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District Stories

No School Monday, Nov. 12 - Veterans Day Holiday

Staff and students throughout the district honored Veterans this week by organizing school assemblies and special events. Walla Walla Public Schools thanks our Veterans for their service to our country and support of freedom.

School board votes to improve Wa-Hi - Bond Election February 12, 2012

Walla Walla Public Schools will seek a \$48 million bond on the February 12, 2013 Special Election to fund a \$69.6 million modernization of Walla Walla High School. All of the existing 1963 buildings will be re-purposed in the design to reduce costs. The project is eligible for \$21.6 million in state matching dollars which will be used on the Wa-Hi project. Cost is 68 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. The recently approved College Place bond was \$2.67 per \$1,000.

The project will fund improvements in the Science/Math building, Academic building, Commons/Library, CTE building and Music/Drama spaces. A new Fitness Center will replace the existing weight room, 10 tennis courts and a new all weather track will be added to support PE and athletic programs. Lincoln High School is the next priority on the district's Facilities Improvement Plan. Superintendent Miller will form a planning committee this winter to develop future facility improvement plans for Lincoln High School. Visit the district web site at www.wwps.org for more details.

- Local Bond Amount: \$48 million
- State Matching funds: \$21.6 million
(Matching dollars to fund Wa-Hi project)
- Total Project Cost: \$69.6 million
- 68 cents per \$1,000 assessed value
(College Place Bond = \$2.67 per \$1,000)

NOTE:

- * Any excess bond funds will be used for facility improvements at Lincoln High School.
- * Sharpstein Bond paid in full - Dec. 2012
- * Edison Bond paid in full - Dec. 2018

Proposed Project Timeline (if approved)

- Winter 2013: Detailed architectural design
- Spring 2014: Contractor bids
- Summer 2014: Project begins
- Winter 2016: Project completed

Why don't you phase in the Wa-project over time?

A multiple phased project would disrupt the learning environment for up to a decade as opposed to a 26 to 30 month disruption with a single project. Economically, it makes sense to do the project all at once. Rising inflation, election fees and multiple construction mobilizations will cost the taxpayers millions if the project is completed in phases. Current interest rates remain at an all time low as well.

Why do you need to modernize Wa-Hi since College Place passed a bond for its own high school?

The reduction of 350 College Place students does not mitigate the need to modernize the 50-year-old school, but does present the opportunity to scale the project back by approximately 10 classrooms.

What is your plan for addressing Lincoln High School's facility needs?

Lincoln High School is the next priority on the district's Facilities Improvement Plan. By summer of 2013, the district will determine the best location for Lincoln High School. If that is on the current site, the district will determine if the existing 1927 building should be modernized or a new school built at the current location.

American Education Week a time to thank educators for service to youth

American Education Week is November 11-17, 2012. This week presents all Americans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. We hope you will join in our district in highlighting the importance of bringing together everyone in the community, educators, parents, students, and public figures, in an effort to build great public schools. Together, we can make a difference.

Our staff members rise to the challenge of making sure all students have opportunities to reach their full potential and be competitive in today's global society. Public education is the backbone of democracy and is key to preserving the the American way of life.

Thank you for your support as we partner to do what is best for children. Thank you for taking time this week to reach out and praise educators for all they do for Walla Walla children. Join us in Celebrating American Education Week — November 11-17.

Superintendent's Patron Tour program takes community members to Edison, Wa-Hi and Lincoln High School

Superintendent Mick Miller is continuing his Superintendent's Patron Tour program Wednesday, December 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Guests will visit Edison 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.

Wal-Mart donates school supplies

This week employees from Wal-Mart delivered five large boxes of donated school supplies. The donated items were purchased by generous Wal-Mart customers and staff. The supplies will be distributed to students in need throughout the district. Thanks for your support of Walla Walla children!

