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## District Stories

### Holiday Concert series online

Visit the district website at [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org) to see a complete listing of the school district's holiday concert series. All school concerts and special events are listed. Please join us this holiday season!

### Winter Break Schedule

- December 19 to 30
- Classes resume Monday, January 2

### School Board Meeting - Tuesday, Dec. 13

- 6:30 p.m.
- District Office (364 S. Park St.)
- Meeting open to the public

### Voter registration forms available

Voter registration forms are available at the district office and all WWPS schools. The district's Programs & Operations Replacement Levy election date is February 14, 2012. There are two deadlines for voters wishing to cast a ballot for the February 14 Replacement Levy:

Monday, January 16 is the deadline for voters registering by mail, online, or transferring their registration/making address changes within the state of Washington.

Monday, February 6 is the deadline for people who are not registered anywhere in the state of Washington and did not meet the January 16 deadline. They are eligible to register in person at the Walla Walla County Elections Department at 310 W Poplar Street.

For additional information:

Dale Grogan, Voter Registration Coordinator  
Walla Walla County Auditor's Office  
Elections Department  
310 W. Poplar Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 524-2535  
[dgrogan@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:dgrogan@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

### Winter weather is on the way! School closure and delay procedures

At Walla Walla Public Schools, we make every effort to post up-to-the-minute school closure information due to inclement weather or any circumstance that would delay or cancel the normal school schedule. Decisions to delay or close school usually are made by 5:30 a.m. or earlier. This triggers the district's comprehensive school closure/delay announcement plan. The district makes every effort to begin announcements by 6 a.m.

#### Announcements include:

- Media release (radio, tv, newspaper)
- Telephone automated message (staff and parents)
- Web posting ([www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org))
- Staff e-mail (GroupWise)
- E-news message (sign up on the district web site: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org))
- Twitter message ([twitter.com/wwschools](https://twitter.com/wwschools))
- Facebook page message
- Orange signs posted in front of schools

## School Stories

**Relationship expert Stu Cabe continues work with district to help develop positive school climate and culture**  
Stu Cabe, founder of the Ovation Company – *Standing Up for What is Good*, is coming to Walla Walla Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7 to work with students and staff on developing a more positive school climate and culture.

Cabe will work with students at Pioneer and Garrison Middle Schools and Walla Walla High School during his two-day visit. Cabe will also speak live with Jim Bock on the In-Depth radio show on KUJ 1420 AM Tuesday, December 6 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Cabe has an established relationship with the district. He served as the keynote speaker the past two years at the Big Blue Weekend student and staff retreat in central Oregon. Cabe delivered powerful messages using humor as he discussed treating people with respect during the October event.

“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.”

Contact Communications Director Mark Higgins: 509.526.6716 or [mhiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mhiggins@wwps.org) for more information.

### Tuesday, December 6

#### *Walla Walla High School*

- 9:30 a.m. – All school assembly at Walla Walla High School main gym
- 11:30 to 1 p.m. – Stu Cabe meets with Walla Walla High School student leaders

#### *Pioneer Middle School*

- 1:15 p.m. - Cabe to meet with Pioneer Student Leadership Team (Where Everyone Belongs or WEBS)  
(Cabe talks with students about leadership. Students and staff put on new “Be Nice” t-shirts)
- 2 p.m - All school assembly at Pioneer Gym  
(Cabe will address students in the school gym. and WEBS leaders and staff members will perform a flash mob dance during the assembly and wear their new “Be Nice” t-shirts)

### Wednesday, December 7

#### *Garrison Middle School*

- 8:15 a.m. – All School Assembly at Garrison Gym

#### *Walla Walla High School*

- 1 p.m. – Stu Cabe meets with Walla Walla High School ASB Class

### **Wa-Hi FFA Holiday Wreath sale**

- 16" ring (the wreath will be 20"-24" wide when it is finished)
- Bow colors: Red, White or Blue
- Cost: \$20 (payable upon delivery or pick-up)
- Deliveries are underway
- To place an order, contact FFA Advisor Arch McHie - [amchie@wwps.org](mailto:amchie@wwps.org) / 527-3020

### **Blue Ridge Principal Earns Regional Leadership Award**

Walla Walla Elementary school principals in the Lake Wallula Region have selected Blue Ridge Elementary Principal Kim Doepker as one of 18 regional Distinguished Principals for the 2011-12 school year. She will be considered for the state's Distinguished Principal Award. The winner of the state award will serve as the nominee for National Distinguished Principals Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

"Mrs. Doepker has acted to provide strong interventions and has revamped the structure of the school day to meet the needs of her students. At her school, staff specialize in reading, math, or science as students move from teacher to teacher during the day. She is also adept at providing valuable feedback on lesson design and implementation." said Bruce Cannard, principal, Edison Elementary (Kennewick School District). Cannard is also the Lake Wallula regional director of the Elementary School Principals Association of Washington (ESPAW), the state's professional association for elementary school principals.

