

Stories this week include:

District Stories

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District Stories

First day of school Tuesday, August 23

Visit school websites for more details regarding the start of school. Please slow down in school zones and obey all traffic laws. Contact Communications Director Mark Higgins for additional information: 509.526.6716 or mhiggins@wwps.org

Board adopts 2011-12 budget

District cash reserves remain strong

School board members approved the 2011-2012 budget during Tuesday's school board meeting. District Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** reported the General Fund budget is based on \$60,401,441 in revenue and \$62,091,263 in expenditures.

Despite dipping into reserves to balance the General Fund budget, the district will maintain an ending fund balance of \$6,120,571 or a 9.8 percent reserve. Johnston said the district faced revenue reduction of \$529,050 for this fiscal year. She said Governor Gregoire has hinted additional mid-year cuts could come if the economic forecast does not improve.

The district will not see any staff cuts or significant program changes. Johnston said spending reduction efforts the past several years and increased student enrollment in recent years has helped the district weather the global recession. The district is budgeting for 100 more students in 2011-12. The district has grown more than 300 students in the past five years, Johnston said.

Extra police patrols in school zones

Motorists should be on the look out for extra law enforcement patrols in school zones as the district begins a new school year. City and county officers will be stepping up patrols to help keep students safe. City firefighters will also be out near school zones the next couple of weeks to promote safety and community involvement.

Reser Road Update - Bridge construction to begin

Walla Walla County Update:

Yellowhawk Bridge:

Contractors are planning to install the new Yellowhawk Bridge on Reser Road this summer. Construction on the bridge will begin this week. There will be no through traffic on Reser Road until approximately October 1, 2011. After October 1, there will be limited access for through traffic until the project is completed in December 2011.

Estimated Project Completion Date - December 2011:

Walla Walla County is now estimating the entire Reser Road project will be completed in early December 2011. (*Weather permitting and barring any other unforeseen circumstance)

Access to Prospect Point (during Bridge construction):

Access to Prospect is only available via Reser Road from the west until at least October 1. There will be limited access to Prospect Point from the east of Reser Road until the project is completed in December 2011. A new Howard Street entrance/exit will be ready to use later this month.

Access to Walla Walla High School off Reser Road (during Bridge construction):

Access to Walla Walla High School is only available via Reser Road from the east until at least after October 1. There will be limited access to Walla Walla High School from the west on Reser Road until the project is completed in December 2011.

Walla Walla County Project Manager Aaron Grimm will provide updates to the school district weekly or as needed until the project is completed. Grimm thanks everyone for their patience and support during this project.

Walla Walla High School Principal Pete Peterson - Reser Road Update

As most members of the Walla Walla community know, Reser Road is undergoing significant reconstruction that will improve our students and adults safety as they travel to Wa-Hi and to Prospect Point Elementary. While that improvement takes place, we ask that you remain patient with traffic flow that may become congested, and we ask that your high school students take extra time coming and going from Wa-Hi.

Our timeline as of today puts replacement of the bridge on Reser Road finishing around October 1, with full project completion around December 1. This will be dependent on weather. Student and adult access to the gym parking lot will be accessible via Fern and Reser during construction through December, but it will require extra time and forethought in order to navigate the roadway. Students who will be driving to school and NOT leaving during the school day will be able to enter via Fern to park in the gym lot and not notice many delays. This includes athletes who are participating in fall or winter sports for both practices and for contests.

Students who are driving to Wa-Hi and plan to leave during the lunch period may very well run into significant delays. These delays on Reser Road will most likely make them late or even absent from classes after lunch if they choose to park in the gym lot, due to the fact the bridge construction will not allow students to exit from the gym and go west toward Prospect Point and Howard. Any students who wish to leave during lunch should park in the Fern lot or Murr Field lot, as this will ensure that they can avoid the construction on Reser Road. While this may require your student to walk farther, it will ensure that they are able to avoid potential delays in coming or leaving from Wa-Hi as well as any disciplinary action that occurs from repeated tardies or unexcused absences.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 527-3020 and I will be happy to answer any questions you have. We appreciate your help and understanding as we move into the school year.

Personnel Report (from August 16, 2011 School Board Meeting)

Employment

(Certificated)

Susan Smilely-Nakonieczny, Fifth Grade Teacher (temp), Edison

Benjamin Van Donge, Fifth Grade Teacher, Sharpstein

(Classified)

Katy Laumb, Para-Educator, Prospect Point

Thomas Newcom, Para-Educator (temp), Walla Walla High School

Jennifer Schaffer, Para-Educator (temp), Prospect Point

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Kim Wegner-McCauley, School Psychologist, Special Programs

(Kim did not begin the year)

(Classified)

Christina Price-Huntington, Para-Educator, Pioneer MS (3 years)

Leave of Absence

(Certificated)

Richelle Palmer, Title One Specialist, Blue Ridge (7 years)

(Classified)

Jill Sporleder, Para-Educator, Prospect Point (23 years)

(Jill is taking a partial leave of absence, but will continue with reduced hours for the 2011-12 school year.)

