

# Long lost Garrison Trooper comes home

*Local artist Jeffrey Hill dedicates artwork in the name of deceased Garrison teacher Ann Weatherill*

Thirty years ago, local artist and sculptor **Jeffrey Hill**, inspired by Dale Steindorf, his Garrison Middle School art teacher, sculpted the Garrison Trooper mounted on a horse.

The quality of Hill's middle school art project was deserving of being mounted on the front of Garrison for 20 years. When Garrison was remodeled in 1993, the Trooper was taken down and assumed lost.

Twelve years later longtime district administrator **Len Taruscio** was walking through the district's maintenance yard and saw the Trooper. It was broken in several places, but Taruscio remembered former student Hill had sculpted the piece and contacted him.

Hill then called Garrison Principal **Jim Sporleder** and asked if he would be willing to accept the Trooper back at Garrison if he had it repaired.

"Hearing this exciting news, I asked Jeff if we could not only remount the Trooper, but if we could dedicate it in memory of Ann Weatherill, our special friend and colleague that we lost to a tragic bicycle accident," Sporleder said. "Jeff felt honored to do so and therefore the resurrection project began."

Local foundry expert **Trevor Hunter** did the repair work allowing Hill to work his magic painting the detailed piece.

Upon completion, Sporleder organized an all school assembly to dedicate the artwork in the name of Weatherill. Hill also presented the Weatherill family with a painted portrait of the Trooper as well as gifting the ASB president and Sporleder with a smaller version.



L to R: Garrison Principal Jim Sporleder, Charles Potts (husband of the late Weatherill), Molly Weatherill-Tate, Amanda Potts, Jeffrey Hill, and Dale Steindorf rededicate the Garrison Trooper after a 14 year hiatus.

Hill recently painted the artwork and earlier this school year donated it back to Garrison Middle School to serve as a Memorial to former teacher Ann Weatherill who died tragically in a 2004 bicycling accident.

**Walla Walla  
Public  
Schools**

# Focus on Education

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## YMCA gains option to purchase Support Services land if voters approve proposed bond measure

### *Sherwood Trust commits to matching funds for YMCA future expansion plans*

Any plans for a future YMCA expansion on Park Street will hinge greatly on a newly formed partnership with the district.

Walla Walla Public Schools has granted the YMCA first right of refusal on the Park Street property currently housing the district's Support Services operations should voters approve the proposed May 16 school bond.

"Our Walla Walla School District Board has developed a long-range facility strategy that will significantly improve the teaching environment of our local schools and address educational needs of the 21st Century," Walla Walla YMCA Board of Directors said in statement on the recent partnership.

See **YMCA** page 7



*YMCA Executive Director Ned Shafer (L) and Superintendent Rich Carter are working together to enhance the YMCA's future. The district has offered the YMCA a first right of refusal agreement on the 325 Park St. property.*

## Blue Mountain Action Council partners with district to develop community service center at Paine Campus

### *BMAC dollars to enhance district and community youth programs*

Through the May 16 bond issue, the district is proposing a fiscal partnership with the Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC), including the Community Center for Youth (CCY), to create a multi-use community facility on the Paine Campus to provide a range of youth programs and support services.

The proposal calls for BMAC dollars to build and maintain its own service center on the Paine campus -- as well as CCY -- to provide additional classrooms for students to use during the day and community members and youth to use during evenings and weekends. BMAC offers numerous services, including food bank distribution and shelter assistance.

This proposed plan is contingent on the successful passage of the May 16 bond.

## Safety key issue of Wa-Hi campus layout

### *Open design hard to secure*

With more than 150 doors, solid brick corridor passing ways, limited dollars for security cameras and a spread out campus design, safety and supervision challenges are at the core of why Walla Walla High School's current design does not meet needs.

"In the event of a lock-down we will not be able to secure all exterior doors and a hostile entity would still have access to the locker lobbies, providing both cover and concealment," said Walla Walla County Sheriff Deputy **Scott Brashear** who serves as Wa-Hi's resource officer.

The May 16 bond proposal calls for replacing the existing buildings with a unified structure to improve efficiency, maximize resources, tighten security, and better support staff and student skill development.