Personnel Report (from 11/6/12 school board meeting)

(Classified)

Mark Franklin, Bus Driver, Transportation

Staci Humphreys, Para-Educator (temp), Walla Walla High School

Stephanie Maldonado-Salgado, Para-Educator (temp), Sharpstein

Doug Sperber, Custodian, Green Park and Prospect Point and Wa-Hi

School Stories

New Blue Ridge Elementary gym court named after beloved physical education teacher

Tuesday morning retired Blue Ridge Elementary Physical Education teacher Sue Hansen and first-year PE teacher Bryan Eggart cut the red ribbon to officially open the new gym floor for use following the August fire which caused extensive water damage. The new wood floor has been named "Hansen Court" in honor of Sue Hansen who spent 26 years as the school's PE teacher. Hansen said it's an honor to have the court named after her and that Blue Ridge will always have a special place in her heart.

WaHi cadets bring home awards after Lebanon, Ore. drill, rifle meet

Cadets from the Walla Walla High School JROTC "Blue Devil" Battalion traveled to Lebanon, Ore. to compete at the Lebanon High School Drill and Rifle meet Nov. 2, and brought home the hardware for their efforts.

The Wa-Hi cadets took several top honors in individual and team categories. More than 350 cadets on drill and marksmanship teams from a dozen regional schools competed.

"Our cadets worked hard and competed well and earned trophies, medals and ribbons for their efforts," said retired Army Lt. Col. Bill Bialozor, who coaches the Walla Walla drill teams and serves as Senior Army Instructor for the program. "Among the many categories where our students excelled, for example, was cadet 1st Lt. Chris French, who came home with third place for his performance in the Individual Armed Exhibition Drill."

Cadet Lt. Col. John Gossett, a senior, who serves as the battalion commander, noted the honors his right-hand man earned at the event: "Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon Webster took 3rd place in the Armed Drill Team Commander category."

The Blue Devil Marksmanship Team fired outstanding individual and team scores, too, according to their coach.

"Our precision rifle team took 1st place, with cadet Sgt. Sarah Jameson, a junior, claiming 1st place, and cadet Capt. Emily Bendix, a senior taking 2nd place." said shooting team coach, retired Sgt. 1st Class Mark Mebes. The sporter team brought home 3rd place. In the individual sporter categories, the team swept the top three slots, with cadet Pvt. Samantha French, a junior, taking first, cadet Cpl. Olivia Holm, a sophomore in 2nd and cadet Pvt. Evan Jameson, freshman, bringing home 3rd.

Wa-Hi JROTC cadets learn military history, precision drill and ceremonies, marksmanship and leadership skills. The Blue Devil Battalion competes in drill and ceremony and marksmanship events around the region.

Walla Walla High School Speech and Debate team performs strong at Whitman tournament

Walla Walla High School Speech and Debate Team attended the Whitman High School Debate Tournament at Whitman College, November 1-3. Twenty-four students from Wa Hi competed in a variety of events. The Whitman Tournament continues to be one of the most prestigious tournaments in the United States, with more than 50 schools and 500 students attending, according to Coach Jean Tobin.

"It is recognized as a qualifying tournament for the Debate Tournament of Champions, an honor reserved for a select number of tournaments," Tobin said. "This year, our fourth year of attending the tournament, Walla Walla High School had its best showing yet. Out of the 52 schools attending, Walla Walla High School placed 3rd in Individual Events and tied for 8th overall."

Walla Walla High School band students make television appearance

This week Walla Walla High School band students traveled to Kennewick to play on the KVEW-TV morning show. Visit KVEWTV.com to see the band students in action.

Key Club's Trunk-or-Treat event helps stock Christian Aid Center cupboards

The Key Club Trunk-or-Treat Halloween event was once again a huge success. Hundreds of kids flocked to Walla Walla High School's science parking lot in search of treats. Students representing clubs on campus dressed up and decorated the trunks of their cars to hand out candy. The event brought in 1105 pounds of food for the Christian Aid Center.

"Key Club officers and members coordinate this event every year as their main community service project and I am proud of their enthusiasm," Event coordinator and teacher Shelley Mann said. "Getting the other school clubs to participate has made this an all school event with added attractions like the Haunted Barn and Auditorium. It's a safe place for young children to get LOTS of candy and have a great time in a protected environment."

