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District Stories

Enrollment above budget projections to begin year

Good news regarding district enrollment following Thursday's first official count for the 2011-2012 school year. Chief Financial Officer Pat Johnston reports the district is 86 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students above budget projects to begin the year.

The district is serving 6234 students based on "Head Count" figures. This translates to 5996.04 FTEs across the district. These numbers do not include the Running Start program at Walla Walla Community College since this program has not started for the school year. The school district is funded from the state based on enrollment figures from Full-Time Equivalent students. The district's 2011-2012 General Fund budget is \$62,091,263.

Superintendent Miller chairs Community Levy Advisory Committee

Thursday night Superintendent Mick Miller held his first Levy Community Advisory Committee meeting to begin the process of preparing for the 2012 Maintenance and Operations Replacement Levy. Miller established the Levy Community Advisory Committee to educate this group on the M&O Levy and provide historical data on past M&O Levy rates. This group, which consists of board members, central office administrators, WWVEA and PSE leadership, a student, parents and community members, will ultimately provide a recommendation for the levy rate and how many years it should span. The group will meet again September 22 to make a recommendation to Miller. Superintendent Miller will then take this recommendation to the school board for consideration at a future school board meeting.

Levy Community Advisory Committee:

Mick Miller

Max Carrera

Pat Johnston

Mark Higgins

Ana Andrade

Shauna Bogley

Peter Swant

Margo Piver

Bill Heiser

Albert Gillin

Saul Reyna

Todd Bauman

Roger Esparza

Steve Moss

Anne Golden

Ruth Ladderud

Swant and Bogley plan Citizens for Schools Meeting

Citizens for Schools chairs Peter Swant and Shauna Bogley are scheduling a Walla Walla Citizens for Schools meeting Wednesday, Sept. 28 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Whitman College in Memorial Room 328. This meeting is open to the public.

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.

Citizens for Schools Meeting:

- Wednesday, Sept. 28

- Whitman College Memorial Building - Room 328

- 6:30 to 8 p.m.

- Front door will be open

- Those wishing to volunteer are encouraged to attend

Calendar committee to meet in October

Superintendent Mick Miller will chair the district's Calendar Committee and is organizing the first meeting for Wednesday, October 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This group will meet again Wednesday, November 2 to continue the process. The Calendar Committee will make recommendations for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school year calendars. WWVEA President Margo Piver and PSE President Bill Heiser will assist Miller throughout the calendar committee process. This committee will also consist of teachers, classified staff, community and business leaders, parents and students.

District honors September 11 victims as part of Patriot Day

District flags will be at half mast to recognize Patriot Day in memory of 9-11 victims. District schools and students are participating in a number of activities across the district on this 10 year anniversary of the terrorist attack which changed the world.

PocketiNet partners with the school district to enhance technology infrastructure

PocketiNet Communications, a leading provider of high speed broadband services, is completing a 10 month project with the Walla Walla School District to provide enhanced communication technology to the District through the installation of advanced fiber optics to all Walla Walla schools, Administrative Office, as well as the Transportation Cooperative and Support Services facility.

The new infrastructure provides increased capacity by 660 percent to create a "Mega Super Highway" for information sharing and updated voice services. The project provides advanced fiber optic services throughout the district and represents the latest innovative set of products. Students and staff will now benefit from access to reliable, ultra high speed Internet and voice services which offer an abundance of new learning opportunities.

"Many of the applications at present are still being developed and will most likely come from district educators using this new technology to better the educational experience of the student," said Todd Brandenburg, President of PocketiNet Communications, Inc. "PocketiNet is committed to supporting the future of our children and the community where we live so the students of Walla Walla have all the tools necessary to excel in life."

This project would not have been possible without the contribution of PocketiNet, who offered significant savings on the all new infrastructure. PocketiNet is a locally owned and operated broadband Internet service provider.

"We have done everything financially possible to make this project happen," Brandenburg said. "Education is vital to our community and we have a vested interest in these students because they are the future of our community as well as our company."

The partnership created during the 2010-11 school year between Walla Walla Public Schools and Pocket iNet has opened new horizons for staff and students of our schools, according to District Technology Director Kirk Jameson.

"In the garden and water world it means we started with a one inch diameter hose that supplied our water and replaced that with a pipe that is nearly 16 inches in diameter." District Technology Director Kirk Jameson said. "This allows our technicians to make updates in only minutes which once took hours. Now our teachers and students can stream video curriculum they were unable to access in the past."

