

Green Park cook wins trip to see “The Voice”

Cooley tops contestants from 22 states

Green Park Elementary cook Gladys Cooley and her daughter Raenah, a 6th grade student at Pioneer Middle School, are avid fans of the “The Voice” television show. Overcoming amazing odds, both of them are flying to Los Angles to meet Blake Shelton and watch two live tapings of “The Voice.”

This all expenses paid trip was made possible after Cooley was the grand prize winner of a national radio contest. Cooley correctly answered trivia questions from regional station 102.7 FM KORD to post the win. Thirty-four country music radio stations spanning 22 states were involved in the contest. Cooley also received \$500 cash to make the experience even more special.

“This is probably something I would never do on my own,” Cooley said, referring to taking a trip to LA to watch The Voice.” We’re faithful watchers of the show so it is even more special.”

“It makes you feel good that somebody actually wins. You always wonder on these national contests if someone wins. And they really do and this time it was me!”

Gladys Cooley



Green Park Elementary Cook Gladys Cooley and her daughter Raenah are taking an all expenses paid trip Los Angles to see two live recordings of “The Voice.”

Cooley used her trivia skills to win the radio contest which featured contestants from 22 states.

Walla Walla
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Homecoming for Berney Principal

Former Whitman tennis coach inspires a career in education

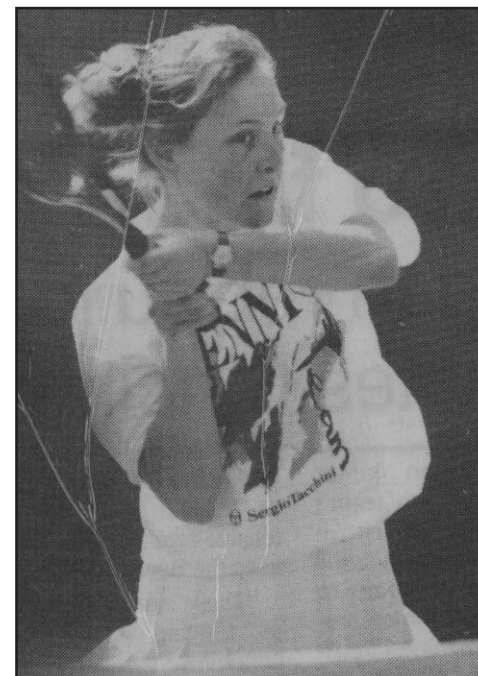
Christy Krutulis can’t help but reflect on her college days at Whitman College since her return to the valley this year to lead the Berney Bulldogs as their new principal.

While at Whitman College, she played #1 singles, won a conference championship and advanced to the district finals. **Jayne McCarthy**, wife of former school board member **Jim McCarthy**, was her college tennis coach.



Christy Krutulis

“Twenty-five years later Jayne and Jim are two of the most important people in my life,” said Krutulis. “My Whitman experience, including



Christy Krutulis won the conference championship while playing #1 singles in tennis for Whitman College in the 1990s.

See **Whitman tennis** page 6

Facilities Task Force to develop long-range plan options Group to also look at scenarios for phasing Wa-Hi bond

The district has reconvened the Community Facilities Task Force, chaired by **Dan Reid**, to look at options for moving forward with a bond to improve Walla Walla High School.

The group has been tasked with developing a detailed long-range facilities improvement plan, which

will include options for improving Walla Walla High School.

The district must decide whether to run a similar bond to the Feb. 12, 2013 measure, which failed to meet the 60 percent supermajority requirement, or complete the project in phases over time. A recommendation from the group is expected later this fall.

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Join us for a Patron Tour Lunch provided for guests

Superintendent **Mick Miller** has set the agenda for the 2013-2014 Patron Tour program. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the district, ask questions, tour local schools and enjoy lunch together.

