

Stories this week include:

District Stories

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- Walla Walla Public Schools now offering Free Tutoring
- New state funding formula reviewed
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- School board members tour Lincoln Health Center
- Lincoln High School studies 19 credit diploma
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- Lincoln High School students treat staff during Staff Appreciation Dinner
- Trunk-or-Treat offers safe and fun Halloween experience
- Walla Walla High School and Washington State University GEAR UP host College and Career Family Event
- Walla Walla High School students build nesting boxes to attract area birds of prey
- Key Club supports UNICEF fundraiser for youth in need
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- Blue Devil volleyball team selling Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts
- FFA sponsors Powder Puff football game - Wednesday, October 12

Community Stories

- Walla Walla Police Department plans Prescription Pill Take Back event
- Walla Walla Police Department offers free shredding of sensitive documents
- Traffic Safety Task Force organizes Safety Days Saturday and Sunday
- Sheriff Turner promotes Walla Walla County Reserve Deputy Sheriff program
- Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty hunger walk October 9

District Stories

District bilingual program meets rigorous achievement standards

Tuesday night district Bilingual Coordinator Diana Erickson reported to school board members the district received notification its Bilingual Program earned “Yes” for all three Annual Measurement of Achievement Objectives (AMAOs). These are the standards by which the state and federal government measure the effectiveness of the bilingual program.

Erickson said the program’s success is attributed to many factors including the three tier Response to Intervention model which ensures students’ needs are met by monitoring and adjusting instruction. Teachers are utilizing our OASIS data system to effectively monitor student progress and provide instruction based on that data. They also have implemented systematic teaching routines that smooth the transition from Spanish instruction to English instruction.

“We will continue to build on these initiatives to ensure that our English Language Learners continue to acquire proficiency in English and achieve success,” Erickson said.

Teachers have worked collaboratively in grade level teams developing units that focus on vocabulary and language structures in all content areas. Dual Immersion programs are being implemented in three elementary schools and one middle school. A co-teaching model is being used at the high school level in which our English Language Learners are integrated with native English speakers for their English class.

The AMAOs are:

- AMAO 1 – 66.7% of students make adequate progress learning English as measured by the annual Washington Language Proficiency Test – II: Walla Walla = 82.9%.

- AMAO 2 – 13.3% of students transition or exit from program determined by the annual Washington Language Proficiency Test – II: Walla Walla 19.6%.

- AMAO 3 - Students took the MSP/HSPE and met reading and writing proficiency goals on it: Walla Walla = YES in both cells.

Walla Walla Public Schools now offering Free Tutoring

Learn more at the Tutor Provider Fair October 12

Walla Walla Public Schools will be hosting a Free Tutoring Provider Fair on October 12, 2011. This event is for families with students attending Blue Ridge Elementary, Edison Elementary, Garrison Middle School, Green Park Elementary, and Sharpstein Elementary. If your child attends one of these schools and meets eligibility guidelines, you may visit with tutoring providers from the area and sign up for free tutoring services for the 2011-2012 school year.

The event will be held at Garrison Middle School, 906 Chase Street, and will run from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, contact the Walla Walla Public Schools Hotline at 509-876-6435.

New state funding formula reviewed

Tuesday night Chief Financial Officer Pat Johnston reported on the state’s new conceptual state funding formula. Currently there are no dollars linked to the changes, according to Johnston.

The new formula aims at more accurately accounting for costs associated with operating today’s public school systems. Johnston could not speculate on when the funds would be available. She also reported the district’s enrollment counts are flat, but remain on target to meet budget projections.

Personnel Report (from October 4, 2011 School Board meeting)

Employment

(Certificated) NONE TO REPORT

(Classified)

Connie Hernandez, Intervention Specialist, Pioneer Middle School

Resignation/Retirement

(Classified)

Jaenemy Perez de Luengas, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge (1 year)

Listeria outbreak in cantaloupe not impacting district food services program

Cantaloupe used by the Walla Walla Public Schools Food Service program has not been impacted by the recent listeria outbreak. It is safe to eat. District cantaloupe is coming out of California, according to Food Services of America, the district's produce vendor.

Collaborative investigations by local, state, and federal public health and regulatory agencies indicate the source of the outbreak is whole cantaloupe grown at Jensen Farms' production fields in Granada, Colorado.

From CDC web site:

General recommendations to prevent an infection with Listeria:

FDA recommendations for washing and handling food more safely.

