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FFA speeches given at Tenino chamber meeting

Tenino chapter President, VP prep for state

By Dan Fisher
 News Editor

Two members of the Tenino Chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA), who placed first and second in speech at the FFA regional competition, gave their award-winning speeches again at the April 15 lunch forum of the Tenino Area Chamber of Commerce.

Taking first at the regional competition was FFA Chapter Vice President Naveah Vasquez, while second place went to Chapter President Ynavi Rodriguez, who in February was Tenino's lone medal winner at Mat Classic XXXVII in the girls' bracket.

The two FFA officers were introduced to the Chamber members by Tenino FFA Advisor Geraldine Maxfield, who then excused herself from staying with the excuse that the girls will not allow her to hear their speeches lest her hearing then would jinx the girls at the next level of competition – rather like the custom of never mentioning to a baseball pitcher that he has a no-hitter going.

Rodriguez was the first to give her speech, which was on the subject of foreign worker visa policies by the U.S. government, a subject on which the FFA Chapter President said she is passionate.

"If it wasn't for worker visas, I wouldn't be here," she said. "My family came to this country as migrant workers."

Rodriguez quoted numbers found in her research that demonstrate how much migrant workers contribute to the U.S. economy and outlined the need for a streamlined path from application to the granting of worker visas, calling the H2A and H2b work program system "deeply flawed."

Rodriguez said the government needs to streamline the application process and increase the number of visas given, noting that Washington has lost about 3,500 farms over the past five years.

She described farming as the backbone, not only of America but of the world.

Naveah's speech was on the subject of establishing more of a connection between the cattle industry and urbanite environmentalists.

"I was raised in the cattle industry," she said. "My speech is about my journey to find out what's wrong with cows."

Vasquez noted several examples of misinformation prevalent in the environmentalists' talking points against the cattle industry, and gave results from her own research that contradicted those points.

She said a partnership between agriculturists and urbanites would "revolutionize the industry."

Tenino PARC Specialist Jes-

sica Reeves Rush then spoke, saying Tenino's Family Fun Day is coming on June 27, and will serve not only as a one-day festival for local residents but will also mark the official 2026 opening of the Tenino Quarry Pool.

"It's a community appreciation event," Reeves Rush said. "I really could use more craft vendors. I have invited the America First Corps Band to perform. We'll also do a parade around the paved park trail and give out a variety of awards to participants."

Reeves Rush said she is also working on a plan to get decorative wraps for public trash cans, saying she would have a contest to select the most creative decorations.

Reeves Rush announced that a Clean-up Day would be held at the City Park on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, with the Tenino Lions furnishing a meal for all registered volunteers.

Other upcoming events noted by Reeves Rush were the Seattle to Portland (STP) bike ride coming through Tenino on July 11, Mermaid Day at the Quarry Pool, set for Aug. 1 from noon to 6 p.m., the Tenino Quarrymen's Car Show Aug. 16 and the American Antique Motorcycle Association's annual motorcycle and parts show and sale in the old part of the park on Aug. 22-23.

All these events, she said, are included in the Chamber Calendar, a link to which can be found on the Tenino Area Chamber of Commerce web site.



Photo by Dan Fisher

Tenino FFA Chapter Vice President Naveah Vasquez and President Ynavi Rodriguez gave their prize-winning speeches at the April 15 lunch forum for the Tenino Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tenino council thanked for joining in on Bicycle Month



Photo by Dan Fisher

Walk and Roll Program Representative Ali Fuller delivers thanks to the Tenino City Council for Bicycle Month proclamation passed March 25.

IT rep expresses appreciation for proclamation

By Dan Fisher
 News Editor

Tenino's City Council received a "thank you" from Walk and Roll Program Representative and BCC Coordinator for Intercity Transit (IT) Ali Fuller, who expressed her gratitude to the Council for its passage of a proclamation during its March 25 meeting designating May as National Bicycle Month.

"Our primary goal is getting more people on bikes, especially in May," Fuller said. "It helps people with energy, environmental, physical and mental health. Our theme this year is 'enjoy the scenery along the route.'"

Fuller said the Tenino-Rainier-Yelm (TRY) Trail is the "crown jewel" of the county's walking and bicycling trail system.

