

NUTS & BOLTS

Emergency readiness

The district is conducting a districtwide safety audit this spring to ensure emergency readiness. The audit will review emergency plans, drill procedures, staff training and police and first-responder roles in supporting the district.

Snow Make-Up Day

Winter weather forced the district to cancel school Dec. 4. As a result, June 8 will now be a full day of school and Thursday, June 9 will serve as the snow make up day. This will be a half day for all students and the last day of school for the year.



Dogs on leash only

Community members are reminded dogs must remain on leashes when on school property, including Murr Sports Park and Sharpstein's playground. The City of Walla Walla Animal Control Officer recently met with district leaders to report recent calls she has received about dogs off their leashes while on school grounds. Please help all people and animals remain safe by keeping dogs on their leashes while on school property. Also, pick up after pets. These areas are used by children for play and sports.

Walla Walla Public Schools

JROTC rifle team a pathway to service academies

With an estimated price tag of \$350,000 to \$400,000 per appointment to a Military Service Academy, Walla Walla High School students have secured nearly \$3 million in scholarships in the past five years. After logging seven service academy appointments this decade, six rifle team and one non-rifle team, Wa-Hi's JROTC program is garnering attention as a road map to opportunity.

Walla Walla High School Senior Madeline Erikson was the most recent with her appointment to the US Military Academy at West Point. Erikson became the second rifle athlete to sign with West Point in two years. Earlier this school year, senior Sabrina Keenan signed a letter of intent with the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School.



Sabrina Keenan is attending the Naval Academy next year.

The Wa-Hi precision rifle team's prominence at the national level is prompting the attention of service academy coaches and recruiters. This year the team finished second in the nation and the underclassmen are working hard to carry on the tradition of excellence at Wa-Hi.



Advisor Lt. Col. Bill Bialozor and Coach Sgt. 1st Class Mark Mebes celebrate with Madeline Erikson on her appointment to West Point.

"All service commissioning programs look for three qualities; scholar, athlete, leader. We have been preparing our students to excel in all three of these areas."

-Lt. Col. Bill Bialozor

World opens for hearing impaired preschooler

Sarah Erland was searching for a practicum to complete her sign language studies at Central Washington University when an opportunity in Walla Walla came her way. Erland was teamed with AJ Saldana, a deaf preschooler. When Sarah arrived in January, Saldana knew about 20 words. Now he is actively

engaging in sign language and has more than doubled his vocabulary. He attends the morning preschool program at Blue Ridge and then spends two hours with Erland in a one-on-one learning program. He finishes his academic day with an additional two hours of classroom instruction. School staff are serving as a liaison with hearing aid specialists. Erland also makes weekly visits to AJ's home to help teach his mother Janette Garcia sign language and to provide additional learning support. Sarah finished her program with CWU in March and is now working as a part-time employee to finish out the year with AJ. Next year she plans to enroll in a master's program specializing in deaf education.



Preschool student AJ Saldana demonstrates his sign language skills with his mother Janette Garcia (L) and teacher Sarah Erland (R).

"I want to be able to communicate with my son and know what he is thinking. He is going to grow up to be an intelligent man. If Sarah hadn't come into our lives we would still be struggling and now we are making progress."

-Janette Garcia, AJ's mother

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Focus on Education

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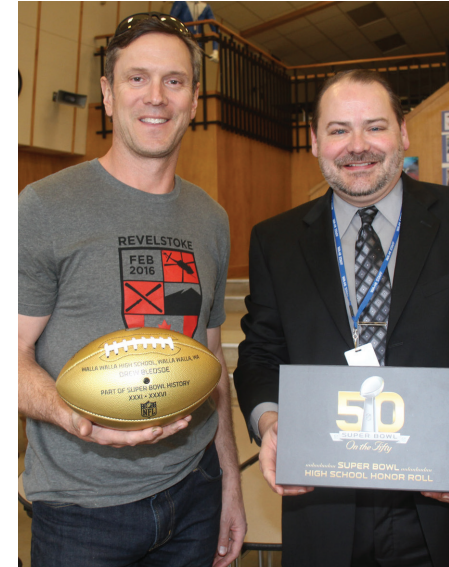
Walla Walla Public Schools

Bledsoe honors his former school

Walla Walla High School graduate Drew Bledsoe visited his former school this spring in celebration of the Super Bowl 50 Honor Roll program. The NFL provided a gold football to every high school in the world which has produced a player or coach who has appeared in a Super Bowl.

