

Former Garrison student nominated for 2004 NCAA Woman of the Year

Anna Vagstad's passion for volleyball linked to Garrison

When **Anna Vagstad** moved from California into her family's new home in Walla Walla in 1993, she found it came equipped with an outdoor volleyball court.

Now just more than a decade later the former Winthrop University (South Carolina) volleyball player, who helped lead the Eagles to back-to-back Big South Conference championships in 2002 and 2003 and who was the recipient of the school's 2004 senior academic award for highest female student-athlete grade point average, has been selected the South Carolina finalist for *NCAA Woman of the Year* honors.

A national winner will be named at a ceremony in Indianapolis, October 31.

"Perhaps it was this accident of available residential real estate that led Anna down the volleyball path," said her father Donald Vagstad. "She played often with her sisters and neighbors."

Vagstad attended 5th and 6th grades at Prospect Point Elementary School and 6th through 8th grades at Garrison Middle School. Her family moved to Spokane in the mid-90s. She attended Mead High School, where she was named valedictorian and led the Mead volleyball team to the 4A state title in 1999.

Vagstad graduated from Winthrop last May with a degree in chemistry and compiled a 3.976 grade point average. Anna now lives in Denver, Colorado. Her grandmother Margaret Adams still resides in Walla Walla.



Reflecting on the Garrison experience...

"It was there that she first learned the game of volleyball in Garrison's excellent intramural program. We cherish the experiences our children had at Garrison."

Donald Vagstad
Anna's Father

Anna Vagstad attended 7th and 8th grades at Garrison Middle School during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 school years.

She attended 5th and 6th grades at Prospect Point.

Anna was South Carolina's selection for 2004 NCAA Woman of the Year and is a finalist for national honors to be named October 31.



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Focus on Education community newsletter is published tri-annually by Walla Walla Public Schools.

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Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Fall 2004 | Volume 6 | Issue 1

Symposium 2004

Creating a vision for tomorrow...

For a day and a half Whitman College's Reid Center served as a time machine for Walla Walla Public Schools, as a group of nearly 100 community members, parents, staff and students envisioned an ideal school experience for the future.

The district organized this strategic visioning event to get input from a diverse group about what Walla Walla expects of its public schools.

See **Symposium** - pages 2 and 6

Symposium Dialog Questions

1. In your personal opinion, what should we expect of our high school graduates to succeed in the 21st century?
2. What key instructional elements must be in place in our schools K-12 to help students achieve these expectations?
3. In your opinion, what facility improvements and learning resources are needed to increase instructional program capabilities, significantly enhance student learning opportunities and achieve greater success for all students?

Ambitious Vision of the Future



Symposium 2004 participants **Lawson Knight** of the Blue Mountain Area Foundation and Walla Walla Valley PTSA President **Carol Morgan** discuss the future of Walla Walla Public Schools.

This process will ultimately lead toward establishing a new strategic plan and ambitious vision of the future for the district.

Wa-Hi students chart Blue Print for Tomorrow

When students enter Walla Walla High School they embark on a journey mapped out by their *Blueprint for Tomorrow* project.

"This project is a graduation requirement for Wa-Hi students that is designed to help them obtain the most from their high school experience," said Wa-Hi Assistant Principal **Mira Gobel**, who is charged with leading and organizing this schoolwide project.

The *Blue Print for Tomorrow* allows students to achieve the Walla Walla High School exit

See **Blue Print** - page 5



Mira Gobel

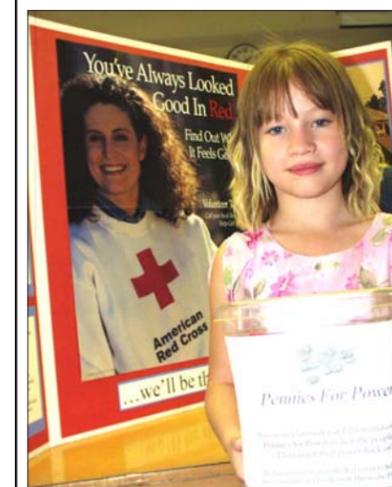
Learn more about Washington's new graduation requirements

www.partnership4learning.org/classof2008.htm

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Pennies for Power



Edison Elementary first grade student **Shaylie Oyen** and her schoolmates collected *Pennies for Power* to help with hurricane relief efforts in Florida.

The students designed special collection buckets for the project. Nearly \$200 was collected and donated to the American Red Cross.

Remember to Vote!

