

## High-tech Computer Forensics Lab cracks tough cases

When the Walla Walla Police Department has a case that involves evidence on an electronic device, Detectives Eric Knudson and Chris Ruchert go to work in the Computer Forensics Lab.

“Over the course of the last six months I don’t think there’s been a point where there haven’t been at least two active cases running on some computer in the lab,” Knudson said. As of June 13, the lab had played a role in 55 cases in 2016, many of them involving multiple devices.

“Every crime involves a cell phone,” Police Chief Scott Bieber said.

Detective Mike Boettcher established the lab under then-Police Chief Chuck Fulton as a response to the rapidly changing technology of the late 1990s and early 2000s. In those days, Boettcher did his forensic work in a repurposed closet, and Walla Walla

was the place to go when neighboring cities needed computer forensic help. The FBI even sought help from the lab.

Now, with 200 terabytes of server space and what Knudson terms “a smorgasbord of software,” the lab is well equipped to work on today’s com-



puter forensics challenges, and Knudson is gradually updating its hardware to keep up with changing technology. The WWPD’s caseload for computer-related crimes is constantly growing, and it still takes on cases that outstrip the resources of outlying law enforcement agencies.

# City of Walla Walla City Central

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## Curly Sue gets a new home

The City of Walla Walla is retiring the last in a long line of pack animals that served at the Millcreek Watershed. For 18 years, Curly Sue carried tools and gear up the steep hillsides of the watershed to assist the attendant with maintenance and patrols. The attendant ensures the safety of the city’s water supply by securing the surrounding area and making sure the equipment is working properly.

The 29-year-old mule has been living in a fenced lot adjacent to the Water Treatment Plant. Carol McIntyre, who owns property next to the plant, graciously came forth to care for Curly Sue in her retirement.



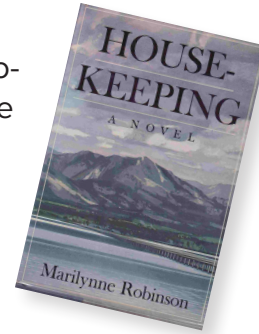
## Well-worn foot bridge receives some TLC

The foot bridge over Mill Creek at Marcus Street got a much-needed makeover by the Streets Division. The bridge is a frequent thoroughfare for pedestrians and Whitman students.

The crew removed the bridge's aging chain-link fence and replaced it with a black, plastic-coated fence, which will help protect it from rust. They also replaced the bridge's well-worn planks with composite boards and installed new handrails on the stairs. The guardrails on the bridge received a fresh coat of paint.

## Library to host book discussions on Pulitzer-Prize winning author

Marilynne Robinson, author of "House-keeping," "Home," "Gilead" and "Lila" will be visiting Walla Walla University in November. Before her visit, the Walla Walla Public Library will be hosting discussions about her books on August 24 from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.



Robinson earned the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2005, the 2012 National Humanities Medal, and the 2016 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction.

## Nothing but clean rainwater should go into our storm drains

Most of the water that runs down the gutter into storm drains flows directly into the many creeks in the City. It does NOT flow into the sewer to the Wastewater Treatment Plant to get cleaned up.

Oil, fuel and other petroleum products can suffocate fish and other aquatic organisms by coating their gills. Sediment destroys spawning areas for steelhead, salmon and other fish by smothering eggs laid in the gravel. Heavy metals, which can come from brake pads, and pesticides are toxic to aquatic life. Here are a few simple things you can do to help reduce stormwater pollution:

- Properly maintain all your motor vehicles. Clean up and fix any leaks.
- Protect exposed soil from erosion.
- Wash your car on the lawn or at a commercial car wash.
- Pick up and dispose of pet waste in the garbage.
- Do not discharge swimming pool or hot tub wastewater into the street.
- Do not place grass clippings or leaves in the street except during the designated times in the fall.
- Do not litter.
- Pick up trash in the gutter.
- Do not let fertilizer get into the street.
- Dispose of all hazardous waste properly.

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