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District Stories

School Board Executive Session and Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 18

- 5:30 p.m.: Executive Session: School board members will review candidate files for the vacant board position
- 6:30 p.m.: Regular meeting (open to public)
- Location: 364 S. Park St (district board room)

Superintendent's Patron Tour program invites community members to visit schools

Superintendent Mick Miller is continuing his Superintendent's Patron Tour program Wednesday, Oct. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Guests will visit Green Park Elementary, Walla Walla and Lincoln High Schools as part of the program.

Miller's goal with the program is to build relationships, learn about each other and listen. Please ask your friends, family, neighbors and parents of students to participate. They will value the experience and learn a lot along the way. Patron Tour guests will meet with Superintendent Miller, tour schools and conclude with lunch and a debriefing. If you are interested in participating in a Patron Tour, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins: 509.526.6716 or by email: mhiggins@wwps.org

Walla Walla High School Class of 62' graduate establishes scholarship fund

Blue Mountain Community Foundation to manage funds

Walla Walla High School Class of 1962 graduate Jerry Zahl, with the support of classmates and the community, has established a high school scholarship fund to help area graduates get to college. Currently the fund, managed by the Blue Mountain Community Foundation, has \$14,000 with a goal to exceed \$100,000 in the next five years.

"We are working toward opening wider doors so that local public high school students with limited financial resources will be able to acquire additional education beyond high school," Zahl said. "You do not need to be a millionaire to give to this scholarship fund. Each graduate contributing their graduation year in dollars and cents annually would be a good place to start. The acceptance and support from the local community has been absolutely fantastic from the beginning because everyone senses the need."

Zahl says the goal is to make it possible for anybody to contribute, any amount, at any time to this fund scholarship.

"If only 100 students from the Class of 1962, out of more than 360, were to contribute \$20 per year we would have \$100,000 if they had contributed for 50 years," Zahl said. "The costs of an advanced education are rising, and the establishment of this scholarship fund makes it possible for anyone to help support advanced education, commensurate with their means, while assisting many very capable students in realizing their potential."

All funds will be received and invested through the Blue Mountain Community Foundation. To make a donation or learn more about the Walla Walla Public High Schools Scholarship fund, visit the Blue Mountain Community Foundation website: www.bluemountainfoundation.org. For additional information, contact Jerry Zahl at: jkzahl@charter.net.

School Zone Safety Team shifts focus on Pioneer Middle School

School Zone Safety Team members Ki Bealey (City Public Works Director), Katie Christianson (parent volunteer), Officer Mike Ralston (City Police), Dan Johnson (District Facilities Support Director), Steve Olson (District Transportation Director), Mark Higgins (District Safe Schools Coordinator) and Mira Gobel (Pioneer MS Principal) met Thursday morning to work on Pioneer's school zone safety improvement plan.

The plan hinges on easing traffic congestion in front of the school, improving School Zone signage, painting curbs and crosswalks, increasing parking spaces, additional education and law enforcement. The group will meet again October 25 to organize a parent meeting to unveil the plan later this fall.

Last spring and over the summer the School Zone Safety worked with Walla Walla High School Principal Pete Peterson to make improvements. Wa-Hi now features additional visitor parking in front the library on Abbott Road, fresh curb paint, parking lot dividers which improve traffic flow, enhanced law enforcement presence in school zones and administrators assigned to different areas on campus before and after school to supervise these zones.

School Stories

Online grades in new Skyward gradebook available Monday, Sept. 17

Walla Walla Public Schools is now using the Skyward gradebook for parents to track their child's grades online. This convenient service will be available for parents who have students in grades 6-12 beginning Monday, Sept. 17.

"We decided to institute a two-week break-in period, district-wide, so teachers could become familiar with the system and receive training on the new Skyward gradebook before going "live" with the Family Student Access grades component," said Ron Higgins, Assistant Principal at Walla Walla High School. "Since the grades portion of this system is brand new to us, we wanted to take time to ensure there were not incorrect or inaccurate grades being displayed. There are some teachers who are piloting the Standards Based Grading model and they may need additional time and training to have all their grades updated on Skyward."

