

## Stories this week include:

### District Stories

- School Board Meeting/Public Work Session - Tuesday, Jan. 24
- School Board Recognition Month - *January marks a time to say Thank You!*
- Chamber of Commerce endorses levy
- Personnel Report (from 1/17/12 school board meeting)
- Superintendent Miller's video simplifies levy information
- School Board 2012 Committee Assignments
- Parents encouraged to update contact information (data used for delay and closure messages)

### School Stories

- Volunteers needed to serve on Walla Walla High School Senior Presentation panel
- Healthy cooking classes offered to Blue Ridge and preschool families
- Area trusts offer generous donations to Books for Babes program
- Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes new members
- Walla Walla High School Sports Cancellations

### Community Stories

- Power House Theatre Opens 2012 Season with *Four Tenors*
- Library to host community forum on street improvement plan

## District Stories

### **School Board Meeting/Public Work Session - Tuesday, Jan. 24**

- 4 to 6 p.m.
- Agenda: 2012 budget planning and philosophy
- 364 S. Park St. (school district board room)
- Meeting open to the public

### **School Board Recognition Month - January marks a time to say Thank You!**

School board members were showered with tokens of appreciation and words of praise during Tuesday night's school board meeting as part of School Board Recognition Month festivities.

School board members viewed videos produced by Blue Ridge Elementary and Pioneer Middle School staff and students as a thank you for their service. Posters, cards, and art work filled the school district board room.

Superintendent Mick Miller thanked the school board for their tireless efforts to support educational opportunities in Walla Walla. He said their leadership sets a tone for excellence throughout the entire school district.

### **Chamber of Commerce endorses levy**

The Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer David Woolson reported to school board members Tuesday night the chamber board has voted to endorse the district's Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy which will appear on local ballots February 14, 2012.

"The business community recognizes that long-term economic growth is simply not possible without a strong local education system," Woolson said. "If you want to live in a strong and prosperous community with a good business climate, you have to be willing to continue to invest in that community, and one area that consistently provides a strong return on investment is education."

Rates for the replacement levy are similar to those currently being collected. Levy funding makes up approximately 20% of the district's General Fund budget.

### **Personnel Report (from 1/17/12 school board meeting)**

#### Employment

(Certificated) NONE TO REPORT

(Classified) NONE TO REPORT

#### Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated) Elissa Stites, Fifth Grade, Green Park, 30 years

- Effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year

(Classified) Stephanie Eastman, Attendance Secretary, Wa-Hi, 11 years

- Effective immediately

Molly McKinney, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge/ECEAP, 1 year

- Effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year

#### Leave of Absence

(Classified) Alexander Andary, Para-Educator, Edison, 4 months

- Beginning January 2, 2012 for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year

Jessica Floyd, Family Services & Mental Health Coordinator, Blue Ridge Elementary, 1 year

- April 2012 through March 2013

### **Superintendent Miller's video simplifies levy information**

Superintendent Mick Miller recently produced an informational video on the district's *Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy*. Visit [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org) to watch this informative, five minute video.

Miller uses easy to understand language and examples to clearly explain the levy and how the funding is used. Levy dollars fund learning programs, activities and operations and the staff to support them. Ballots will be mailed out to voters Friday, Jan. 27 and must be returned and postmarked Tuesday, Feb. 14. Click on the district website at [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org) for additional levy information.

### **School Board 2012 Committee Assignments**

Max Carrera:

- Safe Schools
- Career/Technical Education
- Classified Negotiations
- Head Start Policy Council

Dan Hess

- Community Facilities Task Force
- Extra-Curricular Supervisors Negotiations
- Administrative Negotiations
- School-Based Health Clinic

Anne Golden

- Curriculum Advisory/Instructional Materials
- Certificated Negotiations
- Legislative Representative
- District Calendar (alternate)
- WWVEA Liaison

Dr. Jim Lehmann

- WIAA Liaison
- Certificated Negotiations
- Technology/Telecommunications
- District Calendar
- WWVEA Liaison

Cindy Meyer

- Explorer Advisory Committee
- Parent Advisory
- Classified Negotiations
- Citizens for Schools Liaison

### **Parents encouraged to update contact information (data used for delay and closure messages)**

School closures and delays due to poor weather conditions are a good reminder for the need to update contact information with school secretaries. Parents are encouraged to contact their school secretary to ensure their telephone numbers and email addresses are accurate and complete. The district relies on data within the student record system for notifying parents on school closures and delays. Thank you for taking a few moments to review and update your records.

## School Stories

### **Volunteers needed to serve on Walla Walla High School Senior Presentation panel**

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Walla Walla High School Senior Presentation panel for the Class of 2012. Volunteers will listen to graduates as they share their personal stories, successes and struggles, academic accomplishments, community volunteer experiences, and future plans.

Volunteers may sign up for multiple panel dates, but they will only need to attend the training session on the first day they have selected to participate. This is a graduation requirement for seniors. Community support is appreciated and needed.

Senior Presentation Panel Dates:

- Wednesday, February 15
- Thursday, February 16
- Wednesday, March 21
- Thursday, March 22

Time commitment:

- Approximately 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.

