

Pepsi donates new scoreboards for Wa-Hi main gym

New scoreboards are brighter, energy efficient and informative

Perched high above the court at Walla Walla High School's main gym are two new electronic scoreboards made possible at no cost to the district through a partnership with Pepsi of Walla Walla.

District Athletic Director **Don Wilkins** said Pepsi wanted to be involved in Blue Devil Athletics.

"They wanted to be involved for a long time," Wilkins said. "We needed scoreboards and they were more than willing to help. It was a win-win situation for both of us."

These wireless, LED scoreboards require minimum maintenance and offer fans more information on players and the contest. They also use less energy and are brighter for easier viewing. The information on the scoreboards keep the fans informed and help officials and coaches manage the games, according to Wilkins.

"Our scoreboards were on their last leg and only parts of them worked," Wilkins said. "Our custodial staff was always changing burnt out bulbs in the old clocks; with the new LED boards that is a thing of the past."

Pepsi donated two new scoreboards in the Wa-Hi gym, a new scoreboard and the two play clocks at Borleske Stadium for football, a new board at Martin Field for sub-varsity football and track, and they have taken over maintenance of all of our scoreboards. Pepsi also remodeled the gym concession stand.

"The Blue Devil Athletic Department thanks Pepsi of Walla Walla for support and commitment to our teams and student-athletes." Don Wilkins, District Athletic Director



The new scoreboards are electronically programmed before each contest. In the past, custodians had to climb ladders to add player information.

The new scoreboards are capable of keeping fouls and point statistics on each player. They can also be programmed for wrestling and volleyball.

Walla Walla
Public
Schools

Focus on Education

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Edison to offer dual language program

Edison Elementary will begin a dual language program in Spanish and English beginning in Fall 2009. The program will be offered to kindergarten and first grade students next school year.

One additional grade level will be added each year to develop a K-5 dual language program similar to the program currently offered at Sharpstein Elementary.

See **Dual Language** page 6



Students in the dual language program are paired with a "buddy" to help each other learn a new language.

State budget crunch could impact schools

With a six billion dollar budget deficit looming in Olympia, local school districts, including Walla Walla, are preparing for the fallout of a sluggish economy and the effects of a global recession.

Governor Gregoire released her two-year budget proposal in December, which included significant cuts to public schools.

Walla Walla Public Schools has made budget cuts the past several years and is gearing up for even deeper reductions for the coming school year.

District officials are reviewing priorities, discussing funding options and looking at ways to reduce costs.

"We are facing tough economic times, but we will work as a team to do what is best for our district and our students," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. "Students will be the focus of our budget planning."

Wa-Hi principal to study facilities improvement options

Public input needed during study

Don't be surprised if you get a call from Walla Walla High School Principal **Darcy Weisner** this winter as he leads a project to further study high school facilities improvement options.

Weisner plans to schedule weekly meetings with business leaders, meet with parent associations, visit district

See **Wa-Hi Study** page 6

"It will be a facinating process. I'm excited to get out and meet with people and talk about education. I want to be open and inviting and build relationships."

Darcy Weisner

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Cindy Meyer

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School Closure Announcements

Here's what to expect...

- Parents and staff get automated call by 6:00 a.m.
- Website updated by 6:15 a.m. (www.wwps.org)
- Radio and television messages on air
- E-News members receive e-mail messages

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy



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

John F. Kennedy

District loses great friend to education and community

Representative Bill Grant will be missed

Walla Walla Public Schools lost a dear friend to education as Representative Bill Grant passed away January 4. Our condolences go out to his wife Nancy and children: Gina, Laura, Amy, and Jonathan.

Daughters Laura Grant-Herriot and Amy Hartford are teachers in our district. Laura is a fifth grade teacher at Berney and Amy Hartford is a fifth grade teacher at Blue Ridge. We especially want to keep these dedicated educators in your thoughts during this time of grieving.

Bill Grant was serving his 10th term as the representative of the 16th Legislative District. He was always a strong supporter of education and voice for our school district in Olympia.

Representative Grant operated a 4th generation family wheat farm after earning his Bachelor of Arts in physical education from Whitman College in 1959. He proved that hard work, honesty and character can take one a long way in America.

Bill Grant was a man of his word and when he spoke people listened. He spoke often for us and we will truly miss this great man.

School Board Recognition Month • January 2009



Mary Jo Geidl
(Position #1)

- Geidl is a retired Walla Walla High School English teacher.
- Her two grown children are Wa-Hi graduates.
- She enjoys making quilts, camping and traveling.



Cindy Meyer
(Position #2)

- Meyer is the former co-chair of Citizens for Schools for the 2002 and 2004 Levy elections.
- Meyer and her husband, Joe, have two daughters - one who currently attends Walla Walla High School.