Lincoln High School Fall Festival brings new Halloween attraction to community

This year Lincoln High School staff and students organized a Fall Festival Halloween event at the school's gym. More than 100 children came to the school to participate. Event coordinator and teacher Lori Finn said the students wanted to give back to the community by offering a safe and fun Halloween activity for children.

Walla Walla Future Farmers of America team earns silver at national event - By National FFA Organization

INDIANAPOLIS- Members of the Walla Walla FFA Chapter in Washington were one of 30 teams participating in the National FFA Food Science and Technology Career Development Event (CDE). The event was held in conjunction with the 85th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. The team, led by advisor Lindsey Butcher, was awarded a Silver emblem. Members also competed for individual awards with 116 other participants. Megan Wright received a Silver emblem, Drew Swenson received a Silver emblem, Peter Sirmon received a Silver emblem, and Allison Juergensen received a Bronze emblem.

The top ten individuals and the national winning team members received cash awards to recognize their success in the event. The cash awards and the food science and technology event are sponsored by Kraft Foods Group as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Food Science and Technology CDE is designed to test a student's basic knowledge of food science as well as the student's ability to apply this knowledge to practical situations. Each team participates in a timed team product development project, and each individual participates in practicums involving food sensory evaluation and food safety and sanitation as well as a written exam.

This event, held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind., is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention & Expo in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations.

About National FFA Organization

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 557,318 student members as part of 7,498 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a federal charter granted by the 81st United States Congress and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. For more, visit the National FFA Organization online at www.ffa.org, on Facebook, Twitter and the official National FFA Organization blog.

A team photo, if available, is accessible through this link: <https://www.judgingcard.com/NatReg/CFFA/Results/GetFile.ashx?ID=18582&P=LSCIYS>

Walla Walla High School Drama presents “Get Smart”

“Get Smart,” the play, is based on the story of the first episode of the television series, Get Smart. Maxwell Smart talks his way into handling two huge problems at once; how to guard Professor Dante’s invention that, predictably, would bring disaster in the wrong hands (AKA - KAOS), and how to guard Ingrid, a fun-loving Princess from Scandinavia, who could be the next victim in a series of kidnappings.

Of course, the two problems turn out to be interconnected, and action, confusion, and a blonde Chinese waitress follow, all culminating with Max saving the day with a bit of surprisingly quick thinking.

“Get Smart” Schedule (remaining)

- November 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17 @ 7 p.m.

- November 10 and 17 at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices:

- \$12 for adults

- \$6 for students

Tickets on sale now at the Wa-Hi Performing Arts Auditorium Box Office. Box Office hours are weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m. and one hour prior to all shows. For more information call 526-8613.

Books for Babes bulb sale in full bloom

The Books for Babes program, which provides a book for all newborns in Walla Walla, is conducting its annual Bulb-In-A-Can fundraiser. All proceeds benefit the program. For sale are giant narcissus bulbs and a variety of daffodils for \$5 a can. These make excellent holiday gifts. Bulbs will be delivered by December 14.

- Send orders via email by November 30

- Email to: kbarga@wwps.org

Make payment by check to: Books for Babes

Mail to: Kay Barga

Edison Elementary

1315 East Alder Street - Walla Walla, WA 99362

Garrison and Pioneer Middle School students received training on respecting others

Thursday, Garrison and Pioneer Middle School students involved in the WEBS or Where Everyone Belongs program, ASB, and National Honor Society went to the YMCA to receive training on how to improve their school climate and culture through treating people with kindness. Michah Jacobson, international leader of The Boomerang Project, facilitated the training. The Boomerang Project is the father to the LINK Crew at Walla Walla High School.

“Jacobson’s main message is students can change their instincts,” said Garrison Title I specialist Shelly Crump. “But in order to change one’s instincts it takes training.”

Jacobson challenged students to look at themselves and identify their strengths and weaknesses. Crump said students will return to schools and continue with the training they learned at the YMCA

“These students will go into other classrooms as mentors and teach lessons to the 6th graders and to the incoming 6th graders,” Crump said.