2013-2014 schedule

Wednesday, November 13
- Berney, Wa-Hi, Lincoln HS

Wednesday, January 22
- Prospect Pt., Wa-Hi, Lincoln HS

Wednesday, March 26
- Garrison MS, Wa-Hi, Lincoln HS

* Tour Times:
- 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

RSVP

Please RSVP to take a tour by contacting Mark Higgins at: 526-6726 or mhiggins@wwps.org

Walla Walla Public Schools

364 South Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509.529.7713 (FAX)
509.527.3000

website: www.wwps.org

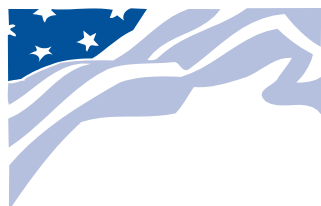
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Board of Directors

Anne Golden
Dr. David Hampson
Dan Hess
Ruth Ladderud
Cindy Meyer

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Remember to Vote!
Tuesday, November 5



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Our Core Values
are more than mere words;
they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect
Courtesy | Innovation | Diversity



Mick Miller
Superintendent

526.6714 (Office)
mmiller@wwps.org
www.wwps.org

Message from Superintendent Mick Miller

Welcome to the 2013-14 school year. On a personal level, this is a big year in my family. Our youngest daughter is a senior at Walla Walla High School. On the first day of school, my wife told me this was our last year with a child in public school after 26 consecutive years of having at least one child in the system!

As a district, we look forward to working with our students as they grow and learn over the course of this school year. WWPS students continue to perform at or above state averages on most state assessments. We are proud of the academic achievement of our students and the work being done by our staff.

A bond election was not approved last winter to modernize Walla Walla High School. While over 53% of voters said “yes,” a supermajority of 60% is needed to pass a bond measure. The Board of Directors is working to determine what plan will be presented to the voters, as the facility needs at Wa-Hi continue to be a problem. Please be watching for publications outlining the district’s plans. Those plans should be finalized in the late fall or early winter.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Dr. David Hampson to the district’s Board of Directors. Dr. Hampson was selected by the Board to replace Max Carrera who resigned on August 1.

It is a pleasure serving as superintendent of Walla Walla Public Schools. We have so many wonderful kids, staff members, and programs in our district. If you have questions, concerns, comments, criticisms or compliments regarding our district, please let me know. My direct number is 526-6714 and email is mmiller@wwps.org.

Dr. Hampson takes the oath of office to serve on school board



Walla Walla County Superior Court Judge **John Lohrmann** presides over the induction ceremony for new school board member **Dr. David Hampson**.

Hampson takes the vacant seat of Max Carrera who resigned from the board August 1. Dr. Hampson is a physician at the Urgent Care Clinic, Providence St. Mary Medical Center. He and his wife Theresa have three children, two in college and one who is a senior at Walla Walla High School.



He has been active as a leader in youth activities and as a school volunteer since moving to the community in 1990. Most of his spare time over the past two decades has been dedicated to his family and area youth.

District Committees:

- Safe Schools
- Career/Technical Education
- Classified Negotiations

High School test scores top state

Walla Walla Public Schools high school Reading, Writing, Algebra and Biology scores were above state averages. Lincoln and Walla Walla High School witnessed significant growth over last year’s scores in all tested areas.

District High School Test Scores

Reading	84%	(83.5% state)
Writing:	88.4%	(84.9% state)
Algebra	82.8%	(80.7% state)
Biology	85.9%	(81.7% state)

Lincoln High School	2013	2012
Reading	80.9%	64.7%
Writing	89.4%	65.4%
Algebra (*EOC1)	51.7%	24.7%
Geometry (*EOC2)	72.3%	54.8%
Biology (*EOC)	57%	21.2%

Wa-Hi	2013	2012
Reading	88.7%	85.7%
Writing	93%	90.4%
Algebra (*EOC1)	88.5%	77%
Geometry (*EOC2)	91.4%	74.8%
Biology (*EOC)	88.4%	73.3%

* EOC: End of Course Exam

The Class of 2013 was the first to be required to meet standard on either an Algebra or Geometry test in order to graduate. Seniors were allowed to submit a Collection of Evidence in the area of math to demonstrate proficiency if they had not yet passed one of the end-of-course exams. Across the state, about 78% of students submitting Collections of Evidence met standard. In Walla Walla, 100% of students passed.

Walla Walla graduation rates, both on-time and extended, continue to be above the state average. In Walla Walla, 78.3% of the Class of 2012 completed all graduation requirements within four years, as compared to the state average of 77.2%. For the Class of 2011, 85.1% of WWPS students completed graduation requirements in five years, compared to the state average of 78.9.