Tuesday, November 2

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy



Rich Carter
Superintendent

Symposium first step to new vision

I want to thank the group of nearly 100 community members, students, staff and parents which met last month on the campus of Whitman College for *Symposium 2004* to discuss the future of Walla Walla Public Schools.

This Strategic visioning event was successful in large part due to their involvement. It was inspiring for me to witness stakeholders, policy makers, and school leaders working toward a common goal of establishing a hopeful and ambitious vision of the future for Walla Walla children.

This intensive, two-day Symposium was the first step in a long process to take our school district to new heights of achievement and success. The process will ultimately lead the school district toward establishing a new vision statement and RoadMap™ to meet the expectations of our community and of today's increasingly changing world.

The focus will now shift to getting outcomes from the Symposium communicated to even more Walla Walla citizens. The pace will be quick as we have much to accomplish and our needs will only continue to grow. I am confident we will stand and deliver on a sound plan for the future that your Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors will be proud to adopt and call its own. Stay tuned, much more to follow!

Richard B. Carter

Symposium 2004 - Next Steps

- Get more community, staff input
- Establish Core Leadership team to help design a new Strategic Plan
- School board, upon direct input and involvement, approves new plan
- Implementation of new strategic plan
- Develop action steps necessary to make new Strategic Plan uniquely suit Walla Walla's needs
- Set aggressive benchmarks
- Monitor progress over time
(learn more online - www.wwps.org)

Special thanks to our Board of Directors and the Symposium Planning committee.

Literacy First

New reading program improves skills

With a mind-set that reading is the key to learning, Walla Walla Public Schools administrators and teachers are putting *Literacy First*, literally.

Literacy First is a program designed to have 85 to 90 percent of students reading at grade level by the end of the three year program. The program relies heavily on teacher training and support from administration to stress the importance of building reading skills.

The district is focusing its *Literacy First* efforts at secondary grade levels, 6 to 12, as it begins the second year of the program at Garrison and Pioneer Middle Schools, and Walla Walla High School. Sharpstein Elementary is in the first year of the program.

"Staff Development is a critical component of *Literacy First*," Program Coordinator **Judy Peasley** said. "On site '*Coaching & Consulting*' is the key to the success of this entire effort."

Depending on the type of reader, the intensity, duration and type of instruction will vary.

Consultants spend 24 days on-site working with staff. Each teacher participates in five to 13 days of training over a period of three years. Teachers will learn improved instructional strategies, how to better help struggling readers, and techniques for getting parents more involved with reading at home.



*Pioneer Middle School 8th grade Math and Social Studies teacher **Shannon DeBeaumont** works on reading skills with student **Tyler Davenport** as part of the district's *Literacy First* program.*

State test scores show promise

Secondary students post greatest gains

Results of the Spring 2004 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) indicate Walla Walla Public Schools are providing students with the academic knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to succeed in school and beyond.

Walla Walla Public Schools fourth grade students will focus on math to improve basic skills and continue to stress literacy. Seventh grade students last year posted significant gains in math and reading and will work on writing skills to make further academic gains. Tenth grade students improved scores in all areas.

Class of 2008 students, this year's freshmen, will be the first class required to earn the Certificate of Academic Achievement by meeting standards in all content areas of the WASL.

Washington Assessment of Student Learning Scores

WASL Grade 4 Spring 2004

(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	45.2% (53.2% - 2003)	59.9%
Reading	65.4% (68.4 - 2003)	74.4%
Writing	43.7% (48.1 - 2002)	55.8%
Science (5th gr)	25.5% (2003 not tested)	28.2%

WASL Grade 7 Spring 2004

(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	48.2% (32% - 2003)	46.3%
Reading	64.3% (46.9% - 2003)	60.4%
Writing	59.6% (61.9% - 2003)	58.0%
Science (8th gr)	51.4 (39.1% - 2003)	39.4%

WASL Grade 10 Spring 2004

(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	36.2% (32.6% - 2003)	43.9%
Reading	63.0% (50.3% - 2003)	64.4%
Writing	59.7% (53.7% - 2003)	65.2%
Science	33.6% (31.5% - 2003)	32.2%

ESEA report card information online

<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>

On the Job Training



Charter Communications Videographer **Dinah Morrison** shows Green Park Elementary fourth grade student Tiffany Vickers how to operate a video camera. Morrison was producing a Staff Spotlight television commercial featuring Green Park teacher **Missy Johnson**.

Charter Communications and Walla Walla Public Schools have a partnership to showcase outstanding staff members on numerous cables stations each month.