Former WWVEA President lands position with Highline School District

Former Walla Walla Valley Education Association President Richelle Palmer recently accepted a position as Literacy Specialist with the Highline School District. Palmer will be representing 18 elementary schools as well as providing Professional Development support for teachers in the district. Congratulations Richelle!

School Stories

French students take trip of a lifetime

Walla Walla High School French teacher **Kerri Tucker** reported to school board members Tuesday night on a trip she organized to France and Italy this summer for 25 students.

Tucker said the 15 day trip was part of Educational First Tours which has been supporting similar trips for more than 40 years. Eight adults joined Tucker as chaperones.

The students and their families paid for the trip which had a strong educational component. A tour guide led the group to numerous sites and shared detailed information about each area. Tucker said the students were amazing and a lot of fun.

She said she witnessed her students' intellectual growth and their continued development as young adults. She said she will organize another trip in a few years.

Advanced Placement Physics students ace exam

Congratulations to Walla Walla High School students in Rob Ahrens' Advanced Placement Physics class for acing the Advanced Placement exam. One hundred percent of the students who took the exam passed. Walla Walla High School offers 14 Advanced Placement courses spanning a vast array of content. Thanks to Rob Ahrens for preparing students for excellence.

Walla Walla High School plans Freshmen Orientation Monday, August 22

Blue Devil Orientation - *Brought to you by Link Crew*

August 22, 2011

Wa-Hi Large Gym

Schedule

- Orientation: 12 noon to 4 p.m.
- Parent Information Meeting: 4:30 p.m.
- Club Fair & Campus Tours: 4 to 5 p.m.
- Family BBQ: 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal **Mindy Meyer** at (509) 527-3020 ext. 8662 or by email at: mmeyer@wwps.org.

Pioneer Middle School plans 6th grade orientation Monday, August 22

- WEBS (Where Everyone Belongs) 6th Grade Orientation
- Monday, August 22
- 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- 4:30 p.m.: PARENTS "Meet the Principal" Ice cream social
- WEBS is an international organization found in over 2000 schools nationwide. It is designed to make the transition to middle school a great experience for students.

Community Stories

Pearce Family Request:

For those of you who knew Hailey Pearce, please share your memories of her by going to this site: rememberhaileypearce.blogspot.com

Lincoln Health Center continues to meet needs

More support needed to address substance abuse

Student Health Options Executive Director Holly Howard provided an update to school board members on the Lincoln Health Center and other programs related to this non-profit organization. Howard said most Lincoln students continue to use the Lincoln Health Center for a variety of services, including preventative health care, immunizations, counseling and program placement to services not available at the clinic.

The Sherwood Trust awarded Student Health Options a \$113,000 grant to be paid over three years for additional fund development and grant writing support. Howard said the need for drug and alcohol counseling and treatment for teens continues to increase in Walla Walla. She said mental health issues and support addressing these issues is also on the rise. Student Health Options, the oversight organization for the Lincoln Health Center, recently worked with Susan Newton to create a new strategic plan.

Goals (summary):

- Develop administrative infrastructure
- Build financial stability
- Ensure Lincoln Health Center continues to meet needs
- Enhance awareness and communication
- Determine an expansion plan

Wa-Hi students participate in Hispanic Youth Exploring Engineering and Science Camp

Walla Walla University in College Place hosted eleven Walla Walla High School students for five days at the Hispanic Youth Exploring Engineering and Sciences Camp (HYEES) from August 1 to 5, 2011. The camp is presented and operated by the WWU's Edward F. Cross School of Engineering and Exploring Post 311 in cooperation with the Bonneville Power Administration.

The students who attended were Ana Andrade, Cristina Sosa, Selene Reyes, Salvador Díaz, Maira Ambriz, Mitzzy Rodríguez, Felipe Salazar, Suleyma Salazar, Brenda López, Jazmín Durán, and Teresa Olivos.

HYEES exposes participants to the higher education environment and to the career possibilities in engineering, science, resource management, and environmental science.

The camp is specifically for high school age Latino youth who are interested in math and science based careers. The group was accompanied by Diana Erickson, Bilingual Coordinator of the Walla Walla School District, and her husband, Bill Erickson, of the Bonneville Power Administration, and Walla Walla Bonneville Power Administration summer intern student, Andrew Hellie.