"Mrs. Doepker has also led the development of a Dual Language Spanish/English Program that is in its second year of implementation, with plans to eventually carry it through all elementary grades at Blue Ridge."

For the past three years Doepker has been principal at Blue Ridge. She was an assistant principal at Pioneer Middle School prior to her current position. She graduated from the University of Idaho and later earned a masters from Eastern Washington University in Curriculum and Instruction.

"Kim is an innovative thinker with the energy needed to carry out programs leading to student success," said Laure Quaresma, assistant superintendent of Walla Walla School District.

The regional, state and national Distinguished Principals Programs serve to honor exemplary elementary and middle school principals who set the pace, character, and quality of the education children receive during their early school years. One principal is chosen annually from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Principals representing private K-8 schools, Department of Defense Dependents' Schools, and the U.S. Department of State Overseas Schools are also recognized.

Public school principals are nominated by peers in their home states, and the final selection for each state's NDP is made by the NAESP state affiliate (ESPAW and the Association of Washington School Principals, in the case of Washington State). Honorees from private schools and overseas schools are selected by special committees.

ESPAW and the statewide principals' association, the Association of Washington School Principals, will formally honor Kim Doepker and the other regional Distinguished Principal candidates at its fall conference next October.

For more information on the National Distinguished Principals Program, visit the NAESP Web site at [www.naesp.org](http://www.naesp.org). To learn more about Blue Ridge Elementary, visit the Walla Walla School District Web site at <http://www.wwps.org>.

### **Lincoln High School Drama Department presents: Snow Angel**

When the quiet town of Deerpoint, Vermont is hit by the biggest blizzard in 107 years, a mysterious girl named Eva steps out of a snow bank and into the lives of 15 confused teenagers who are asked to help her in her search. What Eva's searching for — and who she truly is — becomes a mystery that baffles, divides, and energizes the teens of Deerpoint. Told through journal entries and interactions among the students over the course of a single snow day, *Snow Angel* is a funny and eerie tale of teen angst, discovery, and the power of believing.

Who: The Lincoln High School Play Production Company and The Lift

What: *Snow Angel* is a funny and eerie tale of teen angst, discovery, and the power of believing.

When: December 9 & 10 at 7 p.m.

Where: W.W.C .C. China Pavilion

Cost: Admission is FREE

Video promotions: <http://youtu.be/4n7wREomVKQ> <http://youtu.be/qrkW9ITo1b8>

Information: Jeremy Gradwohl - 509.526.8516 or [jgradwohl@wwps.org](mailto:jgradwohl@wwps.org)

### **Wa-Hi Cadet of the Month earns on-the-spot promotion**

The Walla Walla High School JROTC "Blue Devils" Cadet Battalion has selected its "Cadet of the Month" for November 2011 and rewarded his achievement with an immediate promotion. Cadet Private First Class Brandon Latendresse, a 16-year-old 10th grader, was promoted to this new rank after he won the top spot with a total score of 78 points, according to the presiding official on the board.

The top Cadet was selected from three candidates who were inspected and examined in oral interviews by a board of four advanced cadets, according to Lt. Col. Bill Bialozor, Senior Army Instructor for the Walla Walla High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Latendresse said that he joined JROTC because he plans on joining the Marine Corps and to attend college. He enjoys playing sports and video games, shooting, and fishing.

"His strongest competitive category was His self confidence," said Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Malachi Matthews. "This Cadet of the Month was a close match and the cadets' performances were outstanding."

First runner up was Cadet Private Dylan Mayeski, a 16 year old sophomore, whose strongest suit was his personal appearance. He came in second with 72 points. Second runner up was Cadet Private Mattie Bialozor, a 14 year old freshman, whose strongest suit was her attitude. She came in third with 68 points.

"After the board tallied the points and the winner was clear, we held a ceremony to promote the winning cadet one rank higher, to recognize him for his hard work and personal success," said Bialozor.

