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Sign plan given to Tenino Council for the Ag Park

Perry Shea makes presentation for message display

By Dan Fisher
News Editor

Perry Shea of SCJ Alliance made a presentation to the Tenino City Council during the work session prior to the council's June 23 meeting, telling them of a plan to install a reader-board sign at the Tenino Business and Agricultural Innovation Park (Ag Park).

"We want more of a monumental-type sign to sort of activate the park, so we put this package together," Shea told the council. "It's meant to have community focus, so we'd like your approval. We're going to pay for it all; it won't cost the city anything."

Shea said installation of the new sign should take place in the next 30 days.

"My hope is to have it up by Oregon Trails," Shea said. Tenino's Oregon Trail Days weekend begins July 24.

The council approved the plan during its regular meeting.

The work session included most of the reports listed on the meeting agenda, since they are informational and require no decisions by the Council.

Rhonda Camren gave the Library report.



Photo by Dan Fisher
Perry Shea of SCJ Alliance describes the sign his company wants to install at the Tenino Ag Park.

"We have hired an interim executive director," Camren told the council. "Andrea Herschel is our former deputy director for the Timberland Library System. We have 1,975 active library card holders, and we have 12 programs in June with more than 200 participants. We also had a very nice touch-a-truck program at the fire station."

Camren said the Tenino Timberland Library would also host a visit by the Reptile Lady on July 16 at 6 p.m.

Tenino Fire Chief Chris Gray gave the next report, telling the council the past month has been a busy one for local first responders.

"We had 174 responses, including three fires to deal with," Gray said. "I think we're going to be busy on the Fourth of July. It's been pretty dry and that makes things dangerous unless we get something like three weeks of rain before then. We'll hope everything works out this year."

Gray said Fire District 12 had a meeting with state Fish and Wildlife about the planned site for the new Tenino fire station's gopher mitigation issues.

The Public Works report was that the department was preparing the Quarry Pool for opening on Saturday during the Family Fun Time event, and was doing a lot of mowing and street sweeping.

Tenino's planning commission will be looking at allowing short-term rental to permit motel or bed-and-breakfast operation. Currently the city requires a rental minimum of 30 days

The planning commission will meet on Wednesday, July 8.

During the regular meeting, the council approved a Real Estate listing Contract with Castle Realty to handle the sale of surplus city properties, approved a resolution to declare Tenino Police vehicles surplus and also contracts for the Mayor to sign with Civic Plus for the city website.



Photo by Dan Fisher
Carrie Pederson prepares to raise the America 250 flag at the start of the Tenino Family Fun Day Saturday, June 27.

Tenino opens Quarry Pool on Family Fun Day

America 250 celebration also launched

By Dan Fisher
News Editor

Tenino PARC (parks, arts, recreation and culture) Director Jennifer Reeves Rush pulled out all the stops Saturday, June 27, in staging the annual Tenino Family Fun Day at the Tenino City Park.

The day's festivities began with remarks from Reeves Rush and Mayor Dave Watterson, followed by the raising of the U.S. flag and two other banners at the Flag Plaza next to the Depot Museum and the singing of the National Anthem by Sgt. Anthony Elliott of America's First Corps Big Band.

"The depth of history here can really take your breath away," Reeves Rush told the rapidly-assembling crowd.

Watterson was then introduced and read the official proclamation adopted by the Tenino City Council on May 12, declaring the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Following the flag raising, Drew Crooks of the South Sound Heritage Association presented a lifetime achievement award to Tenino stonecutter Keith Phillips.

"Keith is a hero for saving and advancing the history of stone carving in Tenino," Crooks said as he presented the certificate to Phillips.

"Tenino received me as a loved resident," said Phillips. "I

came here and my life flourished." Reeves Rush then ran through the planned events for the day, inviting visitors to enjoy music from the First Corps Big Band at noon, noting free pony rides and bounce houses for the kids, and promoting the afternoon parade of participants on the paved walking path around the park.

Also featured during the day were large setups of model railroads on display in the Quarry House.

One of the three flags raised to launch the event was an America 250 banner to help kick off the local semiquincentennial recognition. Flag raisers for the ceremony were Carrie Pederson, Heather Cumberworth and John O'Callahan.

