

## *Stories this week include:*

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### **School Stories**

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## District Stories

### **No School Monday, September 5 - Labor Day Holiday**

No school Monday, September 5. Enjoy the Labor Day Holiday.

### **School board meeting - Tuesday, September 6**

- Tuesday, September 6 @ 6:30 p.m.
- 364 S. Park St. (district board room)
- Meeting open to the public

### **Citizens for Schools new leaders named**

Community members Shauna Bogley and Peter Swant have volunteered to chair Walla Walla Citizens for Schools. The mission of this non-profit, community organization is to ensure Walla Walla Public Schools have the resources and support necessary to provide essential educational programs and activities to Walla Walla children. Bogley and Swant will focus their attention on the district's 2012 M&O Replacement Levy. Their efforts will help educate the community on the levy — which funds nearly 20 percent of the district's general fund budget.

### **Energy management program tallies 22 percent utilities savings**

Nine months into Year 12 of the Walla Walla Public Schools Energy Management Program has revealed a savings of more than \$251,000 representing a 21.83 percent savings. In those nine months, WWPS utilities costs were over \$900,000. WWPS has saved over 2.8 million over the last 11 years.

“We have had a savings of 25 percent in the past and we hope to get back into the mid-twenty percent range for a savings,” District Energy Manager John Butenhoff said. “This is a lot of money to put back into our schools, equipment and maintenance.”

Butenhoff says the program is effective due to staff support by controlling energy usage in district buildings by shutting off equipment daily. The district's Energy Management program is based on turning off equipment, scheduling heating and cooling to be on only when occupied, and efficient irrigation practices. Staff and student comfort is not compromised.

### **Key Club collecting food at tonight's football game at Borleske Stadium at 7:30 p.m.**

The Key Club at Wa-Hi, in conjunction with the Realtor Association and Blue Mountain Action Council, is sponsoring a canned food/non perishable items food drive. The goal is to match the combined weight of the football team -- 10,568 pounds! Walla Walla High School football fans are encouraged to bring canned food to tonight's game.

“We are asking everyone to get involved to help us meet the needs of the local food banks,” said Shelley Mann, Key Club Advisor. “If you will bring your canned goods to the entrance gate Friday night we will have Key Clubbers there to accept your donations. Since there are only 4 home games, our goal each week needs to be about 2,500 lbs.”

Key Club student leaders Lauren McClanahan, Alyson Ambler, Paige Moeller, Rob Ferenz and Nick Peasley are helping Mann organize the effort.

### **Big Blue Weekend brings Walla Walla High School students and staff together to build positive relationships**

- September 30 to October 2
- Location: Washington Family Ranch, Antelope, OR
- Cost: \$75 (limited \$50 scholarships available)
- Registration forms available in the ASB office due by 9/19

Donate or volunteer:

Who: 325+ students, 32 staff chaperones, and 30 community volunteer “work crew” members

What: BBW is a weekend retreat that helps break down social barriers and build community

When: September 30 - October 2, 2011

Where: Washington Family Ranch, Antelope Oregon

How: Contact Carina Stillman [cstillman@wwps.org](mailto:cstillman@wwps.org) or (509)527-3020 for more information.

### **Math emphasis paying dividends with state test scores**

Walla Walla Public Schools received state testing results from the Spring 2011 testing cycle Tuesday from State Superintendent Randy Dorn during his annual news conference highlighting statewide test results.

District results were provided for the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) for students in grades 3-8, the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) for students 10-12 and the new mathematics End-of-Course (EOC) exams in algebra and geometry. Statewide and local on-time and extended graduation rates were also released. A districtwide instructional emphasis on math the past two years is making a difference, according to District Assessment Coordinator Maria Garcia.

“The data is clear our students’ math skills continue to improve,” Garcia said. “The hard work of our teams of talented teachers and the dedication from students and their families, have resulted in greater numbers of Walla Walla Public Schools students showing proficiency on state math exams.”

The new mathematics End-of-Course exams in algebra and geometry replaced the math High School Proficiency Exam and district results indicate Walla Walla students passed at a higher rate than the state average.

“The format of the new End-of-Course exam allows for a more accurate assessment of student learning,” Garcia said. “In the past, students were tested at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade on content they had not seen since 9<sup>th</sup> grade or even middle school for some students.”

