



# The ROSALIA SENTINEL



Summer 2017

Honoring the past; building a dynamic future

## All signs point to another winning senior project

An exciting new tradition that began at Rosalia High School in 2016 has risen to another lofty level in 2017. The Senior Community Service Project, initiated by art teacher Sean Moss, set a high bar last year when the Class of 2016 rehabilitated a vacant lot on the main street of town. A tranquil, park-like setting replaced an eyesore.

So, if you are the Class of 2017, what do you do for an encore? Moss' students were more than up to the challenge.

For their project, they collaborated with the city on a beautification project of an entirely different sort.

Rosalia, the students concluded, could benefit from more beautiful, more visible, more substantial and more artistic signage greeting visitors as they drive into town.

Since late May, their work has been on full display for drivers entering the city via its heavily traveled south and east routes. Visitors see handsome, powder-coated metal signs measuring four feet by six feet.

The work was complex, beginning with myriad design options. While it was agreed early on that the design should include graphics of the community's signature railroad bridge, big questions still remained regarding building materials, color combinations, sign placement and size, lighting options and landscaping.

Then there was the matter of fund-raising. Students knocking on doors, seeking donations from individuals and businesses, successfully raised \$2,000 of the \$5,000 needed to construct the two signs.

Every facet of the project had to be coordinated with and agreed to by the city. And because one of the proposed sign locations touched on private property, agreement had to be reached with the land owner. Arduous though it was, students successfully navigated every turn -- leaving their community two impressive monuments that will withstand



Multiple designs were drafted and evaluated, including these two mock-ups shown by seniors Kade Holling, Marilyn Hitchcock, Hannah Beach, Ellis Bruce and Troy Pittsley.



both time and weather.

Just as the signs will create a positive impression of the community, Rosalia High School has again distinguished itself as a positive influence and significant contributor to the community.

Kudos seniors. Well done.

## What the heck is a makerspace?

When students come home from school discussing robots, circuits, 3-D printers and makerspace, parents may not always have a full grasp of the high-tech magic taking place in Rosalia science classes. In May, teacher Clif Marr helped explain the magic in a community event known as the Rosalia Maker Group.

Parents and community members were invited to his classroom to see -- and use -- the science equipment his students use; the same equipment they may use in future careers. FYI: A makerspace is a community center with tools that allow people to design, create prototypes and manufacture products. Thank you, Clif, for clarifying that.



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**District calendar**

**June 10, 2017**  
HS graduation, 2 p.m.

**June 12-15, 2017**  
HS finals

**June 13, 2017**  
8th grade promotion, 7 p.m.

**June 14, 2017**  
Kindergarten graduation,  
9:30 a.m.

**June 15, 2017**  
Last day of school,  
11 a.m. dismissal

**August 9-10, 2017**  
School registration

**September 5, 2017**  
First day of school

**Looking forward to my fifth year**

As we close the book on my fourth year as your superintendent, it is a good time for me to reflect on year four and provide a few thoughts on our future.

This year has been one of continued community support, highlighted by passage of the three-year capital levy in February. This levy will allow us to fix our Ag shop roof, update the elementary bathrooms, replace older windows, enhance building security and finish our exterior door replacement program.

We truly appreciate the support and will work hard to be good stewards of the facilities that serve our children.

We have continued to enhance our curriculum and programs and have strengthened ties with the communities we serve. For the first time in nine years, we held a Board meeting in Malden. Next year, we plan meetings in Malden and Thornton.

Our high school seniors designed, built and installed signs at the south and east ends of Rosalia letting visitors know they are entering the “Pearl of the Palouse.” We are also actively engaged in Battle Days and have made a bus and driver available should a shuttle be needed. We are a community based school and proud of it.

The biggest challenge looming on the horizon is gridlock at the state level on school funding. By this time, we would normally expect a state budget to be done and know where we are in terms of our financial position. The current situation is not good for education. From my perspective, it is time for the state to step up.

You will see on the next page that Dee Peterschick is hanging up his spikes after 37 years. His footprint has been large and he will be deeply missed.

In closing, I thank 1) the staff who work hard to provide our kids a great education and 2) our school Board and communities for allowing me to serve the district.

**Music program hits creative high notes**

Justin Brumley is known around Rosalia and Tekoa as a very busy guy. But unless you are associated with the schools’ music programs, you may not know he is also a very creative guy. Brumley splits time between the two districts, teaching young musicians the finer points of technique and performance.

Roughly a half-hour drive separates his venues. It’s close enough that the two can get together for combined band performances, but far enough that combined rehearsals are not always feasible.

