

Wa-Hi recycling program promotes good stewardship of resources

Wa-Hi's **John Herr** has dedicated his life to being a good steward of our resources.

Now in his 19th year as a classroom teacher, Herr also serves as the school's recycling coordinator.

He believes in teaching students the benefits of recycling and the importance of caring for our environment. Each day he gathers recyclables throughout the campus and takes them to a collection center for reuse.

Herr also enjoys hiking, backpacking and taking family trips with his wife Linda and their children.



Recycling coordinator John Herr is committed to preserving our resources by recycling and using products made with recycled materials.



Wa-Hi Recycling Team (L to R): Paraeducator Mike Stroe, special needs student Marc Ruley and Wa-Hi teacher/recycling coordinator John Herr load cardboard to take to the recycling collection center.



Marc Ruley
"Herr's Special Helper"

Protecting our Environment

2001-2002 Wa-Hi Recycling Totals

• Paper/Cardboard	43,020 lbs
• Aluminum cans	521 lbs
• Plastic bottles	1392 lbs
• Tin cans	609 lbs
• Misc. metals	81 lbs
Total	48,003 lbs

Recycling Savings

2000-2001	\$1,650
(Money earned - \$630)	
2001-2002	\$1,680
(Money earned - \$540)	
2002-2003	\$525 (to date)
(Money earned - \$200 to date)	

Dollars generated from recycling proceeds are used for campus improvements and replacing recycling bins.

"Our state standards, the WASL and the Certificate of Mastery are based on a deep belief that all students are capable of learning at higher levels than we ever expected of them in the past. We can't shortchange a future of opportunities for any student by believing anything less."

Dr. Terry Bergeson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter

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School board eyes facilities needs

Multiple projects top list

When school board members nearly five years ago picked Sharpstein Elementary as the next school on the list for modernization, the issue was fairly straightforward. The district had a 100-year-old school that was in desperate need of restoration.

The community responded by passing the Sharpstein bond with nearly a 70 percent yes vote the first time on the ballot and the rest is history.

As school board members begin closely examining what's next for the district's capital improvement efforts, the issues are a bit more cloudy.

A recent Facilities Task Force study has found an array of needs including major modernization projects such as Edison Elementary, Walla Walla High School, Paine Alternative Learning Center, Support Facilities, and construction of a new Wa-Hi Sports Complex.

School board members have held two public work sessions to get answers to

the endless questions surrounding these issues.

Community input has also been sought to help the board as it charts a vision for the district's facilities needs.

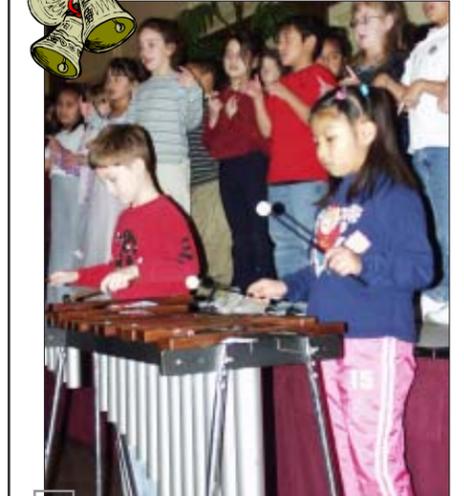
Superintendent **Rich Carter** has recommended the district target February 2005 as a potential date to bring a bond issue before the voters of Walla Walla.

"If you don't set a goal, you'll never achieve it," Carter said. "Some of our facilities are in extremely poor condition and I don't think we can wait any longer."

Carter says he's leaning toward recommending a multiple projects measure to help the district provide adequate learning environments for district students and programs.

"Our issues aren't as clear as they were when we passed the Sharpstein bond," Carter said. "We've seen what we can do with projects like Sharpstein. I don't think it's fair to our kids to ask them to go to schools that don't meet today's demanding needs."

Festival of Carols



Sharpstein Elementary first grade students **Elizabeth Vasquez-Lopez** and **Peter Tucker** helped get Walla Wallans in the holiday spirit during their school's *Festival of Carols* concert at the Marcus Whitman Hotel. Students also ate their lunches at the hotel and made special holiday crafts.