- Rinse raw produce, such as fruits and vegetables, thoroughly under running tap water before eating, cutting, or cooking. Even if the produce will be peeled, it should still be washed first. Scrub firm produce, such as melons and cucumbers, with a clean produce brush. Dry the produce with a clean cloth or paper towel that has not been previously used before cutting them up.
- Brushes and peelers should be sanitized after cleaning raw produce.
- Keep uncooked meats and poultry separate from vegetables and from cooked foods and ready-to-eat foods.

District teams with Realtors for "Care and Share" food drive

Walla Walla Public Schools is teaming with area realtors to help those in need through the "Care and Share" annual food drive. There are many ways for parents, students and staff to get involved. All donations help the Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank. Demand is at an all time high. Peter Swant is the project coordinator: pswant@cbfr.biz

Here's how you can help:

- "Fill the Bus" drive at area grocery stores: Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Pick a section of town to distribute bags to area homes and then collect them the following day (Oct. 15 & 16)
- Donate food during Walla Walla High School home football games
- Donate food at all district schools (collection barrels are now in place)

School board members tour Lincoln Health Center

Daily use continues to rise for health center services

Lincoln Health Center Director Holly Howard provided a tour of the facility for school board members before Tuesday night's meeting. Howard says the health center continues to see its usage numbers rise. She said students visit to receive care for illnesses and other medical conditions.

Howard said mental health services and drug related counseling are in high demand. Howard is focused on providing quality services, securing funding, raising awareness and improving communication.

Lincoln High School studies 19 credit diploma

Lincoln High School Principal Jim Sporleder provided a report Tuesday night to school board members during the public work session on the need to offer students meeting defined criteria an opportunity for a 19 credit State of Washington diploma. Currently the district requires all students to earn 22 credits for a diploma.

Sporleder says the exception would only be made for students who are 17.5 years of age, in senior status and who have less than 14 credits. They would also be required to pass all state graduation requirements, including High School Proficiency Exam standards. Sporleder said 25 of the school's current 66 seniors could benefit from this option.

He said many districts offer a similar diploma for select students. Sporleder says this will help keep students in school and not transfer to other out-of-district programs. No decisions were made Tuesday night. The board will continue its study.

Girl's Council plans fundraiser at Walla Walla Country Club

Girl's Council is planning a fundraiser at the Walla Walla Country Club Saturday, Oct. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. to raise money for its project, "The Cottage." Girl's Council is a non-profit organization in Walla Walla which intervenes in the lives of girls ages 9 through 18. It has been operating in the Walla Walla Valley since 2006. Since then, over 200 local girls have been served by the organization.

Girls referred for the program receive training through the Girl's Circle curriculum. Teaching girls to manage their feelings and behaviors by taking charge of their thoughts, empowers them with some of the crucial skills necessary to successfully navigate through life. These groups are run in various community locations as well as within the public school setting.

In addition to providing specialized groups, the goal is to build a residential, ranch-like home for girls in the community in an effort to alleviate the continued risk of physical and emotional harm through residential placement. Once built, "The Cottage" will house up to six girls and will be staffed 24 hours a day. This home will be a safe place for girls ages 12-17 where they can grow and become empowered within a structured, nurturing environment.

How can you help?

- 1) Donate an item or money for the silent auction which will be held October 8 at the Walla Walla Country Club from 6 to 9 p.m.
- 2) Attend the event. The \$40 ticket cost includes admittance to the event, dinner and dessert as well as the opportunity to bid on various local items.

Visit the Girl's Council Website at www.girlscouncil.org for more information. Contact Marci Knauff, Brandi McIntire or Karen Neher at Lincoln High School to make a donation or purchase tickets for the event.

District partners with The Moms' Network for free Parent Workshop Series

Stability & Sustainability in the Home

- Tuesday, October 11 @ 7 p.m.
- YMCA
- Jennifer Clark
- Free child care and translation services available

Your Child's Health

- Wednesday, November 9 @ 7 p.m.
- YMCA
- Dr. Trent Rogers, Pediatrician, Walla Walla Clinic
- Free child care and translation services available

Reserve your spot by contacting Beth Swanson at 509.301.7471 or beth@themomsnetworkww.com

School Stories

Big Blue Weekend a huge success

Humor used to spread message of respect

More than 350 Walla Walla High School students spent an entire weekend to work at making their school a better place and reflect on their own behavior as part of Big Blue Weekend held at the Washington Family Ranch in Antelope, OR. Big Blue Weekend was created to break down social barriers and build a positive school community.

Keynote speaker Stu Cabe delivered powerful messages using humor to stress the importance of treating people with respect. Thirty-four Wa-Hi and district staff served as chaperones and 30 parents, staff and community members provided work crew support.