See **Wa-Hi Safety** page 6

## Walla Walla Public Schools

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### Board of Directors

- Tim Donaldson
- Mary Jo Geidl
- Anne Golden
- Dr. Richard Jacks
- Toni Rudnick

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## Remember to vote!

Bond 2006 • May 16  
(Ballots mail Friday, April 28)

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

**Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy**



**Rich Carter**  
Superintendent

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*"The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth."*

**John F. Kennedy**

## Why propose all these bond projects now?

Here's information to answer this question...

• *Equity*

Not all district schools provide adequate learning environments to meet today's educational demands and standards. (Example: Sharpstein vs. Edison)

• *Research*

Local and national studies show these projects are the district's most urgent needs.

• *Time*

We can't afford to wait. The district has many more needs than the projects slated for improvement in the May 16 bond issue. Each year we wait these priorities get pushed further down the list.

• *Cost*

Each year we wait it will cost at least 10 percent more per year. The need doesn't go away by not addressing it.

• *Experience*

The district has a proven record of successful management of capital improvement projects and has assembled a top notch, professional team to effectively manage all of these projects at one time.

• *Fiscal integrity*

The district has managed its last three projects (Green Park, Sharpstein, Murr Field) on or under budget.

• *Funding*

Rarely has a community experienced an opportunity to have nearly a dollar for dollar match on their future investment.

### Bond information online

[www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)

## Hayner takes helm of Citizens for Schools

Past *Citizens for Schools* chairs **Cindy Meyer** and **Bob Hill** welcome **Jim Hayner** as the new leader of this community based organization.

The mission of this non-profit, community organization is to ensure Walla Walla Public Schools have the resources and support necessary to provide essential educational programs and activities to Walla Walla children.

Graduating at the top of Walla Walla High School's class of 1968, Hayner attended Washington State University and Stanford University where he earned his law degree. Hayner then returned to Walla Walla to practice law.



*Jim Hayner*

**Hayner says *Citizens for Schools* will now focus on informing the community about the district's proposed May 16 bond issue.**

He is currently Minnick-Hayner law firm's senior full-time partner. With a total 20 years of service, Hayner is currently the longest-standing member of the Whitman College Board of Trustees.

Contact Hayner at 527-3500 or [jkh@innw.net](mailto:jkh@innw.net) if you are interested in learning more about Citizens for Schools.

## Widmer to lead fund raising group for proposed Wa-Hi PE/Athletic facility

The *Wa-Hi Athletic Facility Funding Partners*, chaired by **Cindy Widmer**, has pledged to procure private funding to match dollars required to construct the proposed athletic facility on the Wa-Hi campus

With this private donation of approximately **\$1.5 million** and state matching dollars available for this project, total cost for Walla Walla taxpayers will be **less than 1 percent** of all bond projects costs.

The proposed facility would serve as a teaching station for PE teachers and support extracurricular activities, and community/regional events.

***Wa-Hi Athletics Facility Funding Partners***

- Cindy Widmer, Chair
- Bill Fleenor
- Jim Hayner
- George Hessler
- Eric Hisaw
- Scott Krivoshein
- Gregg Loney
- Mike Monahan
- Mark Thompson
- Don Wilkins
- Marc Yonts

## S.W.A.T team goes back to school



District school bus drivers recently trained with the local law enforcement S.W.A.T team on school bus hostage scenarios. Bus drivers experienced first hand what would happen should this unlikely situation ever occur.

### YMCA continued from page 1

The Sherwood Trust has pledged a matching grant on a future YMCA expansion project on the Park Street property currently owned by the school district.

Plans for how the YMCA would develop the Park Street site have not been developed at this time.

"Approval of the bond will enable the School District to relocate its support services operations to the new high school campus.

"Such a move would increase the prospect of the YMCA's purchase of the two-acre parcel on Park Street for future expansion of its programs and activities.

"This concept has been supported by a matching grant from the Sherwood Trust that may be applied toward acquiring this land."

**Ned Shafer**

*Executive Director, Walla Walla Family YMCA*

## Community Connections

### Meyer takes oath to serve on school board

Longtime district volunteer **Cindy Meyer** became the district's newest board member December 13 after taking the oath of office. She takes the seat of retiring school board member Dr. Richard Jacks.

Meyer has a B.A. in Geology from Oregon State University. She co-chaired the Citizens for Schools Levy campaigns in 2002 and 2004 and has volunteered in the schools for 12 years in numerous roles and capacities.