Special Thanks

Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center

ESEA School Report Card now available

Walla Walla Public Schools first Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) comprehensive *School Report Card* is now available to the public. ESEA *School Report Cards* are available at all schools, the district office - 364 S. Park Street, various Walla Walla community locations, and online at: www.wwps.org.

School Report Card Elements

- Student achievement and assessment data
 - Comparison of students at basic, proficient, and advanced levels
 - Percentage of students not tested, disaggregated
 - Two-year trend data by subject, by grade tested
- Graduation rates
- Performance of schools making adequate yearly progress (number and names of schools identified for school improvement)
- Professional qualifications of teachers

Golden elected president of state school directors

Longtime Walla Walla School Board member **Anne Golden** now holds the state's most prestigious school board position after recently being installed as president of the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA).



Anne Golden

Golden, who will serve as WSSDA president for the coming year, was sworn in last November during ceremonies at the

See **Golden** - page 5

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

Quality Integrity Accountability Respect Courtesy



Rich Carter
Superintendent

Keep the commitment to public education

School employees from across the state last month rallied to urge the legislature to preserve quality schools in Washington state. Throngs of educators joined together in Olympia, Spokane and Tri-Cities to send a powerful message to our elected officials. Many school districts cancelled school and rescheduled classes for later in the year to participate in *Day of Action* rallies.

Although Walla Walla Public Schools teachers, administrators, school board and support staff chose to keep our schools open, I support the message being sent to Olympia. Public education is the cornerstone of democracy and has helped make our country what it is today. We often read negative reports of how American schools match up poorly when compared to those in other countries. Point taken. We do have a monumental task before us to get all students meeting higher standards.

But what is often overlooked in reports and by media outlets is our commitment to working with all students. Whether gifted, abused, rich or poor, we take them all. Now more than ever we have to support public education.

High stakes state and federal mandates are putting unprecedented pressure on educators to improve. We are up for this challenge, but we need our legislature and local communities to commit to supporting public education.

Children are our most precious resource and with proper support we will ensure they have opportunities to be successful learners. Thank you for your commitment to public education.

Richard B. Carter

Quality education not discretionary

- The Washington State Legislature must keep the commitment to public education by continuing to invest in quality public schools. That includes protecting voter-approved Initiative 728 and Initiative 732.
- We must provide stable and equitable funding for public education. Our schools are setting clear goals, aligning curriculum, and prioritizing resources to improve student achievement.
- Highly skilled teachers are directly linked to improved student achievement. Our state must provide competitive compensation to continue attracting and keeping the best teachers for our students.
- Time is of the essence. Beginning with the Class of 2008, students must earn the *Certificate of Mastery* to graduate.
- State and local support are key to success.

District cuts energy consumption 25 percent

As the State of Washington faces tough economic times, the district is doing its part to trim costs.

Now in its fourth year, the energy management program has helped the district slash nearly 25 percent of its energy consumption. The result is hundreds of thousands of dollars saved without having to reallocate limited resources.

School board members took a bold step in 1999 by becoming the first district in the State of Washington to partner with *Energy Education Incorporated* (EEI).

The four year contract with EEI included extensive training for the district's program manager, on-site training sessions, staff educational materials, professional publications and a computer software package to precisely monitor energy usage.

The program did not require the district to invest in new equipment. It called on staff and students to change their usage habits to better conserve energy.

"Four years ago when we studied the issue of energy management and the fine work *Energy Education Incorporated* had done around the country, we quickly realized this would be an efficient and cost effective program to help preserve our environment and save taxpayer dol-

lars," Business Manager **Aron Rausch** said. "We are now the leaders in the State of Washington and other school districts are calling us and asking about our energy management program."

Walla Walla Public Schools is nearing the end of its contract obligations with *Energy Education Incorporated*. The district will continue to operate the program with its own resources, under the direction of Energy Manager **John Butenhoff**.

By ending its contract obligation with EEI, the district will free up approximately \$140,000 per month. These dollars will be used to purchase modern energy saving equipment, including control systems, efficient heating/cooling units, and efficient lighting systems. "We see this program continuing especially in times of escalating utilities costs," Rausch said. "The savings we generate will be put back in to making our schools even more efficient."