Wa-Hi JROTC cadets participate in the program to develop leadership skills and to strive to be better citizens in society. Many cadets compete as members of drill, marksmanship, and physical training teams as well as attend the class. These cadets get to travel to and compete in drill meets at 16 other schools in the Cascade Division that include Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy Cadet programs.

### **Latino Club students tour WSU athletic facilities and watch football game - By Volunteer Bill Erickson**

A snowy day in Pullman was in store for 30 students from Lincoln High School and the Walla Walla High School Latino Club when they attended the Utah - Washington State game on Saturday, November 19th. With temperatures in the low 20s the students, hosted by the WSU athletic department, watched the Cougars experience a 30 - 27 overtime loss to Utah.

"There is nothing more rewarding than seeing high school students, for the first time, step foot on a college campus," stated Gaby Salazar, who is a volunteer College Counselor at Lincoln High School. "They show up not knowing what to expect, but once they get to see and talk to college representatives they light up."

The students, who arrived on campus early in the day were met by Walla Walla High School graduate and WSU Athletic Marketing Director, Casey Fox who then led the students on a tour of Beasley Coliseum and Bohler Gym. The tour began with the men's basketball locker room and ended, just prior to the team's arrival at the WSU Football locker room set up for the game later in the day. Casey pointed out the importance and recognition of the WSU "brand," especially the WSU logo designed by WSC student Randall Johnson in 1937, which is currently one of the most recognized school emblems in the United States.

After the tour of the Cougar athletics department, a physics demonstration was provided by WSU Physics Department staff member, Tom Johnson. The demonstration included various props and experiments that demonstrated examples of inertia, force, magnetism, and electricity. "The students, from the start of the physics demonstration, were engaged by the mysteries of science. Normally it is intimidating to answer questions at a college level," said Salazar. "These kids instantaneously wanted to shout out their theory on what was happening during each experiment as they were happening." During the presentation, the development of math skills were emphasized as Johnson stated that "the language of physics is math." After the physics demonstration and just prior to the game, the students toured the WSU Multicultural Center.

"These visits help students realize that college is fun and exciting," stated Salazar. "College visits help our students change their minds about just graduating from high school and joining the work force. Instead, they are wanting to expand their education by attending Walla Walla Community College or a four year university like WSU.

The trip, funded by Lincoln High School and the Wa-Hi Gear Up program, was organized by Boy Scouts Exploring Post 311.

### **Debate team travels to Spokane to participate in exclusive event - By Coach Jean Tobin**

The weekend of November 18 and 19 the Wa-Hi debate team competed in Spokane at the Central Valley Bear Brawl. I took a smaller team of eight students. The students earned the privilege of attending based on their efforts preparing before the season started and their success at the Whitman tournament.

The reason I chose this tournament for students to attend is because it is a Tournament of Champions qualifying tournament. The Tournament of Champions (TOC) is held once a year and only students that have placed at nationally competitive tournaments are allowed to attend. Students earning 2 "bids" at qualifying tournaments are invited to attend the TOC tournament. The Bear Brawl is one of the few tournaments in our area to offer a bid to the TOC in Congressional Debate so we attended hoping to earn a bid for a Wa-Hi student. Machado Mijiga (senior) was one of 6 students that earned a TOC bid!

He placed 5th in Congressional Debate. We are not sure if Machado will attend the TOC tournament (he can petition to attend based on one bid, because we live in a region which has limited TOC qualifying tournaments) because of the cost and because he is also hoping to qualify for the National tournament. But it is an honor for him to have received the bid and we are very proud of him.

Because we traveled with such a small team, we did not receive enough points to earn a team award, however our students still were very successful. We competed against 17 schools from the Spokane area.

#### In Individual Events:

- Hope Grant Herriot and Marisol Beck took 4th in Dual Interpretation.
- Hope Grant-Herriot took 1st in Oratory and Kimberly McLaughlin took 6th.
- Kera Parsons took 4th in Interpretive Reading and Marisol Beck took 5th.
- Konor Clark took 2nd in Humorous Interpretation.
- Machado Mijiga took 3rd in Editorial Commentary.

#### In Debate:

- Machado Mijiga took 5th in Congressional Debate
- Rosa Tobin was 3rd Speaker in Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Our next tournament is a District tournament in Wenatchee. We will be traveling with our full squad and competing on December 10. We will be working over Christmas Break preparing to compete at a large tournament on January 6th and 7th at the University of Puget Sound.