“The hard work is paying off and we see the results continually improving as students move through our school system,” said Superintendent Mick Miller. “We do whatever it takes to get students to graduation.”

Community Connections

Retired educators make goodies for staff



Piver named district Fair Coordinator

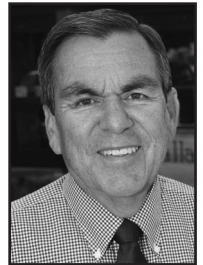
Margo Piver will serve as the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days Coordinator for the district. She replaces **Amy Reed** who this year resumed her teaching career at Blue Ridge Elementary.

Piver is the Pioneer Middle School Library Media Specialist and Walla Walla Valley Education Association President. Margo will be connecting with school fair representatives soon. She is excited to continue the proud tradition our district has through its involvement in the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days.



Diversity group addresses cultural competency

This year the Diversity Committee, chaired by **Sergio Hernandez**, is focusing on cultural competency. According to Hernandez, the district will use Dr. Okokon Udo’s definition of cultural competency. Udo stresses a deep respect for cultural differences and a willingness to learn and accept. Hernandez says the district’s goal is to encourage every WWPS student and staff member to become a culturally competent person.



Sergio Hernandez

Keeping Kids Safe

Safe Schools Committee uses a shared leadership model to deploy specialized resources

School Zone Safety: To & From Committee

To and From Committee co-chairs **Katie Christianson** and **Kathryn Southwick Hess** are busy this fall continuing their work to keep district school zones safe. They began this volunteer committee three years ago after four students were hit by cars on their way to or from school. This year they will focus on improving safety near Green Park Elementary. Past focus areas include, Berney and Edison Elementary Schools, Pioneer and Garrison Middle Schools, and Walla Walla High School. They remind motorists to slow down, stay off cell phones and remain alert at all times when driving through school zones. Let's make this a safe school year!

School Zone Safety Team

- Katie Christianson, Co-Chair
- Kathryn Southwick Hess, Co-Chair
- Ki Bealey, City of Walla Walla Public Works Director
- Sgt. Kevin Braman, City of Walla Walla Police Officer
- Mark Higgins, WWPS Communications Director
- Dan Johnson, WWPS Facilities and Operations Director
- Steve Olson, WWPS Transportation Director



Katie Christianson and Kathryn Southwick Hess

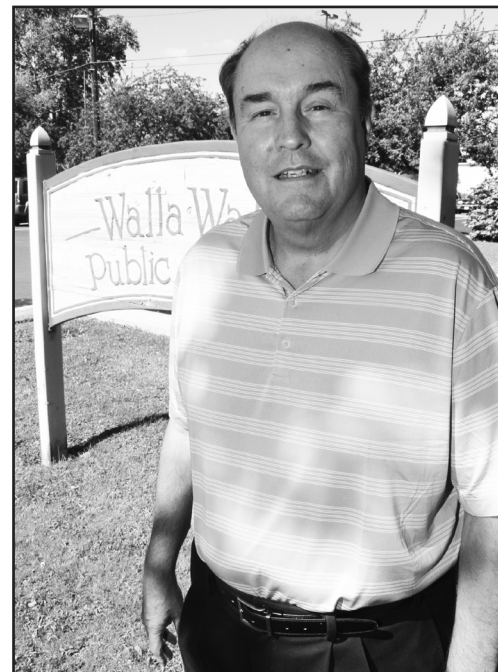
Crisis Prevention: Anti-Bullying Program

Mark Thompson, the district's Risk Management Consultant who specializes in student bullying and harassment prevention, will be meeting with staff and students this fall to make sure all adults are trained to identify and correct bullying and harassment behavior. Thompson will focus on cyberbullying, negative elements of social media and internet safety. "It's your school and you help determine the success and failure of each student in the school. You are the leaders," is a message Thompson often uses when talking to students.

Thompson's Take: What if I'm getting bullied?

Tell an adult, any adult. The adult needs to talk to an administrator to determine what is taking place and how to deal with it. It may not be bullying. Many times bullying behavior is exhibited by both parties, but an adult needs to intervene to determine strategies to rectify the situation. This may lead to an investigation or intervention. Reporting forms are also located on the district website.

Thompson has served the district in this capacity for 16 years. He currently works with five school districts, four Division I Athletic Departments and the Houston Texans of the National Football League on these issues.