In honor of the nation's semiquincentennial, the Tenino Depot Museum offered a special, limited-edition Red, White, and Blue Tenino Wooden Money Piece. The front features Happy Birthday 250 America and the back says 1776 - 2026 Tenino is honored to celebrate the United States of America's 250th birthday. Tenino, Washington. Birthplace of Wooden Money. It is the first time the Museum has ever printed in 3 colors. These rare pieces sell for \$5.00 each as a fundraiser to support museum operations. To maintain their exclusivity, only 500 pieces will be minted in total:

- First 250 pieces: Released during Family Fun Day (June 27)
- Remaining 250 pieces: Released during Tenino Oregon Trail Days (July 24-26) Living History & Museum Exhibits 11 AM - 4 PM

Justin Black sworn in as Interim Superintendent in Rochester

School Board also gets Wellness Report

By Dan Fisher
News Editor

Rochester School Board President Grant Rodeheaver administered the Oath of Office to Justin Black as Rochester School District Interim Superintendent at the board's June 24 meeting.

The ceremony took place near the end of the meeting, after the board had passed resolutions authorizing Black's signature and duties as part of the consent agenda, which also included approval of first reading of board policies, the annual VEBA resolutions, an increase in meal prices of 10 cents for breakfast and lunch for students and one dollar for adults.

Also on the consent agenda was Resolution 26-07 on unrepresented administrators' salary, acceptance of a \$5000 donation from First Student to settle student accounts and approval of a lease with the Grand Mound/Rochester Chamber of Commerce for a community historical archive in the Old Primary School.

Earlier in the meeting, the board heard a Wellness Report from Maggie Evans, who cited BP5515, which requires an annual report on Worksource Secondary Traumatic Stress.



Photo by Dan Fisher
Justin Black (left) is sworn in as Interim Superintendent of the Rochester School District by Grand Rodeheaver.

Evans outlined workforce wellness activities for staffs at all district schools.

Jill Pratt gave the business report.

"We are almost spot-on for budgeted student population," Pratt said. "Enrollment this year ended at near last year's end."

In her last Superintendent's Report, retiring Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Bethman noted that the high school football field would be closed to the public over the summer to allow the field and track to recover from heavy use during the past school year. She said fields and running tracks would be open to the public at the middle, elementary and

primary schools.

"Custodial teams are working hard, and maintenance teams as well," Bethman said. "Both the HEART and Rochester High School graduations were outstanding. And the RHS team of Zach Hubbard and David McConnell placed first in the Drone competition at the nationals in Atlanta after taking second in the nation last year. They worked so hard, and we are proud of their commitment to excellence."

The board also approved a new Student Fee Schedule that includes the addition of a \$50 instrument use fee at the high school.

Paving work scheduled on I-5 in south Thurston County

GRAND MOUND – For Interstate 5 travelers in south Thurston County, a smoother ride is coming this July.

Starting Monday night, July 6, contractor crews working for the Washington State Department of Transportation will remove and replace nearly 7 miles of worn asphalt on both directions of the highway. Project work also includes paving

ramps and both rest area parking lots.

What to expect

Travelers will see nighttime I-5 lane reductions between Maytown Road and Old Highway 99, Monday through Friday. The speed limit on I-5 will be reduced from 70 mph to 55 mph from milepost 88.9 to 95.7 when crews are working. Additionally, Scatter Creek and Maytown rest areas

will close overnight. Both rest areas will reopen for daytime use.

Closure times

Single lane closures:
 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday through Thursday
 6 p.m. Friday to 10 a.m. Saturday
 Double lane closures:
 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Wednesday
 9 p.m. Thursday to 6 a.m. Friday
 9 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday

Ramp and rest area closures:
 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Wednesday

10 p.m. Thursday to 6 a.m. Friday
 10 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Saturday
 Paving work zones will shift throughout the project area as work is completed. The location and direction of mobile paving crews will be shared on the project webpage as schedules are finalized.

People should expect increased travel times and consider adding extra time for trips. Paving schedules are affected by weather and subject to change.

Real-time travel information is available on the statewide travel map and WSDOT app.

Crews expect to finish the \$9.3 million project in October. People are encouraged to sign up for email updates.