The primary objectives of the program are to expose students to the various disciplines of higher education and increase excitement and awareness of what is needed to study science and engineering. Through efforts by the camp staff and guest speakers, the message to the students is why pursuing a baccalaureate degree and higher education is so important to their future.

The students attended the camp as part of Exploring Post 311's program to promote career awareness to high school students in the Walla Walla community. Exploring is sponsored by the Learning for Life program which is a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America.

Cardio Strength Bootcamp participants to donate school supplies to students in need

Cardio Strength Bootcamp is pleased to announce its first annual “Push Ups for Pencils” workouts to be offered on August 22 and August 24. Each workout will be held at Sharpstein Elementary School on the outside playground at 6:15 a.m. Admission for all participants is \$5 worth of school supplies. All donations will be given to the Walla Walla School District to be used by students in need of such items.

Participants will use bodyweight exercise, TRX suspension trainers, sandbells, kettlebells, exercise ropes, and medicine balls in an outdoor environment.

Campers will experience fitness enhancement and fat loss techniques by participating in metabolic resistance activities. No prior experience is necessary and all activities can be modified to meet individual fitness levels.

For more information contact Marc Yonts (509 540-9553 or myonts@charter.net) or Scott Tibbling (509 240-4126 or stibbling@yahoo.com).

Interested individuals may also visit the Cardio Strength Bootcamp website at cardiostrengthbootcamp.com.

Starbucks and Walla Walla Public Schools team for school supplies drive

Walla Walla Public Schools and Walla Walla Starbucks coffee stores have teamed for a Back-To School Supplies Drive throughout the month of August. School supplies will be collected at both the downtown and Plaza Way stores to help families in need of school supplies this school year.

Plaza Way Store Manager Michelle Westlund and Downtown Store Manager Dustin Funderburg say the partnership is aligned with Starbucks’ mission of supporting education and community needs.

“We need to be a positive presence in our community,” Westlund said. “It is our responsibility to give as much as we can.”

Funderburg says Starbucks continues to move in this direction.

“It’s a huge focus of Starbucks,” Funderburg said. “We need to be involved in our community and have a positive impact. We are excited to partner with the schools and help support families in need of school supplies.”

Inland Cellular's Family Movie Night for August Announced

Inland Cellular and the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, in cooperation with the City of Walla Walla Parks & Recreation Department, the Walla Walla Public Library and the Walla Walla Sweets, invite you to join us for the final installment of Inland Cellular's Family Movie Night at Borleske Stadium on Saturday, August 20, 2011.

This summer marks the third year of this collaborative family event and ushers in some progressive changes to the program. The first major change to this year's program is the move from Heritage Park to Borleske Stadium. "The success of this program over the past two years has led us to outgrow Heritage Park and forced us to look at other venues. We are excited to have partnered with the Walla Walla Sweets and the Borleske Stadium Association to be able to use their stadium as the venue to show the films this summer." said Michael Mettler, consultant for Inland Cellular. "The new location has allowed us to accommodate significantly more guests as well as provide comprehensive concessions and easier access to restroom facilities."

The other change is a partnership with the Walla Walla Public Library. All of the movies shown this summer have been featured in the library's Summer Reading Program series 'Read the Book, See the Movie.'

"Youth have had the opportunity to check out the books that each film being shown is based on, and upon finishing the book, receive a certificate for free popcorn at the movie nights," said Liz George, Children's Librarian at the Walla Walla Public Library. "We have seen interest in the summer reading program this summer spike due to the support of the DWWF, Inland Cellular and the Sweets to help get this program off the ground."

This coming weekend 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' based upon the classic children's book by Roald Dahl is being shown. The movie will begin at dusk, which should be around 8:30 p.m. this month.

"Inland Cellular is strongly committed to being a positive and cooperative force in the communities in which we live and work. Family Movie Night is a wonderful way for us to give back to the community and provide a safe and enjoyable outlet for summer fun," said Michael Mettler, marketing consultant for Inland Cellular.

The event is free to families and children of all ages. Please plan on bringing lawn chairs and/or blankets for comfortable seating as the film will be shown in the outfield of Borleske Stadium. Concessions will be available at the stadium and participants are encouraged to procure their snacks and beverages on site. Please leave pets at home, unless you have a service animal. For more information about the summer movies please contact the Downtown Foundation at 509/529-8755 or Inland Cellular at 509/629-2500.

For additional information on the Summer Reading Program at the public library, please visit the library or call Liz George at 509/527-4550. Borleske Stadium is located at 409 E. Rees Avenue in Walla Walla just below the Veteran's Memorial Golf course adjacent to Memorial Park. Ample parking is available on site. For a reminder about the program a day before the event text the word MOVIE to 87940.