Each month Butenhoff painstakingly reviews all district energy bills and usage statements. His vast training helps him notice inaccuracies and over charges in billing statements. He has been able to correct numerous meter charges and other inaccurate fees as a result of his attention to detail.

Energy Saving Highlights

- Reduced water meter usage in Wa-Hi's Agriculture field. District expected to save more than \$20,000 annually
- District rebated \$35,000 for sewer charges at Wa-Hi
- District rebated \$2,500 for water meter charges at Prospect Point
- District rebated \$10,000 for water meter charges at Wa-Hi
- District rebated \$800 for water meter charges at Pioneer Middle School.
- District removed four water meters that were not being used
- Reduction of \$200 to \$500 monthly on sanitation charges at various schools
- Saved more than 10 billion BTU's in three years
- District energy costs slashed (3 year totals)
 - Gas costs_____42% savings
 - Water costs_____30% savings
 - Electricity costs_____16% savings

Sponsored by Walla Walla County PTSA Council

Superintendent's Public Forum

March 3

Walla Walla High School Auditorium

6:45 - 7:00 p.m. (refreshments)

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. (public forum)

- ✓ Learn more about your public schools
- ✓ Hear challenges facing public education
- ✓ Help celebrate our successes
- ✓ Have open dialogue with Superintendent Rich Carter

Need More Information?

Call Mark Higgins, Communications Director

526-6716

WW board joins national roundtable discussions

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors was recently selected to participate in the *Key Work of School Boards Roundtable Discussions* April 7 at the National School Boards Association conference in San Francisco, CA.

Walla Walla school board members will discuss strategies used during the implementation of the district strategic plan. Board members will also showcase techniques for leading successful change as a result of the Phi Delta Kappa Curriculum Management audit.

National School Boards Association leaders selected the Walla Walla school board to join in the discussions because of its strong leadership and demonstrated success in leading higher student achievement efforts.

New Wa-Hi telephone system in place



Janis Barton
Technology Director

Qwest training coordinator **Janet Marchant** and Wa-Hi PE teacher **Marc Yonts** discuss features of Wa-Hi's new telephones. Under the direction of Technology Director **Janis Barton**, Wa-Hi's aging telephone system was completely upgraded this fall. Staff now have their own telephones, extension numbers, voice mail services, and other modern telephone features.

Wa-Hi student-athletes continue to shine on all fronts

Classroom successes lead program accomplishments

Volleyball (16-0 League Champions and District Champions)

Jamie Eggers	1 st Team All-Conference Big Nine Volleyball Player of the Year
Lindsey Mahan	1 st Team All-Conference
Hailey Pearce	1 st Team All-Conference
Jenna Turner	1 st Team All-conference
Coach Digger Graybill	Big Nine Volleyball Coach of the Year

Girls' Soccer

Joshlyn Litzenberger	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Sarah Nostdohl	Honorable Mention All-Conference

Boys' Cross Country (3rd in League, 3rd in Districts)

Colby Litzenberger	2 nd Team All-Conference
Ty Schepler	2 nd Team All-Conference
Jared Jungmann	Honorable Mention All-conference

Girls' Cross Country (2nd in League, 3rd in Districts)

Janel Sislow	2 nd Team All-Conference
Hilary Schneidmiller	2 nd Team all-Conference
Karen Walters	2 nd Team All-Conference
Leticia Cervantes	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Lucrecia Cervantes	Honorable Mention All-conference

Girls Swimming (Undefeated League Champions and 2nd in Districts)

Alexis Buckley	1 st Team All Conference (two events)
Sarah Tomlinson	1 st Team All Conference
Sarah Towery	2 nd Team All-Conference
Nicole Sawatski	Honorable Mention All-Conference

Football (3rd in League, Regional Champions, 3rd in State)

