

Parents organize pedestrian safety task force

Group seeks collaborative approach to issue

A group of concerned parents has recently formed “To & From: The Safe Travels Alliance.” This group is dedicated to the promotion of health and safety of travelers in the Walla Walla area.

Parents and community activists **Kathryn Southwick-Hess** and **Katie Christianson** have agreed to chair the effort.

“We feel the pedestrians in our community are at risk far too often and it has reached a crisis point,” Christianson said. “We just couldn’t sit back and wait any longer for someone to step up and take on this issue.”

To get involved or make a donation, contact Christianson at: 509.526.5469 or by email: ktchris@charter.net

Goals:

- Educate travelers
- Encourage enforcement
- Increase non-motorized travel
- Reduce motorized travel
- Improve safety infrastructure (striping, bike lanes, speed controls, lights, etc.)
- Increase community involvement
- Raise funds to pay for the above



(L-R) Parents and community activists **Kathryn Southwick-Hess** and **Katie Christianson** are chairs of the newly formed “To & From: The Safe Travels Alliance.” This group is working to improve traffic safety.

They plan to organize a broad group of community leaders, parents, district staff and students to find ways to make traveling to and from school safer.

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Walla Walla Public Schools

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Superintendent's Patron Tour Program

Superintendent Mick Miller seeks to build relationships and listen



Walla Walla High School Principal **Pete Peterson** provides a tour of Walla Walla High School as part of the Superintendent's Patron Tour. The guests also visited Edison Elementary. Superintendent **Mick Miller** initiated the Superintendent's Patron Tour program to reach out to community members.

Miller's goal with the program is to build relationships, learn about each other and listen. Patron Tour guests had breakfast with Superintendent Miller, toured two schools, had lunch and a debriefing with Miller. If you are interested in participating in the October 14 Superintendent's Patron Tour, contact Communications Director **Mark Higgins**: 509.526.6716 or by email: mhiggins@wwps.org

See **Patron Tour** page 4

“The Patron Tour was a wonderful behind the scenes view of what goes on in the school district. I encourage everyone to get off the fence and join in.”

Christine Sharon

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Budget remains healthy

As some school districts in the state teeter on the verge of insolvency, Walla Walla Public Schools remains on solid financial footing.

This year's \$62,116,176 general fund maintains approximately an 8% unrestricted cash reserve. Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** says a larger cash reserve is needed in these uncertain economic times.

“It has been a cooperative effort,” Johnston said. “There are many district's in the state struggling to make payroll and pay all of the bills. Thanks to our district's team approach to developing the budget we have put ourselves in a position to survive during this recession.”

The district developed a nearly \$1 million Budget Savings Plan. Despite the funding reductions, class size levels will remain the same this year and there will be a limited impact on student programs. Three administrative positions were cut, school supplies budgets and staff professional development funds were reduced.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;

they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy



Mick Miller
Superintendent

529-7713 (FAX)
526.6714
mmiller@wwps.org
www.wwps.org

Cooling weather is one sure sign of the coming of fall; as is the opening of school!

On behalf of the students, staff and Board of Directors, I thank you for all your help in getting us off to a great start to the school year. Student enrollment is very strong. We have almost 6250 students enrolled in our District, equating to over 5930 full time equivalent students. At a time when many districts in our state are experiencing a decline in student enrollment, we are very pleased to see growth in this area.

With school starting, please be reminded to take extra precaution driving in school zones -- especially during school drop off and pick up times. Our children, their parents and our staff thank you!

It is such a privilege to have the opportunity to serve as superintendent of Walla Walla Public Schools. I have truly enjoyed meeting so many community members, teachers, students and parents and I look forward to meeting many more. Further, I have been extremely impressed by the quality of teaching and learning taking place in our District's classrooms.

I would love to hear from you. If you have a question, concern, comment, criticism or compliment regarding our district, please let me know. My direct number is 526-6714 and email is mmiller@wwps.org.

Best wishes for a wonderful school year and thank you for the warm welcome to Walla Walla.