Dr. Jim Lehmann
(Position #3)

- Dr. Lehmann is an online professor.
- He was a public school teacher for 17 years -- most of which he taught at College Place.
- He is married to Kay, a former teacher at Garrison Middle School.



Max Carrera
(Position #4)

- Carrera is a recruiter for the Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Carrera is married to Holly and they have four children: Nicolai 16, Morghan 14, Alec 10, and Mailen 3.
- He is a Walla Walla High School graduate -- Class of 1985.



Anne Golden
(Position #5)

- Golden was first elected to the school board in 1987.
- Golden is past President of the Washington State School Directors Association.
- She is a member of the National School Board Association.

Police partnerships help thwart gang activity

Walla Walla Public Schools has a zero tolerance for gangs and maintains close partnerships with law enforcement to keep this criminal activity out of district schools.

City of Walla Walla Police Department detectives and gang threat experts **Kevin Bayne** and **Saul Reyna** play a key role in this effort. They help organize monthly meetings to discuss new gang trends, monitor teen hangouts and identify potential threats.

Bayne and Reyna also spend a lot of time in schools talking with students about making positive choices.

"It is important to collaborate with school officials because there is no one outside of family that spends more time with these kids," Bayne said. "The best method of identification of at risk gang behavior, again outside of family, is from school employees."

Bayne says one way the program has shown success is by discouraging those who are showing interest in gang involvement.

"It also is a catalyst for parent/student relationships in identifying problematic behavior the student may not display in front of the parents but exhibit at school or away from the home," Bayne said.



Walla Walla Police Detectives (L-R) Kevin Bayne and Saul Reyna work closely with the district to address gang issues. The district has a zero tolerance for this activity.

Reyna is the senior investigator on the city's Target Offender Police Team and has been on the assignment for eight years. Bayne has served on the team for four years.

Community Connections

Wal-Mart honors Lincoln teacher

Thursday at a Lincoln Alternative High School assembly, **Patrick Kofler** received the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award. He was given a certificate and Lincoln received a check from a Wal-Mart representative for \$1000.

Public needed to review senior presentations

Members of the community are invited to volunteer and serve on review panels as seniors from the class of 2009 present their Culminating Project.

"Students have decided to tell their stories via their accomplishments in music, visual arts, academics, athletics, community involvements and/or challenges they had to overcome," Walla Walla High School Associate Principal Mira Gobel said. "We believe that this event will be a celebration of our collective efforts and will provide each senior a moment to reflect on the past, present, and the future."

To sign up or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Mira Gobel** @ 526-8661 or mkgobel@wwps.org.

Corps of Engineers donates computers

The district's Technology Department is teaming with the Corps of Engineers to provide more technology options for students. The partnership is made possible thanks to the Department of Defense "Computers for Learning Program."

More than 100 surplus computers, including Dell mini-tower workstations and laptops have been donated.

Technology Director **Janis Barton** said these computers will be used as student workstations in classrooms and some will be made available for check-out from district libraries to students and parents.

Blue Devil Basketball
KTEL 1490 AM

Tune to KTEL 1490 AM



Tech staff take advantage of quiet setting during winter break

As many were off playing in the snow during the holiday break, members of the district's Technology Department were hard at work upgrading computer workstations across the district.

"It's an opportunity for our technical support staff to focus on replacement and preventative maintenance at a time that minimizes interruption to the curriculum," Technology Director **Janis Barton** said. "I would like to recognize my department staff for their work and expertise which help to make these projects successful, especially during the holiday season."

Winter Break Tech Project Highlights

Pioneer Middle School

In our ongoing district desktop replacement cycle, it was time for Pioneer to receive updated equipment. Even with continued budget reductions, by blended funding with district dollars and Erate rebate funds the following was accomplished:

- 34 new computer workstations installed
- 45 computer workstations upgraded
- 30 computer workstations redeployed

Walla Walla High School

As a preventative maintenance measure and to minimize interruption to the curriculum, we were able to complete the following: 22 workstations repaired and reinstalled in CTE lab

Janis Barton salutes Technology Staff:

- **Shane Jacobson**, who served as the lead technical support for the Pioneer project, assisted by **Carlos Caicedo** and **Cory Fish** with help from Work Study students, **Jeff Frye** and **Brad Freeman**.
- **Rick Pummel** configured and ordered the new equipment and our office secretary, **Pat Griffith**, provided the clerical and logistics support to make sure that all necessary equipment arrived on time to complete both projects.
- Special thanks goes to **Dennis Bennett**, Pioneer Computer Coordinator, for many hours of planning and detailed support for his staff in preparation for these major upgrades. The advanced planning we were able to do with Dennis and Principal, **Dana Jones**, made for a highly efficient process. I truly appreciate their cooperative and collaborative efforts.