Mark Thompson

Crisis Management: School Emergency Plans

All district schools have emergency plans in place per WA State Law RCW 28A.320.125. The management of these plans during an emergency hinges on the Incident Command System (ICS). This federally used system helps ensure a leader is in place to command the incident and the necessary resources are available to mitigate the crisis.

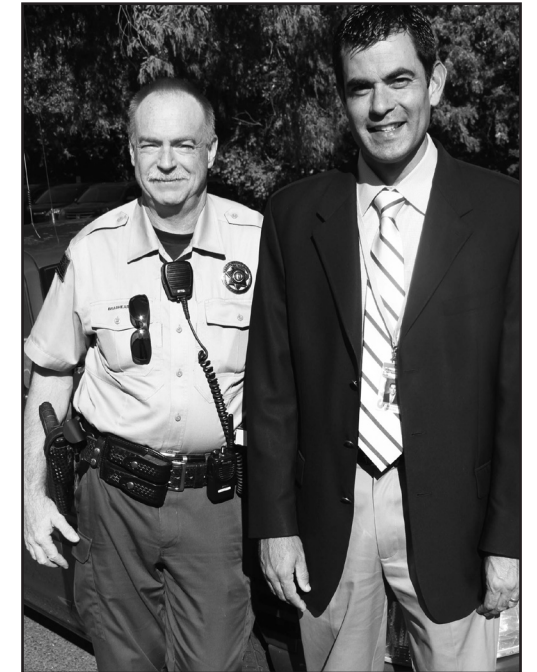
Prospect Point Principal **Chris Gardea** and School Resource Officers **Scott Brashear** and **Matt Greenland** oversee this function for the school district. The district uses Rapid Responder to document its plans and training. First responders have access to this information for emergency usage.



Matt Greenland

School Emergency Plan Core Requirements:

- Policies and procedures on school safety
- Emergency plan (prevention, mitigation, recovery)
- Drills (evacuation, lockdown, shelter-in-place)
- Principal training (Incident Command System)



Deputy Scott Brashear and Chris Gardea

Crisis Recovery: GriefBusters Program

The loss of a student, staff member or someone close to a school has a dramatic impact. Those impacted often have a difficult time controlling their emotions and feelings. The grief can be overwhelming and lasting.

Walla Walla Public Schools uses the GriefBusters Program to help recover from these situations. Garrison Middle School Counselor **Angie Gardea** leads this program for the district. Each school has a GriefBusters School Mobilization Team to assist in handling the emotional impact of a crisis. The GriefBusters Team provides support in preparing an organized and comprehensive response plan of action designed to further minimize the crisis.

Gardea uses an incident response flow chart to determine the proper roles for those involved in the recovery. A telephone list is readily available to bring in additional staff as needed. A checklist helps ensure no steps are missed.

A safe room is often established for students and staff to visit. Counselors are available to help talk about the situation and listen.



Angie Gardea

“Whitman Teaches the Movement” program goes national

Wa-Hi teacher and Whitman student to present at National Social Studies Conference

Sophie Schouboe of Whitman College and Michelle Higgins from Walla Walla Public Schools, in conjunction with the Southern Poverty Law Center, will present November 22 and 23 at the annual conference for the National Council for the Social Studies in St. Louis, Missouri.

Schouboe is a senior at Whitman College and Higgins is a Social Studies teacher at Walla Walla High School. The presentations for K-12 educators and college professionals include information about successful implementation of this training and teaching model to increase Civil Rights Education using college students as mentors.

Many states fail to teach Civil Rights Education successfully based on an examination of their curriculum standards by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Hence, “Whitman Teaches the Movement” was created.

The 2013-2014 school year marks the third year of “Whitman Teaches the Movement” in Walla Walla. The Southern Poverty Law Center formed a partnership with Whitman College and the Walla Walla Public Schools in Washington State and developed different lessons for elementary, middle school and high school classrooms. Approximately 150 students from Whitman College volunteer in local classrooms to teach the lessons.

“These academic lessons encourage students to explore Civil Rights’ issues using critical thinking questions,” Higgins said. “The lessons take place in 2nd grade, 5th grade, some 9th grade and 11th grade classes.”