She and her husband have two teenage daughters. Meyer will serve a four year term.



### School board elects new officers

**Mary Jo Geidl** was recently sworn in for her second four year term December 13. Board members also elected Geidl president of the board and named **Anne Golden** vice president. Special thanks to **Dr. Rich Jacks** who retired from the board after 12 years of service.

### Red Cross thanks school district for support

American Red Cross Blue Mountain Chapter Executive Director **Terry Hackney** recently reported on the district's successful fund-raising efforts to support disaster relief efforts. Hackney said district schools donated more than \$10,000 to the cause.

Hackney visited area schools to present Certificate of Appreciation keepsakes as a thank you for the efforts. He said he was proud of our staff and students and that the funding is making a difference.

### Hayner selects *Citizens for Schools* leaders

*Citizens for Schools* chair **Jim Hayner** has selected community members Jeffrey Hill, Katie and Carl Christianson, and Dondi and Andrea Cortinas to take on leadership roles to organize committee efforts.

Carl Tyler has once again agreed to lead communications efforts. Contact Hayner at 527-3500 or [jkh@innw.net](mailto:jkh@innw.net) if you are interested in learning more about Citizens for Schools.

### Community volunteer opportunities available

Simply visit the school of your choice to find out volunteer needs. School staff will provide you with necessary background forms and additional information.

## May 16 bond proposal calls for Edison's entrance to be moved off busy street



The main entrance to Edison Elementary is currently located on one of Walla Walla's busiest streets — Alder.

To improve student safety and traffic flow, plans in the May 16 bond issue call for moving Edison's entrance to Hobson Street. This will also improve parent drop-off and pickup efforts and school bus operations.

Edison is 70 years old and in poor condition. It has limited technology capabilities and numerous efficiency and safety shortcomings.

Edison is too small for future district growth. The new building would support 200 more students for future needs.

The new school will feature modern classrooms and library, a separate gym and cafeteria, and increased technology opportunities. It will also have a modern heating system and air conditioning.

## Moving Support Services operations to Wa-Hi vocational site saves \$2 million

When Transportation mechanic **John Person** is servicing one of the district's trip buses in the bus shop, he has to leave the garage door open because the bus won't fit — even if it is "sub-zero" outside. Also on rainy days, despite numerous efforts to repair the roof of this aging metal building, water runs down the wall behind his desk and onto his work area.

Help is on the way for Person and the other dedicated staff members who work out of this dilapidated facility, should voters approve the May 16 bond issue which proposes moving Support Services to the current Wa-Hi CTE "Vocational" building.

**The district stands to save approximately \$2 million by making this move since it won't have to purchase land or build a new structure.**

The district stands to save approximately \$2 million by making this move since it won't have to purchase land or build a new structure. This move will also improve efficiencies and provide a long-range solution to our Support Services operations.

### Examples of the current facility not meeting needs:

- Lack of space -- especially for school buses & storage
- Antiquated work places, limited technology, safety

## Architects recommend replacing Paine School

### List of needs at 80-year-old school immense

Paine School is evolving into a school of choice due to its performance-based program offerings featuring job shadowing programs and internships.

When audited on how the school's current configuration meets the program offerings, Paine scored a 52.73% suitability rating.

According to MGT of America's independent report, when suitability scores are low, buildings require additional structural changes to modify spaces for the educational programs. This would only add additional costs. Therefore, to modernize Paine to fit the educational program would cost significantly more than new construction, the report stated.

- Outdated classrooms, limited technology
- No elevator for students with disabilities or injuries
- Inadequate air conditioning (classes often reach 90 plus degrees in the fall and spring)
- No science labs, outdated classrooms
- Infrastructure problems (heat, electrical, networking)
- Undersized library and computer lab

## At 42, Walla Walla High School is showing its age *Look beneath the surface for the real story...*

### Blue Devil pride has the blues

- Undersized classrooms are overcrowded and instructional space is constantly compromised. There is a lack of teacher planning spaces.
- No air conditioning makes learning spaces uncomfortable.
- Classroom furniture and learning equipment are worn out.

### Safety & Supervision alert

- Open campus design features more than 150 entrances and exits.
- There's not enough funding for high tech security cameras.

