great cause!

## City support helps improve school zone safety

*City offers extra patrols and grant support*

Walla Walla Public Schools continues to collaborate with parent volunteers and city and county officials to improve school zone safety. The effort began last school year with the formation of the *Safe Travels Alliance* led by volunteers **Katie Christianson** and **Kathryn Southwick Hess**.

This year the team was strengthened with the addition of **Ki Bealey** - City Public Works Director, **Dennis McKee** - City Police Traffic Patrol Captain, **Dan Johnson** - Facilities Support and Operations Director, **Steve Olson** - Transportation Director and district principals. The project falls under the umbrella of the district's Safe Schools program chaired by Communications Director **Mark Higgins**.

The School Zone Safety Team focused on Berney Elementary this fall. Changes include parking lot revisions, relocation of all school buses to a designated lane, designating the front of the school for parent drop-off and pick-up, and tree trimming to improve visibility. Bealey also secured a \$15,000 grant to install two flashing school zone signs near Berney. The signs will be installed this school year on School Avenue and Pleasant Street.

The team is now studying Pioneer Middle School



(L-R) City of Walla Walla Public Works Director **Ki Bealey**, Edison Elementary Principal **Josh Wolcott** and City Police Traffic Patrol Captain **Dennis McKee** discuss safety issues as part of a district-wide plan initiated by the parent organization Safe Travels Alliance to improve school zone safety at all schools.

and Edison Elementary. All district schools will be reviewed this school year. Transportation Director Steve Olson will use this team to develop safe pedestrian travel routes for each school and help make walking to school safer.

## Lincoln High School Art Show draws big crowd

Lincoln High School Art Teacher **Jayne Eacker** offers sophomore **Grace Jones** feedback on her art project during the school's first-ever public art show. Eacker organized the event to showcase the school's many talented students.

The event featured hors d'oeuvres prepared by students in the culinary arts class and live music from students in the school's music program.

"This is a first for Lincoln High School," said Eacker. "I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish. We have a lot of talented students at Lincoln High School. We owe the students a big thank you for all their hard work to make this event a success."



## School to start after Labor Day

School board members recently approved 2012-13 and 2013-14 school calendars concluding a three month adoption process led by Superintendent **Mick Miller**.

Miller chaired a broad-based committee of 22 people representing staff, students, parents and community. The group reviewed former calendars and potential new calendars and set priorities. Miller also worked closely with the district's bargaining associations throughout the process. Calendars online at [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)

Both calendars feature:

- First day of school after Labor Day
- Spring Break first full week of April
- Thanksgiving Holiday (2.5 days off)
- Winter Break (10 business days off)
- Federal Holidays off (except Columbus Day)
- Two professional days annually (Fall/Spring)

## Reser Road opens for public use

The \$2.2 million construction project to improve Reser Road from Howard to Fern Streets is completed and reopened for public use. Culbert Construction Inc. of Pasco began construction August 9 and finished on budget and on schedule, according to Aaron Grimm, Walla Walla County Project Engineer.

Street striping for the center line, bike lanes, and cross walks will be completed in the spring as weather permits. The Reser Road improvement project included widening the roadway, sidewalks on both sides of the street, improved school zone safety signage, a new Yellowhawk Creek bridge, bike lanes, additional parking, a new crosswalk at Costello St., stormwater swales, new fencing, and street lighting at the three main intersections.

"We appreciate the patience and understanding from the school district and community throughout this project," said Grimm. "The development and growth to the south of the community has significantly increased traffic on Reser Road and this project will help improve safety and travel efficiency for all modes of transportation."

The project also netted a \$330,000 Safe Routes to School grant to enhance school zone safety awareness, fund equipment and signage and allow for additional law enforcement.

## Gobel reveals childhood discrimination

This fall, Pioneer Middle School Principal **Mira Gobel** was named the keynote speaker for the International Education Week Forum 2011 - *Courage Beyond the Borders* event at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. Gobel shared her story as a Korean, biracial individual who faced discrimination in Korea and eventually journeyed to the United States.