“We’re all human at the core,” Cabe said. “We should always put this first as we navigate through life. Do no harm: To yourself, to others, to the planet.”

Special thanks to Assistant Principal Mindy Meyer and English teachers Kristina Duncan and Carina Stillman for organizing the event. Plans are already in place for next year’s event.

Lincoln High School students treat staff during Staff Appreciation Dinner

Local restaurant owner’s donation makes event possible

Sunday evening Lincoln High School staff were treated to a Staff Appreciation Dinner at Jacobi’s Cafe. Owner and operator Vince Cannone graciously closed his restaurant to the public to accommodate this event. Student’s from Lincoln High School’s culinary arts program and other student volunteers prepared and served the food, under the direction of Cannone and his staff.

Special thanks to Jeremy Gradwohl and Gabe Delong for helping organize the event. Gradwohl created a slideshow featuring Lincoln students in their afterschool activities through the 21st Century grant program, better known as, “The Lift.” Thanks to everyone involved for making this a special event.

Comments from Principal Jim Sporleder regarding the event:

“The dinner was one of the highlights of my career. Our students were so eager to serve and take care of us throughout the evening. Working hard all day in order to show their appreciation for staff through a wonderful meal that they cooked, and through their expressions of thanks and appreciation. We find ourselves at Lincoln wanting to serve and give as much support as we can to our students.

We want them to feel valued and know how much we really care for them individually. At the dinner, all of that came back to us through our students’ voices and actions. We were the receivers and they were the givers. Just an incredible night that I will always hold as a very special memory. Lincoln students shined and showed just what they are all about. Great kids with big hearts and a willingness to love us back.”

Trunk-or-Treat offers safe and fun Halloween experience

- Trunk-or-Treat is sponsored by Key Club

- Trick-or-Treat from cars that Wa-Hi clubs have decorated

- Monday, October 31 from 5 to 7 p.m.

- Wa-Hi Science Parking lot

- Haunted Barn sponsored by FFA

- Admission is two cans of food for donation to the Christian Aid Center Food Bank

Walla Walla High School and Washington State University GEAR UP host College and Career Family Event

- October 17
- 5:15 to 7:30 p.m.
- Free pizza dinner

Walla Walla High School and WSU GEAR UP are hosting college representatives and career resource representatives from across Washington State in a College and Resource Fair at the Walla Walla High School Commons Monday, Oct. 17 from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. Along with the career and college readiness resources there will also be three breakout sessions with information for parents and students.

Breakout Sessions

- Advance Placement vs Head Start
- WOIS Connecting Interest to College and Careers
- AVID Parent Advocacy

Event Schedule

College and Career Family night will begin at 5:15 at the Walla Walla High School Commons and will end at 7:30. A pizza dinner will be provided for all attendees, Monday evening.

Daytime Presenters and College Fair attendees:

- Central Washington University
- Eastern Washington University
- University of Washington
- Washington State University Tri-Cities
- Walla Walla University
- Walla Walla Community College

Evening College Fair attendees:

- Washington State University - Pullman
- Whitman College
- St Martin's University

About Gear Up

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

Walla Walla High School students build nesting boxes to attract area birds of prey

Walla Walla High School has teamed with North Slope Management, under the direction of Jon Davies, to build nesting boxes to attract birds of prey such as owls, bats and kestrels. The project is designed to get birds of prey to live near area vineyards to reduce damage to grape vines caused by rodents and bugs. We plan to build nesting boxes and perches that will be placed in the vineyards to attract and house the birds and bats.

“We will then study and observe the bird and pest populations,” said Agricultural Education teacher Lindsey Butcher. “The goal is to see less damage on grape vines and control the population of the pests without the use of traps or poisons.”

The boxes will be delivered to Seven Hills Winery in Milton Freewater, OR on Sunday October 9 at 11 a.m. Students will also get a tour of the vineyards to make initial observations of native wildlife including the pests and the birds of prey. Paige Montgomery, is the student project coordinator.

Key Club supports UNICEF fundraiser for youth in need

Key Club is once again sponsoring the school-wide UNICEF fund drive. Walla Walla High School is doing this in partnership with Key Clubs across the world to raise money for children in need. UNICEF is the Key Club's global effort.

"Walla Walla High School has been supportive of this in the past and we are hoping that you will support our efforts this year," said Key Club Advisor Shelley Mann. "We have put the collection boxes in the Copy Center at Walla Walla High School."