The presentations in St. Louis address three important sub-themes: Common Core - Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” at the high school level; Sustainable Social Studies - Students are encouraged to think critically and work towards the greater good for their community and world; Social Justice - Students are better prepared to address social justice issues in the community and world.



(L-R) Michelle Higgins and Sophie Schouboe

Krutulis continued from page 1

having Jayne as my coach, had an extremely positive impact on my life.”

The year after Krutulis graduated from Whitman, she returned to help Jayne coach the women’s tennis team. McCarthy encouraged Krutulis to volunteer in a school during the day. She began volunteering at Prospect Point and soon realized she wanted to return to school for a teaching degree. Krutulis received a Bachelors of Arts in History from Whitman College and her Master’s of Arts in Teaching from the University of Puget Sound. She earned her Principal Certificate

from the University of Washington and is a National Board Certified teacher.

“Twenty years later I feel extremely fortunate to be back in Walla Walla as principal of Berney Elementary,” Krutulis said. “Now that I am in Walla Walla I get together with the McCarthys at least once a week for dinner, a highlight of my week.”

Krutulis was the principal of Clyde Hill Elementary in Bellevue before taking the Berney position this school year.

NOTE: Calendar change

The district revised the 2013-14 school year calendar to adjust the February conference dates. Conference dates are now Feb. 27 and 28 (*original dates were Feb. 13 and 14*). The Elementary report card preparation date is now Feb. 21 (*original date was Feb. 7*). This change will better support teachers, students and parents.

School Board Forum

Proud to serve our community

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors have established the School Board Forum to respond to questions and issues from the community. Email your questions to School Board President Anne Golden at: goldenaa@charter.net.

Q: How does the state’s increase in education funding impact Walla Walla schools?

A: McCleary v. State was an important court case for Washington public schools. In January 2012, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled (McCleary v. State) unanimously that the State of Washington is violating the constitutional rights of children by failing to live up to its “paramount duty” to amply fund the education of all K-12 students. The Court ordered the Legislature to make steady, real and measurable progress each year and to fully fund K-12 public education by 2018.

Legislators made the first installment of this payment program this year by providing nearly one billion dollars to K-12 public education. As a result, Walla Walla Public Schools received approximately \$4.5 million dollars in additional revenue. Most of these dollars are backfill for cuts the district received in previous years, but the new revenue is a step in the right direction. The district does not have a lot of flexibility with this funding as the majority of it is earmarked for designated programs and purposes. For example, nearly \$1.2 million dollars were targeted for employee benefits as a result of state shortcomings to the retirement fund. More than \$500,000 was used to restore the 1.9% teacher salary deduction from the state that had been covered by the school board for two years. Another \$650,000 was designated for Learning Assistance Programs and \$370,000 for supplies and instructional resources. We are encouraged for the future, but more work needs to be done by legislators. Washington educators have gone six years straight without a state-funded COLA or salary increase. The final budget also failed to reduce class sizes for students in all grade levels, even though Washington’s class sizes are 47th largest in the nation.

Q: How will the school board decide what is on the next ballot?

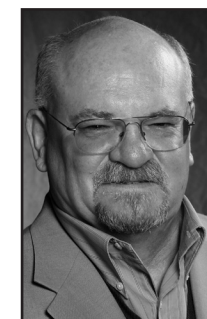
A: The school board conducted a listening campaign following the defeat of the Feb. 12, 2013 bond measure which would have renovated Walla Walla High School. Board members conducted two public work sessions and took the lead on a community survey (see results on district website: wwps.org). The district is now reconvening the Community Facilities Task Force to develop options for a long-range facilities improvement plan. This will help set the course for future bonds once the board settles on a strategic direction. Survey results indicate more than 80 percent of the community would like to see improvements at Walla Walla High School, but cost was the greatest factor in the last bond not receiving the 60 percent “yes” vote needed to pass.

Q: Is the district planning to tear down Lincoln High School?

A: This has not been decided. A broad-based committee studied this issue last school year and recommended to the district Lincoln High School remain at its current location in a new building. The school board approved the receipt of the committee’s work but has not addressed the recommendations. The school board will facilitate a process for more input on this issue before a decision is made. Walla Walla High School remains the district’s top facility improvement priority.



Anne Golden



Dan Hess



Cindy Meyer



David Hampson



Ruth Ladderud