Lincoln's "The Weekend" promotes positive relationships



Lincoln Alternative High School staff and nearly 40 students recently traveled to Camp Wooten for *The Weekend* retreat. *The Weekend* was designed to help build positive relationships between students and staff.

Students and staff learned how to communicate and work together to solve problems. Students attended several mini sessions designed to address issues related to morals, ethics, and learning more about themselves.

Superintendent **Mick Miller** spoke to the students about overcoming challenges and taking control of their own lives and destiny.

Chamber Series helps district network with area business leaders

This year new Superintendent **Mick Miller** has established the WWPS Chamber Series. Each month Miller visits two businesses to meet with their leadership team and employees.

The group varies depending on the company. Miller's goal is to build relationships, learn about each other and listen.

"I need to be listening and learning to find out what our community values in education and how they want us to educate their children," said Superintendent Mick Miller. "We have to be good community partners and that begins by listening."

If your business would like to schedule a Chamber Series visit, please contact Communications Director **Mark Higgins** at: 509.526.6716 or by email: mhiggins@wwps.org

State test results a mixed bag

Walla Walla High School test results above state average in three out of four areas

State testing scores from spring 2010 were mixed when compared to spring 2009 across the state in the first year of the grades 3-8 Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE).

For Walla Walla Public Schools, the spring 2010 results mirrored the state's trend of some improvements and some declines. Reading remains the district's strongest subject, with 10th grade results consistently exceeding the state average. The district is above the state average in writing and science. Middle school and high school math scores finished below the state average in all grade levels. For a complete listing of all state test results, visit: <http://www.k12.wa.us/>

"I would like to thank the students and staff in our district for their efforts in completing and administering these assessments last spring," Walla Walla Public Schools Superintendent **Mick Miller** said. "Our results are mixed. There are areas where our students performed very well and there are other areas where we have work to do."

"Improved instructional strategies, aligned curriculum, professional collaboration and an experienced staff put Walla Walla Public Schools in a favorable position for making the necessary academic gains."

Mick Miller
Superintendent

Miller says the state's testing program is just one of several measurements educators and the district uses to evaluate student achievement gains. He said improved instructional strategies, aligned curriculum, professional collaboration and an experienced staff put Walla Walla Public Schools in a favorable position for making the necessary academic gains.

"As a system, we are committed to improving student learning," Miller said. "One important measure is MSP/HSPE testing and we are committed to raising our scores. Yet there are other measures as well and we will look forward to sharing those results in the future."

Community Connections

Boise Cascade paper donation helps students

Boise Paper Inc. recently donated four pallets of paper (approximately 160 boxes) to the Kennewick, Richland, Pasco and Walla Walla school districts.

We're happy to help ensure the next generation of scientists, environmentalists, engineers, paper makers, and crafts people have the supplies needed as they begin the school year, said **Nick Nachbar**, Wallula mill manager.

Picture Lady Program needs used art supplies

The Picture Lady Program is looking for art-worthy material for creative re-use in hands-on art lessons. The program services 3,050 kids in the Walla Walla and College Place elementary school community.

Main Drop Off Box: The Picture Lady is located in the upstairs offices at the Walla Walla Post Office (Main & Sumach Streets). A drop box is located on the upstairs landing at Walla Walla Post Office.

INFORMATION: **Denise Slattery**, Coordinator
509-240-2316 / slatterysf@yahoo.com

Providence St. Mary Medical Center offers coaches and students training on concussions

Recently 60 Pioneer Middle School student-athletes participated in the ImPact Concussion Management in Sports program offered by **Tim Conley** of Providence St. Mary Medical Center. Participation in the ImPact program was strictly voluntary and free of charge.

"Concussion Management in Sports is something for which we are very strong advocates at Providence St. Mary Medical Center," said **Conley**, Director of Occupational Health and Rehabilitation. "The more we can educate the athletes, coaches, administrators and parents, the better we can prevent or lessen the impact of these debilitating injuries."

District Athletic Director **Don Wilkins** said Walla Walla High School is also enrolled in the ImPact Concussion program and Garrison Middle School is also making arrangements to participate.