Now students are assessed upon finishing either their algebra or geometry course when their skills are fresh, according to Garcia. “Walla Walla Public Schools End-of-Course exam results in math compare favorably to state averages, including a nearly perfect 100 percent pass rate for district middle school students taking algebra or geometry.”

District high school graduation rates compare favorably to state rates as well. Walla Walla Public Schools’ on-time graduation rate is 86.5 percent, increasing to 99.3 percent if a 5<sup>th</sup> year is necessary for students.

“Our extended graduation rate is actually higher than Mercer Island, Bellevue or Issaquah,” Garcia said. “These school districts have a much lower percentage of poverty and students with English as a second language than Walla Walla Public Schools.”

District writing scores at the elementary and middle school levels are slightly below the state average, while high school writing scores are above the state average — including 91.1 percent at Walla Walla High School. District reading scores are lagging behind the state average at most grade levels. Garcia says although our schools have made gains in reading, there is still work to do and our school improvement plans will reflect goals in this area.”

The district’s effort to support early learning through all day kindergarten, its preschool program and an intense focus on early literacy through the district’s Response to Intervention model have resulted in greater numbers of students exiting kindergarten on grade levels in reading.

“In 2003, only 53 percent exited kindergarten at grade level in reading,” Garcia said. “Last year this number jumped to 71 percent and we anticipate this number will continue to climb. As these students move through the grades and begin state testing, we should see the impact of these improved kindergarten outcomes through higher test scores in reading.”

Science is tested in 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades across the state. In Walla Walla, elementary science test scores are at the state average, while middle and high school results exceed the state average. This spring 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will transition to Biology End-of-Course exams to meet the state science testing requirement.

Walla Walla Public Schools remains in Step Two of District Improvement in relation to Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements, which is based on achievement marks in reading and math for students in grades 3-10. Walla Walla Public Schools has developed a districtwide improvement plan per AYP mandates. State Superintendent Randy Dorn is challenging elected officials at the state and national level to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, better known as No Child Left Behind, to provide for a more accurate and fair assessment of school district achievement levels. Visit the “School Report Card” page at the OSPI web site for a complete list of district test results.

**Don't miss Walla Walla Public Schools at the Fair!**

Education Building

- Student displays: art, science, technology, vocational and more

Information Station

- Meet Superintendent Mick Miller and several district representatives
- District information: Calendars, handbooks, sports schedules and more

Safe Travels Alliance

- Volunteer Chairs Katie Christianson and Kathryn Southwick-Hess and several students will share information about school zone safety.

AVID Program - Advancement Via Individual Determination

- Walla Walla High School students involved in the AVID program will be in attendance in the afternoons to talk about the program and how it is helping them have success in school. They will have informational brochures and more about the program.

Performances and Parade

- Look for district students performing at the fair, showing animals and participating in the parade.

**2011-2012 Quarter/Semester Dates**

First Semester Begins: August 23, 2011

- First Quarter: August 23, 2011 to October 28, 2011
- Second Quarter: October 31, 2011 to January 20, 2012

First Semester Ends: January 20, 2012

Second Semester Begins: January 23, 2012

- Third Quarter: January 23, 2012 to March 30, 2012
- Fourth Quarter: April 2, 2012 to June 7, 2012

Second Semester Ends: June 7, 2012

**Community donations provide school supplies for students in need**

Boxes and boxes of donated school supplies have been sent out to district schools the past two weeks to help support students in need.

Special thanks to all those who provided these generous donations:

- St. Mary Medical Center employees
  - Washington State Penitentiary employees
  - Cardio Strength Bootcamp participants
  - Kathryn Southwick Hess
  - Starbucks Coffee stores
  - Walla Walla Rotary Club
- .

## School Stories

### **National author and motivation speaker to visit Walla Walla High School**

Peter Van Buskirk is an acclaimed author and motivational speaker. Peter excels at simplifying and demystifying what is often perceived as a complex and mysterious process—college admission. His creative programming, including his signature presentation of “The Admission Game®,” has informed, inspired and entertained countless high school, summer camp and corporate audiences worldwide. With candor and insight, Peter coaches students and parents through the complexities of finding and getting into colleges that “best fit” the students. As a parent of three, Peter is a veteran of the admission process on the home front as well. His stories “from the road” add humor and perspective to his presentations.