## **Community Stories**

### **YMCA offers FREE ACL Screening and ACL Prevention Clinic for area girls**

Did you know that adolescent and adult female athletes have a 4-to-8-fold higher incidence of sustaining a serious non contact knee ligament injury compared to male athletes participating in the same sport (American Journal of Sports Medicine)? Each year in the US, 1 in 100 high school female athletes will suffer a serious knee injury.

#### Screening date:

- Monday, December 19
- 9 to 11 a.m.

#### Clinic:

- Tuesday, December 20 through Thursday December 22
- 9 to 10 a.m.

Pre-Register online: [wwymca.org](http://wwymca.org) or at the YMCA in person

Contact Christy Druffel for more information at: [cdruffel@wwymca.org](mailto:cdruffel@wwymca.org) or 509.525.8863

### **YWCA hosts gingerbread house-making event**

The YWCA of Walla Walla will host their annual “Hansel and Gretel” gingerbread house-making event on Wednesday, December 21 at the YWCA. All ages are welcome to join in the fun. Parents of children age 5 and younger are asked to stay for the duration of the event.

This year the cost will be \$5 plus the donation of an unwrapped, new, nonviolent toy (no play guns or play weapons). Space is limited in the three sessions. To reserve your spot, please call 525-2570.

Session 1: 1 to 2 p.m.

Session 2: 2 to 3 p.m.

Session 3: 3 to 4 p.m.

Please call the YWCA for more information:

- Anne-Marie Zell Schwerin, Executive Director

- (509) 525-2570

### **Civil Rights expert to present: Losing History? State Standards and the Civil Rights Movement**

- Wednesday, Dec. 7

- Whitman College: Olin 130

- 7 p.m.

- Free and open to the public

Kate Shuster is the author of a groundbreaking report that assessed the declining attention given to the civil rights era in America’s public education. The report received extensive coverage, including a story in the New York Times. This talk is a part of a new initiative between Whitman, the Walla Walla Public School District and the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Teaching Tolerance project. The initiative – Whitman Teaches The Movement – is an effort to creatively address some of the challenges pointed out in Shuster’s report. More information can be found on Whitman’s Community Service website.

This lecture will be useful background for the Whitman Teaches The Movement initiative, a new collaboration between Whitman, Walla Walla Public Schools and the Teaching Tolerance program, that will take place during the week of MLK Day.

Shuster holds a Ph.D. in Educational Studies from Claremont Graduate University with an emphasis in education policy. She is the author of *Teaching the Movement: The State of Civil Rights Education 2011*, published by the Southern Poverty Law Center. She works as an independent researcher and program evaluator. In addition to her current work on curricular reform, high-stakes testing and evaluation processes, she administers America’s largest middle school debating program and coaches the U.S. national high school debate team. She is the author of nine books on debating and critical thinking instruction.

This event is sponsored by the Whitman College Office of the President and the Office of the Dean of Students, and is co-sponsored by Whitman’s community service office and the Student Engagement Center.

### **Student-based health center launches new name and brand**

Student Health Options/Lincoln Health Center, provider of free medical and mental health services to Lincoln High School students, has selected a new name and logo. Both the administrative entity (Student Health Options) and the clinical entity (Lincoln Health Center) will now use the following identifier: *The Health Center at Lincoln*.

The change was made to help unify The Health Center's administrative and clinical identities and to simplify communications around The Health Center's work and mission.

A focus group made up of community stakeholders, employees and volunteers helped generate ideas for possible names and provided feedback throughout the selection process. The chosen name and logo are versions of those which were most favored by the group. The change is effective immediately though there will be a transition period as signs, forms and stationery are printed and as the organization's website is updated.

Holly Howard, Executive Director of The Health Center, called the name change "an exciting step in the development of the organization" citing other examples of changes that are being made to accommodate recent growth, such as the addition of key staff and the expansion of counseling facilities. "Our names are changing, but our commitment to make a difference in the lives of these students isn't. The needs are greater than ever; so we just have to step-up and make this happen".

To contact Holly Howard at The Health Center call (509) 529-5661.

The Health Center at Lincoln  
534 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Suite 16  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

### **Walla Walla University Department of Music presents free Christmas Concert**

Walla Walla University's Department of Music will present "Eternal Purposes," the department's annual Christmas concert, on Friday, Dec. 9. The concert will feature music from Handel's Messiah.

Two performances of the same concert are scheduled to accommodate all those who wish to attend. The hour-long concerts begin at 6 and 8 p.m., both in the University Church. Admission is free. The concert will include choral performances by the University Singers and I Cantori, both directed by Kraig Scott. The university's symphony orchestra, directed by Brandon Beck, will also perform.