Walla Walla High School Football



Energy grant to fund new heating and cooling controls at Blue Ridge

Upgrades to cut utilities costs \$30,000 annually

Walla Walla Public Schools received a \$380,000 state energy efficiency grant to help pay for a new energy management system at Blue Ridge Elementary and lighting retrofits at Blue Ridge and Prospect Point Elementary Schools.

The total cost of this project is approximately \$950,000. The district estimates it will save \$30,000 per year in utility fees from these upgrades.

The new HVAC controls at Blue Ridge will help the district monitor radon levels and make the necessary adjustments to ensure radon levels are at, or below, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acceptable standards.

The district has applied for additional energy efficiency grant funds to offset costs for a new boiler at Pioneer and other energy projects.

The district reinvested the under budget funds from the Edison construction project to successfully secure these match required grant funds. District funds must be used as a match in order to apply for these state energy efficiency grants.



*Blue Ridge Elementary Custodian **Brent Bioloh** manually adjusts the air conditioning. New automated heating and air conditioning controls are being installed at Blue Ridge thanks to a state energy efficiency grant. The modern controls will help trim utilities costs and allow for electronic adjustments from a computer.*

Patron Tours continued from page 1

2010-2011 Superintendent's Patron Tour Schedule

Thursday, October 14

- Time: 8 a.m. to 12 noon
- Location: District Office (364 S. Park St.)
- Breakfast and lunch with Superintendent Mick Miller
- Tour Lincoln High School and Sharpstein Elementary

Thursday, February 3

- Time: 8 a.m. to 12 noon
- Location: District Office (364 S. Park St.)
- Breakfast and lunch with Superintendent Mick Miller
- Tour Pioneer Middle School and Berney Elementary

Thursday, April 21

- Time: 8 a.m. to 12 noon
- Location: District Office (364 S. Park St.)
- Breakfast and lunch with Superintendent Mick Miller
- Tour Garrison Middle School and Blue Ridge Elementary

Preschool needs used children's books

In an effort to increase literacy skills and help the district's youngest learners develop a love for reading, the Head Start/ECEAP program is seeking gently used children's books for its school-to-home book check out program.

If you are interested in donating used children's books for this worthwhile cause, please drop them off at Blue Ridge Elementary School. Contact Preschool Principal **Kerri Coffman** for additional information: kcoffman@wwps.org.

Board meetings changed to 6:30 p.m.

School board meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. beginning in October. Superintendent Mick Miller recommended starting the meetings one hour earlier to better meet the needs of staff, parents and students.

He said this change will allow parents and staff to be home earlier to get their children ready for bed or to complete their studies. Contact **Betsy Adkins** at 526-6715 for more information.

Creative talents run deep in Garrison Middle School art teacher's family

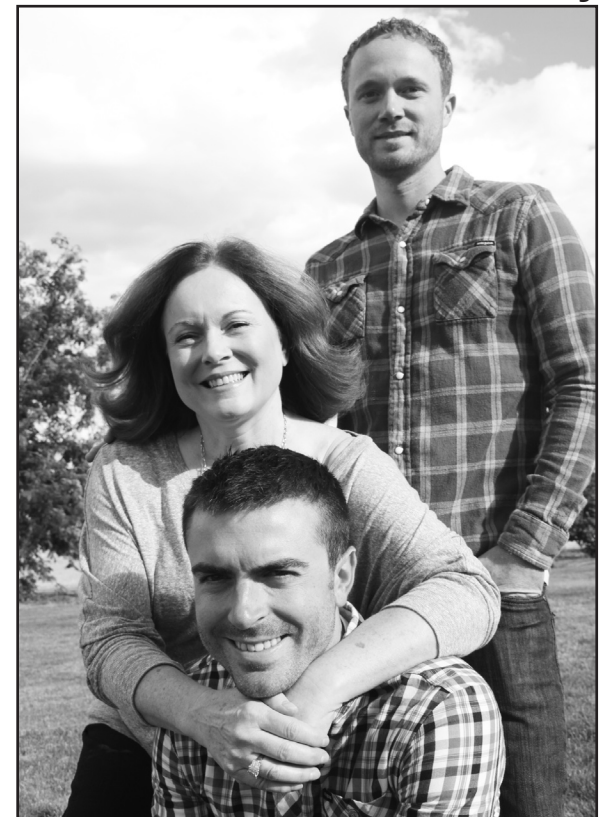
Gayle Kinman's sons manage top Motocross magazine