On the surface it might seem impossible to prepare for a combined performance when an entire musical section is located at the other school. In fact, it is possible.

That’s where Brumley’s creativity comes in. He will record the music at one building, replay it at the other and, magically, students do the rest. It’s not the same as



**Larry Keller**



face-to-face rehearsal, but it works pretty darn well. And come together they have on two large Spokane stages. First, the combined bands were invited to play in the Bi-County Honor Band concert at the

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## Saying hello ... and goodbye

With every school year, districts see transitions. Young students enter, older students depart. One can feel the simultaneous tug of excitement and sadness.

The same is true for staff. In Rosalia, excitement is found in the appointment of Jodi Heitstuman as the district's new 5th grade teacher. She joined the staff in January and will return in a permanent role next fall.

The St. John native is no stranger to Rosalia, having served as a student teacher here in 2012-13. She holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Washington University and is now completing a master's program through Western Governors University.

The sadness tugging the other way ... well, that comes in the departure of long-time agriculture/vocational instructor Dee Peterschick.

After 37 years in education, 27 in Rosalia, Peterschick is retiring. In Dee's case, however, retiring doesn't mean slowing down or watching TV. It



Jodi Heitstuman



Dee Peterschick

just means cutting back to one job. Peterschick will now devote full-time to the family farm – a farm that has been in his family since 1884.

During his tenure at Rosalia, Peterschick has been a man for all seasons, directing a highly diverse program that includes agronomy, horticulture, land judging, livestock, mechanics, metal fabrication, robotics and woodworking.

Yes, the emotions are divided between tears of joy and tears of sadness. Welcome back, Jodi. Thank you, Dee.

## Leadership summit grows bigger and better

A year ago at this time, our newsletter wrote of the first-ever Small Schools Leadership Summit hosted by Rosalia High School. Local students organized an event that drew 50 students from five districts.

Inspired by that success, students in this year's leadership class (photo) thought they could turn it up a notch – and did.

With the encouragement and support of teacher Jennifer Olson, the spring 2017 conference was more than twice as large as the inaugural event, with close to 120 students attending from 13 districts.

Even more significantly, the summit expanded from a mostly Whitman County event to a truly regional conference, with districts large and small coming from three Washington counties and one in Idaho.

Rosalia students recruited guest speakers discussing a diverse range of topics including leadership styles, regional volunteer opportuni-



ties and the habits of effective people. The event was entirely student driven, with Olson mostly providing advice and guidance.

Indeed, that is how effective leaders are made. Students identified the opportunity, built their team, developed a vision, rolled up their sleeves and did the work.

While the physical limitations of the school may prevent the event from getting too much larger, the impact and quality of future events is unlimited. Interested in learning the habits of effective teens? Stop by Jennifer Olson's classroom.



## Best of luck to the Class of 2017

Rosalia High School will say goodbye to its graduating seniors on Saturday, June 10, 2 p.m., in the gym.

Our seniors have enjoyed much success and we wish them well in their future studies and careers.

The class members, shown at right, include, Savannah Fitzgerald, Steven Brown, Jamie Blank, Cameron Hunter, Hannah Beach (salutatorian), Kade Holling (valedictorian), Gabrielle Bruce, Troy Pittsley, Destiny Theis, Jacob Wilson and Marilyn Hitchcock.

As they leave, we also must thank our seniors for being part of two important new traditions. In the Fall of 2014, as sophomores, they were in the first group of students to launch the district's athletic cooperative with Tekoa. Student buy in played



buy-in played a major role in the success of that initiative. Then, earlier this spring, the school held its first-ever College Signing Day, a ceremony in which several members of the senior class announced their college

destinations. That festive event, organized by counselor Jenna Schu, will become an annual event. Participants in signing day are pictured below. *Front row:* Troy Pittsley, Hannah Beach, Steven Brown and Kade Holling. *Back row:* Jacob Wilson, Destiny Theis, Gabrielle Bruce, Jamie Blank and counselor Jenna Schu.

Congratulations seniors!

## Music program hits high notes

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INB Performing Arts Center. The two schools' junior and senior high school performers took to the stage with their contemporaries from Creston, Davenport, Lind-Ritzville, Odessa, Reardan-Edwall, Sprague-Lamont and Wilbur.

Then in May, Brumley took the combined Timberwolves' band of more than 40 musicians back to Spokane for the Lilac Festival Armed Forces Torchlight Parade.

In a parade, of course, timing is everything. Students must march in straight lines, turn sharp corners, walk for miles and play good music in front of thousands of spectators. The performance was crisp and precise.

The casual observer would never know Rosalia and Tekoa are 30 minutes apart. Credit the creative guy holding the baton.