In addition, the concert will feature solo performances by university students and music instructors. The audience will also be invited to participate in congregational singing.

"As we gather again this Christmas season to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we pause to reflect on the words of promise and hope found in Scripture," says Karin Thompson, chair of the Department of Music. "We hope and pray that our listeners will be blessed by the gifts our students and faculty share at the concert."

The concert will include selections from Handel's Messiah, such as "Worthy is the Lamb" and "For Unto Us a Child is Born," John Rutter's "I Wonder as I Wander," among other musical selections.

For more information about the program, contact the Department of Music at (509) 527-2561.

Livestreaming of the 6 p.m. performance will be available. Access link from [wallawalla.edu/concert](http://wallawalla.edu/concert)

#### Information:

Rosa Jimenez, Director of University Relations  
Walla Walla University | 204 S. College Ave. | College Place, WA 99324  
T: (509) 527-2363 | (800) 541-8900 | F: (509) 527-2398  
|E: [rosa.jimenez@wallawalla.edu](mailto:rosa.jimenez@wallawalla.edu)

### **German Christmas sing-alongs planned**

German Christmas sing-alongs will be this Saturday, December 3 and Saturday, December 10, at 10:00 a.m. in College Place at the Walla Walla University Fine Arts Center, room 208. Everyone is welcome, regardless of level of German. We will sing, hear how Christmas is celebrated in Germany, and have some treats.

Information:

Curtis Schafer, Walla Walla High School German & Spanish Teacher

509-527-3020 ext 4703

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

### **2011 Local Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign**

The Annual Walla Walla Toys for Tots Campaign kicks off this week with 20 local drop off locations. This is the 64th year for Toys for Tots and the 5th year of the Walla Walla Campaign. Last year in Walla Walla, new unwrapped toys were distributed to 792 local children from Dayton to College Place.

Everything collected will be distributed to local children from newborn to 18 years of age. Once again Toys for Tots is working with St. Vincent de Paul, Walla Walla Public Schools, the medical centers and other nonprofits to ensure that every child in the Walla Walla Valley has a happy holiday.

#### New unwrapped toys or cash donations can be delivered to:

- Book & Game -38 E. Main Street
- Community Bank – 28 E. Alder Street
- Providence St. Mary – 401 W. Poplar
- Walla Walla Sweets – 109 E. Main Street
- City Slickers – 14 W. Main Street
- Inland Cellular, 1605 SE Meadowbrook , College Place
- AAA Washington, 1361 Dalles-Military Road
- NAPA – 1830 E. Isaacs Ave
- Whitman College Bookstore – Reid Campus Center – Park St.
- Tumatic Machinery – 3037 E Melrose Street
- O'Brien Chevrolet – Dalles Military Road
- Walla Walla Bread Co. – 225 E. Main Street
- Legacy Ford of Walla Walla – 11 N. Colville Street
- Oil Haus, Tiki Grille, Mama Mia Pastas – Kenwood Street/Rose Street
- John L. Scott Realty – 10 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- Assumption School – 2066 E. Alder Street
- Waitsburg Hardware & Mercantile – 134 Main Street, Waitsburg
- Dayton General Hospital – 1012 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Dayton
- Dayton General Store – 426 W. Main St., Dayton
- Dayton High School – 614 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Dayton

There are several local businesses that are hosting promotions to benefit Toys for Tots. Beginning now until December 14 Book & Game (1<sup>st</sup> & Main Street) will be giving a 20% discount on anything in the store purchased for Toys for Tots and the Walla Walla Sweets are offering 10% off your entire purchase when you bring in a new unwrapped toy. City Slickers (14 W. Main Street) will host the 3rd Annual Cut-a-Thon to benefit Toys for Toys. City Slicker stylists will give free haircuts in exchange for a toy donation to Toys for Tots from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 4.

To request toys families can pick up applications at St. Vincent de Paul (308 W. Main Street) November 14 – 25, St. Paul's Church (323 Catherine Street) Nov. 28 – Dec. 9 or in Dayton at the Country Cupboard (330 E. Main Street) Nov 23 - Nov 30. Please only apply at one location. There can be no duplication.

For more information about Toys for Tots please visit the local website [www.walla-walla-wa.toysfortots.org](http://www.walla-walla-wa.toysfortots.org) or contact Beth Swanson at 509-301-7471 or [bethswanson@charter.net](mailto:bethswanson@charter.net)