Pioneer students build unity at Stars Camp



Pioneer sixth grade students **Delacey Heater** and **Ryan Heighes** unpack after spending two nights at Camp Wooten for *Stars Camp*.

The *Stars Camp* mountain getaway is designed to help students build school unity and pride. They learn about diversity, respect and how to get along with each other.

Students and staff have a great time playing games, learning and laughing.

Pioneer Middle School - Stars Camp Fact Sheet

- 200 Pioneer sixth grade students participated
- Location - Camp Wooten, near Dayton, WA
- Unity - designed for students get to know each other
- Students also attend anti-bullying work sessions
- Most of all it's fun - games, swimming, hiking and more!

Camp Fire USA licenses afterschool camps

Program offers parents quality, affordable childcare

Camp Fire USA's four afterschool camps, which serve all of Walla Walla's six public elementary schools, officially became licensed by the State of Washington in August. Licensing allows Camp Fire afterschool camps to qualify for new funding opportunities and adds professionalism to all elements of the program.

"The successful completion of this process reaffirms Camp Fire's commitment to quality, accessible childcare available for all children of our community," said Karen Wolf, Camp Fire's Executive Director.

"All Camp Fire programs are committed to developing the whole child through recreation, education and rich programs that build self esteem and social skills."

Karen Wolf - Camp Fire Executive Director

Afterschool camps are located at Berney, Green Park, Prospect Point and Sharpstein Elementary schools and through transportation at the school day's last bell, serve Blue Ridge and Edison at Green Park and Prospect Point sites.

Camp Fire afterschool camps began 16 years ago and have expanded and grown over the years to meet our community's growing need for out-of-school programs.

"Thanks to generous support from many community individuals and trusts, Walla Walla Camp Fire has offered scholarship assistance for many years and, through licensing, can expand our support of youth participation in all Camp Fire out-of-school programs."



Camp Fire Afterschool Camp staff member **Ashley Cosgrove**, a Wa-Hi Junior, reads to Sharpstein Elementary camp participants (L to R) **Morianna Stephens, Anthony Brown, and Sammantha Scott.**

Camp Fire afterschool camps offer reading, math and science components, as well as games, arts and crafts and sports. Camp is in session daily from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Parents may enroll their children in camp sessions as needed, making it convenient for all schedules. Please call 525-3180 for more information on Camp Fire USA programs in Walla Walla.

Former EWU Eagle Soars



An Eastern Washington University marketing production specialist and Blue Ridge Principal **Linda Boggs** share a laugh between video shots for a college student recruitment video recently produced at Blue Ridge Elementary.

Boggs, who was named the state's Elementary Principal of the Year in 2004, was sought by EWU to tell her success story as part of the college's marketing campaign.

Eastern Washington University is telling Blue Ridge Elementary Principal Linda Boggs's success story as part of its recruitment and marketing campaign.

Boggs, who said she also loved attending college football and baseball games, earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education from EWU in 1984 and her Master's Degree in Education/Administration in 1988. She is currently pursuing her Superintendent's Credential.

"EWU offered a great campus life. The size of the school was perfect for me," Boggs said. "I enjoyed working in the financial aid office as part of my work study program. I still keep in touch with staff from that department. My education classes were small in number, and I felt the professors worked hard to provide great experiences for us in the lab school, as we worked on our own instructional skills."

Elementary & Secondary Education Act
Report Card Information Online!
<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>

Prospect Point students on T.O.P.P. of the world

Fitness program improves performance through creative activities

Halftime shows at many local sporting events have a new look, thanks to more than 60 students from Prospect Point Elementary who have formed a fitness performance team to dazzle onlookers.

The Outstanding Peak Performers, or better known as T.O.P.P.s, consists of students in grades one through five who want to use their own enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication to develop fitness and coordination skills.

"This provides a unique opportunity for students to use their own creativity and excel beyond the regular PE curriculum," said T.O.P.P.s Coach **Keith Reardon**, who is also the school's Physical Education teacher. "This program promotes teamwork, physical fitness and the mastery of physical skills through public performances."

This school year marks the fourth Reardon has coordinated the program. He says the program offers a unique learning and skill niche opportunity for many students who do not excel in traditional sports. It also presented a personal challenge to Reardon.

"I have always coached sports beyond my teaching day (high school football and high school basketball)

and felt the need to do something extra to have an extra challenge for myself."

The team practices twice a week for one hour before school from October until February. The T.O.P.P.s team is looking to fill its calendar for this school year.

