



The ROSALIA SENTINEL



January 2017

Honoring the past; building a dynamic future

Diane Nebel donation elevates art program

Quietly and without fanfare, the Rosalia art program took a giant leap forward this school year thanks to the generosity of a longtime resident who believes in kids and giving back to her community.

Diane Nebel, owner of Rosalia's Budding Rose Art Gallery and Clayworks, made a donation to the school in the form of high-end, professional pottery equipment. Her donation included a slab roller, three pottery wheels and a clay recycler.

While those items may not mean much to those outside the art community, their significance is clearly appreciated by people in the know, such as Rosalia art teacher Sean Moss.

"Diane's donation takes our art program to a new level," says Moss. "With this equipment, we now have one of the region's most complete art classrooms, as good or better than those in schools many times our size."

Before the donation, ceramic capabilities were limited. Now, they rival a professional studio.

Beyond the equipment's economic value – placed in the thousands of dollars – the donation carries even more sentimental value to Nebel. That's because the equipment's original owner was her late husband Jim, an artist whose ceramic work is on display at the gallery.

Though Jim passed away last June, his legacy continues through Rosalia students touching the same pieces of equipment. Students knew him and loved him. "He enjoyed showing kids how to throw clay to make pottery



Diane Nebel, holding a photo of her late husband Jim, stands before a collection of Jim's ceramic pieces at the Budding Rose Art Gallery.

and help students with building their school projects," the family wrote in his obituary.

School ties to the Nebels, and their gallery, run deep. Roughly 4,000 pieces of student art have been displayed at the Budding Rose since 1999 and the signatures of participating students are etched in the floor for posterity.

The expansive gallery also contains some of Diane's own sketches, along with the work of regional professionals including Spokane's acclaimed Harold Balazs.

Though Jim was perhaps best known for his stewardship of one of the state's largest butterfly collections – 5,000 specimens since donated to Washington State University – it was his art that struck the loudest chord in his adopted hometown of Rosalia.

And now, thanks to Diane, the chord still rings. You can hear it, up the street from the gallery, in Sean Moss' art classroom. The spinning hum of pottery wheels is not just music to the ears of today's student artists. It's also a reminder of those who opened the door to the next generation of great artists.



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Good stewardship



Larry Keller

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As I finish the first half of my fourth year as your superintendent, I want to thank the communities we serve – Malden, Thornton, Rosalia, and the surrounding rural areas for their support of the school district. I also want to thank them for their faith and trust in our being good stewards of the hard earned tax dollars they provide to maintain our programs and facilities.

To sustain the academic excellence, which is the heart of who we are and our highest priority, it requires great teachers and curricular programs that make sure our kids have the right tools for tomorrow. It also requires that they have to have facilities where they feel safe and secure, free to focus on their learning.

Over the years the district has done a good job of maintaining its facilities from adding classrooms and a second gym in 1994 to a replacement of the roof in the main building in 2005. It is that time again to take the next step to keep our facilities at the level you would expect.

This includes a new roof over our Ag Shop, new windows in the elementary and high school, the replacement of some of the heating and air conditioning systems, final phase of the security system, new phone and fire alarm system and the upgrading of our elementary and high school bathrooms.

Rather than doing a bond, paid back over a longer period of time with mortgage interest as has been done in the past, the Board approved a capital levy resolution. This directs, with voter support, that we pay as we go, tackling projects at a pace that saves money by not paying interest. Ultimately, this will result in lower taxes.

Further information concerning the capital levy, scheduled for February 14, 2017, is included on the next page. The fact sheet provides a more complete list of the projects and how your tax dollars will be spent.

Again, I am honored to serve as your superintendent. Should you have questions concerning the levy or want to stop and chat, you are welcome to meet with me at the district office.

Sincerely,
Larry Keller

Critical thinking front and center

Quick ... what are the leading exports from Bolivia, Cambodia and Sierra Leone? And could you find those countries on a map?

If you're a Rosalia student in teacher Jennifer Olson's International Economic Summit, you know those answers, plus many more economic, demographic and political facts about the nations of the world.

The economic summit is one of the culminating projects in Olson's *Current World Problems* class, a challenging course requiring deep research and a public presentation of findings.

Olson assigns students a nation, a mix of wealthy and poor, then tasks them with conducting exhaustive research into customs, trade alliances, current problems and, perhaps most importantly, student recommendations for solving those problems.

Students are challenged, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., famously stated, "to think intensively and to think critically; to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal and the facts from the fiction."

Olson – who also teaches History and English, advises the ASB and organized



Jennifer Olson, left, works with high school junior Adisson Claussen.

last year's Whitman County leadership conference – is a firm believer in promoting critical thinking skills. Just ask her students – who can tell you Sierra Leone's leading export is iron ore.

Rosalia School District No. 320

Capital Levy for Safety, Security and Infrastructure Improvements

February 14, 2017

The Board of Directors of Rosalia School District No. 320 adopted Resolution No. 2016-05 concerning a proposition for a levy on capital improvements. This proposition would allow the district to levy a tax, on all taxable property within the district, to make safety, security and infrastructure improvements at Rosalia Schools (including acquiring security cameras; upgrading bathrooms; fire alarm system; phone and server systems; replacing HVAC and windows; and installing a new Ag Shop roof).