Zac Widmer	All State & 1 st Team All- Conference, Running Back All State & 1 st Team All-Conference, Linebacker Big Nine Football Player of the Year
Pierce Johnson	1 st Team All-Conference, Wide Receiver 1 st Team All-Conference, Defensive Back
Casey Waddell	1 st Team All-Conference Quarterback Big Nine Co-Offensive Player of the Year
Craig Mettler	1 st Team All-Conference Offense Lineman
Tyler Carter	1 st Team All-Conference Defense Lineman
Kelly Maher	2 nd Team All-Conference Linebacker
Justin James	2 nd Team all-Conference Offensive Line
Anthony Rosso	2 nd Team All-conference Defensive Back
Justin Coronado	Honorable Mention All-Conference Honorable Mention All-Conference Wide Receiver
Flynn Thurston	Honorable Mention All-Conference Offensive Line
Bob Eisele	Honorable Mention All-Conference Defensive Line

Strive for Excellence

Wa-Hi Fall Sports Teams G.P.A.

Varsity Football	3.12
Volleyball	
- Varsity	3.422
- Junior Varsity	3.342
- Sophomore	3.506
- Freshman A	3.52
- Freshman B	3.335
Cross Country	
- Varsity Girls	3.648
- Junior Varsity Girls	3.618
- Varsity Boys	3.276
- Junior Varsity Boys	3.376
Girls Swimming	3.252
Girls Soccer	
- Varsity	3.518
- Junior Varsity	3.217
Varsity Cheerleaders	3.2
Varsity Dance	3.6

Athletics - Keeping Kids Connected

Football	3 teams, 114 participants
Volleyball	5 teams, 59 participants
Girls' Soccer	2 teams, 38 participants
Girls' Swimming	1 team, 17 participants
Girls' Cr. Cntry	2 teams, 14 participants
Boys' Cr. Cntry	2 teams, 41 participants
Cheer	1 team, 12 participants
Dance	1 team, 20 participants

"I am extremely proud of the athletic and academic performance of our fall athletes and teams.

"Our student-athletes are an outstanding group of young people and their accomplishments on and off the field are a result of their commitment, dedication and hard work."

Don Wilkins
District Athletic Director

Computer training program helps teachers bring new technology to their classrooms

With technology advancing by leaps and bounds daily and users getting younger and younger, Walla Walla Public Schools is doing its part to keep educators on the cutting edge.

Thanks to the INTEL *Teach to the Future Grant*, nearly 100 Walla Walla teachers have enhanced their technology skills through this advanced computer training program.

The program incorporates use of the Internet, Web page design and productivity software. The primary focus of the class sessions is to provide a means for teachers to learn from other teachers how, when and where to incorporate technology tools and resources into their current lesson plans.

The curriculum, divided into 10 four-hour modules, enables teachers to develop a complete collection of themed lesson plans that engage students in the use of technology to conduct research, compile information, and communicate with others.

"For many teachers this is the most comprehensive focus that they have had regarding using technology in their regular curriculum," Master teacher

Tracy Williams said.

Master Teachers, supported by Technology and Curriculum, are **Tracy Williams, Tony Howard, and Shannon Ahrens.**

"The expertise and dedication of these Master Teachers was instrumental in the success of this project," Technology Director **Janis Barton** said. "The participating teachers in WWPS received extensive training and resources to promote effective technology use in the classroom."

Walla Walla Public Schools has supported this effort by providing funding for the 40 hours for each participating teacher.



Intel Teach to the Future master teacher Tracy Williams (R) reviews a project with program students Elissa Stites (L - Green Park 5th grade teacher) and Kate Venneri (Middle - Explorer teacher).

Garrison Night School paying off for Walla Walla woman

By Cindy Gregoire - Bilingual Program Coordinator

Teresa Martinez was driving home from work in 1998 when a Spanish radio station advertised the opportunity to learn English at the Garrison Night School. With her husband's and four children's encouragement, she decided to enroll.



Teresa Martinez

Having completed only a 6th grade education in Mexico, Martinez moved to the United States when she was just 17 years old. Martinez lived in California and Washington for several years without learning fluent English. She was nervous about enrolling in the Garrison Night School, but decided to take a chance. She loved it!