Students enhance district presence at the fair

Several Walla Walla students volunteered to serve at the district's information station during this year's Walla Walla County Fair and Frontiers Days. Students supporting the Safe Travels Alliance passed out safety materials, held up signs and interacted with community members as part of their volunteer service. Special thanks to Safe Travels Alliance volunteer chairs Kathryn Southwick Hess and Katie Christianson for organizing the student volunteers.

Also this year, Walla Walla High School students in the Advancement Via Individual Determination program talked to fair attendees about the AVID program. The students distributed brochures and other items to promote the program. Thanks to WSU Gear UP Tutor Lauren Hemenway for coordinating the AVID student volunteer sessions.

Personnel Report (from Sept. 6, 2011 school board meeting)

Employment

(Certificated)

Yazmin Bahena, Bilingual Kindergarten (temp), Green Park
Cheryl Thonney, Title One Specialist .5 FTE (temp), Blue Ridge
Dan Coffey, Title One Specialist, .5 FTE, Sharpstein

(Classified)

Christopher Brown, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School
Fidel Bruno, Trades Assistant (temp), Facilities and Operations
Cheryl Copeland, Health and Nutrition Coordinator, Blue Ridge Head Start/ECEAP
Edward Czyhold, Mechanic, Transportation and Facilities and Operations
Rosalva Diaz, Para-Educator, Sharpstein
Silva Gomez, Life Skills Assistant, Green Park
Karen Hanson, Para-Educator, Sharpstein
Dean Harmon, Custodian, Facilities and Operations
Taren Hartzheim, Food Services Assistant, Garrison
Cesar Hernandez, Para-Educator, Green Park
Danna Jones, Para-Educator, Edison
Veronica Klicker, Health Clinician (temp), Sharpstein
Gregory May, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge
Malinda Prendiville, Para-Educator (temp), Blue Ridge
Melissa Teal, Food Services Assistant, Prospect Point
Christopher Yoo, Para-Educator, Berney and Green Park

Resignation/Retirement

(Classified)

Maryelyn Hebel, Administrative Assistant, Curriculum Dept. (7 years)
Luciana Herrera, Intervention Specialist, Pioneer, 19 years
(Luciana was on a leave of absence for the 2010-2011 school year)

School Stories

Banner year for FFA students at the fair

Tuesday night Walla Walla High School Future Farmers of America FFA President Lacey Eastman and Treasurer Ashley Ramsey reported this year 58 students participated in the Walla Walla County fair. They said 41 members sold livestock, netting \$38,182 in sales. They said the students put in hundreds of hours preparing for the annual fair. Special thanks to FFA Advisors Arch McHie and Lindsey Butcher for all their hard work preparing the students for the fair.

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 or (509)527-3020 for more information.

National author and motivational speaker to visit Wa-Hi

- Walla Walla High School and Washington State University GEAR UP present Peter Van Buskirk
- September 13, 2011

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 p.m. and then followed by the full presentation at 6:00 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

Latino Club earns "Best Community" award for work at fair

The Walla Walla High School Latino Club recently earned the "Best Community" Sweepstakes Award for their participation in the Walla Walla County Fair and Frontier Days Parade last Saturday, September 3rd. This is the third time in six years the club has earned this award.

Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days is a big event for the club as members have been busy since mid-August helping to get the grounds ready for the fair. "This year we spent several days and evenings with over 25 students helping out in preparation for the fair," stated Diana Erickson, Walla Walla School District Bilingual Coordinator. Club members performed the initial cleaning of the pavilion area by sweeping and mopping floors and cleaning glass cabinets. Besides cleaning, several club members helped set up display areas in the pavilion. This is the sixth year that the Latino Club has worked at the fairgrounds.

Latino Club members also assisted with the St. Mary's Cancer Center efforts to raise funds for the Life Saver Fund during the first night of the rodeo.

Club members also volunteer to sell concessions at the Exploring Post 311 booth which operates the booth to provide popcorn, cotton candy and Coke products during the concert, demolition derby, and rodeo.

Big Blue Boosters plan football game Tailgate Party Friday, September 16

- Free!
- Members, families and district staff invited to attend
- Friday, September 16
- 5:30 p.m.
- Borleske Stadium near former City Pool
- Great food, music and conversation

Big Blue Boosters of Walla Walla invite all members, families and Walla Walla Public Schools staff to this year's annual Fall Sports Tailgate Party Friday, September 16, 5:30 p.m. at Borleske Stadium near the former city swimming pool. New this year, live music by "Jacob's Weekend."

"We invite you to come & enjoy great music, great food and great conversation," said Anne North-Jones, Big Blue Boosters board member. "The tailgate party is a perfect time for members of our community to visit with Big Blue Boosters members and find out what our club does for our WA-HI Blue Devil athletes. We will also have memorabilia for sale, offered by T-Walla Walla by Original Design."