To sign up, contact Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal Mark Pickel at: 509.527.3020 ext. 8602 or by email at: [mpickel@wwps.org](mailto:mpickel@wwps.org).

### **Healthy cooking classes offered to Blue Ridge and preschool families**

Debi Evans from the WSU extension program will teach how to cook an affordable, \$10 healthy meals to Blue Ridge and preschool parents. Ingredients will be bought with funds donated by Albertsons earlier this school year. The parents who attend this class will be able to take the ingredients home to prepare this same meal for their family.

Family Night

- Thursday, February 9
- 5:30-6:30 p.m in the Blue Ridge gym
- Healthy cooking classes

### **Area trusts offer generous donations to Books for Babes program**

Book for Babes is the proud recipient of \$1500 from the Stubblefield Trust, and \$1500 from the Clara and Art Bald Trust. Books for Babes provides books to all newborns in the area. This year the organization also started a new tradition of giving the first baby of the year a special basket of books. Thanks to program coordinator and Edison teacher Kay Barga for writing the grants and supporting the program over the years. Contact Barga at Edison for more information on this program or to make a donation: [kbarga@wwps.org](mailto:kbarga@wwps.org).

### **Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes new members**

Walla Walla High School *Athletic Hall of Fame* is inducting seven new members Saturday, February 4 during the Chiawana basketball game. The ceremony will be held between the girls' and boys' double header basketball game at approximately 7:15 p.m. A reception will follow the induction ceremony in the Fletcher Athletic Team Room for the new inductees, former inductees, family, friends and Big Blue Boosters.

2012 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees:

- Patrick O'Rourke • Class of 1922
- David Bateman • Class of 1971
- Phil Girsberger • Class of 1984
- Jill (Meliah) Watkins • Class of 1996
- Jason Grove • Class of 1997
- Lindsay (Chutas) Morgan • Class of 2000
- Thomas Kelati • Class of 2001

## Walla Walla High School Sports Cancellations

### *Boys and Girls Basketball*

- Friday, Jan. 20: Boys and girls basketball games vs Richland are canceled and have been rescheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 24.

Boys basketball at Walla Walla - Tuesday, Jan 24 game times (make-up with Richland):

- Frosh "A" and "B" at 4 p.m.
- J.V and "Sophs" at 5:45 p.m.
- Varsity at 7:30 p.m.

Girls basketball at Richland - Tuesday, Jan 24 game times (make-up with Richland):

- J.V. and Frosh at 5:45 p.m.
- Varsity and "C" at 7:30 p.m.

At this time the boys and girls games with Moses Lake are still on as scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 21. Check the Athletic web site for most current updates.

### *Wrestling*

- Due to weather and road conditions, the Clearwater Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Lewiston has been canceled.

For more information:

- Don Wilkins, District Athletic Director
- 509-526-8635 or [dwilkins@wwps.org](mailto:dwilkins@wwps.org)

## Community Stories

### **Power House Theatre Opens 2012 Season with *Four Tenors***

*Sunny Thompson Returns to Walla Walla with Four Amazing Voices!*

The Power House Theatre opens its 2012 season with the *Four Tenors*, directed and arranged by Sunny Thompson, star of *Marilyn: Forever Blonde*. *Four Tenors* will showcase the best of Broadway, Classical, Country, Pop & Rock. Performed by four fabulous voices under the direction by Sunny Thompson, the show features the popular music of Josh Groban, Michael Bublé, The Sons of the Pioneers, Elvis, Maroon 5, Bon Jovi and more.

*Four Tenors* opens at 7:00 pm on February 10 and runs through February 26. The production run will include 3:00 pm matinee performances on February 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 and 7:00 p.m. evening performances on February 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26. Doors open one hour prior to showtime. Ticket prices range from \$50 to \$9 with special pricing available through FLEX ticket packages. Please visit [www.phtww.com](http://www.phtww.com) for FLEX Info.

Actress-Singer Sunny Thompson returns to Walla Walla and takes the director's chair for this fun and lively performance of audience favorites. Each singer presents amazing talent and Sunny, a highly accomplished songstress, knows how to add just the right touch to each arrangement.

Special to this production will be an opening number performed by a local, soon-to-be cast singer-guitarist as well as a fun jazz dance sequence performed with the Tenors themselves featuring a local dancer. Auditions for these two parts will be held at the Power House Theatre on Sunday, January 22, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (For more information on the auditions please email [denise@PHTWW.com](mailto:denise@PHTWW.com))

Power House Theatre | 111 N. 6th Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362 | [www.PHTWW.com](http://www.PHTWW.com)

**Library to host community forum on street improvement plan**

Residents seeking more information on the City of Walla Walla street improvement plan are invited to the city public library Saturday, January 21 for a community forum.

“We are doing this family style,” Librarian Liz George said. “There will be big trucks for kids to climb on in the parking lot while city representatives talk about the plan to continue large scale street improvements.

For more information, visit the Walla Walla Public Library website at: <http://www.wallawallapubliclibrary.org/>