The forum was designed to promote a greater understanding of international issues related to teacher education and the appreciation of other cultures. International Education Week is an international celebration of different cultures in our world and promotes education about these different cultures.

"I was truly honored to be invited to such an amazing event to share my personal story," Gobel said. "I want to share that hope is the fuel that keeps the fire of courage burning. This same hope is what I try to cultivate in students every day."

Gobel is currently in her first year as Principal of Pioneer Middle School. Mira has been an educator for the past 23 years - 15 years as a classroom art teacher and eight as an administrator. She began her career as an art teacher at Pioneer Middle School in the late 1980s.

## Blue Ridge Elementary earns way off lowest achieving schools list

State Superintendent **Randy Dorn** recently released the names of schools on the lowest achieving list and this year Blue Ridge Elementary was left off the list.

Last year Walla Walla Public Schools was informed Blue Ridge Elementary was on the list of low-achieving schools based on federal performance criteria linked to state assessment scores over the past three years.

The list is composed of the five percent of schools receiving or eligible to receive federal Title I funds that are identified as the "persistently lowest achieving schools" in the state. In 2011, 57 schools from 38 districts were identified.

Based on Blue Ridge's inclusion on the lowest achieving schools list in 2010, Blue Ridge developed an improvement action plan. The results have been highly visible.

Blue Ridge Elementary School's state assessment scores on the Measurement of Student Progress soared following the Spring 2011 testing cycle. Blue Ridge improved its math, reading and writing scores and posted the top scores in 5<sup>th</sup> grade science in the district. Blue Ridge has more than 90 percent of its students living in poverty and most come to school with English as their second language.

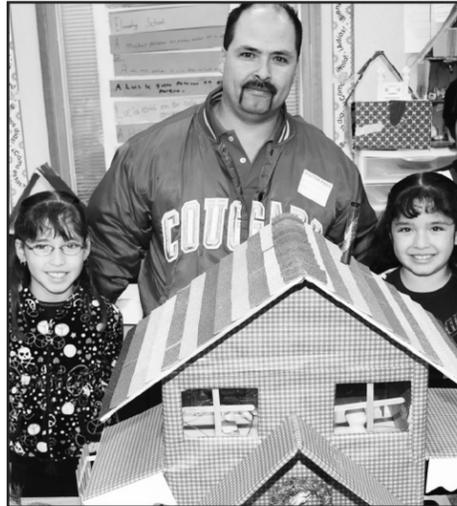
## Exchange students visit preschool program



American Field Service (AFS) Foreign Exchange student **Thierno N'Diaye** of Mali works with preschool student **Noelia Lopez** on a counting game from the Building Blocks math curriculum.

The visit is part of the AFS program designed to help share cultural experiences. The AFS students discussed their home countries and cultures.

**Contreras makes electricity unit a family affair**



“Every parent should get involved with their children. Our kids are our future. We need to raise them the right way and allow them to grow. This project is about growing and doing things together as a family.”

**Roger Contreras**

Sharpstein Elementary parent **Roger Contreras** and his twin daughters **Brizeeira** (L) and **Yaretzi** (R) show off the model house they created as part of an electricity unit. The students designed the home as a replica of their own house.

They decorated it with colorful siding and roofing and wired it for lights and electric fans. The lesson taught the students about series and parallel circuits. They plan to feature the house in this year’s Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days. Brizeeira and Yaretzi are in **Luz Phillips’** fourth grade class.

**Walla Walla parent named state Head Start parent ambassador**

Walla Walla parent **Nicole Gonzales** was recently named Parent Ambassador for Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP. Gonzales is one of 22 parents selected statewide with only three from Eastern Washington.

Gonzales will represent the southeastern Washington region regarding early learning as well as learning advocacy skills. She is the first parent ambassador representing the Walla Walla program in many years, according to **Kerri Coffman**, district Director of Preschool Programs.