As Garrison Middle School Art Teacher **Gayle Kinman** and her husband Bert were busy raising their ambitious boys in a quiet neighborhood on University Street, they had no idea one day they would be managing the world's number one motocross magazine in the bustling scene of professional motorcycle racing.

Chris Kinman, who now lives in Southern California, is the managing editor of Transworld Motocross. His older brother **Shane Kinman** is the publication's art director and also is the main graphic designer for ScottUSA. The Kinman's attribute much of their success to their involved parents and the stable and supportive community of Walla Walla.

Chris and Shane encourage today's students to pursue their passions and be prepared to work hard. They say their work ethic comes from their parents and the teachers who pushed them to reach their potential. They are proud to say they are from Walla Walla and still enjoy coming home when their busy schedule allows for it.

"They know the value of an education and lifelong learning, and that without it, they wouldn't be where they are, nor would they 'stay on top' in their careers. I am not only proud of what my sons have accomplished in their young lives, but of who they are -- appreciative, empathetic, considerate, and caring individuals." -**Gayle Kinman**



*Garrison Middle School Art Teacher **Gayle Kinman** enjoys time with sons **Chris** (below) and **Shane** on her birthday during their recent, but rare, visit to Walla Walla.*

Shane Kinman

Class of 1994: DeSales HS

College: Central Washington

- Fashion & Design program

Residence: Sun Valley, ID

Family: Married (w/ one child)

Hobbies: Skateboarding, motocross, snowboarding and skiing

Professional Career

Owner, Kinman Designs

- Art Creative Director for Transworld Motocross

- Major graphic design contracts include ScottUSA

- Many professional athletes (motocross, snowboard, skate) wear clothing and equipment Shane has designed.

Mom's Influence

"The structured environment we grew up in helped me develop the attention to detail skills needed to be successful. My mother has always had great taste and her influence can be seen in my designs and artwork."



Chris Kinman

Class of 2000: Walla Walla HS

College: Central Washington

Residence: Carlsbad, CA

Family: Single

Hobbies: Skateboarding, motocross, snowboarding and skiing

Professional Career

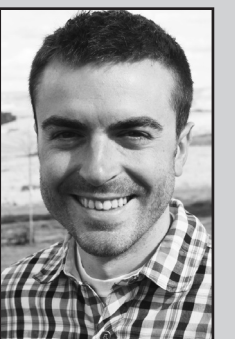
Editor, Transworld Motocross

- Chris works 80 hours a week

Beating the Odds: As a teen, Chris suffered from a severe debilitating eye condition. He had to have corneal transplants in both eyes to keep from going blind.

Inspirational Teacher: Lori Dohe

"Mrs. Dohe let me be myself. She knew I had a strong background in composition and let me run with my thoughts and ideas. She allowed me to be creative in a structured environment."



Walla Walla High School "Trunk-or-Treat" offers children a safe Halloween experience

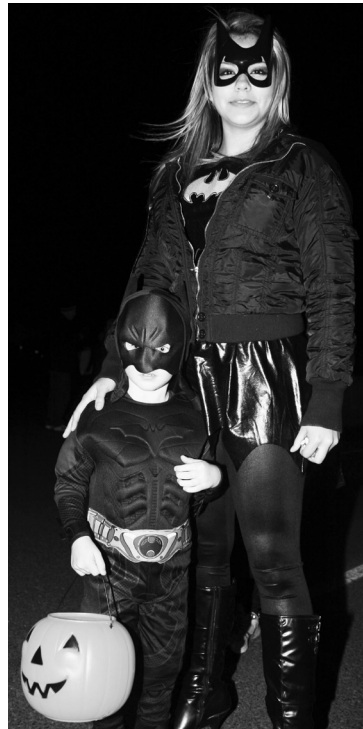
Walla Walla High School's Key Club will be sponsoring "Trunk or Treat" Saturday, October 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the SCIENCE parking lot. (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE).