The NFL estimates that over 3,000 players have played in the Super Bowl, along with 52 coaches. Bledsoe presented the football to Principal Pete Peterson in front of the staff during a faculty meeting. Bledsoe was a letterman in football, basketball and track. In football, he was named a first team All-State selection. He said Walla Walla Public Schools provided him a foundation for success through supportive teachers and coaches.

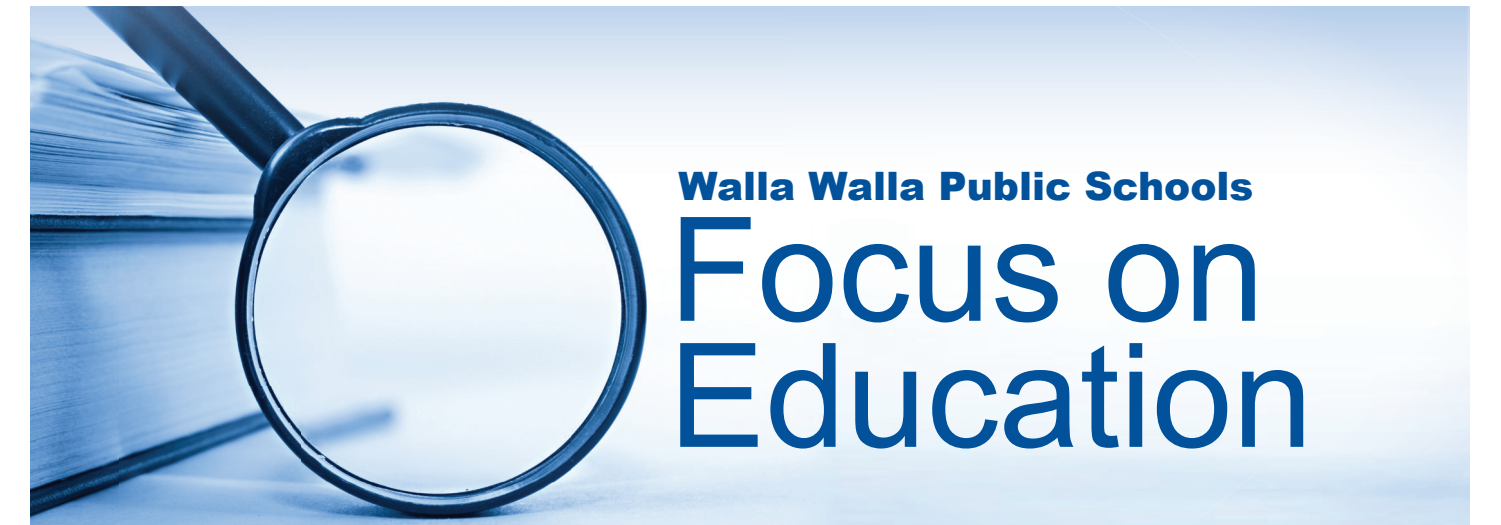
He went on to star at Washington State University and have a 13 year career in the NFL on three teams. He now lives in Bend, OR and is a successful businessman. He also coached his sons Stuart and John in football at Summit High School. Summit won the school's first state football championship last fall.



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Smith family ready to establish roots in town

It's transition time for new Superintendent Wade Smith and his family as he gets set to take the district's top leadership position on July 1. Smith has met with district leaders and school board members in Walla Walla several times this spring since accepting the position in March.