### Technology demands mount

- Computers were in their infancy stage when Wa-Hi was built back in the early 60's and nearly all the technology features are antiquated. Exterior conduit houses vital networking cables, the intercom system struggles to meet needs, and there are not enough classroom computers.
- Many of the 30'x 30' classrooms have only two electrical outlets and only one circuit for every two rooms -- not suited for computer needs.

### Environmental drain

- Most windows are single pane and not energy efficient.
- Outdated, all electric heating system faces imminent danger of failure.

### Not a pretty picture for the Arts

- Lack of adequate music classrooms and no practice space.
- Drama area has no classroom, "green room" or make-up room.
- Limited and outdated fine arts spaces. Few display areas.

### Science teachers forced to experiment to meet needs

- Science facilities are too small, dangerous, and the substandard laboratory facilities present inadequate ventilation, storage and poor teaching environments. There is limited technology in science labs.

### New meaning for eating on the run

- Commons area only seats one-third of our student body for lunch and students are forced to sit on the sidewalks, on stairways, and in hallways to be out of the elements during their lunch break.

### Portable classrooms have become permanent

- Wa-Hi was designed for 1,500 students and now has 10 portable classrooms, and many teachers do not have a classroom to prep.

### Physical Education & Athletics sidelined

- Physical education facilities are very substandard and poor.
- Wa-Hi does not have an all weather track or playing surface that can be used during inclement weather.
- Five PE classes at once are often held in the large gym during winter.
- Safety issues for athletes traveling to and from Borleske for practice continue and the district spends up to \$70,000 just to use Borleske.

## Bond "Tidbits"

Edison Elementary Library Media-Specialist Georgia Germain keeps a blue tarp near her computer work station so she can protect it during a rain storm.

It would cost more to refurbish Wa-Hi's existing buildings than to build new ones.

Borleske Stadium has only 187 parking spaces, plus about 83 at nearby DeSales High School. The proposed Wa-Hi plan calls for approximately 750 parking spaces on campus, while nearly 200 additional spaces are available at nearby Murr Field.

Construction costs for the Sharpstein Elementary modernization project were estimated at \$120 per square foot when it was built in 2000. Construction costs for the May 16, 2006 bond are estimated at \$220 per square foot.

Trucks delivering goods to the Support Services building block traffic and sidewalks on Park Street.

Wa-Hi Music Department has no practice areas for students. Drama students have no dressing rooms for productions.

Edison Elementary's gym also serves as the cafeteria, limiting when classes can be held.

The bus garage door must remain open when servicing buses — even if it is "sub-zero" outside.

**If the Transportation Department moves to the Wa-Hi CTE building site, will it add to the traffic flow problem the school currently faces?**

School bus schedules allow for our buses to be on routes long before school starts and return after classes are in session.

The same schedule is repeated in the afternoon. Buses are gone before school gets out and they return after the campus clears.

*NOTE: The Wa-Hi proposal also calls for separate parent pick-up and drop-off areas and bus service zones. Parents would use Abbott Road while buses would use Reser Road.*

**May 16 bond proposal needs at a glance...**

**Edison Elementary**

- Inequity with other elementary schools
- Outdated & inefficient classrooms (no A/C)
- Safety (move entrance from Alder to Hobson)
- More space needed (no potential for growth)

**Paine School**

- Building layout does not support program offerings
- Renovation costs more than building new
- All components (heat, electric, etc.) worn out
- No A/C, no ADA provisions, seismic upgrades needed

**Walla Walla High School**

- Safety & supervision issues (open campus design)
- Larger capacity (built for 1,400 - now serves 1,800)
- Cramped learning spaces, designs -- 10 portables
- Utility inefficiencies (single-pane windows, no A/C)
- Inadequate PE and athletic spaces
- Inadequate music, drama and fine art spaces

**Support Services Building**

- Building past useful life, numerous safety issues
- More space needed -- especially for buses

**Wa-Hi Safety** continued from page 1

“A unified structure would be faster and easier to secure against an outside threat, as there are fewer entry points to secure, Brashear said.”