Fuller's comments were delivered during the Council's work session prior to the start of the regular meeting. Also during the work session, several reports were given.

Mayor Dave Watterson said that recruiting of lifeguards for the Quarry Pool has begun.

"We've put out the position; we've got a few, but we need some more," Watterson said.

"On police services, we currently have two officers – we've lost our sergeant and this affects predictability. The sheriff's office is pretty much responsible, they're providing services. Our officers are primarily doing school resource work right now."

In a report on Code Enforcement, Maria Rodriguez told the council 13 permits had been submitted this year.

"Enforcement is going well," Rodriguez said. "There have been a few complaints, but those have been resolved."

In Nancy Reddick's clerk/treasurer report, she said Tenino "can save approximately \$3,000 per month on our IT services by September or October, and that a total of 111 utility customers have signed up for express bill pay, including 31 signing up for Auto Pay, which will reduce office costs.

"It's time to think about the 2027 budget," Reddick said. "We need to make sure it's sustainable."

She said a final payment is due this year on one of Tenino's Public Works loans, but the full payment would be \$400,000.

"We're working on a deal to extend that over the next few years," Reddick said of the 20-year loan on the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Watterson, in his Mayor's Report, said he had met with Tumwater officials about ser-

vices they can help Tenino with, specifically in IT, and with some engineering advice.

"I met with the deputy prosecutor and talked about prosecution services," Watterson added. "The Department of Health said there have been 36 cases of measles in the county this year, all of the victims unvaccinated. And Bucoda is looking again at a trail plan, extending the TRY trail south. They also want sewer services by a hookup with our system."

The report from the Splash Bash Committee noted that this year's event will be held on May 16.

During the regular meeting, in New Business, the council approved a Tenino Food Bank solar contract, paid for by grant funding; accepted a letter of intent (LOI) from Tenino Community Services Center to purchase the buildings now housing the food bank and warehouse; voted for a Prosecutor Contract, which was originally at \$40,000 but was negotiated down to \$15,000 for the period from June 1, 2025 to Dec. 31 of 2027 and awarded a bid of \$374,520 to Lakeside Industries for the paving of Old Highway 99 from the Ag Park to the City Limits.

The council also passed a resolution declaring two police weapons and one badge as surplus, allowing them to be put up for sale.

Questions to ask at your Medicare annual wellness visit

(NAPSI)—Your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit is an opportunity for you and your primary care provider to check in on your health and create a personalized plan for moving forward. A trusted relationship with your provider helps ensure you have support and guidance whenever health needs arise. To get the most out of your visit, here are 5 questions you can ask to help you maintain or improve your health:

Do any changes need to be made to my medications?

Be sure to review your current medications and supplements during your visit, especially if

you're seeing a new provider.

What health screenings or tests do you recommend for me?

Depending on your age and other risk factors, your provider may recommend screening tests for conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis and colorectal cancer. If you're female, your provider may recommend screenings for breast and/or cervical cancer. For males, screening for prostate cancer may be recommended.

What vaccinations do I need this year?

As people get older, their immune system gets weaker,

making it harder for their body to fight off infections. This makes older adults more susceptible to illnesses such as the flu, pneumonia, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and shingles.

What can I do to stay independent as I age?

Aside from treating your health issues, your provider wants to make sure you have the information you need to improve your health and prevent other problems from occurring.

Will I need a follow-up exam sooner than one year?

Based on your current health or risk factors, your provider may

want to see you sooner or more frequently than once a year. Also, be sure to ask what you should do in the event of having a sud-

den illness or symptoms. To find an Oak Street Health location nearby, visit oakstreethealth.com/locations or call 855-252-6756.

Prep Sports Calendar

Wednesday, April 22
Boys Soccer
 Tenino at Forks, 6 pm.
 Rochester at Ilwaco, 6 pm

Friday, April 24
Fastpitch
 Forks at Tenino (2), 3 pm
Boys Soccer
 Rochester at Hoquiam, 6 pm

Tuesday, April 28
Baseball
 Rochester at Montesano (2), 3 pm
 Hoquiam at Tenino (2), 3 pm
Fastpitch
 Tenino at Onalaska, 4 pm
 Rochester at Rainier, 4 pm
Boys Soccer
 Tenino at Raymond-South Bend, 6 pm
 Forks at Rochester, 7 pm