His wife Marianne and daughters (L) Cheyenne (9th grade) and (R) Emily (6th grade) were also in town this spring for a tour of the school district and closer look at the community. Marianne is an

"I will hit the ground learning through intentional engagement, reflective listening, and active participation."

-Wade Smith
New Superintendent

continued inside ■ ■ ■

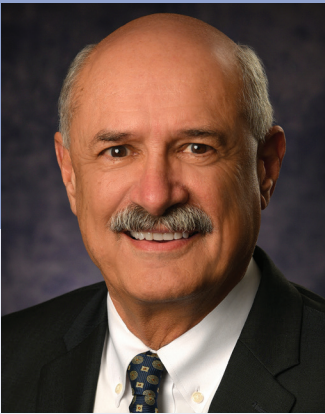
Featured in This Issue:

- Pioneer seeks AVID designation
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"Our Core Values are more than mere words; they're our business!"

Quality
Integrity
Accountability
Respect
Courtesy
Innovation
Diversity



Walla Walla Public Schools...

Spring update

Levy Thank You
Thank you to Walla Walla voters for approving the district's Educational Programs and Operations Levy with a 66 percent yes vote. This yes vote percentage is the highest mark since 2002, and is a vote of confidence to help the district chart its course for the next four years. We will continue to work hard for students and families.

Welcome Wade Smith and his family
It is a pleasure to welcome new Superintendent Wade Smith and his family to Walla Walla. I've had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Smith on several occasions this spring and he is truly an educational leader who believes in helping all students realize their potential and become successful, contributing citizens. Take time to say hi and offer your support as he transitions into his new role in Walla Walla.

Leadership changes
I've promoted Chris Gardea to Assistant Superintendent. He will assume the number two leadership role in the district and continue to direct Human Resources. Berney Elementary Principal Christy Krutulis is moving to the district office next year to serve as Executive Director of Teaching and Learning. We will also be hiring a new principal at Sharpstein Elementary as Principal Matt Bona has taken a position with ESD 123.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve
It has been an honor to serve the students, staff and families of Walla Walla Public Schools. I will always cherish my time as Superintendent. I wish the school district well in the future. Keep up the great work. You always have my support!

William L. Jordan
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Quaresma accepts Athena-Weston Superintendent position

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Laure Quaresma has accepted the position of Superintendent of Athena-Weston School District. She will begin her new position July 1, 2016. Berney Elementary Principal Christy Krutulis is transferring to lead this department. Quaresma has been employed by Walla Walla Public Schools since 1989. She has served in the district as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and central office administrator.



Pioneer recruited for national AVID demonstration site

Pioneer Middle School is on its way to becoming an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) National Demonstration School, thanks to a schoolwide commitment to student success. AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID impacts more than 1.2 million students in 44 states and 16 countries. National Demonstration Schools are exemplary models of the AVID College Readiness System.
"You don't apply for this distinction, AVID seeks you out," said Principal Mira Gobel. "National Demonstration Schools are in the one percent of all AVID schools."



Pioneer Middle School Principal Mira Gobel presents to educators from throughout the state during the school's AVID Showcase event.

Demonstration Schools undergo a rigorous validation process and are required to be revalidated every few years. They also have to show evidence of student achievement, conduct ongoing training and utilize best teaching practices schoolwide. It will take approximately 16 months to earn the National Demonstration School distinction.
"We want to be a showplace of the commitment and synergy that a strong AVID System creates for schoolwide college readiness" Gobel said. "We are excited for the opportunity."
Earlier this spring, educators from throughout the region visited Pioneer Middle School for the AVID Showcase Day event. Guests learned how the AVID program improves school culture, promotes leadership and improves instruction to support college readiness for all.

"AVID has led me to look at students as individuals; To know their stories, their dreams and their fears."