The goal this year is to beat the school record of \$1,800. To help in this effort, Key Club will provide the following incentives:

- 1st place - pizza party
- 2nd place - donuts & juice
- 3rd place - candy bars

2011-2012 Key Club officers:

Lauren McClanahan, President
Alyson Ambler, Vice President
Paige Moeller, Secretary
Rob Ferenz, Treasurer
Nick Peasley, Newsletter Editor

Pioneer Middle School fundraising Fund Run nets \$16,000

Pioneer Middle School students raised more than \$16,000 during their annual Fund Run September 30. Students began securing pledges earlier this fall. Payment was based on the number of laps covered or one-time pledges. This activity promotes physical fitness and school pride. All of the funds raised support the school's activities program.

Funds are distributed to the Associated Student Body budget where it is used for music, drama, assemblies, athletics, intramurals, clubs, peer mediators, National Honor Society, special recognition activities, and other middle school functions. This is the school's only major fundraiser.

Fund Run at a glance:

- Profit: More than \$16,000 raised
- Prizes donated by staff: More than \$700 in prizes donated
- Top Sellers: ALL COLLECTED more than \$200 EACH (TOP 4 - OVER \$300 EACH)

Blue Devil volleyball team selling Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts

The Walla Walla Blue Devil Volleyball team is doing its part to raise awareness of Breast Cancer by selling t-shirts. Fans are encouraged to wear the shirts to the Varsity Volleyball game Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. This year the t-shirts are available in long or short sleeve, pink or black. Order forms are available in staff breakrooms or by contacting Berney Kindergarten teacher Lori Thomas at: lthomas@wwps.org.

FFA sponsors Powder Puff football game - Wednesday, October 12

The Walla Walla High School FFA chapter is organizing its annual Powder Puff football game as a part of the school's Homecoming Week. The game, on October 12 at 7 p.m. at Borleske Stadium, pits the junior and senior girls against one another in a game of flag football.

Event Fact Sheet:

- Event Name: Powder Puff
- Homecoming Week Fundraiser for FFA
- Date: October 12 @ 7 p.m.
- Location: Borleske Stadium
- Cost: Children under 12 – Free and Adults - \$5
- For more information, contact Arch McHie at 527-3027 or by email at amchie@wwps.org

Community Stories

Walla Walla Police Department plans Prescription Pill Take Back event

The City of Walla Walla Police Department is partnering with American West Bank for the Prescription Take Back Day / Shred Event Saturday, October 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: American West Parking lot at 3rd and Rose St (across from City Hall 15 N. 3rd)

- Drive up and Drop off service...
- Drugs accepted NO questions asked!
- No needles, sharps or syringes!
- No mercury thermometers!
- No oxygen containers!
- No pressured canisters!
- No chemotherapy/radioactive substances!

Vicki Ruley, Crime Prevention Coordinator/Crime Victim Advocate
509-524-4409

Walla Walla Police Department offers free shredding of sensitive documents

Protect your identity by shredding sensitive documents!

- Old bank statements
- Old canceled checks and bank statements
- Tax and medical records
- Anything with your personal information
- Limited to two grocery bags or two legal size boxes.

Also, donate your cell phone to the 911 cell phone bank so a victim of domestic violence and or a senior citizen may call for help!

Vicki Ruley, Crime Prevention Coordinator/Crime Victim Advocate
509-524-4409

Traffic Safety Task Force organizes Safety Days

- Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Task Force "Safety Days"
- Kmart (Walla Walla location)
- Saturday, Oct. 8 and Sunday, Oct. 9
- 12 to 2 p.m.
- See Vince and Larry the Crash Test Dummies, child identification kits and more

Sheriff Turner promotes Walla Walla County Reserve Deputy Sheriff program

- Informational meetings: Tuesday, Oct. 25 and Wednesday, Oct. 26
- 7 p.m.
- Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office (240 West Alder Street)
- Learn more about Reserve Deputy program and how to apply
- Both meetings will be held at the Sheriff's Office, 240 West Alder Street, Walla Walla (Alder & 4th).
- Feel free to invite family or friends who may also be interested

John A. Turner, Walla Walla County Sheriff
(509) 524-5400
jturner@co.walla-walla.wa.us

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty hunger walk October 9

- CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) hunger walk
- Sunday, October 9
- Starts and ends at Walla Walla Community College
- Free registration begins at 1 p.m. with the walk at 2 p.m..
- Walkers can choose to walk a 1/2 mile, 3 mile or 5 mile route.

The purpose of the walk is to raise funds to alleviate local and world hunger with 25% of the funds staying here in Walla Walla. Walkers are encouraged to seek sponsors; funds can be collected by the walker or given online at www.cropwalkonline.org. This is an opportunity for a school group to challenge another group or a team spirit builder or a family activity. For further information call 525-1376.