There will be a variety of decorated cars sponsored by the various Wa-Hi clubs that will be giving out candy to area children.

Admission is one can of food per attendee. The food donations will be delivered to local food banks.

The Wa-Hi FFA will be providing a "Haunted Barn" attraction this year. For more information, contact **Shelly Mann**:

smann@wwps.org



There will be plenty of tricks and treats for the kids!

Pioneer 6th grade transition program



(L-R) Pioneer Middle School 6th grade student **Denny Moore** and 8th grade student **Willie Hayes** are participating in WEBs - "Where Everyone Belongs." WEBs is a 6th grade transition program to welcome and support new students. This year 35 Pioneer 8th grade students have volunteered to serve as mentors to support the 6th grade class. Each leader is assigned 10 to 12 students to work with throughout the year to help them have success.

Bond refinancing saves taxpayers quarter of a million dollars

Walla Walla Public Schools has refinanced a portion of its outstanding bonds in order to take advantage of lower interest rates. The recent refinancing will save the district's taxpayers a total of \$243,535 during the next three years.

These savings flow directly to taxpayers through reduced tax levies and are not available for district expenses.

"We appreciate the support of our community over the years through the passage of capital improvement bonds so we can provide our students quality facilities to enhance their education," Superintendent **Mick Miller** said. "This refund serves as a thank you to our taxpayers for their generous support of public education and the needs of children in the Walla Walla valley."

The Walla Walla School Board accomplished these savings by approving the issuance of \$2,850,000 in refunding bonds at its meeting held on July 20, 2010. The district has been monitoring bond market conditions over the past year and recent low interest rates allowed the district to actually exceed their savings target. Interest rates averaged 0.78% on the new bonds compared to 5.62% on the old debt.



Taxpayers saved \$243,535 thanks to the district refinancing existing bonds from the Sharpstein Elementary Construction project. Walla Walla Public Schools took advantage of historical low interest rates to save tax dollars.

District teams with Greenways Academy of Washington to offer online courses

Walla Walla Public Schools is partnering with Greenways Academy of Washington to offer online learning opportunities for students in grades 6-12.

- Established and accredited online school
- Credit retrieval opportunities
- Diploma granting institution for college bound students
- Exciting electives - such as web design
- Foreign language courses
- Highly qualified teachers
- An alternative learning experience
- Home school and private school students welcome
- A safety net for students who face adversity

District Contact:

Kirk Jameson, Wa-Hi Assistant Principal
509.520.3020 or email: kjameson@wwps.org

Visit Greenways online at:

www.greenwaysacademy.com/washington



*Walla Walla High School Math Teacher **Jerry Records** helps Freshman **Rome Broel** with a math problem as part of last summer's trial with Greenways Academy of Washington. Several Walla Walla and Lincoln High School students took online math courses this summer as part of the district's introduction to new online offerings.*

Dual Language now offered at Blue Ridge



Blue Ridge Elementary Kindergarten Teacher **Joyce Moreno** helps students **Evelyn Salazar** and **Seth Lynde** identify colors in Spanish. This school year, Blue Ridge Elementary started a Two-Way Language Enrichment Program for kindergarten students only. A new grade level will be added to the program each year through 5th grade.

Native Spanish speaking students are paired with native English speaking students as part of the program. Students have the responsibility to help each other. Science is taught in Spanish and math is taught in English.

Dynamic duo earns prestigious certification



Congratulations to (L-R) Bilingual Programs Coordinator **Diana Erickson** and Principal on Special Assignment **Connie Taylor-Randall** for recently earning their national Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) certification.

GLAD strategies and model promote English language acquisition, academic achievement, and cross-cultural skills. As GLAD Key Trainers, Erickson and Taylor-Randall will help Walla Walla teachers learn these research-based strategies.