**Wa-Hi Safety and Supervision Challenges**

- Open campus design limits supervision capabilities.
- 150 doors impossible to lock-down if needed.
- Design allows strangers to walk on campus unnoticed and threaten the safety of our students.
- Numerous, large exterior classroom windows. Many classrooms do not have window coverings.
- Locker lobby walls are too tall to see over for teacher supervision and could provide cover for someone who has intentions of inappropriate acts.
- Poor exterior lighting throughout campus.
- Open design requires students to go outside to change classes and presents numerous slip hazards during winter months.

**What's next?**

**25 Year Facilities Improvement Plan phases**

**2012 Replacement Bond** – Pioneer Middle School improvements, including new gym and removing portables. Prospect Point upgrades to meet capacity needs. Add Paine second story to increase learning spaces. Finish second story classrooms at Edison to increase growth capacity.

**2018 Replacement Bond** – Facilities improvements at Berney Elementary, Blue Ridge Elementary, Garrison Middle School, Pioneer Middle School, Prospect Point Elementary.

**2024 Replacement Bond** – Facilities improvements at Green Park Elementary, Sharpstein Elementary.

**2012, 2018, 2024** — additional dollars at all schools for yearly facility improvements, technology and security upgrades.

**Bond rate remains flat**

The bond rate estimated at 99 cents of additional tax above the 2005 bond rate would remain flat for all of the proposed replacement bonds. Maintains flat tax rate for all phases.



Wa-Hi’s long, exterior halls impede supervision of students and can lead to increased bullying and school violence acts. Lighting around the campus is also poor, making it less inviting and potentially dangerous to use after dark.

**Bond Basics**

**What is the proposed bond?**

The May 16 bond issue represents the first of four bonds to improve the district’s current facilities over a 25 year period.

The plan calls for replacement bond elections every six years, while maintaining a flat rate of 99¢ in additional taxes over current bond rates throughout the 25 year span to improve existing facilities.

*(Note: Walla Walla voters would vote on each proposed bond phase, scheduled for 2006, 2012, 2018, 2024)*

**What will the proposed 2006 bond fund?**

*This bond addresses the district’s most urgent needs first:*

- Replacing Edison Elementary (current site)
- Replacing Paine Alternative (current site)
- Moving Support Services operations to the current Wa-Hi CTE “vocational” building
- Modernizing Walla Walla High School
- Additional dollars at all schools for yearly facility improvements, technology and security

**What will the proposed bond cost you?**

99¢ per \$1,000 of your property’s value  
 • \$150,000 home = \$148.50 per year (approximately \$12 per month or about the cost of a movie out and box of popcorn.)

**Bond Funding (2006 bond proposal)**

Local Taxpayer Contribution \$53,950,000 (on ballot)  
 State matching dollars \$33,672,000

**Total Bond Projects**  
**\$87,622,000**

**District schedules open houses and tours to showcase bond needs to community**

*Open house/tour schedule:*

Sunday, February 26 1 to 3 p.m.  
 Sunday, March 5 1 to 3 p.m.  
 Sunday, March 26 1 to 3 p.m.  
 Sunday, April 23 1 to 3 p.m.  
 Sunday, April 30 1 to 3 p.m.

*Open houses and tours are available at Edison Elementary, Paine, Wa-Hi and the Support Services Building on these dates and times. Please join us!*

Election Date - May 16

**Will taxpayers have to foot the whole bill? NO**

**Here’s how the funding works**

Local Taxpayer Contribution (on ballot) \$53,950,000  
 \*College Place funding - \$8,000,000  
 (\*estimated to fund high school)

**Total for Walla Walla taxpayers \$45,950,000**

**Are Matching dollars available? - YES**

State matching dollars \$33,672,000  
 WW Citizens’ group (approximately) \$1,500,000

**More bang for your buck...**

State match, College Place funding and a significant donation from a citizens’ group offers Walla Walla taxpayers an approximate **dollar-for-dollar match** on all projects to vastly improve their local schools.

Walla Walla’s bond contribution will be approximately **\$46 million** to fund the nearly \$88 million in school improvement projects proposed in the 2006 bond.

**Wa-Hi Traffic Flow Improvements**



*Traffic flow is a problem at Wa-Hi. The new design calls for separate parent pickup/drop-off areas and bus service areas.*

*Parents would use Abbott Road while buses would use Reser Road. The district is also working with planning officials to discuss traffic lights and other traffic safety issues around the campus.*