By the spring of 2000 she had passed her General Education Diploma test. Teresa then moved on to Walla Walla Community College to study early childhood development. She currently works as a paraeducator at the Blue Ridge Child Development Center helping Hispanic students learn English. She continues studying at the Garrison Night School taking a citizenship class, a computer class and an advanced English class.

"Garrison Night School is great for me," Martinez said. "We should all take advantage of it. English speakers can learn Spanish. Since I started, I don't want to stop. I'm taking it class by class."

Teresa's four children have told her they are proud of her. And she can be proud of them. One is currently a certificated bilingual classroom teacher in Walla Walla and another has just entered a teacher education program at Eastern Washington University. Garrison Night School offered Teresa Martinez the perfect springboard to further her education as an adult. For more information, contact **Cindy Gregoire** at 526-1691.

GOLDEN continued from page 1

association's annual conference in Spokane.

Golden has served on the Walla Walla school board since 1987.

She has been active in community service through a number of national, state and local organizations, including the American Heart Association, United Way, Camp Fire Boys and Girls,

YWCA, the American Red Cross, and the Walla Walla Community College Foundation Board of Governors.

She chairs the state Correctional Industries Board of Directors and is a past member of the state Council on Volunteerism and Community Service.

As president of WSSDA,

Golden serves as a major advocate for school boards and their efforts to promote high levels of achievement among all students in the state.

She is responsible for representing the association and communicating its positions to policymakers and legislative bodies, including the state Legislature, the Congress, state and federal

education departments, and other education-related organizations.

Golden previously served as WSSDA president-elect, vice president and a member of the association's board of directors.

She also trains school board members in strategic planning and professional development.

District schools receive early holiday gift thanks to Mary Garner Esary Trust

As Blue Ridge Elementary Library-Media Specialist **Shirley Rodenburg** meticulously sorted through mounds of mail early last December, she had no idea how one letter could make this tedious task so rewarding.

Upon opening a letter from an unfamiliar Walla Walla address, she soon learned Blue Ridge would have an extra special holiday season.

The letter was from the Mary Garner Esary Trust. After quickly scanning a half-page of text, she discovered Blue Ridge, and all Walla Walla Public Schools elementary schools, had received a \$1000 check on behalf of Mary Garner Esary. Her requirement was simple; spend the money on books and other reading materials.

"I was so excited when I opened it, I just couldn't believe it," Rodenburg said. "We'll use the money to purchase Accelerated Reader books and related testing materials. It will be a great benefit to our library and students."

Mary Garner Esary was a former Wa-Hi teacher who established a trust in her name to support local educational needs. She was a teacher at Wa-Hi in 1934 and again from 1950 to 1963.

Her husband, Tom Esary, was employed by Shell Oil until 1950 when they moved back to Walla Walla where

he took over the distributorship. Mary left a will which established a charitable trust with the income to help support non-profit organizations, including schools.

The Mary Garner Esary trust for several years, and again this year, has generously provided funds to Walla Walla High School and both middle schools. This is the first year the trust provided funds to district elementary schools.

"My sister would be very pleased to know these funds are being used to help Walla Walla children learn," **Kenneth Garner** said. "She loved children and dedicated her life to education."



Blue Ridge Elementary Library-Media Specialist **Shirley Rodenburg** says she'll use funds from the Mary Garner Esary Trust to purchase Accelerated Reader books and tests.

Mitchell named to state arts assessment team

Long time district music director **Glen Mitchell** will take his skills to the state level as part of the State Arts Assessment team charged with developing a state-wide assessment test.



Glen Mitchell

In coming years an arts test of some form is expected to become a requirement of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning annual statewide testing cycle. Currently students in grades 4, 7 and 10 are tested in math, reading, writing, and listening each Spring.

More than 200 Washington state educators applied for the 30 seat state committee.

"I will do my very best to represent our district and this part of the state throughout the process," Mitchell said.

Crest Club girls support breast cancer research

The life of a high school senior can be hectic to say the least. Toss in homework, college planning, school activities and an active social life and you have a recipe for a scheduling nightmare.

A special group of 25 Walla Walla High School senior girls has made the most of these challenges and still finds time to help others through their participation in the Crest Club.