North-Jones says this is the organization's last push for membership this Fall Sports Season and the group's biggest social event of the year. There will be membership information available and opportunities to learn how Big Blue Boosters support 'ALL' the Blue Devil sports teams. Learn more online at: bigblueboosters.org

Big Blue Boosters of Walla Walla "True Blue Fridays"

Wear your BLUE every Friday this year – supporting all sports and all teams at WWHS. Big Blue will be selling "BLUE & WHITE - THAT'S RIGHT" T-shirts for \$5 next Friday, September 16 at the WWHS Commons during lunch and at the varsity football game.

"Our purpose is to get everybody in blue supporting all Wa-Hi Blue Devil sports," North-Jones said.

If you would like to sell shirts at another sport event please contact, Big Blue member Anne North-Jones 386-8268, or e-mail annenorth@charter.net.

Walla Walla High School plans "Sudsathon" car wash

- Choir Sudsathon
- Saturday, September 24
- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- NAPA (E. Isaacs)
- Information: Norbert Rossi, Director of Choral Activities (509-527-3020 / nrossi@wwps.org)

Community Stories

Kirkman House plans “Sheep to Shawl” Fall Festival

The Kirkman House Museum, 214 N. Colville St., will present its annual Sheep to Shawl Fall Festival Saturday, Sept. 17, on the museum grounds from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a fun family event that will include demonstrations, food, contests, artisan vendors goods, and a chance to win a one-of-a-kind Walla Walla woven shawl

The festival, in its tenth year, will celebrate the Walla Walla Valley’s rural heritage with a demonstration of wool’s true journey from sheep to shawl right before visitor’s eyes. Sheep will be shorn in one area, raw wool spun into yarn in another area, and yarn woven into various items in another area.

As in past years, a hand-woven shawl created by local textile artist Susan Swayne will be given to the winner of a drawing. Tickets to the drawing are a suggested donation of \$1 per chance or 6 tickets for \$5. Swayne spun and dyed some of the wool shorn at last year’s Sheep to Shawl festival to create a one-of-a-kind shawl valued at more than \$200. Proceeds from the drawing and food sales will help fund the museum’s programs.

Food available to the public from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. will include skewers, sliders, vegetable pitas, salads, seasonal vegetables and ice cream grabbers. Hands-on demonstrations and activities throughout the day include felting, spinning, carding, and sheep shearing. There will be contests throughout the day for children and adults, including corn husking, vegetable racing, kids and adults pie eating and kids whipped cream feeding frenzy. In addition, a variety of artisan vendors will have wares for sale.

Please call the museum at 509-529-4373 with any questions.

Darold Bigger to present Religion and War presentation during Walla Walla Exchange Club meeting

Darold Bigger will give a half hour presentation “Religion and War: Post 9/11 Military Chaplains” at the Walla Walla Exchange Club, Marcus Whitman Hotel and Convention Center on Sept. 19 at 12:30. This program is free and open to the public.

Darold Bigger

Darold Bigger spent three decades as a Navy Chaplain, reaching the rank of Rear Admiral (lower half) and was Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains for Reserve Matters when he retired in 2004. In this position, Darold helped those affected by 9/11 heal their emotional wounds and helped service members in the resulting wars grapple with difficult moral challenges. Currently, Darold is Professor of Theology and Social Work at Walla Walla University, with an academic interest in the place of forgiveness in human psychology. He is a licensed marriage and family therapist and holds a PhD from the Claremont School of Theology.

Religion and War: Post 9/11 Military Chaplains

The 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center launched America into a prolonged international conflict that included religious, national, racial, and social issues which persist to the present day. Members of the military have thus been brought to consider ethical conflicts between the violence of war and the morality of their religious faith. Darold Bigger was in Washington, DC, on 9/11 and as Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains for Reserve Matters, supervised chaplains for several years thereafter. He reports first hand on the work of chaplains in Washington, New York, and the Gulf after 9/11 and how chaplains are still working to assist returning veterans in the process of moral healing.

This presentation is sponsored by Humanities Washington through their state-wide Speakers Bureau. The Speakers Bureau brings Washington’s finest scholars, historians, musicians, and storytellers to local communities to give dynamic presentations at libraries, schools, museums, and other community organizations.

Humanities Washington honors and shares stories, ideas, and perspectives from across our state that connect Washingtonians from all backgrounds and communities, allowing us to understand our past and present as we work to shape our future.

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 the 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