Those interested in booking a school assembly, basketball halftime performance, or any other public performance, are encouraged to contact Reardon at 527-3088 or by e-mail: kreardon@wwps.org.

Blue Print continued from page 1

outcome requirements and meets Washington State's Accountability mandates.

The skills and resources necessary to complete this project will be learned through a variety of sources, such as regular course work, advisory meetings, extra-curricular activities and the *Blue Print for Tomorrow* handbook.

The Blueprint for Tomorrow is a graduation requirement for Walla Walla High School students beginning with the graduating Class of 2008.

Specific grade level requirements for the culminating project must be completed each year.

"This provides a unique opportunity for students to use their own creativity and excel beyond the regular PE curriculum,"
T.O.P.P.s Coach Keith Reardon

Blue Print for Tomorrow Tasks

Maintain Portfolios
• student work • academic history
• career • citizenship • personal

Culminating Project
Students will design and complete a project to apply their learning in a "real world" way.

Oral Presentation
Completed during senior year

E-folio
Electronic use of the Discover website (career choices, college options, employment skills, much more)

Staff Spotlight - News Briefs

Former Sharpstein Health Clinician new director

Jennifer Douglas, most recently Health Clinician at Sharpstein Elementary, has been hired to direct the Health Services Department upon the retirement of longtime Director Bev Thygeson.

Douglas received her Associate's Degree in Nursing from Walla Walla Community College in 1996 before moving on to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing with honors from Washington State University in 2003. Douglas is currently working on her Master's Degree in Psychiatric Nursing.



Jennifer Douglas

Douglas loves dance and has used it as a form of exercise by teaching Jazzercise in the community for over 15 years. In addition to her educational interests, she enjoys spending time with her three children and husband of 25 years. With her children almost raised, in her spare time Jennifer enjoys knitting, weaving and sewing. Her latest endeavor is cruising around the beautiful Northwest on her motorcycle with her husband.

Edison Para-educators earn Associate Degrees

Congratulations to Edison Para-educators **Daneitta Mertens** and **Gail Serven** for recently completing their Associate of Arts degrees from Walla Walla Community College. Mertens and Serven maintained full-time employment while going back to school to enhance their professional skills

Berney staff members extinguish electrical fire

Thanks to the quick actions of a four Berney Elementary staff members, a small electrical fire didn't have a chance to spread and cause further damage.

Physical education teacher **Scott Ford** discovered the fire in a ceiling light fixture.

Ford, fourth grade teacher **Jack O'Brien**, custodian **Phil Peick** and Principal **David Talley** donned several fire extinguishers and put out the fire. No injuries occurred, but the fire caused nearly \$5,000 in damages.

The damaged light was replaced and all other gym lights were inspected for defections to ensure safe operating conditions.

New Pioneer Principal starts neighborhood coffee program to connect with parents

New Pioneer Middle School Principal **Dana Rosenbach Jones** is reaching out to get to know families in her school by organizing *Neighborhood Coffees* through her PTSA.

These events have a little different twist to them though. Instead of coming to the school Rosenbach Jones and her new Assistant Principal **Jon Abbott** travel to the homes of their parents.

"We have been able to answer questions and give our parents an opportunity to get to know us as administrators and individuals," she said.

So far they have organized five events and hope to do more throughout the year. Sign up if you are ready to play host.

"We want to share our passion for learning and involve our parents in our learning community by giving them a voice."

Dana Rosenbach Jones

Pioneer Middle School Principal

Neighborhood Coffee Discussion Questions

What do you like about your experience as a parent at Pioneer Middle School?

What concerns would you like to express?

Do you have any suggestions or ideas to enhance your students' experience or questions about Pioneer?

To sign up for a Pioneer Neighborhood Coffee contact PTSA President Cheryl Bloom at 529-8829.

Wa-Hi students named Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Month

Riley Clubb and **Geneva Skeen** of Walla Walla High School were named the Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Month for the month of October. This year's theme: "A New Spirit of America in a Changing World."

These students will also be eligible to compete for the Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Year Awards and special \$1,000 college scholarships. Exchange Club of Walla Walla recognizes that the young people of our nation represent America's greatest treasure.

Riley Clubb

- National Honor Society member
 - Chamber Singers
 - Drama participant
 - Named a Mr. Wa-Hi in 2004
 - Senior Class Vice President
 - Known to play mean game of Ping Pong
- Parents: Megan and Martin Clubb



Geneva Skeen

- National Honor Society member
 - Treble Ensemble singer
 - Drama Club President
 - Honors Crest Club member
 - Dance Team member
 - Mock Trial member
- Parents: Autumn and Tom Skeen



"Ultimately, it is the degree of ownership and commitment displayed by a respective community that leads to significant improvement and realization of goals and objectives."