Crest Club members earlier this school year, under the direction of advisor **Mira Gobel**, sponsored a series of events to support Women's Awareness Week.

Crest Club members organized a food drive and collected nearly 2000 food items for the YWCA Women's Shelter.

They also organized a schoolwide Breast Cancer Walk in which staff and students logged 2227 miles. Staff and students worked diligently to get donation pledges. The students walked in the Wa-Hi main gym during their Physical Education class periods and staff found time to walk during breaks and after school. The Breast Cancer Walk generated \$974 in cash donations for the YWCA's breast cancer screening service.

Committee developing collaboration proposals

Since forming earlier this fall, the Professional Development/Teacher Collaboration Committee has narrowed options for establishing consistent, K-12 teacher collaboration time to three proposals.

"We're making progress with our efforts to find time for teachers to collaborate, while maintaining instructional time for students," Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Judy Reault** said.

A broad-based committee consisting of teachers, administrators, school board members, parents and community members have met regularly this school year to chart a vision for the district in this area and to create a workable plan for all.

Reault said the committee set clear and easy to understand guidelines.

"We had to adhere to our Strategic Plan, develop a framework for K-12 coordinated professional development/collaboration, maintain instructional time, create a "no cost" proposal, define the use of collaborative

time, enhance instructional strategies, analyze and interpret assessment data, work on curriculum development, acknowledge and address last spring's public input, provide clear communication throughout the process, and be sensitive to the needs of all grade levels," Reault said.

She says the three proposals have been tested by staff via an e-mail survey last month. A school board public work session has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 4 to further discuss the proposals.

Reault says the committee will eventually prepare a "reader friendly" copy of the committee's recommended proposal. This information will then be sent home to parents.

The Professional Development/Teacher Collaboration Committee expects to take a final proposal to school board members February 18 and implement the new plan at the start of the 2003-2004 school year.

Wa-Hi students earn Youth of the Month honors

Tobin Kaufman-Osborn and **Alainna Fielding** of Walla Walla High School were named the Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Month earlier this school year.

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. Kaufman-Osborn and Fielding were selected by school officials. They were required to complete comprehensive application packets and present patriotic speeches to Exchange Club members.



Tobin Kaufman-Osborn

- ASB Vice-President
- National Honor Society
- Private Math Tutor
- Wa-Hi Band member
- Wa-Hi Disc Jockey
- 3.7 GPA
- Wa-Hi tennis team player

Parents: Sharon & Tim Kaufman-Osborn



Alainna Fielding

- Enrolled in numerous Advanced Placement courses
- Wa-Hi Drama program (numerous lead theatre roles)
- Accomplished musician and singer
- Homecoming Queen
- Commissioner of "Conspiracy of Hope" charity show

Parents: J. Alan & Deanne Fielding

Paine Pride!



Paine Campus Alternative Learning Center students (L to R) **Llahaira Luna**, **Veronica Beliz**, and **Adrienne Gonzales** prepare homemade ravioli for patrons at the annual fund-raiser *Paine Campus Holiday Dinner*.

The students served 70 meals and made nearly \$500. This festive evening is a joint project between teacher **Marlene Castoldi's** Family and Consumer Science class and the school's ASB.

Students planned and organized the event, purchased the food, and prepared the meals. Proceeds help support school activities.

Blue Ridge's Boggs named 2002 distinguished principal

Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Linda Boggs** was recently selected *Distinguished Principal* for the Lake Wallula Region for 2002-2003.



Linda Boggs

Boggs will now move into the state arena for consideration of the Washington *Distinguished Principal*.

"She has been instrumental in guiding and uniting her staff," Regional Director of the Elementary Schools Principal Association **Rick Nebeker** said. "As a result of her leadership, they have worked together to build a school improvement plan that is a living document that guides instruction."

Boggs was recently honored at a Walla Walla Public Schools board meeting and will be recognized at next fall's state principals conference.

Community Pride!



Inland Printing & Cox Jones Insurance

Special thanks to Inland Printing and Cox Jones Insurance for sponsoring the Wa-Hi winter sports pocket schedules.

Local businesses committed to building a strong community!