



2026 Newsletter

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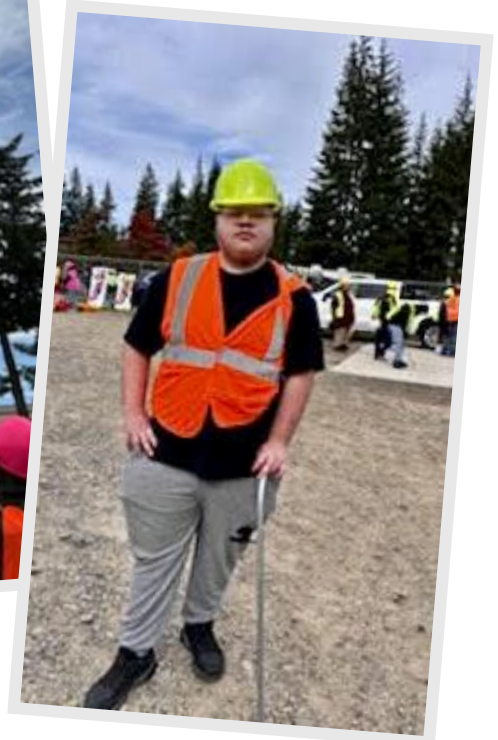
Helping students achieve their educational goals
www.whitepassscholarship.org

Try-A-Trade Connects 1,400 Students with Skilled Trade Careers

Sixteen White Pass students in grades 10-12 attended the annual **Try-a-Trade** event at the Satsop business park on October 9, 2025. Over 1,400 students from our five-county region experienced the day. The event brought together labor unions, construction trades, apprenticeship programs, and industry professionals for hands-on learning.

Gear-Up coordinator and chaperone Maureen Foley, commented, "Heavy equipment is always a favorite of students. This year, with the addition of the Pipefitter's Union, students learned how to bend pipes, something many found fascinating." On the return bus trip students were saying, **"Why wouldn't you go into a trade or apprenticeship program. You can get paid to learn!"** Trade schools and apprenticeship programs provide a nice fit for many of our students. For some they can get their training and still be available to family members locally who may need their support. It's a win-win.

It's exciting to know that the White Pass Scholarship Fund supports many avenues for training after high school. From apprenticeship programs to trade schools, to college or university our goal is to support White Pass graduates as they discover their passion and receive the skills they need to succeed in life!



Carson Fleetwood explores operating a lift with classmates looking on. **Devin McMann** with his bent metal rod. **Trenton Bowen** operating a backhoe loader. This opportunity was provided by a field trip to the Try-a-Trade event open to local schools and sponsored by ESD 113.

Special thanks to our Newsletter Sponsors!

Their contributions made this publication possible and demonstrates their commitment to our students. Drop by these businesses and thank them for their support.

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Annual Scholarship Auction – Saturday, March 14

An evening of community, great food and the chance to support our students!

Join us in the **White Pass High School Gym** for this annual event!

Doors open at 4:30. Raffles and Silent Auctions close at 6:15. Live events start at 6:30.

\$10 admits one. This covers our direct expenses, and gives you a bidding paddle, a seat at a table for 8.

Consider partnering with friends to reserve a full table for 8, then pool your money for our first ever **DINNER DASH AUCTION!**

Register in advance through Bidding Owl using the QR code on the right. This will create your bidding account, allow you to preview items and check-out faster on Auction night!

For more information about the event contact Hazelanna McMahan (360-496-1903). For tickets contact Susan Fortin (360-791-2768).



Scan to see our growing list of auction items and to create your bidding account



Family, Friends and Robust Bidding!
Many one-of-a-kind items!
Join the Fun!

Financial Recap for 2025 compiled by Treasurer Sherry Brown

Donations totaled \$92,302 in 2025. Total income was \$117,173.

Includes individual donors, business sponsorship, foundation support and others. Auction proceeds totaled \$19,908.

Paid out \$63,676 in Scholarships

Payments were distributed to members of the Classes of 2022-2025 as they met criteria for trade certification, credits and GPA.

Legacy Fund grows to \$170,901

Started in 2019 with \$46,000 our legacy fund continues to grow. Our auction success and specific donations to the Legacy Fund are getting us closer to reaching a level where annual interest will fund scholarships in perpetuity.

Increased Commitment to Graduates

With a growing fund balance, we changed our guidelines to increase our annual minimum commitment to all qualifying graduates. We also increased the amount second year students, still successfully enrolled in their programs, receive.

Increased Overall Financial Position

Our growth went from \$380,000 at the end of 2024 to \$448,000 at the end of 2025. Almost quadruple since 2017 and double since 2019.