*-Kim Gradwohl
Pioneer Math Teacher*



Dual Language pioneers set to graduate

Former Sharpstein students set the bar

Several students from the Class of 2016 helped the district breakground on a dynamic new language acquisition program 13 years ago. As kindergartners, these students were the first group to participate in the newly formed Dual Language program at Sharpstein Elementary. This program was introduced to help students build fluency in both Spanish and English. Dual language programs also help promote cultural awareness and improve school climate.
The results have been impressive for this select group of soon to be graduates. They have a higher grade point average, better state test scores and more experiences in honors and advanced placement classes than students not in a dual language program. Seniors Lily Kaminsky and Sarai Vargas say the program also helped them make friends and break down social barriers. Lily is going to Portland State University next year and Sarai is planning to be a pediatrics nurse.



(L-R) Wa-Hi Seniors Sarai Vargas and Lily Kaminsky were in the first dual language class at Sharpstein Elementary.

Weisner ESD superintendent



Former Walla Walla High School Principal Darcy Weisner was named Educational Service District (ESD) 123 Superintendent effective July 1, 2016 upon retirement of current Superintendent Bruce Hawkins. Weisner was Principal at Wa-Hi for four years.
"I am extremely humbled and proud to have the opportunity to serve as the Superintendent of ESD 123," states Weisner. "I hope to continue promoting and modeling our mission of helping all students realize their dreams and aspirations. I would like to thank our board of directors for their trust in my selection and I hope to continue the collaborative success of the ESD."
Weisner brings 34 years of educational experience to the ESD, including 20 years as a teacher and coach.

City Arbor Day Award

Prospect Point students planted a maple tree on their playground as part of the City of Walla Walla Arbor Day program. The City of Walla Walla Parks and Recreation and Urban Forestry Advisory Board organizes the annual event aimed at educating youth on the importance of

urban forests. Students took home saplings, sang a song and read a poem to support the event. Mayor Allen Pomraning, who served as master of ceremonies, also presented the school district with a special Arbor Day Award for its efforts to protect and renew the area's urban forest.



Volunteers of the Year

Walla Walla Public Schools named Kara Schulke, Tim Meliah, Janis Nelson, Kay Barga, Jamie Griffith (Trinity Baptist Church), Norma Facio and Elsa Araiza as the district's 2015-2016 Art Regier Volunteers of the Year.
"These outstanding citizens have demonstrated exceptional service, unusual dedication and compassion for students and staff," said Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan. "They have devoted years of service to our schools and epitomize the spirit of volunteerism in education."

(NOTE: Norma Facio and Elsa Araiza are not in the photo)



Smith Family - continued from page 1

art teacher at Hermiston High School and his daughters are active in school and athletics. The entire family is planning a move to Walla Walla this summer.

Smith has been Interim/Deputy Superintendent for the Hermiston School District since 2011. He has held other administrative positions and was a high school science teacher during his career.

He is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time at his lake cabin.

Smith, in partnership with the school board, has crafted an entry process which extends formally over a six-month period and is sequenced into four phases. Smith says the plan will ensure a transparent, thoughtful and supportive

transition to the district.

Wade Smith Entry Plan Phase One

Introduction
• July-August, 2016

Phase Two
Listening to Understand
• September-October, 2016

Phase Three
Making Sense
• October-November, 2016

Phase Four
Engagement & Planning
• November-December, 2016

"Together, we will use the information gathered to establish a collective vision, deliberate goals for student learning, and a shared consensus around how to best achieve and support our objectives through strategic planning," Smith said.

Hands-On History

Retired Kettle Falls Elementary teacher Dwight Morgan visited Berney Elementary this spring to teach students about the Fur Trade era and other regional history. Students cooked meat over an open fire and made biscuits from scratch. All of the artifacts and equipment used for the demonstration were made by Morgan's former Kettle Falls fourth grade students.



Tech Advances

This year, 270 new Chromebook devices are in the hands of teachers and support staff as part of the ED TECH Professional Development Initiative. Another 1200 Chromebooks have been added to district classrooms this year to support teaching and learning. Technology is directly linked to a 21st Century education.