Dr. Jim Parsley
Symposium 2004 Consultant

Dr. Jim Parsley is the executive educational planner with LSW-Visioning.

He served as a school superintendent for 26 years and successfully led the Vancouver Public Schools through a strategic transformation process that gained numerous national honors and recognition for the Vancouver area.



New Personnel Director car crazy

Jordan's passion for automobiles spans 40 years



"I remember the first time I saw a Corvette. I was a teenager in Lewiston, Idaho and I was immediately hooked on sports/muscle cars."

Dr. Bill Jordan
Executive Director of Personnel

Classics to Remember

A cruise down memory lane with Jordan's favorites

- 54 Ford Coupe (first car)
- 67 RS/SS Camaro (scary fast)
- 69 Camaro (first new car)
- 70 1/2 Camaro (best driving)
- 74 Corvette (cruiser)
- 83 Mercedes (road trip)
- Couple of BMWs (precise)

Current Classic Car

• 1971 Camaro (350 V8)
(Restored and painted bright red with rally wheels)

"The '71 Camaro still seems to be a head turner (folks are not looking at the bald headed guy behind the wheel) and is still a fun car to drive."

Bill Jordan

Beware Walla Walla automobile enthusiasts, there's a new guy in town competing for those ever hard to find classic car parts.

Walla Walla Public Schools new Executive Director of Personnel and lifelong educator Dr. Bill Jordan has been fixing up old cars since he was a teenager cruising the strip in Lewiston, Idaho.

Jordan, a former Pioneer Middle School teacher and administrator and Garrison Middle School Principal, is back for his second stint in Walla Walla after leaving in the 80s to pursue administrative career opportunities.

Don't be surprised to see Jordan at a car show admiring the classic steel or poking around Dan's Garage in Kennewick searching for a rare part.

Mention a 1969 Camaro and you'll be sure to get him to perk up. He says he always considers taking on a new project. Any offers? Give him a call.



The district's new Executive Director of Personnel **Bill Jordan** gets ready to cruise his bright red 1971 Camaro.

Jordan, whose extensive professional career includes being classroom teacher, principal, superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent to State Superintendent Dr. Terry Bergeson, fell in love with cars as a teenager.

Jordan, an Idaho Vandal during his college years, has also been known to be a horseman. However, last year Jordan was tossed off a gelding and broke his arm. He says he's ready to stick with bucket seats and a small block 350 Chevy.

"The classic cars are a part of automobile history and give the people of all generations an opportunity to see and experience a fun bit of the past."

Symposium 2004 continued from page 1

Symposium 2004 participants recommend goals

Symposium 2004 participants discussed what they expect of their Walla Walla Public Schools and envisioned the ideal school experience. The ideas and suggestions were honed to attributes of Walla Walla Public Schools students and three suggested goals.

The recommended goals from participants centered on:

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Staffing and Learning Communities
- Facilities and Resources

See more online: A complete listing of the suggested attributes of students and recommended goals are on the district's website: www.wwps.org.

Community Input: Community members are encouraged to submit further recommendations to the district based on the three questions listed on page one. Written suggestions are accepted at the district office (364 S. Park Street) or by e-mail: mhiggins@wwps.org. Contact Communications Director **Mark Higgins** at 526-6716 to schedule a time for the *Symposium 2004* 'Core Team' to review results with your organization.

Wa-Hi migrant student to perform at national conference

Wa-Hi Junior **Veronica Marin** will have a tremendous impact on bilingual educators from throughout the United States and Mexico as they meet for the Migrant Education Bi-National Forum in Seattle later this month. Marin has been

selected to perform national anthems from Mexico and United States during the opening ceremony. Marin will also participate on a panel with students from five other states to discuss issues facing migrant students.

"I feel very humbled and privileged to receive this honor. I hope to do a good job in representing our school district."

Wa-Hi Junior Veronica Marin



Paine seeks job shadowing partners

Paine Campus Secondary Alternative Education Center is seeking local business owners and other professionals to assist students in the "Learning through Internships" mentoring program.

Business partners would commit to working with students two days a week at their business locations.

"September 2004 marked the beginning of our redesigned Paine Campus High School," Principal **Jeff Weeks** said. "Students learn in workplace and community settings, not just in schools."

Those interested in this meaningful partnership program are asked to call Coordinator **Jane Kelly** at 526-8501 or Weeks at 527-3083.