National teaching certifications awarded

Walla Walla teachers **Susan Bauer** (Garrison), **Susan Schulz** (Garrison), **Shannon Ahrens** (Garrison), **Kim Kelsay** (Pioneer) and **Charlene Maib** (Pioneer) have received certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Deputy Superintendent **Bill Jordan** presented the recipients with special pins recognizing their achievements during a recent school board meeting. Jordan said these educators bring honor to the district through their high level of professionalism and dedication.

Certification requirements include: authoring a detailed professional portfolio, video taping classroom instruction and passing a challenging assessment to test subject knowledge.

These teachers earn a 10-year certificate. The district now has a total of 29 teachers with national professional teaching certificates.

Fellow Walla Walla educators **Gayle See** and **Cindy Nass** mentored the new National Board Certified teachers. There are currently 1,807 teaching in the State of Washington.



Shannon Ahrens



Susan Bauer



Kim Kelsay



Charlene Maib



Susan Schulz

Pioneer teacher takes biking trip of a lifetime *Calzaretta's amazing story picked up by NPR*

Pioneer Middle School teacher **Dan Calzaretta** and his wife, local physician **Alison Kirby, MD**, always wanted to bike across the United States.

But as with many adventurous young adults their plans were put on hold when children came along. When Kirby was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis that all changed.

"We decided this would be the time to ride before the kids got older and Alison's MS got any worse," Calzaretta said.

In June they began what would be a total of 80 days riding covering approximately 3800 miles. The family of four, including 11-year-old Sonia and 10-year-old Gus, averaged about 60 miles per day at 11 mph.

They met other riders along the way who were so impressed with this extreme family outing they contacted National Public Radio (NPR). The story was eventually picked up by NPR for its "Day to Day" program.

"We stuck together as a family and all worked together," Calzaretta said. "In addition, we learned that the image of America that is sold to us by the news is not the real America. We consistently found people who were interested in what we were doing, who helped us when we needed it, who invited us into their homes for meals and a warm and dry place to sleep. And we all learned the power of family."



Pioneer Middle School teacher Dan Calzaretta and his family celebrate in Maine after reaching the Atlantic Coast, thus completing their cross-country biking trip.

Biking story featured on NPR

Learn more about Calzaretta's bike trip across the US by visiting the following National Public Radio (NPR) "Day to Day" program link:
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=98591972>

Wa-Hi Study continued from page 1

schools and speak to service groups about their thoughts on recommendations developed last year by the High School Facilities Task Force.

To view the High School Facilities Task Force conclusions and recommendations online, visit:

http://www.wwps.org/schools/hs_taskforce.htm

"We're going to take the work of the High School Facilities Task Force and condense the findings to share with students, staff, parents and community members."

We're going to test those findings with these groups to find out if that was the work that needed to be done or if we need to change our focus."

Walla Walla High School Principal Darcy Weisner
High School Facilities Project Chair

High School Study Project Summary

Walla Walla Public Schools continues to study its high school facilities needs. Superintendent **Dr. Richard Carter** has assigned Walla Walla High School Principal **Darcy Weisner** to direct a multi-phased project to further this study.

The Project Phases:

- Phase 1 - Input and data collection
- Phase 2 - Data analysis
- Phase 3 - High School Facilities improvement planning
- Phase 4 - Recommendation to school board members

Phase 1 Summary - Input and data collection

- Survey staff, students, parents community members
- Community outreach -- weekly meetings with community and business leaders
- Staff meeting discussions/school visits
- Parent group meeting discussions/school visits
- Service group presentations

Lincoln students shine in Parade of Lights



Lincoln Alternative High School students performed live music during the annual Parade of Lights. The school's leadership team, under the direction of teacher **Erik Gordon**, created the decorative float.

Music teacher Margaret Yount led her guitar and choir class to produce live music as the float progressed downtown. Principal **Jim Sporleder** and Resource Officer **Steve Echevarria** drove the pull vehicle.

Wa-Hi freshman records perfect score in national WordMasters Challenge

Congratulations to Walla Walla High School Freshman **James Carson** for recording a perfect score in this year's WordMasters Challenge, a national competition for high school students requiring close reading and analysis of many different kinds of prose and poetry.

Sophomore **Frances Ungerecht**, Junior **Kallyn Rapp**, and Senior **Krista Mayberry**, made only one mistake and placed in the top 50 in the nation.