High School students from around the state come to Walla Walla for Link Crew leadership conference

Wa-Hi's Link Crew hosted the Washington State Link Crew conference at the Walla Walla YMCA on Friday morning. Link Crew Leaders (students) and Link Crew Coordinators (teachers) from area high schools will meet with Micah Jacobson, co-founder of The Boomerang Project in Santa Cruz, CA.

This organization helps students transition to middle school and high school more smoothly and build character and community in schools throughout the United States. During the State Link Crew conference, Link Crew Leaders will continue to develop and practice their leadership skills and plan for future events. So far this year, Link Crew has organized Wa-Hi's Freshmen Orientation, co-sponsored the back-to-school BBQ and Ice Cream Social, and activities for Big Blue Weekend.

Community Stories

2013 Sasayama Home Stay Information Night

Walla Walla-Sasayama Sister City Affiliation Committee will have an Information Night for their annual Home Stay program for October 2013 at Garrison Middle School November 13 at 6 p.m. in the Library. Walla Walla and its sister city, Sasayama, Japan, have had a cultural and educational exchanges since 1972. This is an excellent opportunity to participate as an ambassador for your school and community to express friendship and goodwill.

All interested students currently in 8th, 9, 10th, and 11th grade and their parents are invited to attend. The meeting will discuss sister city mission and purpose of the Home Stay program and some of the experiences students can expect to encounter. The Sister City Committee plans and prepares for this annual event eleven months in advance. Information on reservation procedures, passport/visa requirements, deposit deadline, orientation meeting schedule and other requirements will be discussed along with questions and answers.

Questions can be directed to Walla Walla-Sasayama City Affiliation Committee chairman, Robert Keatts by email: robert_wwscc@yahoo.com or by telephone at 509-525-0049.

Universal Children's Day activities planned November 20

What: Children's Art Program and Candlelight Vigil. The children will be led in an art project to design their vision of peace. The artwork will be visible at Children's Home Society of Washington's office through the month of December.

When: Tuesday, November 20 -- 4 to 6 p.m.

Where: YMCA of Walla Walla, 340 S. Park, Walla Walla

Cost: Free

The event also includes a coloring contest and free hot chocolate. To pick-up the coloring contest, visit Children's Home Society of Washington beginning November 6 between 9am-5pm. CHSW is located at 1612 Penny Lane in Walla Walla. Coloring pages are also located at all elementary school offices. All entries are due by November 19. Prizes include gift certificates to Inland Octopus as well as passes to the Children's Museum.

Information: Stephanie Biegel -- (509) 529-2130 ext. 110 or stephanieb@chs-wa.org

Bottom Line Duo Concert November 18

- Sunday, Nov 18

- 7 p.m.

- Whitman College: Cordiner Hall Whitman College

- Price: \$22 Adult, \$14 Student, \$7 Grade School Children, \$55 (2 adults and up to 3 children)

- Phone: (509) 525-1050

- All Ages

The Bottom Line Duo is one of three internationally touring bass and cello duos. Through strict discipline, combined with a stage presence of joy and humor, the duo presents an evening of music from the Baroque period to today. The program is one that GenerationX can take their parents and their children to.

Tickets

- Walla Walla Valley Academy (509)525-1050

- Walla Walla University Bookstore

- Whitman College Bookstore

- Walla Walla Book and Game

Retired educators offer scholarships for prospective teachers

Available:

- two \$1000 scholarships
- Scholarship grants are given to prospective teachers and/or candidates in other school related fields that will student teach or do internship experience in an educational setting

Requirements:

1. Graduate of high school in Walla Walla or Columbia County
2. Student teach/internship between September 2013 and June 2014

Contact:

- Mardel Bierwagen at 525-6117 or gbierwagen6117@charter.net

Applications available:

- November 1, 2012

Applications due:

- April 1, 2013

Walla Walla Stealth Volleyball Club tryouts

- U10 to U18
- November 15 & 16
- Sharpstein Gym
- 5:30 p.m.
- Information: stephicurry@my180.net