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Girls oppose change in Tenino mat coach setup

School Board hears from parent, wrestlers, coach

By Dan Fisher
 News Editor

Tenino's School Board meeting held Monday, June 22 was a standard housekeeping session until the final Public Input section on the agenda, when one parent, a series of student-athletes and a volunteer coach spoke in turn to oppose a move to place both the boys' and girls' wrestling teams under one head coach, with an assistant coach assigned to each squad.

Nikk Resutek, who had served as the girls' head coach since the girls' team was launched in 2018, did not get a renewed contract from the school district, and the plan was to place both the boys' and girls' teams under the same head coach.

Jennifer Duaearte, a sixth-grade teacher at Tenino Middle School and the parent of a girl wrestler, began the public input session by voicing her objections to the development.

"Going to a single head coach for both teams is a step back for the girls' program," she



Tenino Superintendent Clint Endicott (left) accepts checks for schools from Corey Mound of Citizens for Tenino PARC.

Photo by Dan Fisher

said. She praised the work done by Resutek with the Tenino girls over the past seven seasons and said the girls needed their own head coach.

She was followed at the speaker's dais by several members of the THS and TMS girls' wrestling teams, each of whom cited problems of overcrowded practices when working with the

boys' team and a lack of opportunities to wrestle in dual meets and tournaments against other girls.

All said they believed having their own head coach would help remedy those situations.

Board President Adam Barr thanked the speakers for their input, but did not indicate whether the board would take any action in the future.

Monday's meeting began with a presentation by Corey Mound of the Citizens for Tenino PAEC, who presented checks for each Tenino school and school group for their participation in the PARC (parks, arts, recreation and culture) Earth Day Challenge in April. He noted that a total of \$1,500 would be distributed according to the number of students participating, to each school or group, and said the Parkside had 11 students, Tenino Elementary School nine, the high school 13, the THS band 25 and Tenino Middle School and the THS cross country team two each.

Mound then presented the checks to Tenino Superintendent Clint Endicott.

In his Superintendent's Report, Endicott told the board he had negotiated tentative contract agreements with representatives of the Tenino Education Association (TEA), representing certified employees, and with representatives of the district's non-certified employees, adding that both contracts would be sent to the rank and file for approval.

"I spoke to Thurston County Sheriff Derek Sanders about SRO (school resource officer) services. We have a draft for a three-year contract for the TCSO to

take over the services previously supplied by the Tenino Police Department. It looks like there will be savings in cost over the next three years."

Assistant Superintendent Amanda Jewell said coaches had been hired for the Tenino High School girls' soccer team and cheer squad. Trevor Fetbrand will coach the soccer team and Kristin Julsrud is the new cheer coach.

The financial report was given by Justin Black.

"At the July meeting the Board will adopt the 2026-27 school budget. It includes three major projects – an overhaul at Parkside, which includes gaining access to areas not previously accessible and replacing the HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) system; overhauling the tennis courts with repaving and resurfacing and remodeling the THS art room, providing more space for ceramics."

Black said June enrollment in the district was 1,177 students, below what had been budgeted for in 2025-26, but that the average for the year in total was at the budgeted level of 1,190. He said the 2026=27 budget will be based on an anticipated enrollment level of 1,165.

Kate Peterson is Grand Marshal for 2026 Swede Day



Members of the Independence Vikings perform for the judges midway through Saturday's parade.

Photo by Dan Fisher



A color guard from Rochester Boy Scout Troop 317 led the way for the Swede Day Parade.

Photo by Dan Fisher

A good crowd gathered June 20 along U.S. Highway 12 through the business district of Rochester to view the 2026 Swede Day Grand Parade.

The traditional procession was led by a color guard from Rochester Boy Scout Troop 317, followed by a classic red convertible conveying Grand Marshal Kate Peterson.

The hour-long parade, which turned south on Albany Street and ended at Swede Hall, included floats representing local and regional groups, businesses and politicians, some marching bands and the inevitable Independence Vikings, sporting their horned helmets, armor and Viking ship foed.

Those seated along the parade route waiting for the 11 a.m. start of the parade were able to cheer on contestants in the 5 and 10-kilometer Swede Day Fun Run, who covered the route as the final part of the competition, which also ended at Swede Hall.

Vendor booths and carnival games were set up around Swede Hall by 9 a.m. and the Fun Run



Grand Marshal Kate Peterson rides the classic red convertible at the front of the 2026 Swede Day Parade through Rochester last Saturday, June 20.

Photo by Dan Fisher

started at 9:45 a.m. A pancake breakfast was held in the Swede Hall kitchen and dining area from 8-10 a.m. and a Maypole Dance took place after the parade, with music, dancing and skills demonstrations held in the hall all afternoon.

The day finished with a 7 p.m. concert and dance.

Weather conditions were pleasant for the day and partic-

ipation was enthusiastic, despite competition from the Winlock Egg Days celebration and a special event at the Tenino Farmers Market.

The parade announcer at the Judge's Stand on US 12, midway along the parade route was Larry Weaver, who provided background information on the parade entries and historical information for the parade crowd.

Tenino Area Chamber gets tourism advice from EOB

By Dan Fisher
 News Editor

Shauna Stewart, executive director for Experience Olympia and Beyond (EOB) was the main speaker at the Tenino Area Chamber of Commerce forum June 17 at the Quarry Bar. The chamber met at 5:30 p.m. this month instead of its regular noon format.

Stewart began her presentation by asking chamber members what was new in Tenino, and answers included the Nelson Family Ranch on Waldrick Road, which is setting up a large farmhouse built in 1904 as a future bed-and-breakfast.

"A family member who lived there passed away, and we decided to do something with it," said Kay Nelson. "It's almost ready for use."

Stewart noted that EOB has planned a number of FIFA-related fan zones related to the World Cup soccer matches being held this summer in Seattle. FIFA is the world soccer organization that holds the World Cup every four years.

"I believe passionately in travel stuff – it builds human connections and creates shared understanding and identity, which can increase stewardship," Stewart said.

She added that travel activity fuels creativity and innovation and improves local quality of life while boosting the local economy.

"Visitors are going to spend more money per day than residents," Stewart said. "Having those dollars come in helps support important infrastructure."

Stewart showed graphs illustrating that in 2024, Thurston County had 3.39 million visitors from at least 50 miles away, which brought in \$572 million in revenue.

"We're creating a website where information is easily accessible by AI (artificial intelligence) models," Stewart said. "Our top draws are food, scenic beauty and shopping. We have to compete with a lot of other locations out there."

Stewart said that EOB wants engagement with local residents and the events and stories they

cherish. "This community oozes loe, oozes compassion and humanity," Stewart said. "There were 28 local grade school entrants in a contest to design the next wooden money."

Stewart said the EOB can be reached online at info@experienceolympia.com.

Upcoming events were then covered for chamber members, including the Tenino Family Fun Day June 27 (see related story), a candle-making workshop at Stone City Farm June 28 and a ribbon cutting July 10 for Tight-Line Construction Contraction LLC, at 1 p.m. next to the Tenino Edward Jones building.

The Tenino Lions Club's annual Garage Sale will be July 17-19 at Tenino Middle School, starting at 9 a.m. each day.

Oregon Trail Days will be July 24, 25 and 26 and both OTD and the Family Fun Day on June 27 will include celebration of the United States' 250th birthday on July 4.

The next Tenino Area Chamber meeting will be at noon, July 15, at the Sandstone Café.



Experience Olympia and Beyond Executive Director Shauna Stewart gives a tourism talk to the Tenino Area Chamber of Commerce at its June 17 dinner forum.

Photo by Dan Fisher