Currently, Skyward Family Student Access users who attempt to view grades are met with a friendly "Skyward Gradebook Coming Soon" message when they click on the "Grades" module in Family Student Access. This message will be removed once the system is activated Monday, Sept. 17.

Walla Walla High School Choirs plan car wash

- "Suds-a-thon" car wash
- Saturday, September 22
- O'Reilly's Auto Store on 9th and Poplar
- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Car Wash is free
- Donations are accepted (Funds support Choir Scholarships to help students pay for outfits and trip fees)

Freshmen Ice Cream Social helps students feel welcome at Walla Walla High School

Wa-Hi's annual freshmen Ice Cream Social is Friday, September 14 from 2-4 p.m. in the Walla Walla High School Commons. Freshmen are invited to stop by the Commons, enjoy a bowl of ice cream or a popsicle and meet with their Link Crew leaders. This event is sponsored by Link Crew, the freshmen class and the Wa-Hi ASB. Link Crew is a program developed to help freshmen transition to Wa-Hi through the support and mentoring of upperclassmen. Thank you to all of the teachers, staff and administrators for helping organize this event.

Sign up forms now accepted for annual Big Blue Weekend event -- Scholarships available

Sign up for Big Blue Weekend in the Wa-Hi ASB Office today! The event is October 12-14 at Washington Family Ranch in Antelope, OR. More than 450 Wa-Hi students and staff will travel to Antelope, OR to build connections, listen to inspirational speakers and have fun. This program is specifically targeted to encourage freshmen and students who need extra support to attend.

The cost is \$90. Register by September 28 and save \$5. A limited number of scholarships are also available and you may pick up that application in the ASB Office. There are several ways for staff, parents and community members to help us make this a great experience for Wa-Hi students.

Donated items needed:

- a coat or thick sweatshirt
- a small suitcase or zippered bag
- \$60 student scholarships

Approximately 50 chaperones and 30 work crew members are also needed. Work crew members work behind the scenes to prepare and serve meals. Chaperones sleep in cabins with 10-14 students and are members of small student groups that meet approximately four times throughout the weekend.

Contact Carina Stillman cstillman@wwps.org or Kristina Duncan kduncan@wwps.org for more information 527-3020.

Latino Club members continue Labor Day Weekend tradition of volunteering at fair

For the 9th consecutive year, 47 members of the Walla Walla High School Latino Club helped prepare the Walla Walla Fairgrounds for the Labor Day weekend Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days event. Beginning in mid-August, club members spent several days and evenings performing the initial cleaning of the pavilion area and fair grounds by sweeping and mopping floors, cleaning bathrooms and glass cabinets.

Besides cleaning, club members helped set up many of the display areas in the pavilion. Club members and friends provided 250 hours of community service prior to the fair. The Club also participated in the Saturday Fair Parade and Latino Club Dancers performed during the Fair. Exploring Post 311 also managed a concession stand and sold food and Coke products in the grandstand during the concert, demolition derby, and three nights of the rodeo to raise funds to support Latino Club activities during the school year. Overall, 80 club members and friends were involved by working over 650 hours during the fair.

The Learning for Life Program, which supports the Wa-Hi Latino Club as Exploring Post 311, is a subsidiary program of the Blue Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Exploring Post 311's Charter organization is the College Place First Presbyterian Church Men's Breakfast Group in College Place, Washington.

Smoke from wildfires forces freshman football game cancellation

The freshman football schedule for today (Friday, Sept. 14) at 4 p.m. vs. Davis has been canceled because of air quality issues in Yakima resulting from the wildfires in the surrounding area. It has been re-schedule for next Monday at 5 p.m. in Walla Walla. The varsity game is still scheduled for this evening at 7 p.m. at Davis.