Facts about the capital levy

- **The levy is to maintain and improve the district's current facilities.**
- The levy will replace the current facility bond that was passed in 2005 and expires at the end of 2017.
- The capital levy amount is \$0.05 per \$1,000 assessed value *less* than the expiring bond.
- The requested levy amount is below the maximum levy amount allowed by law.
- Senior citizens (61 years or older) may pay no levy costs if they qualify by income.

What does this capital levy support?

This levy supports the continued maintenance of our buildings in a fiscally prudent manner.

- Replaces Ag Shop roof
- Replaces aging HVAC systems
- Replaces Elementary/HS windows
- Adds additional cameras for security
- Replaces fire alarm and phone systems
- Finishes exterior door replacement program

How do property values affect this replacement levy?

The school receives the same number of dollars whether valuation goes up or down. If property values change for any year, the property values will be adjusted to collect only the original requested dollars. **As valuations increase, cost per thousand will decrease.**



What is the actual dollar amount being requested?

Current

2005 \$700,000 bond for main facility roof
\$1.19 per \$1,000 assessed value

Proposed

2018	\$200,000	\$1.14 per \$1,000 assessed value
2019	\$200,000	\$1.14 per \$1,000 assessed value
2020	\$200,000	\$1.14 per \$1,000 assessed value

If you own a home worth \$100,000, your yearly tax would be \$114 in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Mail in ballots

Your ballot will be mailed out January 27, 2017.
It must be postmarked by February 14, 2017.

If you have questions please contact:

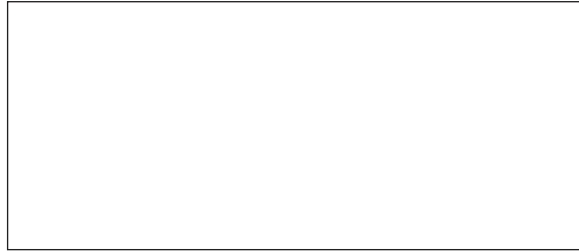
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Ukulele music finds a home in Rosalia

When Lisa Loucks took over the 2nd and 3rd grade music program at Rosalia last fall, she wanted to try something different; fun, but out of the ordinary.

Her solution: the ukulele. The four-string miniature guitar popularized in Hawaii was a perfect fit for youngsters still learning music. Ukuleles are small, easy to handle, inexpensive and, importantly for kids, fun to play. Loucks acquired 25 of them.

The next challenge was teaching herself to play. Though she has an undergraduate degree in music education, the ukulele was a new instrument for the teacher as well. After a summer of practice, she was ready to go by fall.

By December, her students were proficient enough to go public, performing Jingle Bells at the school concert. Their vocal/string rendition of the Christmas classic drew rave reviews and a subsequent classroom performance was recorded and shared on NEWESD 101's Facebook page.

Perhaps some Hawaiian music next? You never know. If there is a remake of the Elvis classic "Blue Hawaii," Rosalia may have several qualified candidates to play the music.

Lisa Loucks instructs students on the finer points of the ukulele.



Call him Rosalia's Ironman

To those who remember movies and television from the 1980s and 90s, Bruce Boxleitner was one of the most popular leading men of the day. His credits included *Babylon 5* and *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*.

The family tree suggests Terry Boxleitner is distantly related to Bruce. That relationship, however, is not the most interesting, little known fact about Terry, who, for 14 years, has served as a teacher and coach in Rosalia. No.

The most interesting, little known fact about the school's popular physical education instructor is that he is a leading man of his own – a leader in his age group among regional Ironman triathletes.

Six times he has stood on the awards podium since 2011. It's an impressive total indeed, particularly considering another important number – 49, Boxleitner's age when he competed in his first triathlon.

At an age when many competitive athletes have long since retired, Boxleitner was just getting started.

For him, a short run is an Olympic triathlon, just a hair shy of 32 miles – swim, .93 miles; bike, 24.8 miles; run, 6.2 miles.

For more challenge, he tackles a half Ironman, a little more than 70 miles – swim, 1.2 miles; bike, 56 miles; run, 13.1 miles.

While a solid, multi-sports athlete in his youth, Boxleitner says the triathlon posed a unique challenge -- water. While he could comfortably run and bike, swimming was another matter. But, with coaching, perseverance and hours in the pool, practicing the crawl, he became a capable swimmer.

While medals and ribbons have been a nice reward for hard work, they are not the reason Boxleitner competes. Rather, he does it for the challenge and sense of accomplishment that comes with achieving a difficult task.

Along the way, his quiet confidence and pursuit of excellence have inspired a host of students to similarly challenge themselves. His zero hour fitness class – a 7 a.m., before-school offering, typically draws 15-20 students per session. For perspective, that's about 20 percent of district enrollment showing up before sunrise, an hour before the school day officially begins.

Call them the next generation of leading men and women who welcome a challenge and the sense of accomplishment that comes with achieving a difficult task. And their leading man? Mr. Boxleitner, of course – Terry Boxleitner. He doesn't play a role on TV. He is their teacher and leader in real life.



On the hardwood: Boxleitner demonstrates the fine art of boxing out.