Washington State University GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) in cooperation with Walla Walla High School will host Peter for three seminars throughout the day on September 13, 2011 geared towards all grade levels and their families. Education beyond high school is absolutely critical for young people today. GEAR UP helps students and families to understand how to prepare and plan for admission to a college or university after high school.

There will be three programs on the Walla Walla High School campus throughout the day:

“Getting From Where You Are to Where You Want to Be” for high school juniors during school hours in the auditorium.

“Make Your Application Count” for high school seniors during school hours in the auditorium.

“The Admission Game” for all grade level students and their families hosted with pizza dinner.

“The Admission Game” for students and families will be preceded by a pizza dinner held at the Walla Walla High School commons at 5:30 and then followed by the full presentation at 6 p.m. in the Walla Walla High School Auditorium.

Washington State University GEAR UP, which is located on campus at Walla Walla High School, involves a variety of innovative partnerships and initiatives to support students in college and career readiness skills.

For more information contact the GEAR UP office located at Walla Walla High School:

Becky Waggoner

509-526-8621

[bwaggoner@wwps.org](mailto:bwaggoner@wwps.org)

### **Blue Devil football kicks off tonight against Hermiston - Radio coverage: KTEL 1490 AM**

Walla Walla High School football kicks off tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Borleske Stadium in Walla Walla with a non-conference match-up against Hermiston.

Don't miss an exciting down of Blue Devil football this season on KTEL 1490 AM. Wa-Hi teacher Scott Reardon will be calling all the play-by-play action. Tune to 1490 AM for all the Blue Devil football games.

## Community Stories

### **Donations now accepted for Pioneer Middle School used clothing program**

Pioneer Middle School is once again organizing "The Closet" to store gently used donated clothing, shoes and coats for students in need.

"As you are cleaning out your closets at home, please keep us in mind if you would like to donate," said Learning Assistance Program Coordinator Angie Gardea. "We really appreciate the support and are happy to pick up donations if needed."

Angie Gardea  
agardea@wwps.org  
509.527.3050

### **Sheriff's Foundation plans community meeting**

- September 7
- Walla Walla Regional Airport Conference Room
- 6:30 to 8 p.m.

#### Meeting objectives:

- To learn more about the equipment, supplies, infrastructure and other needs of the Sheriff Foundation
- Fund raising strategies
- Public relations and communications

Sheriff John Turner will serve as key note speaker for the evening meeting.

### **Traffic Safety Task Force events**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 – NATIONAL CAR SEAT CHECK DAY – LOCAL EVENT AT DAYL GRAVES 10 AM TO 1 PM**

Safe Kids and the Task Force, along with the YMCA and Dayl Graves Inc., will be sponsoring car seat check up event at Dayl Graves on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Car seat technicians are needed to help with this event along with other volunteers to assist with greeting and directing traffic.

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 AND 9 – KMART SAFETY DAYS – 12 NOON TO 2 PM**

The Traffic Safety Task Force has been asked to have a booth with information along with Vince and Larry the crash dummies at this event. We will need volunteers to man the table and people to wear the Vince and Larry Costumes. The costumes fit a person about 5'6" to 5'9" tall and a thin build. If you have a child or work with a youth group that needs school or community service hours, this would be great for them.

**TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 AND 26 – WWVA EVERY 15 MINUTES PROGRAM**

Overnight chaperones needed.

#### To get involved or for more information:

Nancy McClenny-Walters  
509.524.2936 (office)  
509.386.8506 (cell)  
nmclenny-walters@co.walla-walla.wa.us

**Fort Walla Walla offers free admission for class visits - By Paul Franzmann**

A school trip to Fort Walla Walla Museum can be a great supplement to classroom teaching of regional heritage. Class visits are admission-free (through December) and are educational and entertaining. Over the past decade the Museum has received more than 50,000 participants in the program. That is a testimony to the program's effectiveness, as many schools schedule trips each year so their students can get in touch with our shared past.

To prepare for your visit, the Museum offers its *Teacher's Guide to Fort Walla Walla Museum*, available as a pdf download on the Education page of its website: [www.fortwallawallamuseum.org](http://www.fortwallawallamuseum.org). You are encouraged to freely reproduce it for your classroom use.

The Museum is open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily, April through October, and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. weekdays, November through March. It is suggested teachers allow two hours for a classroom tour.

To reserve your school's preferred date and time, call Don at the Museum, 525-7703. Please have your school's name, address and phone number when you call.

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