Community Stories

GIRLS COUNCIL teams with district to bring "Finding Kind" film to Walla Walla

GIRLS COUNCIL, in conjunction with the Walla Walla Public Schools Safe and Civil Schools initiative, is hosting a showing of the film "Finding Kind." The documentary brings awareness and healing to the negative and lasting effects of girl against girl "crime."

Girl's Council is hosting the girls of Walla Walla High School, Lincoln High School, Garrison Middle School, Pioneer Middle School, and Sager Middle School on September 20 at Cordiner Hall from 9 to 11 a.m. A free, second showing will also be shown to the public at Cordiner Hall September 20 at 6:30 p.m.

"Physical fighting, name-calling, threats, power struggles, competition, manipulation, secrets, rumors, and ostracizing other girls all fall under the category of girl against girl "crime," said Becky Renwick, Girl's Council president. "We have learned, that if these behaviors are ignored, the experiences often lead to depression, anxiety, loss of self-worth, eating disorders, drug abuse, alcoholism, attempted suicide, and actual suicide in millions of girls' lives."

GIRLS COUNCIL, a non-profit organization operating in Walla Walla provides programming to ages 9 through 21 with the mission of "empowering girls to become strong women". Girls Council has been operating in the Walla Walla Valley since 2006. Through our programming we have seen an increase in school connectedness. Girls who are connected to school, feel empowered through their accomplishments, thus successfully navigating their middle school and high school years.

Carnegie Picture Lab plans volunteer workshops

The Carnegie Picture Lab has officially moved to 515 E. Main Street. Thanks to the Wa-Hi football team for helping with the move. Visit CLP's brand new website for more information & access ease: www.CarnegiePictureLab.com

Volunteer Workshops: Wednesday Evening & Thursday Morning

- September 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

- September 20 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

The Carnegie Picture Lab is run 100 percent by community volunteers. If you would like to become a classroom volunteer for CPL, please attend one of the fall trainings. Anyone is welcome and you don't have to have any previous classroom or art experience! The next one is in January.

This year's In-Class Artists:

- Romare Bearden

- Giuseppe Arcimboldo

- Exploring "the Dot" in Visual Arts

Free "Love and Logic Parenting" presentation Thursday, September 27

Foster W. Cline, M.D., a child psychiatrist and co-founder of 'Love and Logic Parenting' will be coming to Reid Center on the Whitman College campus for a "laugh and learn" presentation about parenting all children, and parenting children who struggle with illness or challenging behaviors. This FREE presentation will be held Thursday, September 27, from 7-9 p.m.

Love and Logic skills, tools and techniques are useful in reaching most children most of the time. Modifications may be made when a child's emotional or physical illness raises the stress level in a family.

The presentation will include:

- General parenting and parenting children with health and behavior problems.

- Empowerment vs. Enabling – setting the stage for life.

- Using consequences with empathy to motivate children for success.

Dr. Cline, world-renowned adult and child psychiatrist, is the co-founder of the very popular 'Love and Logic Parenting' and author of over a dozen books.

This presentation is sponsored by Good Samaritan Ministries, Walla Walla School District and Whitman College Psychology Department. For more information call Good Samaritan Ministries at 529-2322.

Public invited to workshops on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival application process

Catholic Charities Workshop

- Tuesday, Sept. 18

- 7 p.m.

- St. Patrick Church

- Greg Cunningham

One America Workshop

- Sunday, August 26

- 1 p.m.

- St. Patrick Church

- Jazmin Santacurz

District supports school documentation process for newly authorized immigration rule change

Per the recent immigration rule change on childhood arrivals authorized by President Obama, Walla Walla Public Schools will provide school record documentation for those who meet the qualifications. See qualifications below.

Those who qualify and are Walla Walla High School graduates or attendees are asked to visit Walla Walla High School (800 Abbott Road) to obtain the necessary documentation regarding their school enrollment. All other individuals needing support documentation are asked to visit the district office (364 S. Park St.) and ask for Veronica Esparza