*Nicole Gonzales*

“It is an honor to have one of our parents chosen to join the ambassador team,” Coffman said. “I am excited to watch Nicole grow in her leadership skills and feel she will become a voice in our community for early learning.”

**Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy**

**Election Date**

- Election date: **Tuesday, February 14, 2012**
- Ballots mailed: **Friday, January 27, 2012**
- **50% + 1 vote required for approval**
- **Four-year levy**

The voter-approved 2008 Replacement Levy expires in December 2012 and this levy would *replace* it. An Educational Programs and Operations Levy is a local property tax, authorized by voters for a period of time of not more than four years, to be used for the instructional and related support program costs in the General Fund of a school district.

The state funds approximately 72 percent of the district’s General Fund budget for Walla Walla Public Schools. Thus, the school district depends on local funding for about 18 percent of the General Fund budget. The remaining portion comes from the federal government and other miscellaneous sources.

**Replacement Levy Amount**

The proposed levy will cost taxpayers about the same per thousand as was approved by voters in 2008. This proposal is for a replacement of the existing levy.

2013 - \$10,227,450 (projected rate \$3.64 per \$1,000)  
 2014 - \$10,483,136 (projected rate \$3.70 per \$1,000)  
 2015 - \$10,745,215 (projected rate \$3.75 per \$1,000)  
 2016 - \$11,013,845 (projected rate \$3.81 per \$1,000)

*These rates are based on per \$1,000 of assessed property value.*

**Cost to property owners**

The proposed levy amounts are similar to what property owners are currently paying.

Value of Home	2012 Amount Paid	Proposed Replacement Amount for 2013
\$175,000	\$628.25	\$637
\$250,000	\$897.50	\$910

**Critical Funding Source**

This proposed Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy would help *maintain* the current level of teaching and educational programs. This proposed Replacement Levy impacts nearly all aspects of district programs and services by funding nearly 20 percent of the district’s General Fund.

**Local Economic Impact**

Walla Walla Public Schools is a strong driver in the local economy. This replacement levy infuses approximately \$10 million into the school district annually. Most of these dollars are spent locally by the staff and district.



**Remember to Vote!**  
**Tuesday, February 14**  
*(Ballots mail out Friday, January 27)*

**Levy Facts:**

- Proposed taxpayer levy rates are similar to last year’s rates
- Increases in home values will not increase tax collections
- Replacement levy funds about 20% of the district’s budget
- Levy funding pays for library staff and health clinicians
- Levy dollars fund staff training and learning materials
- Pays for specialists not funded by the state (PE & Music)
- Funds all extra-curricular activities (music, sports, drama, FFA)
- Voters approved a similar levy in 2008
- Levy dollars help employ more than 100 staff

**Whitman College students take civil rights lessons into district classrooms**

Whitman College, in partnership with the Southern Poverty Law Center and Walla Walla Public Schools, is coordinating the *Whitman Teaches the Movement* initiative to enhance civil rights education for Walla Walla students in grades 2, 5, 7 and 11 to coincide with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Whitman College students, working in small groups, will travel to Walla Walla Public Schools in January to lead one-hour lessons on civil rights education. The lessons are age appropriate and based on curriculum developed by the Southern Poverty Law Center, history teachers and organizations which specialize in teaching history. This project is organized by Whitman College’s Student Engagement Center.

**Student Lessons by Grade Level:**

- Second Grade: Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins
- Fifth Grade: Jackie Robinson
- Seventh Grade: Women in the civil rights movement
- Eleventh Grade: *Dr. King’s Letter from Birmingham Jail*



**Noah Leavitt**, Whitman College Assistant Dean for Student Engagement, and **Kate Shuster**, Education Researcher - Teaching Tolerance with Southern Poverty Law Center, created *Whitman Teaches the Movement* to help support the district in teaching the civil rights movement.

*“When students learn about the civil rights movement they learn what it is like to be American. It shows students it is possible to struggle against great injustices and emerge victorious.”*

**Kate Shuster**