Other outstanding participants included:

- Andrew Hoffman, Freshman
- Talbot Callister, Freshman
- Devyn Humphreys, Freshman
- Jocelyn Thompson, Sophomore
- Brett Christina, Sophomore
- Ryan Campeau, Senior
- Lori Goodwin, Senior

Walla Walla High School was the only school in the nation to place among the top 15 schools at all four grade levels. The Wa-Hi teams were supervised by English teacher **Lori Dohe**.

New elementary boundary revisions help balance enrollment counts

In recent years, some elementary students found themselves attending schools away from their attendance area neighborhoods due to growing enrollment at some of the district's elementary schools. The district took a significant step to improve this situation when school board members recently approved boundary revisions which will take effect next fall.

The new elementary boundaries help balance enrollment counts and ease overcrowding -- particularly at Prospect Point and Sharpstein Elementary schools. The relief from overcrowding was made possible in large part from construction of a new, larger Edison Elementary. The new Edison is scheduled to open next fall.

The district's Boundary Review Committee was formed more than one year ago to study elementary enrollment issues. The broad-based committee, chaired by Dana Jones and Chris Gardea, focused on increasing enrollment at the new Edison Elementary, helping maintain neighborhood schools, and balancing enrollment at district elementary schools.

Approved Boundary Plan includes:

- Revised Boundary Map (This map is posted on the district's website — A to Z area - Boundary Study)
- A grandfather option for 2009 for 4th and 5th grade students who want to stay at their current elementary school (Transportation NOT included)

“Feeder School” Model approved for middle school transition

In December, school board members approved middle school boundary revisions to incorporate a “feeder school” model. All Edison, Berney and Green Park Elementary students will transition to and attend Pioneer Middle School. All Blue Ridge, Prospect Point and Sharpstein Elementary students will transition to and attend Garrison Middle School.

Although the new boundaries will take effect Fall 2009, current 6th and 7th grade students will continue to attend the middle school they are enrolled in for their 7th and 8th grade years — unless they choose to attend the new school. Since only incoming 6th grade students will attend next year according to the new boundaries, it will take three years to complete the transition to the feeder school model.

- Pioneer Middle School = Edison, Berney, Green Park Elementary Schools
- Garrison Middle School = Blue Ridge, Prospect Point, Sharpstein Elementary Schools

Dual Language continued from page 1

Principal **Nancy Withycombe** is busy behind the scenes getting ready to add this new program to the school. Job listings have been posted to fill the new bilingual staff positions.

All teachers receive nine hours of training specifically regarding language acquisition. Teachers are participating in a seven day training that addresses instructional strategies that increase language development for English and Spanish speakers. They will also be visiting other dual language programs and participate in monthly team planning meetings to prepare for the opening of the new school.

“Dual language is a good fit for Edison as we add bilingual students to our school,” Withycombe said. “Our dual language program is a bilingual way for educating all students. It is a bridge for all students to have access to and benefit from bilingual education and general education programs.”

To learn more about this program, contact Edison Elementary at 509.527.3072

What is a Dual Language Enrichment Program?

A program to develop:

- Fluency in two languages
- Academic success in two languages
- Positive cultural relationships

Program Description

The Two-Way Language Enrichment Program is a language-oriented program designed to build fluency in both Spanish and English. Native Spanish and English speaking children have an opportunity to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in both languages.

Spanish and English instruction are always kept separate, allowing for maximized concentration of both languages. Heterogeneous groupings during the Spanish and English portions of the day provide students with opportunities to assist and learn from one another, allowing second language acquisition to occur naturally.

The Two-way Language enrichment program is an “additive bilingual” program meaning that all students learn a second language without compromising their first language.

New Edison helps balance elementary enrollment figures

School	08-09 enrollment	09-10 enrollment (projected)
Berney	476	452
Blue Ridge	308	282
Edison	283	471
Green Park	459	432
Prospect Point	550	469
Sharpstein	468	455

NOTE: Counts based on projected attendance area students only

Middle School boundary changes bring more ethnic diversity to Pioneer

School	08-09 Ethnic %	09-10 Ethnic %	2011-12 Ethnic%
Pioneer	26%	32%	42%
Garrison	50%	46%	37%

** Ethnic percentage projections are based on all students listed as non-white*

School	08-09 Free/reduced%	09-10 Free/reduced%	2011-12 Free/reduced%
Pioneer	44%	48%	54%
Garrison	58%	54%	49%

** Percentages based on projections from incoming students via the new boundaries*

Boundary Committee

Dana Jones, Co-Chair
Chris Gardea, Co-Chair

- Roger Bairstow
- Dondi Cortinas
- Anne Golden
- Kurt Hoffman
- Mike Lambert
- Katrina Manning
- Tim McCarty
- Steve Olson
- Donna Painter
- James Payne
- Laure Quaresma
- Julie Sievertson
- Peter Swant
- Staci Wanichek
- Nancy Withycombe