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Member Spotlight

Teacher, Community Asset, Avid Traveler

by Martha Almquist, Scholarship Committee Member

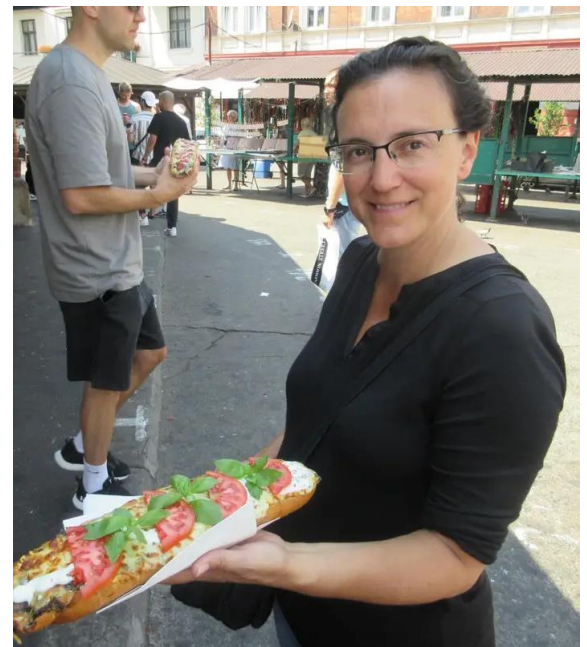
My name is Martha Almquist and I grew up in the rural mountain community of Republic in the northeast corner of Washington state. It was similar to the Big Bottom valley. People waved as you drove through town and there were no “short trips” to the store; you would always encounter multiple people you knew.

My dad worked as the local Forest Service ranger and realized his dream of having a ranch of his own. As a “hobby ranch” we ran a small herd of cattle, had horses, chickens and pigs. My four siblings and I learned to problem solve, work independently and work with each other on the ranch.

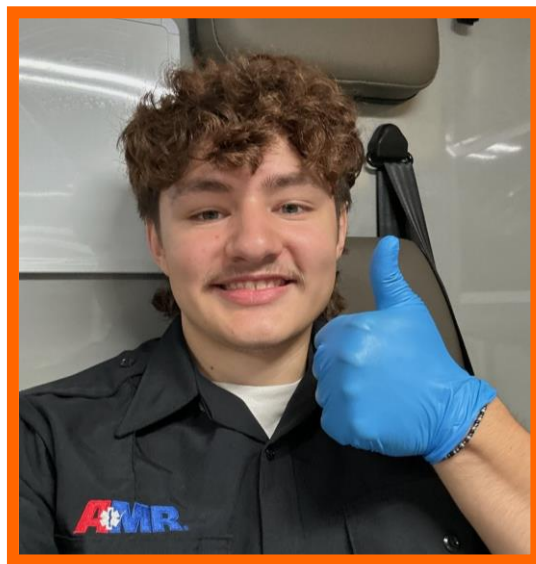
After graduating from Eastern Washington University, I landed a position at White Pass Jr Sr High school in 1996. I began as a junior high English teacher and slowly morphed into a high school English teacher. I have taught many other courses throughout my career like world history, geography, leadership, speech and debate and reading. Currently, I teach 9-12 English classes including a “college in the classroom” English course as an adjunct professor for CWU. This year I’m also teaching 7th grade geography.

Extracurricular activities are important for student success. I coached junior high track eighteen years, continue to serve as class advisor, and advised Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society and after-school book club.

Another way I found that I could support our students not just now, but in their future endeavors was by joining the Scholarship Committee. I appreciated how my small community of Republic helped my siblings and friends in pursuing further education and wanted to be able to do the same for the young people of our community. My own children received money from the White Pass Scholarship Fund which helped them pursue their dreams. On the committee I found a niche allowing me to utilize my strengths. I have assisted the committee over the last ten years in various roles including school liaison, Fresh Start Scholarship liaison and decorating for the annual auction. I will be retiring in a couple of years. The White Pass Scholarship Committee is a way that I will still be able to continue to give back to the community and help to invest in the future of its young people.



Enjoying a Zapiekanke, the local lunch specialty, in Krakow, Poland. Avid travelers, Martha and Scott Almquist use time in the summer to explore the world and expand their horizons. Scott is also a teacher at White Pass, with a passion for World History.



WAY TO GO, MAX!!!

2024 Graduate continues his studies at CWU while earning certification!

Pictured in his ambulance, 2024 White Pass Graduate, Max Lowe is well into his sophomore year at Central Washington University. He obtained his license from NREMT (National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians) during his freshman year at CWU. Since then, he has worked at Yakima AMR ambulance service where he gained the required 200 patient lead contact calls to enter the Paramedic program. He is currently using his NREMT license to work as a home care aid in the Ellensburg area. He is also in the process of becoming a volunteer for Randle Fire and EMS so that he can give back to his community when home on weekends and vacation. Max's continuing education at CWU will culminate with a Bachelor of Science degree in EMS Paramedicine. **Congratulations to Max...another success story thanks to Max's commitment and support from the White Pass Scholarship Fund!**

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DINE IN & ORDERS TO GO

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2025 Scholarship Recipients!

Thank you for helping us support our White Pass graduates.
Scholarship Awards for 2025 totaled \$95,287!



From left - Samuel Sympson, Karman Tucker, Lillianna Wisse, Race McKenzie, Caitlin Kelly, Madyson Bryant

2025-2026

Scholarship Committee

Chair

Susan Fortin

Secretary

Van Anderson

Treasurer

Sherry Brown

Webmaster

Ann Lindh

Recipient Liaison

Misty Chapman

Memorials

Judy Roberts

School Liaison

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Or contact Treasurer Sherry Brown at 360-496-4400 for more options.

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